

Club Captain's AGM Report 2024

Well done to all our match players who competed throughout the year. There continues to be a strong appetite for competitive match play and in all we fielded 11 Summer League teams, 3 Mixed Winter League teams, 4 Stroud Sunday League teams and 4 Over 60's League teams.

A huge thank you to the 22 Team Captains, without whom we couldn't run as many teams, and we wouldn't get to play as many matches. Our team players really appreciate all the work you put in as do your Club Captains.

New this year - a Call for Players Questionnaire proved extremely useful for collating information, planning team selection, and communicating with players and captains.

In February/March we organised eight team selection/coaching evenings led by Head Coach Jono assisted by Zach and Finlay, with the Selection Team observing and contributing their thoughts. These sessions were very well attended with nearly every team player attending at least one session. The Team Selection Committee had the ever-tricky job of allocating players to appropriate teams/divisions and many players were given the opportunity of changing teams and competing in higher divisions.

The arranging of fixtures, especially around the time of team selections, is always a mammoth task so this year we introduced a new position of Fixtures Secretary to reduce the load from the Club Captains. With 142 Summer fixture dates to organise and 76 Winter and Stroud fixtures, despite best efforts, some of the coordination proved tricky and we didn't get it right for all teams and players. So, a work in progress, and we will try to make it slicker and better next year.

It was fantastic to see so many team practices and team coaching arranged before the matches commenced with some teams choosing to continue during the season.

Ladies Doubles Summer 2024 Gloucestershire League

Lots of changes within the teams, with a handful of players playing matches for the first time and many more players moving up into different teams. Everybody's enthusiasm shone through, a great foundation for next year.

Ladies A - Div 1B A - 2nd place, 33/48 points.

Julie (Captain): "Our Ladies A team were strong contenders for promotion all season finishing in second place with 33 points just 6 points behind division winner Lydney. A few more winning sets and we could have been up in the dizzy heights of Premier again. Thank you Katie, Elizabeth, and Julie for your flexibility, each playing 9 out of 12 matches. Well done Elizabeth (top scorer) with Katie, Julie, and Rachel all in the top ten of the division players, and Julia, Kirstin, and Anna for all contributing valuable points to the squad's success. Great team spirit and super competitive play."

Ladies B - Div 1A - 7th place, 12/48 points.

Di (Captain): "We came across some tough opposition in Division 1 (having earned promotion last year) but it didn't let that spoil our good team spirit. Despite not getting the results we would have liked we had an enjoyable season with good tennis and great camaraderie." Well played to Jane Beaumont, Lucy Sketchley, Monica Lowe, and Liz Lloyd who all rose to the challenge of moving up teams and divisions! Also well done and thank you to Ro, Di, and Clare the backbone for the newly formed team and Di for calmly captaining again.

Ladies C - Div 3B - 3rd place, 32/48 points.

Ann (Captain): "Great squad! It was nice to have 9 players of equal ability, so it didn't matter who was in the team each match. We all enjoyed hitting hard and being competitive. At the beginning of

the season, we organised a few Saturday mornings to prepare with a partner for the early matches. As the season progressed everyone was flexible as plans got thrown out due to weather, date changes etc. With sights throughout on promotion it was so tight at the end, Painswick ended up in 2nd place on 33 points to our 32 points, the winners with 35 points. Yet in the two matches between us we ended up 4 - 4! We ended up with 6 wins, 4 draws and 2 losses. A pretty good record! Thank you, team, as you were super easy to organise." A shout out for Anne-Maree Dunn who played 9 out of 12 matches and Ann taking on the captain reins.

Ladies D - Div 4B - 4th place, 19/40 points.

Maria (Captain): "We had an amazing first half of the season! Despite being a new squad with some players only playing matches for the first time we were unbeaten for over half the season - sitting in second place with two weeks to go! Unfortunately, we were pipped at the end but a glorious season overall. Special shout out to super sub-Mary Malcolm ensuring every match had a strong squad and Zach for the ladies coaching!" Thank you Maria for captaining the D team with such gusto.

Ladies E - Div 5B - 5th place, 20/48 points.

Rachel (Captain): "The E team had a good season finishing 5th overall but only one point behind 4th place and 5 points behind 3rd. Weekly squad training sessions with the D team led by Zach helped and have been so enjoyable. We welcomed two players who had never played a league match before Sandra Elphick and Gerry Turnbull. Huge thanks to Jackie Tarleton, Irene Morse and Maria Walker who stepped in as late reserves for us. And along with the D team we were all resplendent throughout in our new pink lady match shirts." Well done to Sarah Brostoff for playing 9 out of 12 matches and Rachel for doing such a fantastic job as a new Captain.

Men's Doubles Summer 2024 Gloucestershire League

Many congratulations to the A team for a resounding first place in Div 1B with James as top scoring player in the whole of Div 1. Also, to the E team for 2nd place in Div 5A. Both teams securing promotion for next year. [Please read James's Men's Captains Report.](#)

Winter Mixed Doubles 2023/24 Gloucestershire League

With A and B teams in Division 1 and the C team in Division 3, the standard of competition was high.

A team - Div 1B - 2nd place Sets for and against 71/24

Shane (Captain): "Last season's two relegated teams from the Premier (us and Cam and Dursley) ended up unusually in the same Division. Both teams finished a long way clear of all the other teams and we finished second by just one set. Ironically the last set we played against Cam and Dursley we lost 7 - 5 after a couple of dodgy calls (it was that close). Special mention to Elizabeth and James (top pair) and Rachel and Shane for playing most of the matches and the popular away fixtures at Lydney and Redmarley."

B team - Div 1A - 5th place Sets for and against 39/57

Paul (Captain): "Mixed B had a tough season but managed to survive in Div 1 in the end, 5th out of 7. The season was a bit mixed (Hehe), as pre-Christmas we only managed 26 points from 6 games, however in the new year 4 home games at "fortress ciren" saw us get 48 home points and zoom up the table to safety. Thanks everyone who played, and special thanks to Kirstin and Katie who played 9 matches."

C team - Div3B - 4th place Sets for and against 18/46

Benito (Captain): “Thanks to all the players for their effort and dedications despite the cold, wet nights and long drives, good job everybody.” A shout out for Benito for not only managing the large squad and sorting availability throughout the season but also playing in 8 of the 12 matches.

Stroud League 2023/24

The Stroud Sunday league attracts more players year on year with friendly matches played in the day at the weekends in a league not regulated by the LTA. With both Mixed and Ladies/Men’s Doubles the format is very popular. Four teams were entered. Congratulations to the C team, captained by Heather, who finished 2nd in Div 2. Well done to the D team for nearly! being joint 2nd in Div 3. Our A and B teams, in Division 1 enjoyed strong opposition including each other!

Stroud A team - Div 1- 4th

Katie (Captain): “We didn’t do as well as we normally do finishing 4th in Div 1... we thought it was third at the end of the season but later were advised of scoring discrepancies! With less teams in the division and therefore fewer matches, it was harder to keep up the momentum. Thank you to players Julie, Julia, Ange, Paul, Andy, Mike, and Katie. Highlights/Lowlights: one home match going ahead in horrendous weather with thunder, lightning and driving rain which with hindsight we could have cancelled and Julie’s car breaking down at East Glos and having to call Mike out for roadside rescue! We laughed and cried on both occasions! Hoping for a better season and more laughs in 24/25.”

Stroud B team - Div 1 - 5th

Rachel (Captain): “Best summarized by key words repeated on the team WhatsApp: Drizzle, Cake, Pesky Tie breaks, It was very close! ...And despite tendon inflammation – scenic photos of snow-covered mountains from PJ. His radiographer was a skier so that’s Ok!? Thanks to Elizabeth for helping us out and to Darren who always likes to play once, so he can turn up for beer at our social. Comeback award goes to Jeremy and Chris who gained 2 points from Cerney after being 1 – 5 down in the first set.”

Stroud C team - Div 2 - 2nd

Heather (Captain): “The ten team members enjoyed some very competitive, friendly tennis during the Winter months finishing a very creditable 2nd place in Div 2. A great team spirit - well played everyone. And thanks to super subs Darren and George!”

Stroud D team - Div 3 - 4th

Ian (Captain). “Our D team was 4th with 37 points only 7 points off the winners and a very enjoyable winter season despite the rain. Well played everyone.”

Over 60’s 2023/24 Gloucestershire Winter League

We were delighted to enter two Ladies teams again, plus a mixed team for the first time in years and a Men’s doubles team. Please read Nicky Whittet’s Seniors report.

More thank you’s.

Lastly thank you to everyone who has supported me in the Ladies Captain’s role in the last three years including all on The Committee and the Team Selection Committees. To the numerous Captains who have volunteered and enthusiastically welcomed your players, moulded, encouraged, and led them, I have really enjoyed getting to know you all and I couldn’t have done my job without all your help and efficiency. Also, to Jono for his guidance along with his coaching team Zach, Finlay, and Oscar. Your

unfailing devotion to developing all players whatever level or ability is priceless. It has been wonderful to see team tennis thriving and so many new players putting their names forward. I have loved following the teams, seeing players improve and teams blossom and I will miss being in the thick of it. I will enjoy stepping back now and just watching, playing, and cheering everyone on.

The teams are in safe hands with James on board and running with the Men's Captains role, thanks James it's been great to team up with you and fun. Finally, a big thanks to Liz for taking the baton, you will be an excellent new Ladies Club Captain, I wish you every success and all the teams good fortunes going forward.

Julie Taylor 3/11/24