

## **Ladies Teams Captains Report 2022**

We started thinking about the Summer Teams early, organising team selection nights for the end of February. It seemed a novel idea at the time until Storm Eunice disrupted one session which we rearranged. We encouraged both inexperienced and experienced players and were delighted to fill all the courts with up to thirty players each session, a record number of attendees who turned out in sub-zero temperatures for the four nights for both ladies and men's practices. Thank you to our super coach team, Jono, Zach, and Ash and all the players who made these sessions so successful.

Between us Shane and I organised over 122 Summer fixtures. No mean feat liaising with all the opposing teams, attempting to give everyone a range of days to play on and spreading dates out as best we could. So, it was with great relief when we could finally add all the dates to the League site. I have a new respect for everyone who has done this role in the past organising all the players, teams and all the fixtures. I could not have done it all without the help of our very experienced Men's Captain guiding me through the season. Cheers Shane.

### **Ladies Summer League**

We entered five ladies' teams as in the previous year and with an influx of fresh players opportunities arose for players to move up a division or even two divisions. So, a higher standard of tennis for a lot of players.

All five teams had a competitive season with close matches, many, many, (too many!) set and championship tie breaks. All was still to play for at the end of the season with teams playing hard for promotion or to stay out of the relegation places.

### **A Team**

Our A team were well matched this year in Division 1 with all the opposing teams, having been demoted the previous season from a very tough Premier division. With consistently high performances, endless tiebreaks, and above average percentage of wins, we were pleased to finish the season second behind the clear division winner Chalford.

Special mention to Katie for her flexibility, clocking up the most matches and topping performance stats, Kirstin for her debut in the A team putting up with us oldies, Ange for clocking up so many miles on the court and on the road, Julia for her gritty tricky play and entertaining us, Rachel for her strong hitting and giggles, super sub Jane Muncer for stepping in at the last minute and winning valuable points and to me for keeping on top of all the changes. We hope next year to do even better and maybe even go up again to the Premier.

### **B Team**

Our B team had expected to be in Division 2, but thanks to a strong finish by the C team the previous season, we were able to field our B team in the other half of Division 1. Unfortunately, it turned out to be as hard as the previous season and the team finished bottom.

Big thanks to Di for taking on the captaincy and organising everyone and to all the team, particularly the new team members, for trying so hard.

Di comments "Another hard-fought season in Division 1 with close matches, some not so close matches, some championship tie breaks and a dodgy court at Glos Wootton! All-in-all, an enjoyable season despite the result - Div. 2 here we come!"

## **C Team**

With strong experienced opposition in Division 2, our C team finished second from bottom. Decima and Sephina seamlessly transitioned from junior tennis to make their debut in the adult Ladies league and very much held their own finishing in the top twenty-three player stats. Huge thanks to Jen Hood for her captaining of the team for what must be the seventh year running! And thanks to Midge for playing a couple of matches.

Jen says "The slightly more mature ladies in the C team-: Jane, Rose, Lucy, Liz, Zena, and Jenny, were delighted to be playing this year for the first time, with their younger team members, sisters Decima (16) and Sephy (18). The team travelled to the far ends of Gloucestershire from Beckford in the North to Lydney in the South. We played in the driving rain and the boiling hot sun. What fun we had! Only a few extra points in those numerous tiebreaks and we would have remained in Division two. Looking forward to next year's summer league tennis already!"

## **D Team**

Our D team gelled well and enjoyed their games finishing mid table in Division 3. A big thank you to captain Ann-Maree Dunn for enthusiastically bringing the new team together and a special well done to the players who stepped up to the challenge of playing two divisions higher.

Ann Maree says, "It was a year of steady consistent teamwork, everyone pulling their weight and we were proud of our results in a season of strong opposition."

## **E Team**

With a brand-new mix of players in our E team I was keen to watch a couple of the matches and to witness delightful teamwork and fun tennis especially seeing them working out how to play their more experienced opposition and battling hard for every point.

Louise writes "We had an enjoyable season with the majority playing league tennis for the first time and proudly winning sets. Despite finishing bottom of Division 5, everyone enjoyed competing."

Special thanks from me to Louise for taking on the mantle of mentoring and captaining a whole new ladies E team and to Lesley Ashforth for stepping in when they were short. I hope all the ladies new to playing league tennis will join us again next year.

## **Summary**

In total Forty-two ladies played in the Summer league. In terms of winning leagues, we did not, however it was great to be playing freely again after the constraints of covid, it was inclusive, competitive, enjoyable with so many exciting games, lots of learning, coaching, teamwork, bonding, and comradery. I was proud to see such great tennis and so much enthusiasm.

So, thank you to everyone for making my first year as Ladies Captain a memorable one. Good luck to those of you playing in the Winter matches. See you all again soon for the 2023 season!

Julie Taylor

Cirencester Tennis Ladies Captain

