



Men's Captain's report 2022

The tennis year began with the Spring League returning after a couple of years away due to Covid. Both teams were represented by male and female members, even more so than in previous years, and both had solid seasons without challenging too high up their respective leagues, finishing 6th. The 1sts needed a point on the final day and got it, while the 2nds were comfortably above the bottom 2 by 19 points. The 2nds were represented by 20 players this season, allowing several of these their first experience of league tennis. Players who represented the Spring League teams were: Joey Porter, Sam Hiskett, Lois Porter, Imogen Witty, Sam Shakeshaft, Louis Edge, Matt Dunn, Phil Shakeshaft, Jack Malone, Andy Young, Kunny Dhillon, Dave Tippetts, Jacob O'Brien, Cameron Kirk, Anthony Morris, Patrick Parry-Evans, Sarah Kirk, Dan Williams, Paul Foster, Kotie Viljoen, Helen Atherton, Karen Morris, Oli Stuart-Smith, Bob Harris, Louise Baker, Ben Gough, Will Morris and Dean Henry.

The summer league season was a positive one; the 1sts stayed in the Premier Division, eventually coming 5th; this was a big, and somewhat unexpected, achievement, with Joey Porter, Sam Hiskett, Jack Malone and Harry Malone playing almost all matches, with some valuable help from Matt Dunn and Jon Baber.

The 2nds achieved a brilliant promotion to division 3, and will enjoy a competitive league next year. They played superbly all year and it became a matter of when, not if, they would go up! They had a core team of Matt Dunn, Phil Shakeshaft, David Green, Dan Williams and Jon Baber, with Matt Quinn, Rob Scofield and Fil Calcutt also filling in.

The 3rds looked for a time like they too would get promotion but fell just short; however this was a very positive season and can be built on next year. Captain Fil Calcutt was joined primarily by Andy Young, Duncan Mayne, Bryan Connell, Lee Cassell, Alex Grafton and Dylan Vine, with Chris Freeman, Matt Quinn and Graham Mather also appearing.

The 4ths comfortably stayed in division 6, with a couple of teams adrift at the bottom. The 4ths squad consisted of Matt Quinn, Alex Grafton, Rob Scofield, Lee Cassell, Craig Nash, Chris Rhodes, Kunny Dhillon, Graham Mather, Mark Freeman, Chris Freeman, Jim Hughes and Graham Selby.

The 5ths came 6th in division 7, a tricky league with several teams (Solihull Arden 1 and 2 and Snitterfield) working their way through the leagues having recently joined the Cov and District system. Will Morris, Paul Foster, Anthony Morris, Patrick Parry-Evans, Mark Freeman, Dean Henry, Phil Kelly, Matt Betts, Cameron Kirk, Colin Grafton, Bob Harris, Dave Tippetts, Harry Tippetts and Jim Hughes all played this year for the 5ths.

The Vets league season is well underway, with the A team currently 7th having played fewer games than the rest. The B team are also in 7th, but in a very tight competitive division, in which 3 points separate them from 3rd at time of writing.

The mixed teams are both in the early stages of their respective leagues but have made positive starts after only a couple of matches.

We have entered 2 teams into the men's winter league for this year, and are looking forward to getting started; this will allow us more opportunities to keep competing through the winter, alongside mixed and vets. Because of all this we have a real sense of optimism going into 2023.

I would like to say a massive thanks to all the team captains across all leagues and teams: Collen Mhlanga, Jack Malone, David Green, Fil Calcutt, Matt Quinn, Will Morris, Bob Harris, Phil Shakeshaft. Their hard work and organisation has made the season go smoothly, thank you all.