

Wellow turn the tables

WELLOW Tennis Club's Sarum A team had an early opportunity to gain revenge against Riverside A, who the week before had beaten them 6-2.

Riverside travelled to Wellow with a different team and Wellow in turn used other members of their A team squad.

Both mixed doubles were closely contested with Wellow's first pair, Stuart Martin and Abby Whatley, having a tough battle against a strong Riverside pair, eventually drawing 5-7, 7-6.

Second pair Ben Wallis and Cathy Tarvin also had to battle hard to win their first set 7-6 but the second set was more comfortable, winning 6-2.

In the ladies doubles Whatley and Tarvin had to be at their best to win the first set 7-5 but then made quick work of the second set 6-2 to secure the overall match victory. Martin and Wallis dropped their first set 4-6 but bounced back well to take the second set 6-4. This gave Wellow the match 6-2 - reversing exactly the score from a week before.

This win leaves Wellow in second place in Division 1 after three matches, level on four points with leaders Andover A who have won both their matches. Riverside A also have four points in third place having played four matches.

Mixed fortunes for Wellow

WELLOW Tennis Club have endured a rain interrupted start to their winter season with many matches postponed.

However in the last few days they managed to complete two fixtures with contrasting outcomes.

The Sarum A team, having won their opening match against the club's B team early in October, travelled to Riverside in Salisbury for what is always a tough match against a much bigger club.

Riverside fielded a strong team and despite their great efforts Wellow went down by 6 sets to 2. The result could have been different had Wellow won two tiebreaks which ultimately decided the match. Wellow's first mixed pair of Gordon Taylor and Cathy Tarvin battled hard against strong opponents before going down 4-6, 6-7. Second pair Kevin Stansfield and Riat Hampson fared better emerging with a draw 6-3, 3-6. Wellow just lost the mens doubles 6-7, 3-6 and it was left to the ladies to secure another set in another drawn rubber 6-2, 1-6.

There was better news of Wellow's mixed masters team in the Portsmouth and District league who visited Warsash for their first match of the winter season. It turned out to be a marathon lasting almost four hours but at least this time Wellow managed to win a tiebreak! First mixed pair Mike Bevan and Elaine Pickering won their rubber comfortably 6-4, 6-2 but for second pair John Moret and Mescal Harper it was a different story. A very long first set ended after Bevan and Pickering had completed their match with the Wellow pair losing a tiebreak 9-11. The rubber went on for almost two hours with Moret and Harper eventually turning the match round to win the second set 6-4 and then the deciding championship tiebreak.

Wellow's ladies were sailing along having won their first set 6-3 and leading 3-0 when a short rain interruption disturbed their rhythm and in the end they had to battle hard to win the second set 6-4. Meanwhile Bevan and Moret were involved in another long rubber which lasted over 90 minutes before the Wellow pair recorded a very good victory 7-5, 7-5. Thankfully the team then enjoyed an excellent if somewhat delayed lunch prepared by their hosts.