

Missing out on promotion

WELLOW Tennis Club's Apsley league team lost their crucial final match of the season against Winchester B last Saturday and as a result missed out on promotion to the Premier Division.

A slightly depleted Wellow team battled hard on Winchester's artificial grass courts but just lost out by 5 rubbers to 3.

The missed doubles were shared with Mark Patience and Sandra Peckham having a very good win against the Winchester second pair 6-4, 7-5. Wellow's third pair, Symon Blowers and Simone Arnott, stormed to a terrific victory for the loss of just one game. Unfortunately Wellow came second best in both the ladies' doubles and it was left to the Wellow first men's pair of Patience and Blowers to secure a third rubber winning 6-3, 6-4. Unfortunately Wellow's second men's pair, Paul Goodman and Mike Bevan, were well beaten 2-6, 1-6.

This loss leaves Wellow in third place in the final league standings facing another season in Division 1 which in itself is no mean achievement, given the strength and depth of many of the other much larger clubs that Wellow face.

Attention at Wellow now turns to their Festival of Tennis this coming Saturday when five hours of activity will include free coaching from two ex-Wimbledon players, Danny Sapsford and Marcus Willis, along with the opportunity for two lucky raffle winners to play with these professionals. There will be a host of other tennis related activities and the fun starts at 1pm.

For more details see clubspark.lta.org.uk/WellowTennisClub.

Danny, who reached the third round at Wimbledon in 1999, will be joined by Marcus Willis, who made his ATP tour debut at the 2016 Wimbledon Championships after qualifying for the main draw, where he gained recognition after playing against Roger Federer in the second round on Centre Court. Since August 2022, he has specialised in doubles. Sapsford and Willis will be assisted by coaches from Premier Tennis Hampshire who also provide regular coaching at Wellow Tennis Club.

To close the festival the professionals will play an exhibition doubles match where they will be joined by two lucky winners of a raffle to be held on the day.

The raffle also includes numerous vouchers and other prizes donated by many local businesses and some individual members of the club.