

# PRLTC Annual General Meeting – 24<sup>th</sup> April 2018 - Men's Captain's Report

## Summer 2017

### **Men's Bucks Shield 3-pair – 1<sup>st</sup> team (Stephen)**

Div 2 - P6 W2 L4

Finished 5<sup>th</sup> – remain in Div 2

### **Men's Bucks Shield 3-pair - 2<sup>nd</sup> team (Nick)**

Div 4 – P5 W3 L2

Finished 3<sup>rd</sup> – now in Div 3

### **Men's Team Tennis (Stu)**

Div 2 – P2 L2

Finished 3<sup>rd</sup> – now in Div 1B – the hunt for that 1<sup>st</sup> win continues....!

### **Men's Midweek ADL – 1<sup>st</sup> team (Steve)**

Div 2 (promoted last year, relegated before that) - P6 W2 L4

Finished 6<sup>th</sup> – relegated back to Div 3

### **Men's Midweek ADL – 2<sup>nd</sup> team (Mike)**

Div 5 (promoted last year, for 2<sup>nd</sup> year running) – P6 W1 D2 L3

Finished 5<sup>th</sup> – remain in Div 5

## Winter 2017/18

### **Men's Aylesbury & District League 1<sup>st</sup> Team (Steve)**

Div 3 (relegated last year) – P11 W10 D1

One to play (28<sup>th</sup> Apr) guaranteed TOP – promoted to Div 2

### **Men's Oxfordshire League (Stephen)**

Div 4 – P11 W9 D2

Finished TOP easily – promoted to Div 3

### **Men's Aylesbury & District League 2nd Team (Mike)**

Div 6 – P12 W4 L8

Finished 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> – could go down

## Overview

Last summer was pretty solid, although the midweek 1<sup>st</sup> team did continue their trend of bouncing between Divs 2 and 3 by slipping back to Div 3 this summer. Div 2 always has some very strong teams, from some of the biggest clubs in the County, so we are definitely punching above our weight at that level, but it's enjoyable tennis and we don't mind playing in Div 3 this year.

For the Winter season, we changed our selection philosophy, to recognise that we had a large group of 2<sup>nd</sup> team players, many of them under the age of 30, who needed to play more regularly and against better opposition to improve and become the 1<sup>st</sup> team of the future. As a result, our 2<sup>nd</sup> team in the Oxfordshire League won Division 4 by a country mile, remaining unbeaten for the second year running. Hopefully the tennis in Div 3 next winter will challenge the team further and they will continue their success.

Not to be outdone, the 1<sup>st</sup> team, who were disappointed to get relegated to ADL Div 3 last winter, have also had a great season and have also won their division without losing a game so far, with their last match this Saturday. So its back to Div 2 next winter.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> team in ADL Div 6 may not have had the success of the other teams, but they have had a lot of close matches, and it has achieved its aim of providing decent match play for many players, some of them experienced, and some who have previously only played social tennis.

For this summer, we have introduced a new 2-pair team in the Bucks Shield, whilst maintaining both 3-pair Shield teams, plus our two teams in the midweek ADL and our ever-gallant, but not yet successful, entry into the LTA Team Tennis competition, which includes both singles and doubles rubbers. We may find at the end of the season that we overstretched ourselves with the extra 2-pair team, but with 25 different men competing in matches last summer, 26 this winter and 30 on the squad list for this summer, we had to do something to give everyone more than just the occasional match over the summer months.

We have continued to run practice sessions on Thursdays during the summer and winter months, and these will continue in 2018.

As always, on behalf of the players and the club, I must thank the guys who don't just turn up, play matches and go home, but have the added responsibility of making sure we have a team for all the matches, find reserves when needed, contact the opposition before each match, ensure the players are fed and watered after home matches, and coordinate transport for away matches.

In addition to those already mentioned, this includes Chris Hill and now Ant Heald, who has taken over the 3-pair 2<sup>nd</sup> team from Nick Austin (who selfishly resigned having moved to the South coast). I'd also like to thank Mel for running the Mixed 1<sup>st</sup> teams and identifying new players for the men's squad, and wish her luck as the new Ladies Captain.

Good luck to all the teams this Summer!

**Stephen Biggs**, PRLTC Men's Captain – 24<sup>th</sup> April 2018