

Ladies tennis report for AGM November 2023

The ladies have had another busy year.

I would like to begin by thanking all the ladies who have played tennis over the last year for the winter league, mixed teams and summer league teams, and all those who come up to Wednesday night practices. We are all really busy in our lives but somehow we manage to plan, coordinate and play lots of tennis. Not everyone wants to play in the teams but without fail everyone involved in ladies tennis at the club is looking to improve their tennis, make some new friends and enjoy the time that we all spend together and I feel we are doing a pretty good job of all three of these.

Thanks to Katie Standley for running the vets team again. We started off the 2022/23 season of the Warwickshire Ladies Vets League in Division 2.

We won our first match convincingly, however, there were some very strong opponents and we were not able to win again. Out of 9 matches we won 1, drew 1 and lost 7. We finished with 23 points at the bottom of the league and were relegated to Division 3.

A lot of fun was had – I remember eating a fantastic homemade banana cake at Edgbaston Priory. Then driving home through Bordesley in rush hour trying to find a petrol station, with only about 2 miles worth of petrol left in the tank. The first two petrol stations we found were closed! Third one open - We were lucky to make it home!

So far in Division 3 we have won 1 and drawn 1, so hoping this division is more suited to our level.

Thanks to Karen Morris for organising the winter league teams. She is delighted to report that we continue to have three ladies teams in this league. Two were promoted last winter and all teams continue to play to a high standard. A special mention of thanks to the team captains for their hard work coordinating the matches and providing a warm welcome to the visiting teams. The matches for the winter league have already got going this season and all teams are doing well. The winter league A team unfortunately had their first match on the hottest day of the year but they coped well despite this!!

Some of the ladies are also involved in the two mixed doubles teams that continue to play well and provide a different alternative match experience for us.

We had three ladies teams play this summer with great success throughout.

Firstly, we must congratulate the first team ladies in returning back to the premier league after between 15-20 years – it is a fantastic achievement we are so proud of all who played. For the record, Sam won 100% of her matches (surprise, surprise!), Louise and Jo won 100% of their championship tiebreaks that they had to play and Katie turned up 100% of the time!! Having said that without Katie's planning and organising then no one would have turned up so thank you to you all.

The second team, ably captained by Hilary again, had a solid performance finishing mid table – thank you Hilary. As Helen said it would not have been half so solid without Hilary's regular pep talks and messages to us all. We were delighted to welcome Nicola into the second team as a new addition, she has been seen modelling a new designer tennis outfit most weeks which was regularly commented on by the away team. Hilary commented that Helen always started a match a little sleepy and was slow to get going, she then became lively and energetic in the middle before declining due to tiredness – I expect all this to change now that she has retired! Emma was known as the whirling dervish on court and regularly terrified the opposition. Well done to all who played for the second team.

For once I moved myself out of the third team and they got promoted, not sure what that says about me? But Ann captained the team admirably and was determined to do well so thank you to Ann too. There were not as many games for the 3rd team this year as at the last minute one of the teams dropped out. The standout match due to confusion was away at David Lloyd Coventry. The ladies were persuaded to finish the match inside due to lack of light. Whilst settling down to play inside the caretaker turned up to shut up shop before they finished. On returning to finish the match the away team didn't realise they had to keep the original balls or note who was due to serve next!! It was a good job that our 3rd team won the tie break as the court had only been booked for a half an hour – there was lot of toing and froing about what was to be done. I'll leave you to imagine where this team finished in the league? Well done to all who played for the 3rd team.

Next summer due to the number of ladies who are keen to play league matches we hope to put four teams into the league which is fantastic.

This year we arranged the captains night and awards night together at the club in September and had a great turn out. Harry and I decided to give out a couple of awards. I was unable to select a player of the season because everyone in the first team contributed to their successful promotion so this year I gave the award to the whole of the first team – congratulations to you all.

The second ladies award was given for contribution to ladies tennis and I gave this award to Katie Standley for her years of captaining the first team but also arranging the vets league as well. Thank you to Katie for all that she has done and continues to do for the club.

I would like to make a special mention to Sam Shakeshaft who won 4 finals in the club championships this year. Singles, Ladies Doubles, Ladies 90+ and the Mixed Doubles - well played Sam you are awesome.

I would like to thank one of our long time players, Sue Walsh, who has played team tennis at Berkswell and Balsall Common for about 35 years. Katie recalls when she joined the club she played and entered every tennis contest there was in the club and she also joined Berkswell Hockey club for which she played until well into her 60's! Sadly she has been injured this year and has been unable to play – it has not been the same without you Sue. We hope that Sue will be able to return to tennis before too long but understand that these things take time to heal. So thanks Sue for your tennis over the years and lets hope to see you on the court before too long!

Finally thank you to all the ladies who have played throughout this year, for your hard work, commitment and friendship. Please continue to enjoy your tennis and stay fit.