

MATCH SECRETARY REPORT

BABOLAT OLTA WINTER LEAGUE 2019-20, WINTER MIDWEEK LEAGUES AND SWINDON & DISTRICT WINTER MIXED LEAGUE

BABOLAT OXFORDSHIRE LEAGUES

In the Babolat weekend leagues, 4 Mens and 4 Ladies teams competed for Faringdon again last winter. A total of 58 players represented the club, 33 men and 25 ladies during the season, a strong participation and only a little lower than in the previous winter season (when we had a total of 66).

Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the season was interrupted for 'Lockdown' in mid-March but was eventually completed in July/August.

Ladies A narrowly failed to hold on to their spot in the Premier division. Ladies B and D had mid-table finishes, in divisions 3 and 6 respectively with Ladies C finishing a solid 4th in division 5.

Mens A finished 4th in division 1, narrowly missing out on a return to their top-tier. The B and C teams maintained their places fairly comfortably in divisions 3 and 4 and Mens D found things quite tough in division 6 after their promotion the previous winter, but I am sure will be 'better for the experience'.

OXFORDSHIRE MIDWEEK WINTER LEAGUES

The season was hampered initially by weather and then by 'Lockdown', with some the matches not taking place. Our Mens team completed 4 matches and our Ladies 6 with 'friendly and competitive morning tennis followed by sociable teas' enjoyed by all.

SWINDON & DISTRICT MIXED LEAGUE

Faringdon entered a Mixed team in this winter league for the first time in many years, with a mixture of evening 'floodlit or indoor' matches and a sprinkling of weekend fixtures. We were capably captained by Tom Puffitt and 13 players enjoyed a high standard of tennis in division 2, finishing in an unassailable second place when lockdown struck.

SUMMARY & LOOKING AHEAD

It was a strange season for everyone (with no 2020 summer season to follow) owing to the ongoing pandemic. On the positive side we had a 'recent high' of 11 winter teams competing for our club, with one promotion for our S&D Mixed team, Ladies C in the Babolat League with their 4th place finish also moving up to division 4 (due to rebalancing of divisions) and 6 of the 7 other teams maintaining their status.

This coming winter we will again have 4 Mens and 4 Ladies teams competing in the Babolat League, with new captains for Ladies B and D.

As last year, we have entered a team in both Womens and Mens Oxfordshire midweek morning leagues. Our Mixed team in the Swindon and District Winter League have been promoted to Division 1 and will again play home matches on Wednesdays. An enjoyable format, with ladies doubles, mens doubles and mixed doubles in the same evening with the addition of 'sudden death deuces' for the new season.

Our thanks to all our winter captains; Sian, Jane, Chris, Sam, Susanna, Andrew, David Curzon, Mark Kiff and Adrian and our 'midweek' captains Steve and Anne and Tom
