



Men's Captain's report 2021

We resumed normal tennis activity this summer having missed the spring league at the start of this year. The team practice sessions on Monday nights were (and continue to be) well attended, and we're hoping to keep playing through the winter as much as possible.

The summer league results were generally positive –

1st team – the 1sts achieved promotion back to the premier league at the first time of asking. The team generally consisted of Tom Barton, Euan Forbes, Jack Malone and Harry Malone, but there were also some really important contributions from Jon Baber, Joe Porter, Louis Edge, Phil Shakeshaft and Matt Dunn.

2nd team – the 2nds came 3rd and just missed out on promotion from division 4. Several players were new to this team, and with more consistent pairings, promotion was a real possibility. The main players were Joe Porter, Louis Edge, Phil Shakeshaft, Oli Stuart-Smith and Graham Mather, skippered by Dave Green.

Duncan Mayne, Matt Dunn, Chris Barker, Fil Calcutt, Collen Mhlanga and Lee Cassell also represented the 2nds through the season.

3rd team – the 3rds likewise had a strong season and came close to promotion, narrowly missing out, with several new players playing their first league season for the club. Alongside Captain Chris Rhodes: Dan Williams, Lee Cassell, Matt Dunn, Brian Connell and Fil Calcutt were the regulars, while Duncan Mayne, Collen Mhlanga and Alex Grafton also stepped up this season.

4th team – the 4ths had a very solid season having achieved promotion in 2019, consolidating their place in division 6 with a strong 4th place finish. The 4th team have been represented by Captain Matt Quinn, Eddie Simms, Alex Grafton, Andy Young, Craig Nash, Kunny Dhillon and Duncan Mayne, whilst Graham Selby and Jacob O'Brien also stepped in to play.

5th team – the 5ths had a difficult season results wise, but new captain Will Morris has every reason to be pleased with his first year as skipper, having given many new players a chance to play, including several new faces. Dean Henry, Jacob O'Brien, Emmet Keating, Anthony Morris, Patrick Parry-Evans, Matt Betts, Rob Scofield, Bob Harris, Bryan Riemer, Harry Tippetts, Collen Mhlanga, Kyren Kirk, Paul Foster, Alex Nurse, Dave Tippetts and Josh Morris have all represented the 5ths.

Mixed Doubles report from Phil and Sam – only 1 match played so far, positive start, quality opposition and should be a good season!

Vets A report from Fil Calcutt – difficult start to the season, 3 matches played but struggling to get a full team out so far. Hope for an upturn in fortunes!

Vets B report from Bob Harris – Thanks to everybody who has played for the Vet B-team over the last 12 months. The 2020 league season started on schedule in September, but the imposition of restrictions due to Covid-19 meant that it was terminated part way through. At that point we had played seven matches with two draws and were in 7th place, but poised to race up the table! The spring and summer saw the fruits of our youth policy with some younger Vets joining the squad, so we started the 2021 season with renewed vigour. At the time of writing, we have just clocked up our first win (vs Snitterfield) and we are the only team to win a rubber against new entrants Little Aston who are top of Division 4. Currently we are in a cluster of teams in mid-table on the same number of points and enjoying some close matches – even winning a few Championship Tie Breaks!

We have a pool of around a dozen players, which enables us to rotate the matchday team and cope with injuries and other commitments when they arise. Those who have played over this period include Alex Nurse, Ant Morris, Bob Harris, Dan Wicks, Dean Henry, Graham Selby, Kunny Dhillon, Matt Quinn, Patrick Parry-Evans, Paul Foster, Peter Brough and Rob Scofield.

Overall it's been great to see so many new members representing the club in all league fixtures; hopefully this will continue with 1 or 2 signed up since the summer league finished. I'm also hoping to get more junior players involved in the coming year.

Thanks to all captains for their hard work in 2021!