

Devon Men's Inter County Championships Match Report 9th December 2019

As a precursor to the 2019 season a series of four coaching/recruitment sessions were held at three strategic locations across Devon. These were well delivered by Linden, Clair and Josh Hardisty and also Tom Vinall. Post the summer matches we have also held four more sessions at The Devonshire where ladies enjoyed two and the men also two weekends. We are very fortunate that groups of vets meet on a regular and organised basis at Exmouth, Torquay and Plymouth.

In the Inter-County Championships Devon again entered seven men's teams, entering every group between ages 45 and 75.

Four of those seven teams competed in a First Division. Each of the teams fulfilled all of their matches.

It was the youngsters, the 45's in Division 1b who had the toughest year, captained by Nigel Little, they lost all of their matches.

Britain's number one in the 50's age group Linden Hardisty, captained Devon 50's who also had a challenging year and lost all of their matches in Division 1a.

Our 55's in Division 1a with captain Jim McIntosh finished 4th from 6 teams. Player Richard Jackson was the most successful team member winning 8 from 10 matches.

The 60's in Division 2b, captained by Alistair Forbes fared well finishing 2nd out of 6 with Grant Morrison winning 6 out of 8 matches.

Martin Sharp as captain experienced fitness issues in the 65's Division 2b and only managed to play one match. They finished 4th from 5 with top performer Phil Plummer winning 4 from 6 matches.

I would like to say a big thank you to those that competed for the 70's this year, I was a non playing captain having been kicked up to the 75's. In Division 2a the team finished 5th from 6 with our very own Bernard Mowle winning 6 from 8 matches.

Now we come to the crème de la crème, the 75's competing in Division 1a, captained by our inimitable Doug Cook; the team finished 5th from 6, with Ray Hinton providing the best individual performance.

It gives me great pleasure to thank all the players participating and those supporting our teams. Most players were decked out in the new Devon clothing which was well received and looks very smart. Pleased to hear that the clothing is available to be ordered from Devon Tennis at the Ivybridge office for new team members.

All team members very much appreciate Devon Tennis's commitment to veterans' tennis particularly the financial assistance for the away matches. The support of tennis clubs to host matches and coaching is very much appreciated, particularly Nuffield Health 'The Devonshire' and its Rackets Manager Laura James. At our recent meeting of CSO's, team captains and players with the Devon Chairman, there was a wide ranging discussion of aspects affecting players representing Devon. The outcome has yet to be distributed but will provide a basis to ensure the transparency of veterans' selection to represent Devon Tennis. Signed: Ken Jones CSO