

Club Captain's Report 2022-2023

Full steam ahead!

The theme of the last report was All Change. This year's theme is full steam ahead. We had a full quota of fixtures and food crept back onto the agenda. The single point deuce was played in the summer and then optional in the winter.

As the AGM always falls right on the crucial end to the winter league, I'd like to start with that:

Winter season 2022/23 - 9 competitions

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

Mixed – have struggled in Division 1 again, the highest division from the days when we were younger and stronger. We will go down to Division 2.

Men's winter teams –

Men's I – Division 1 but a tough winter season and will be relegated to Div 2 next winter.

Men's II – Division 5 – 6th but safe

Men's III – Division 8 – comfortable 3rd

Women's winter teams

Ladies I – top of Division 1, the highest league for the 2nd year in a row

Ladies II – Division 2, sadly bottom this winter.

Ladies III – Division 5 – struggling without long time injured captain Mary Dinwoodie and will now miss Angela due to injury.

Vets winter teams

Grainne captains the Vets 1st team, and with all matches played, we have survived another season in the top flight, mixing it with Hurlingham club for another year.

Captained by Sally Meacher, our Vets 2nd team, were pushing hard for a 3rd consecutive promotion, but look to have just missed out, being 3rd in Division 4.

Middlesex Summer League 2022 (6 teams) finishing positions

Ladies I – finished 5th to stay in Intermediate

Ladies II – last in Div 2 – so relegated to Division 3 this summer with a new joint captain of Clare Woodcock and Claire Richardson.

Ladies III – 5th in Div 4 – After we thought 85 points was a lot for 5th position last year, it was 92 points and still 5th so staying in Div 4.

Men I – 3rd in Div 2 – despite beating Pavilion 14-10!

Men II – last in Div 3 – enjoyed a season in division 3 for 2022 but back to Div 4 this summer.

Men III – 5th Div 7 – stay in division 7, 5th again with 86 points.

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.

Club didn't enter teams this year but if there is interest, we welcome a volunteer captain to get us organised and entered for Winter 2023. (Summer is mixed and winter is mens/womens)

Junior matches- refer to Joe

Aegon Team Tennis Competition (formerly NCL)

Only our juniors are now competing in the Aegon team tennis league – boys under 14 and girls under 16.

Muswell Hill Methodists wins Middlesex awards

It was a thrill and an honour to be invited to attend the Middlesex Tennis awards a couple of weeks ago, held at the very swanky Queens Club. There were 23 awards to be presented by the chair of the LTA and the special awards went to those in the Middlesex tennis community. There were playing awards, volunteering, club contributions and coaching.

Grainne and I played one match for Middlesex 55s County team and contributed to Middlesex winning the national competition, beating Yorkshire in the final.

More importantly, our wonderful and inspiring junior coach, Maria Wisdom was there to collect her award as Development Coach of the year, accompanied by her wife:



Since joining Muswell Hill Methodists, the junior programme has grown from strength to strength and we are thrilled to benefit from Maria's inspiration. It's fair to say that she is adored by the children who show up in the most appalling weather.

Read more on the [Middlesex website](#)

Finally

A big thanks as ever to captains and players for making this a successful and competitive small club. However, we have lost a bit of our core and so would really welcome new team players. We propose to hold an open Team practice night e.g. Wednesday evening with coached training once a month. We have relaxed the guest pass quotas, so if you want to have team practice with competitive players from other clubs, we encourage it.

Thank you as always to Gill Parrott being such an awesome 'Fixtures Meister' and sorting out the fixtures, and court booking duties for all 42 matches. Thank you to Mike and Ian for ensuring there are always match balls and the courts are fit to play. And again Ian, for chasing us for results and linking it to the website.

Thank you to all the team players, for turning out, playing in good spirit and representing Muswell Hill Methodists.

At the awards, I learnt that Middlesex is one of the strongest counties in the country with over 520 clubs and the Middlesex League has over 6000 fixtures.

For a small club, we should be proud that we still play in the highest divisions in winter and the almost highest in summer! Let this year, with our new lights and new courts, take us from strength to strength.

Stay fit and enjoy your tennis!

Claire