

Aldershot and District League – Winter 2017/18

Headley Tennis Club has just finished the winter season in the Aldershot and District Tennis League, with decidedly mixed results. The club fielded a Ladies team in Division 3A, a Mens team in Division 3B and a Mixed team in the Premier Division. In addition, a second Mixed team took part in the East Hants League in order to give every opportunity for members to play competitive league tennis.

The Ladies team had a really good season under their new captain, Elly Whitworth. With 11 wins and 1 draw, they won their league by a comfortable margin of 24 points. Nine ladies took part during the season, but a mention has to be made of the performance of 10yr old Emma Grantham, who was making her debut in the Aldershot and District league. She won three of her four rubbers in the two matches she played and is undoubtedly a fine prospect for the future. Captain Elly obviously took her responsibilities very seriously as she played in every match, won 22 out of 24 rubbers and finished top of the League Averages! You can see the final league position here:

<http://lta.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/draw.aspx?id=0DA01FF5-545B-411F-8BFA-0009B46D2D01&draw=14>

The Mens team played in Division 3B and started well with two wins from the first three matches. But then the captain, Derek Hubbard, was hit by the usual problem of not being able to put out a full team. Five straight defeats then followed, and the team was faced with the prospect of finishing in the bottom two and with it, relegation. However, three victories in the final games of the season made sure of place in Division 3 for next year. Egan Daborn (who was 14 during the winter) performed very well over the whole season and even finished second in the League Averages with 13 wins from 16 rubbers played. Those that played the most matches out of a squad of 11 players were Roger Deane, Derek Hubbard, Adam Parris and Laurence Bulaitis. You can see the final league position here:

<http://lta.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/draw.aspx?id=0DA01FF5-545B-411F-8BFA-0009B46D2D01&draw=6>

The Headley Mixed team had their first taste of Premier Division tennis after securing promotion from Division 1 in 2016/17, and it wasn't a sweet experience! The team were up against some excellent (and much younger!) pairs from bigger clubs such as Brightwell, Camberley, Avondale and the Bourne and it showed with 16-0 defeats against each one of them. However, the team battled valiantly and were able to win the occasional set to avoid the ignominy of a whitewash against the bigger clubs in both home and away matches. We were not the only club out of our depth in the Premier Division. Ash were in a similar situation which meant that we were able to secure our one and only win in the away match against them out of the 12 matches played. Although Headley finished bottom of the table, Ash had a

worse record and would have taken the wooden spoon if Headley had not been penalised 8 points for not being able to field a team when the Captain was away skiing. In the end, there was a whopping 72 point gap between the also-rans (Ash and Headley) at the bottom of the table and the other four teams! I'm sure you won't want to see the final league position here:

<http://lta.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/draw.aspx?id=0DA01FF5-545B-411F-8BFA-0009B46D2D01&draw=17>

In the East Hants League, Headley Tennis Club fielded a Mixed team under the captaincy of Annette Taylor in Division 2. The team finished a creditable fourth out of 9 teams, with a record of 4 wins, 3 defeats and 1 draw. The squad comprised 10 members with Annette Taylor, Angie Lardner, Paul Bettin, Roger Deane, Sue Bettin and Allan Kettles playing the most matches. You can see the final league table here:

<http://lta.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/draw.aspx?id=C163419E-088B-4C21-BF1D-3FC9A132334E&draw=14>

The summer season is about to start and Headley are fielding a Mens and Ladies team in the East Hants summer league, along with two Mixed teams. The captains for the coming season are:

Headley Ladies: Elly Whitworth 07813 929117
Headley Mens: Derek Hubbard 07817 205531
Headley Mixed A: Derek Hubbard 07817 205531
Headley Mixed B: Annette Taylor 07580 115277

If you are wanting to play in any of the teams, please give the captain a ring.

Derek Hubbard
Headley Match Secretary