

Club Captain's Report 2016-2017

Holding steady

Victory in the Middlesex Winter Mixed Cup Division 3 in March last year, plus promotion in the winter league for the ladies second team was the only success.

However, for many years now, we have suspected that Grainne's consistency was unrivalled and if you peak into the statistics, you will find that out of 82 players involved in the winter league, Grainne is top!

Aegon Competition (formerly NCL)

For the Aegon Summer league you need a team of 4 players and matches are played on Sunday mornings. All 4 players first must battle away in singles, then play 2 doubles rubbers where you can only mix pairs per ratings. If it's all even after 6 rubbers, the rules now dictate a 'shoot-out': 2 singles victims must be nominated and the other lucky players get to play doubles, so 3 more rubbers are played, each of a match tiebreak.

In the Aegon competition, Muswell Hill ladies battled hard in the top division but with the scoring mechanism meaning that you only win 2 points for an outright match victory, not 2 points per set, the team struggled to stay up. This summer, we have elected not to enter a team as it was getting harder to find willing singles players. We can rejoin the league in the future, in a more modest division if we get a rush of interest!

Middlesex Cup

The Middlesex cup is a doubles only knock-out competition, requiring teams of 6 and the order you play the opposite pairs is determined by pulling from the hat at the start of the fixture.

Our ladies battled through a round of the Middlesex Cup in the summer, finally losing 5-4 to Regent's Park Will to Win, who did show their determined will to win and beat us 10-6 in the last match tiebreak of the last rubber.

In the winter, the Middlesex Cup is Mixed only and after winning Division 3 last winter, we were number 1 seeds in Division 2. We made it to the semi-final and were narrowly beaten 7-5 in the last set of the last rubber once again. Thanks to those who arrived for club play and had a wait. We had started battle at 10:15 that morning, but Brentham were getting their money's worth.

Middlesex Summer League (6 teams)

Men's 1st team will play in Division 2 this summer after struggling with a small squad in Division 1 and the captaincy will be taken up by Tim Brennan.

Men's 2nd team keep their place in Division 4 and will be captained by Dave Crout.

Men's 3rd team keep their place in Division 8 under Fred's captaincy.

On the ladies' side, the 1st team are very happy to be back in Intermediate after a rare dalliance with Premier. The 2nd team are happy in Division 3, for the 6th year in succession and the 3rd team will stay in Division 6, for the 7th time in 8 years.

Winter season - 6 competitions

In the Winter floodlit, we have a mixed, 3 ladies teams, 1 men's team and 2 vets teams.

The Ladies 1st team, captained by Gill Parrott, should be safe in Division 1 pending a good result against Coolhurst II in the last match.

The Ladies 2nd team, captained by Kate Engineer should hang on to their place in Division 3 and Mary Dunwoodie has awoken the 3rd team into winter tennis, comfortably placed 4th in Division 7. Taking on the captaincy last summer, Mary said it was too long a break until the summer matches, so no rest for the team. The numbers turning out for a combined ladies 2nd and 3rd team winter practice has certainly been impressive too.

The Men's winter team look set for a second consecutive promotion this winter under Danny White's captaincy, which will take them into Division 3 next winter.

Grainne continued the captaincy of the Vets first team, who yo-yo between Division 1 and 2. This winter it was the turn to go down, but only after a very nice lunch at Hurlingham.

Kate Engineer continues as captain of the Vets second team, who are leaving it to the last match to decide if they hang on to their place in Division 4.

Despite saying captaincy can be a thankless task I'd like to thank all the captains for volunteering their time. The simple challenge of getting the right people in the right place at the right time AND for the weather to stay fine, can try the patience!

Thank you to Gill Parrott for sorting out the fixtures, and court booking duties. Thank you to Mike and Ian for ensuring there are always match balls.

And thank you to all the team players, for turning out, providing food, playing in good spirit and representing Muswell Hill Methodists. Across the teams, we have over 100 players involved in matches!

Stay fit and enjoy your tennis.

Claire

Posted on 10/3/2017 by Claire Unwin