

Brewin Dolphin Mannamead Winter Tennis League 2022/23

By Dave and Susie Gale

PRESENTATION EVENING

The RBC Brewin Dolphin Mannamead Winter Tennis League finally finished with the Presentation Evening at the MLTC Clubhouse on Thursday 13th April. We tried to get Roger Federer to present the trophies but he was busy milking his cows. So the club Chairman, Chris Shorter, stood in as a fine replacement.

MIXED

Alice Wildgoose and Gary Brookes were presented with the winner's trophy. Nick Haley was away on holiday so Fiona Crutchley accepted the runners-up trophy for both of them.

MENS B

Nick Souness and Mike Smith were pleased to win the Mens B trophy in their first season playing in the winter league. They look forward to testing themselves in Mens A next season. Unfortunately neither Pete Ireland or Jon Shackel were able to attend and pick up the runners up trophy.

LADIES A

Roanna George and Katherine Rowe paired up for the first time this season and were also pleased to win the closely fought Ladies A title. Fiona Crutchley and Nicky Trevaskis were both there to receive the runners up trophy.

LADIES B

Stephanie d'Haussey and Caroline Floccia were happy to see their names on the Ladies B trophy for the first time and look

forward with some trepidation to playing in Ladies A next season. Val Knight was there to receive the Ladies B trophy of behalf of her and her partner Caroline Hambly.

MENS A

Unfortunately none of the winning trio of Ben Knight, Tom Pantling and Sam Williams were able to be there on the night to receive their winner's trophy for Mens A. Alex Cox was there to pick up the runners up trophy on behalf of himself and Eric Vicente.

Just like the Oscars Dudley Tolkien and Janet Butler received a "Lifetime Achievement" award to mark their 35th year as a mixed partnership. A feat unlikely to be repeated.

John Putman, on behalf of the MLTC committee, presented Dave and Sue Gale a book token each as a thank you for taking on the running of the winter league. All players were grateful for a smoothly run winter league.

Margaret Banyard and her team of 'Michelin' starred chefs worked hard in the kitchen to provide hot and cold refreshments and nibbles.

Now the evenings are getting longer and hopefully the sun is coming out all the players are looking forward to playing their tennis in daylight in the summer league.

We look forward to seeing everyone in next season's MLTC Winter League.







Report in “The Herald” Thursday 20th April. A very good piece by Stuart to round the season off.

Sport

Winter League winners receive their trophies

By DAVID AND SUE GALE

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Many of the winners and runners-up from this year's Winter League

Alice Wildgoose and Gary Brookes were the Mixed doubles winners

Nick Souness and Mike Smith were winners of the Men's B Division

Roanna George and Katherine Rowe claimed the Ladies A Division title

Stephanie d'Haussey and Caroline Floccia won Ladies B Division

Dudley Tolken and Janet Butler received a Lifetime Achievement award to mark their 35th year as a mixed partnership

OVERVIEW

The RBC Brewin Dolphin Mannamead Winter Tennis League is now completed for this season. The weather in the final weeks looked as though it was going to be the winner, however this turned out not to be the case and all matches were completed.

This season we had 16 mens pairs, 22 ladies pairs and 8 mixed pairs playing in five leagues. Sixteen Mens subs and 17 Ladies subs were also used, making a total of 120 players taking part in the Winter league. Over the six months of the league 413 matches were played with only one ladies match not being played.

MENS A

This division was close run right down to the last match. It was between Alex Cox and partner Eric Vicente and the threesome of Ben Knight, Tom Pantling and Sam Williams. However with Alex and Eric losing to Alan Mayes and sub Jack Allman the previous week it favoured Ben, Tom and Sam, but they still had to play each other. However despite a close fought match with a sub for each side being used, it was Tom and sub Rhys Dunford who came out on top winning all three sets against Alex and sub Matt Bowers. This was enough to give Ben, Tom and Sam a comfortable 26 point lead at the top of the table. The new pairing of Dave Gale and Steve Matcham were pleased with their season and finished 7th.

MENS B

It was good to see two new pairings in Mens B this year and one pairing Nick Souness and Mike Smith led all the way through and won the league with over 70 points lead. The other new pairing, Lester Ellicott and Richard Turner, didn't fare as well but we hope they will return again to play next season as they improved greatly as the season went on.

The battle for runners up spot was very closely contested and went down to the final week with two matches between contenders Jon Jacobs and Mike Scott and Pete Ireland and Jon Shackel. Both matches were closely fought and ended up

each pair winning one. However Pete and Jon got the required number of points to become runners up. The other pairings of Chris Shorter and John Putman and Andrew Regan and Dan Baugh all had a good season and finished mid table.

LADIES A

This season the Ladies A division was very open as it was a combination of last years A and B divisions and the tables did show a bit of a divide between the pairings come the end of the season. It was again another division that was decided in the final week. Hilary Picton and Linda Trebilcock were top of the league after completing all their matches but unfortunately had dropped a set in their last match to Julia Whetton and Ann Short which meant that Nicky Trevaskis and Fiona Crutchley and Katherine Rowe and Roanna George were all in with a chance of catching them if they won their remaining matches. Roanna and Katherine played Nicky and Fiona in what was a potential title winning match and Katherine and Roanna played well to defeat Fiona and Nicky. Both pairs only had one more match to play. It favoured Katherine and Roanna who only had to win their last match to take the division. Nicky and Fiona defeated Sandra O'Sullivan and Luisa Warring in their last match taking the maximum 23 points and this was enough to put them in top spot, one point ahead of Hilary and Linda who had to settle for third place. This just left Roanna and Katherine to finish their remaining match. They did this in style by beating Esther Pettit and Sandra Fox and secured enough points to move themselves into top spot with Fiona and Nicky as runners up.

LADIES B

Stephanie d'Haussey and Caroline Floccia led from the start and continued the season unbeaten. There was more competition for the runners up spot with three pairs in contention until the final few weeks of the season. Runners up spot was taken by the Saltash pair of Val Knight and Caroline Hambly, who

finished with a game to spare. The oldest pairing in the League, octogenarian Pat Hexter and septuagenarian Liz Gill, enjoyed their matches and finished a creditable ninth.

MIXED

Last season's winners Alice Wildgoose and Gary Brookes were the strongest pair in the league and generally were always at the top of the division. The new pairing of Fiona Crutchley and Nick Haley took the runners up spot making it a one-two for Plympton Tennis Club. There were quite a few new pairings in this division but celebrating their 35th year as a mixed partnership were Dudley Tolkien and Janet Butler who enjoyed their games but unfortunately finished at the bottom of the division.

There were three pairs who had to withdraw due to injury and we hope they will be fit and keen to play in next seasons Winter League





WEEK 24

The RBC Brewin Dolphin Mannamead Winter Tennis League completed its final week of matches. The weather looked as though it was going to be the winner, however this turned out not to be the case and all matches were completed.

Jon Jacobs and Mike Scott had three matches to fit in the last week of play and with the weather looking grim it looked like they'd have to play in wetsuits and flippers but somehow they managed to fit the matches in.

They firstly had to finish off a match against Pete Ireland and Jon Shackel after they ran out of time with the game finely poised at one set all. Pete and Jon got off the blocks quickly taking the last set to win overall 6-5 5-6 6-1. They then carried on to play their third and final meeting. Pete and Jon continued their strong start, settling into the windy conditions well and comfortably winning the first set. Again, Pete and Jon started the second set strongly racing to a couple of breaks up. Jon and Mike though, recognising a change of tactics was required, started being more lively at the net. Eventually they forced a tiebreak. They earned a good lead and managed to close out 7-5. A similar story played out in the final deciding set. With the conditions getting steadily worse, Jon and Mike's improved tactics appeared to pay off and again forced a tiebreak. And once again, Jon and Mike went ahead early and managed to close out 7-4 to win the match 2-6 6-5 6-5. A win for each pair meant that Pete and Jon had done enough to snatch the runners up spot. It was obviously a very close contest as four out of the six sets went to a tiebreak.

In their third match of the week Jon Jacobs and Mike Scott faced Chris Shorter and John Putman. Again it was a close match contested in windy but fortunately dry conditions. Chris and John started strongly going ahead with a couple of breaks but Jon and Mike managed to claw back to a tiebreak. Jon and Mike took a couple of mini-breaks before Chris and John rallied and took the tiebreak 7-5. The second set was tied at 3-3 before Jon and Mike managed to edge ahead and take the set. The final deciding set got to 5-4 on serve. Chris and John got to 40-0 to almost reach the tiebreak but with a combination of luck and clinical play Jon and Mike clawed back to deuce and took the subsequent match point with a back hand return winner from Mike. Good net play from John and solid baseline play from Chris and Jon throughout but it was Jon and Mike who won 5-6 6-3 6-4.

In the last few Ladies A matches. Fiona Crutchley and Nicky Trevaskis played Sandra O'Sullivan and Luisa Warring. Fiona and Nicky took the points 6-2 6-3 6-1 which meant that Katherine Rowe and Roanna George had to win their final match to take top spot in ladies A. Roanna and Katherine faced Esther Pettit and Sanra Fox and despite Sandra getting

everything back, Roanna and Katherine stayed strong to win 6-2 6-1 6-0 and get enough points to top Ladies A.

Stephanie D'Haussey and Caroline Floccia already had enough points to be winners of Ladies B but they had a challenging last match against Linda Haston and Janet Butler. There were some clever winning shots from Janet but it was Stephanie and Caroline who stayed undefeated all season winning 6-4 3-6 6-2.

Roanna George also had a busy last week finishing off a few mixed doubles matches with sub Jason Vosper. It was a pleasant evening when they played Janet Butler and Dudley Tolkien with fabulous court coverage from Janet but Roanna and Jason won 6-2 6-3 6-0.

Roanna and sub Jason then played again the same evening against Debbie Wilson and sub James Spurgeon. Despite already playing three sets Roanna and Jason still had the energy to compete in lots of good rallies and well constructed points, and won 6-5 4-6 6-0.

Another pair playing a couple of matches in the last week were Alice Wildgoose and Gary Brookes competing to retain their mixed title from last season. They played Caroline Floccia and Alan Mayes. Alice and Gary were overall too strong and won 6-2 6-0 6-3.

A few days later when it was dry Alice and Gary played fellow Plympton pairing Fiona Crutchley and Nick Haley. In A cracking final match to end the season and after a real battle, Nick and Fiona took the first set, then Gary and Alice took the next 4 games to lead 4-0 in the second set. Nick and Fiona dug deep to come back to even it up at 4 all. A tough tie break at five all went to 9-7 in favour of Nick and Fiona. Nick and Fiona continued their momentum to take the third set and win overall 6-3 6-5 6-1.



WEEK 23

The RBC Brewin Dolphin Mannamead Winter Tennis League is in the penultimate week and on a wet and windy evening the stoic ladies turned out and played their matches in poor conditions. Stephanie D'Haussey and Caroline Floccia took on Linda Haston and Janet Butler in a tough match where they had to defend strong attacking shots from Linda and Janet who took the first set. Stephanie and Caroline rallied and took the next two sets to win overall 4-6 6-2 6-3 and secure their position as top of Ladies B.

Angela Wright and Caroline Abernethy played Anne Hughes and Nicky Slight in Ladies B and in a very close game won 2-6 6-5 6-3. We say farewell to Anne Hughes who leaves Plymouth. We wish her well.

Val Knight and Caroline Hambly started well against Liz Gill and Pat Hexter and benefitted from an early lead, capitalising on this to take the set. Competitive second and third sets resulted in the win for Val and Caroline 6-3 6-3 6-2 and they take runners up spot in Ladies B with one more game to play.

Fortunate to play on another day and therefore in only slightly damp conditions were Chris Woodward and sub Candy Birch against Jane Williams and Victoria Roberts. Jane and Victoria have improved greatly throughout the season and were

rewarded by winning the second set. Chris and Candy regrouped though and took the win 6-2 2-6 6-0.

Anne Hughes and Nicky Slight played Linda Haston and Janet Butler. Anne and Nicky had to fight for their points. Great volleying from Linda and amazing court coverage from Janet was enough to take the final set but not quite enough for the match. Anne and Nicky won 6-4 6-5 3-6.

In a top of the table clash with the probability that the winners would win the Ladies A division, it was a game full of very long rallies and lots of net cords. Roanna George and Katherine Rowe started strong and took the first set but went 2-0 down in the second set but then took six games in a row to win it. Fiona Crutchley and Nicky Trevaskis fought hard in the third set which was tight. Katherine and Roanna were pleased to win the tie break 7-5 and overall 6-2 6-2 6-5. This win puts Roanna and Katherine the most likely pair to take the division.

Jenny Whybrow and Sandy Johnson played one of the most hard fought matches of their season against Tania Belcher and Henrietta Ferguson. The first set could have gone either way with both couples playing well. The second set was dominated by Henrietta and Tania with hard hitting play. In the third set Jenny and Sandy changed tactics and won this set to win overall 6-5 2-6 6-4.

Linda Trebilcock and Hilary Picton also played in the wind and rain against Ann Short and sub Rachel Youngs-Pearce. Ann and Rachel pushed Linda and Hilary very hard with Rachel making good interceptions at the net along with strong groundstrokes. In the first set tied at two all Rachel and Ann made a few unforced errors which cost them the set. In the second set Rachel's powerful forehands and low sliced backhands opened up opportunities for Ann at the net and Hilary and Linda struggled to control the wet balls with Ann and Rachel deservedly taking the set. With all to play for Linda and Hilary started the final set well and were determined not to let it slip, taking it to win 6-2 3-6 6-2.

Despite some good volleys from Sarah Blain and consistent good deep shots from Helen Wright, Nicky Trevaskis and Fiona Crutchley kept the pressure on to win all three sets 6-2 6-2 6-2 and keep in the hunt for getting a winners or runners up spot in the division.

Luisa Warring and sub Georgia Jones were too strong for Helen Wright and Sarah Blain in a fast paced match with plenty of great play from both pairs. Luisa and Georgia won 6-1 6-1 6-4.

In Mens A Phil Hore and Paul Cooper were pleased to take the win in a very close fought battle 6-5 5-6 6-3 over Chris Janes and Varun Philip.

It was a hard fought win on a windy drizzly evening for Sam Williams and Tom Pantling 6-3 6-3 6-2 against Alan Mayes and sub Dave Small.

Alan and Dave played for a second time in a great contest with powerful exchanges between Yuen and Alan. As the match progressed Dave and Jason both raised their level with some great rallies. Jason Vospher and Yuen Siu won 5-6 6-3 6-2.

The title deciding match in Mens A was played between Tom Pantling and sub Rhys Dunford against Alex Cox and sub Matt Bowers. Good serving from the winning pair made all the difference and Tom and Rhys won 6-3 6-2 6-2 and come out as division winners with Alex and Eric (and subs) as worthy runners up.

In Mens B the division's winners Mike Smith and Nick Souness played Andrew Regan and Dan Baugh. It was another good game between the two pairs, with tricky conditions due to the wind, but both teams managed to produce some good rallies. Mike and Nick won 6-1 6-2 6-2.

It started as a lovely evening for the first set, followed by winds that blew the balls around and finished with torrential rain for the final set. Nevertheless Sean Wolstenholme and Simon Dixon were pleased to take the win against Lester Ellicott and Richard Turner 6-1 6-4 6-1.

In the last game of the season for Nick Souness and Mike Smith, Chris Shorter and John Putman displayed some great experienced tennis but with many deuces were unable to get the winning points and it was Mike and Nick who won 6-1 6-0 6-0.

In the Mixed there was a good game between Roanna George and Simon Dusting against Dave Gale and sub Sue Gale. Some good down the line shots and serve games from Sue and Dave made it a tight match but Simon and Roanna came out on top, winning the all important tie breaks to win 6-5 6-3 6-5.

Caroline Floccia and Alan Mayes and Nicky Slight and Dave Bate were pleased to play in the dry and with the game tied at one set all the final set went to a tie break. Caroline and Alan were glad to win this set and overall 6-3 2-6 6-5.

Janet Butler did enough running for all four players with some great pick-ups and cross court shots. Dudley Tolkien did a few great volleys, but it wasn't enough to defeat Dave and Nicky who both played some great drop shots and some fantastic volleying and won 6-1 6-2 6-2.

Janet and Dudley played again the next day and Janet had enough energy to yet again cover the court extremely well. Dudley was thrilled to do a great winning drive volley down the line but Nick Haley and Fiona Crutchley proved too strong and won 6-0 6-0 6-0.

On a very windy but dry night and with most games going to deuce the first two set tiebreaks eventually went to Debbie Wilson and sub Jack Allman. Alice Wildgoose and Gary Brookes stayed ahead throughout the third set to win it. Debbie and Jack won 6-5 6-5 4-6. Alice and Gary have a couple more matches to get the few points they need to retain their mixed title.



WEEK 22

With the RBC Brewin Dolphin Mannamead Winter Tennis League coming to the last few weeks the top placings are gradually taking shape.

Despite a rusty start from Sam Williams and sub Dan Cole and some competitive tennis from Bob Verey and Andy Weymouth, Sam and Dan came through in a tightly fought match which stayed competitive until the final point 6-4 6-4 6-4.

It was a tight match with long rallies between Jason Vosper and Yuen Siu against Dave Gale and Steve Matcham. Aside from the second set, in which Dave and Steve surrendered a 2-0 lead, there was nothing between the pairs but Jason and Yuen were stronger in both tie breaks and took the bonus points by winning 6-5 6-2 6-5.

Chris Shorter and John Putman resumed their partnership after John was out for a few weeks with a shoulder injury against Lester Ellicott and Richard Turner. Lester and Richard started well and fully deserved their first set of the campaign. They varied their play and ran out tie break winners. Chris and John managed to regroup to take the next two sets and win overall 5-6 6-3 6-1.

Lester and Richard played again the next day against Sean Wolstenholme and Simon Dixon and again showed signs of their improvement throughout the winter league season by pushing Sean and Simon all the way. Sean and Simon though took the match 6-4 6-5 6-4.

Sean and Simon also played again a few days later in poor weather and credit to both teams for playing through and playing some good rallies. Nick Souness and Mike Smith won 6-2 6-2 6-3 and sealed the league with this victory.

In Ladies A, Sue Gale and Sue Newbery faced Jenny Whybrow and Sandy Johnson. In an enjoyable hard fought match again with many deuces and good rallies the two Sues got off to a great two set start playing a hard hitting match, but a change of tactics in the third set by Jenny and Sandy proved successful and they were rewarded by winning it. Sue and Sue though won 6-2 6-1 3-6.

Hilary Picton and Linda Trebilcock, looking to challenge for top spot in Ladies A, came out of the blocks firing on all cylinders against Tania Belcher and Henrietta Ferguson. Linda's groundstrokes were solid and she made some good volleys. Hilary played some great passing shots on both forehand and backhand and also enjoyed good touch at net. Henrietta and Tanya struggled to find a way past them and, while Henrietta served very well, she was hampered by a hamstring strain which made it difficult for her to run. Tanya made some amazing returns at full stretch but Linda and Hilary made very few errors and mopped up any loose shots and won 6-0 6-0 6-0.

The very first long rally was an indication of how the match was to continue between Alison Miles and Lyn Helliwell. There were some great rallies with confident net play from Julia and good serving from Ann and both Julia and Ann displayed quick reactions, returning low hard shots from the opposition consistently well. Lyn and Alison endeavoured to keep them moving around the court with a variety of shots and eventually won 6-4 6-4 6-3.

On a misty and foggy evening at Mannamead Roanna and Katherine quickly found their form to win 6-0 6-0 6-0 against Helen Wright and Sarah Blain.

With both pairs playing their second match of the week it was Hilary Picton and Linda Trebilcock who started well and played consistently forcing Helen Wright and Sarah Blain to go for winners whenever they could. Sarah made some good winning volleys and Helen chased down a lot of balls which looked unreturnable but Linda and Hilary were the more consistent pair and won 6-2 6-0 6-0.

In Ladies B Jane Williams and Victoria Roberts continue their improved form playing runner up contenders Val Knight and Caroline Hambly. With yet again the score not reflecting the rallies, Jane and Victoria were unlucky to not pick up more points as Val and Caroline won 6-1 6-2 6-1.

On a rainy evening Anne Hughes and Nicky Slight played Pat Hexter and Liz Gill. Some fantastically classy play from Pat and Liz in the first set took it to a tie break. Despite some great drop shots from Pat and some great pick-ups by Liz, Anne and Nicky changed their play in the second and third set to claim the overall win 5-6 6-3 6-0.

Pat and Liz played again this week against Chris Woodward and sub Candy Birch. There was a break in the weather and conditions were good for playing tennis. The first set was neck and neck and neither pair gave up fighting with long deuces and hard shots and Pat serving up her usual hard serves. The tie break ended up at 10-8 with Pat and Liz snatching it. The second set was quicker and went in favour of Chris and Candy. With all to play for the third set was, again, neck and neck. It could have gone either way with everyone fighting hard for every point. Again the tie break saw Chris and Candy just edge ahead at 7-5 to take it and also the bonus points winning 5-6 6-2 6-5.

Jill Cansfield and Elizabeth Nodder played against Angela Wright and Caroline Abernethy in a very tight fought match with amazing rallies with Jill and Elizabeth just doing enough to win 6-5 6-4 6-4.

In the mixed the pairs of Debbie Wilson and sub Jack Allman and Roanna George and Simon Dusting enjoyed a rain free evening. Great serving from Jack with consistent cross court backhand play from Roanna gave them the win 6-2 6-0 6-1.

In a top of the table clash between the mixed pairings of Alice Wildgoose and Gary Brookes playing Fiona Crutchely and Nick Haley, it was Alice and Gary who came out on top 6-5 6-3 5-6. This win will help to keep them in top spot and likely to keep their mixed title from last season.

Debbie and sub Jack played again this time facing Nicky Slight and Dave Bate. There were lots of points played out at the net with solid volleying by all. Despite great serving from Dave and winning lobs from Nicky, it was Debbie and Jack who won 6-0 6-4 6-4.

Sue Newberry & Dave Gale played Caroline Floccia & Alan Mayes in a very close match. There were some great shots by all four players. The near perfect match was only marred by some unforecasted rain showers in the second set. At 14pts apiece it was only the bonus points that saw Sue and Dave the winners 6-4 2-6 6-4.



With the RBC Brewin Dolphin Mannamead Winter Tennis League coming to the last few weeks some of the matches will affect top and bottom placings.

In the final week of Mens A and B scheduled matches there was a very good Mens B match between Mike Smith and Nick Souness and Jon Jacobs and Mike Scott. Mike and Nick took the first set comfortably but Jon and Mike played well and took the second set to a tie break which Mike and Nick won. Jon and Mike were pleased to pick up games to help with their league table position and they hope to be strong contenders for runners up if they do well in their outstanding games. Mike and Nick won 6-1 6-5 6-4. Mike and Nick have dominated Mens B this season and we look forward to seeing them play in Mens A next season.

In Mens A Alan Mayes and sub Jack Allman were on top form to nullify the threat of Alex Cox and Eric Vicente and came out worthy winners 6-2 6-2 6-0. This result could have a bearing on who wins Mens A. Alex and Eric still have to play the other top of the table pairing to decide which pair ultimately ends up winning the division.

It's still all to play for in Ladies A. There are three or four pairs in contention for winning the league or fighting for the runners up spot. After winning the first set to love, Nicky Trevaskis and Fiona Crutchley found themselves 2-0 down in the second but pulled it back to lead 5-2 only for Henrietta Ferguson and Tania Belcher to come back again to make it 5-4 before Nicky and Fiona took the next game to take the set and continued their momentum to take the third as well and win overall 6-0 6-4 6-1.

Roanna George and Katherine Rowe were too strong for Julia Whetton and Ann Short with good volleys and serving, winning 6-2 6-1 6-2.

Jenny Whybrow and Sandy Johnson capitalised on Lyn Helliwell and Alison Miles' slow, shaky start and took the lead 4-1 in the first set. They placed the ball well whilst Alison and Lyn made a lot of unforced errors. Alison and Lyn managed to catch up to reach a tie break at 5-5, which Jenny and Sandy went on to win. Alison and Lyn played more consistently in the next two sets. There were some good rallies with both pairs

using lobs and drop shots to good effect. Alison & Lyn won 5-6 6-2 6-2.

Sue Gale and Sue Newberry played consistently well using a variety of hard hit ground shots and some good drop shots to defeat Julia Whetton and Ann Short 6-0 6-0 6-3.

Nicky Trevaskis and Fiona Crutchley controlled the first two sets against Alison Miles and Lynn Heliwell but in the third set Lyn and Alison started strongly taking a 5-2 lead. Nicky and Fiona then got going to bring it back to 5-4 but Lyn and Alison kept the pressure on to take the third set but Fiona and Nicky had done enough to take the first two sets and the bonus points to win 6-1 6-3 4-6. This second win in the week for Nicky and Fiona help to keep them in strong contention for winning the division.

On a lovely evening with some good rallies Stephanie D’Haussy and Caroline Floccia were too strong for Jane Williams and Victoria Roberts winning 6-0 6-1 6-0. Caroline and Stephanie have dominated the Ladies B Division and we look forward to welcoming them into Ladies A next season.

It’s all to play for in Ladies B as to which pairing will take the runners up position. Val Knight and Caroline Hambly played well in the first two sets but Linda Haston and Janet Butler finished strongly to take the third set. Val and Caroline took the bonus points though winning 6-3 6-1 4-6 and the points will help them in their battle to finish second.

Great line shots and lobs from Jill Cansfield and some amazing pick-ups from Elizabeth Nodder weren’t enough on this occasion to defend against Anne Hughes’ baseline shots and Nicky Slight’s net play and they won 6-5 6-2 6-3. Nicky and Anne have a few games to catch up with but if they win their games in hand they are also in contention for the runners up spot.

Noelle Boucherat and sub Sue Murch started really well and took the first set against Libby Allman and Debbie Theophilus but Libby and Debbie fought back to win 2-6 6-0 6-1 which will help them in their bid to get the runners up spot.

A very much improved Jane Williams and Victoria Roberts gave Pat Hexter and Liz Gill a run for their money but in the end it was the slices and spins from Pat and Liz that won the day for them 6-2 6-3 6-2. The score did not reflect the closeness of the rallies and overall result.

In the only mixed game played this week there was a strong showing from the ladies on international women's day. With a close first set going to Alice Wildgoose and sub Jay Stuart. Sue Newberry and Dave Gale came out quicker in the second set and went 4-1 up only to be pegged back and lose 6-4. Alice and Jay continued their comeback to win the third set also. 6-3 6-4 6-2. Alice still has a few games left to play but unless there are some major mishaps it looks likely that she will retain her mixed title.



WEEK 20

In a top of the table clash in the RBC Brewin Dolphin Manamead Winter Tennis League, Hilary Picton and Linda Trebilcock were rather slow to get going in the first set while Roanna George and Katherine Rowe raced to a 5-2 lead. Katherine and Roanna then appeared to relax and errors started to creep in. Hilary and Linda managed to force a tie-break which they narrowly won. Roanna and Katherine,

determined not to make the same mistake in the second set, won with Roanna's powerful backhands hitting the lines and Katherine's deft net play getting the better of their opponents. The third set was very close with some very good play interspersed with Roanna and Linda struggling with their service. Once again a tie-break followed but this time Roanna and Katherine made too many errors trying to overpower Hilary and Linda who took it and overall 6-5 2-6 6-5.

The first few games consisted of some long rallies between Alison Miles and Lynn Heliwell against Helen Wright and Sarah Blain. Alison and Lyn soon took the lead and won the first set. Helen and Sarah disrupted their rhythm in the second set with some effective sliced cross court backhands from Sarah and lobs from Helen. With more unforced errors from Lyn and Alison, the set deservedly went to Helen and Sarah. Lyn and Alison galvanised themselves in the last set, finally winning 6-1 3-6 6-3.

It was the extremely quick speed of Sandra Fox covering the court, coupled with consistent looping baseline shots that made the difference when facing Sue Gale and Sue Newberry and it was Sandra and Esther who won 6-3 6-4 6-3.

Sandra O'Sullivan and Luisa Warring started quickly against Tania Belcher and Henrietta Ferguson taking the first set. Tania and Henrietta rallied in the second set but it was not enough to stop Sandra and Luisa winning 6-0 6-5 6-2.

Sue Gale and Sue Newberry were keen to play again after their earlier defeat two days before and, despite some good shots from Helen Wright and net play from Sarah Blain, were too strong winning 6-1 6-3 6-1.

Roanna George and Katherine Rowe faced Sandra O'Sullivan and Luisa Warring. There were some long rallies and, with excellent volleying from Katherine, they won 6-5 6-3 2-6.

After a very close competitive match first time round all players were looking forward to playing in dry conditions. Perhaps it was one match too many in a week for the two Sues, playing their third and fourth matches in as many days, but Alison and Lynn quickly won the first set without dropping any games. Sue

and Sue rallied slightly in the second and third sets with Sue G lobbing and dropping the ball short to good effect but, with Alison and Lynn playing good consistent ground shots and both volleying well, the Sues were forced to try to find the lines and the tight angles and unfortunately for them didn't do this with much success. Lynn and Alison were deservedly the winners 6-0 6-2 6-2.

In a long close match, despite some great angled drop shots from Sandy Johnson and cleverly placed lobs from Jenny Whybrow, Nicky Trevaskis and Fiona Crutchley just managed to edge ahead in each set to win the match 6-3 6-4 6-2.

Julia Whetton and Ann Short started well against Sandra O'Sullivan and Luisa Warring with some unbelievable lobs and angles and took the first set. It was a closely fought second match which went to Sandra and Luisa on a tie break and they took control of the third set to win 1-6 6-5 6-2.

Jane Williams and Victoria Roberts improved as the sets went on but it was Jill Cansfield and Elizabeth Nodder who won 6-1 6-2 6-5.

It was a battle of the deuces between Angela Wright and Caroline Abernethy and Libby Allman and Debbie Theophilus with Debbie and Libby running down angled forehands and returning all shots. Caroline and Angela forced Libby and Debbie into some errors to take the spoils 6-1 6-5 5-6.

Libby Allman & Debbie Theophilus played Jane Williams & Victoria Roberts and won 6-2, 6-1, 6-0

Sue Newberry and Dave Gale faced Fiona Crutchley and sub Scott Ledger in a competitive mixed match. Dave Gale found some form and played like he used to fifteen years ago and, with Sue Newberry picking off shots at the net, they were able to force Fiona and Scott into making some errors and were able to take the final deciding set and win overall 6-2 2-6 6-5.

Caroline Floccia and Alan Mayes were too strong for Dudley Tolkien and Janet Butler winning 6-0 6-1 6-0.

In a very close match between Alice Wildgoose and sub Jamie Stuart against Nicky Slight and Dave Bate there was some

great net play and down the line shots. The match finished just before the lights went off, with Alice and Jamie winners 6-5 6-5 6-1.

Sub Matt Bowers, playing with Alex Cox, delivered some explosive serves and powerful precise back hands which gave Alex a great foundation to push forward to control the net. Phil Hore delivered some excellent backhand winners of his own but volley of the evening went to Paul Cooper. Alex and Matt were too strong though and won 6-0 6-0 6-1.

In a closely contested match between Andy Weymouth and Bob Verey playing Dave Gale and Steve Matcham, it was Andy's volleying and drop shots at the net being the deciding factor in a match that was in the balance for much of the first two sets. By the third set Bob and Andy's serving had sharpened up to provide better consistency and to take the match 6-4 6-4 6-3.

Alan Mayes playing with sub Nick Souness faced Jason Vosper and Yuen Siu. Jason and Yuen played better in the third set but it was too late to save the match with Alan and Nick winning 6-1 6-2 5-6.

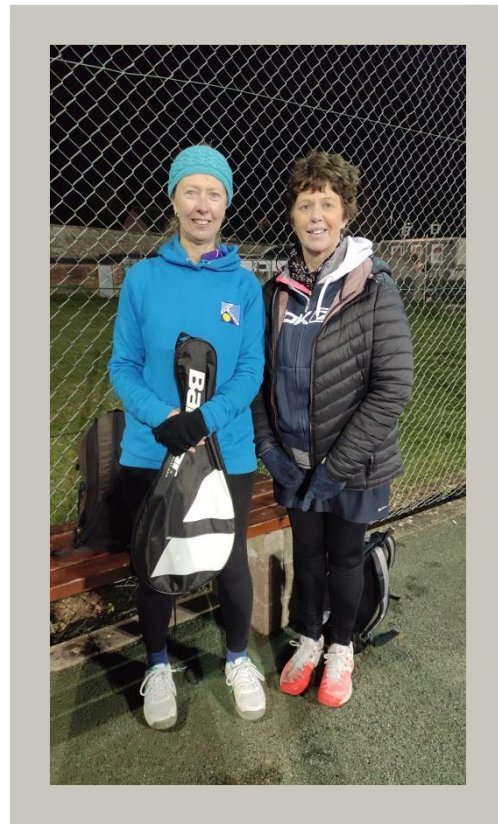
Andrew Regan and Dan Baugh broke the serve of Jon Jacobs and Mike Scott twice to go ahead in the first set, but Jon and Mike managed to peg them back to force a tie-break. Jon and Mike started well in the second set going 3-0 up, before being pegged back to 3-2. Andrew and Dan were strong in the third set, going a break ahead, but Jon and Mike again forced a final set tie-break during which they went up 5-1 before finally winning 7-3 and overall 6-5 6-2 6-5.

Jon and Mike played again the next day this time against Lester Ellicott and Richard Turner and won 6-0 6-2 6-3.

Andrew and Dan also played again in a tight game against Pete Ireland and sub Martin Burley and won 6-4 6-5 2-6.

The final score didn't reflect the closeness of several games which could have gone either way between Chris Shorter and sub Tim Gibbard playing Sean Wolstenholme and Simon Dixon. Tim Gibbard was an able substitute with his powerful serves out wide and accurate ground strokes. Simon and Sean did their

best to return serve and did some good down the line shots but it was Chris and Tim who won by 6-1 6-1 6-2.



WEEK 19

As the season enters the last five weeks there was more dry weather so most of the scheduled matches took place in the RBC Brewin Dolphin Mannamead Winter Tennis League.

Chris Janes and Varun Philip had a busy week in Mens A firstly taking on Dave Gale and Steve Matcham in a tightly fought match, played in good conditions.

Dave and Steve strolled through the first set 6-1 with solid and consistent play. Chris and Varun found some rhythm to take the second, setting up a tense third set.

Dave and Steve were solid throughout, giving very few unforced errors away and long rallies were abound. Eventually, Chris and Varun held nerve to squeeze through as winners in a third set tie-break and win overall 1-6 6-3 6-5.

In a second competitive match of the week, Chris Janes and Varun Philip played Phil Hore and Paul Cooper. Chris and Varun started quickly winning to love in the first set. Phil and Paul started to find form too late in the second, losing 6-3 before a tight third set went to a tiebreak. Many decent rallies and consistent backhands from Phil saw him and Paul win the third tiebreak. However, Chris and Varun came out winners 6-0 6-3 5-6.

Playing for a third time this week Chris Janes and Varun Philip took on Alex Cox and Eric Vicente. Eric produced some of his best tennis of the season so far with accurate and powerful ground strokes backed up by some excellent volleying. Chris served some excellent aces in all directions and was supported very well in his service games by Varun with the finishing volleys from all angles. Chris and Varun grew in confidence as the match progressed but Alex and Eric closed out in the tight games winning 6-1 6-3 6-3.

Ben Knight and Tom Pantling were too strong for Dave Gale and Stephen Matcham. They had to work for their points but their quality shone through and they won 6-1 6-2 6-0.

Alan Mayes and sub Jack Allman were far too strong for Bob Verey and Andy Weymouth and won 6-1 6-0 6-1.

Andrew Regan and Dan Baugh played Lester Ellicott and Richard Turner in an enjoyable match in Mens B. Though Richard's serve became quite menacing when he had found his range they lost 6-0 6-0 6-0.

In another very close and enjoyable match on a fine clear evening, Tim Gibbard was a strong substitute for John Putman with his powerful serves and accurate ground strokes, allowing Chris Shorter to play a few 'dinked' volleys off the returns of serve. Pete Ireland and sub Graham Martin turned the tables in the second set, making it one set all and the third set was finely balanced before Chris and Tim came through 6-4 4-6 6-4.

Esther Pettit and Sandra Fox were 4-1 up in the first set in Ladies A but Jenny Whybrow and sub Di Harrison-Webber came back to take it to a tie-break which Esther and Sandra

won. Jenny and Di came back strongly in the final set to win it. Esther and Sandra won 6-5 6-3 1-6.

After a 3 week break from their matches there was excellent serving from both Roanna George and Katherine Rowe and volleying at the net even in a tough third set when they were 3-0 down against Tania Belcher and Henrietta Ferguson. Roanna and Katherine won 6-1 6-2 6-4.

Playing again, Katherine and Roanna this time met Sandra Fox and Esther Pettit who were very tough to beat. A very close second set but Katherine and Roanna managed to hit some good winners and volleys and won 6-3 6-5 6-1.

In Ladies B there was a good game where the score certainly does not reflect the standard of tennis between Angela Wright and Caroline Abernethy and Pat Hexter and Liz Gill. Pat, in her 85th birthday week, played consistently well but Angela and Caroline took the win with accurate angled returns and holding serve through the match 6-3 6-1 6-2.

The result could have gone in favour of either pair when Linda Haston and Janet Butler played Chris Woodward and Noelle Boucherat but Janet and Linda just managed to edge it in each set with more staying power 6-5 6-4 6-5.

Libby Allman and Debbie Theophilus played Jill Cansfield and Elizabeth Nodder. Despite losing the first set Libby and Debbie came back well to win 3-6 6-1 6-0.

Stephanie D'Haussy and Caroline Floccia beat Anne Hughes and Nicky Slight 6-2 6-2 6-3.

Played during a windy afternoon Val Knight and Caroline Hambly played Libby Allman and Debbie Theophilus. At the start of each set Libby and Debbie forged ahead, before Val and Caroline caught up, managing to win both the first and third sets and go on to win overall 6-4 4-6 6-4.

In the Mixed there was a great come back in the second set from 5-2 down by Alice Wildgoose and sub Jamie Stuart when they played Debbie Wilson and sub Ross Ellis. Alice and Jamie won 6-4 6-5 6-2.

In a Long match with many rallies from the back of the court it was Debbie Wilson and sub Michael Harley who beat Caroline Floccia and Alan Mayes 6-5 6-3 6-4.

It was a cold night when Simon Dusting and Roanna George were too strong against Dudley Tolkien and Janet Butler and they went on to win 6-1 6-0 6-0.



WEEK 18

As the season enters the last six weeks there was more dry weather so most of the scheduled matches took place in the RBC Brewin Dolphin Mannamead Winter Tennis League.

In a very tightly fought match in Ladies A between Hilary Picton and Linda Trebilcock against Sue Gale and Sue Newberry, which lasted over two and a half hours, almost every point was contested. There were many games with multiple deuces and points were won rather than lost. Both the Sues used short, angled drop shots to great effect to try and win the points. Sue Newberry's cross-court forehands were very telling and Sue Gale exploited any open spaces with her heavily sliced, penetrating shots. Hilary and Linda tried to find a way through with some accurate lobs and drives down the line and clinched

the first set tie-break 7-3 after a few uncharacteristic errors from their opponents. The second set was almost a repeat of the first with a lengthy battle in which Hilary and Linda eventually emerged victorious. The two Sues were not finished and, with Hilary and Linda starting to wilt under the constant pressure, Sue and Sue grabbed the third set 6-3 to achieve some consolation and it ended up with both pairs on 15 points. But it was Hilary and Linda who earned the bonus points winning 6-5 6-4 3-6.

Sue and Sue played again at the end of the week this time facing Sandra O'Sullivan and Luisa Warring. There were some good rallies but it was the great drop shots from both of the Sues which made the difference and they ran out winners 6-3 6-3 6-5.

Also in Ladies A Esther Pettit and Sandra Fox had an enjoyable match against Helen Wright and Sarah Blain winning 6-3 6-2 6-3.

It was a very close fought match between Tania Belcher and Henrietta Ferguson against Julia Whetton and Ann Short with Tania and Henrietta coming back from 0-5 in the second set to win 5-6 6-5 6-4.

In Ladies B there were some long rallies but Stephanie D'Haussey and Caroline Floccia extended their lead at the top of the division by beating Jill Cansfield and Elizabeth Nodder 6-1 6-2 6-0.

With the set scores going both ways it was an interesting match between Angela Wright and Caroline Abernethy playing Val Knight and Caroline Hambly. The first set going easily to Caroline and Angela but the second set was taken by consistent tennis play by Val and Caroline. The final set was won by Angela and Caroline after breaking serve and maintaining their consistency and winning overall 6-1 0-6 6-3.

Libby Allman and Debbie Theophilus played Linda Haston and Janet Butler. There was a very tough first set but then Libby and Debbie took control and won 6-5 6-1 6-2.

In a match between the Saltash pairs of Jill Cansfield and Elizabeth Nodder and Chris Woodward and Noelle Boucherat

there were some long rallies and closely fought points with Jill and Elizabeth triumphing 4-6 6-4 6-2.

A clear and pleasant evening awaited the players and for substitute Nick Souness it was his first ever Men's A match. Nick certainly wasn't out of his depth and progressed to be the most consistent and fast moving of all players despite some excellent serving from Dave Gale and Stephen Matcham. However Phil and Nick won 6-3 6-1 6-4

Chris Janes and Varun Philip took on Jason Vosper and Yuen Siu in what was an extremely tight match played in good conditions. Chris and Varun snatched the first set following the tiebreak. Yuen played many unplayable power shots from the baseline and Jason's volleying was clinical. In a match that could have gone either way, Chris and Varun squeezed through as eventual victors 6-5 6-3 6-3.

Long rallies and close games between Jon Jacobs and Mike Scott and Pete Ireland and Jon Shackel took the Mens B match well into a third hour. Each set was finely poised at 4-4 before Jon and Pete managed to edge the sets 4-6 6-4 6-5.

Pete and Jon had a second match this week against Lester Ellicott and Richard Turner and won 6-3 6-3 6-1.

In a friendly but competitive match between Andrew Regan and Dan Baugh playing Sean Westonholme and Simon Dixon. It was a very even match but Andrew and Dan won 6-2 6-4 6-5.

In the mixed there was a competitive match played in perfect conditions with both pairings making excellent use of their volleying skills. Dave Bate and Nicky Slight struggled in the first set against Fiona Crutchley and Nick Haley but fought back to claim the second and third in what was a thoroughly enjoyable evening of tennis. Final score 1-6 6-4 6-4.

Alice Wildgoose and sub Jamie Stuart played Janet Butler and Dudley Tolkien. Excellent lobbing from Janet resulted in a very nearly brilliant hotdog from Jamie. The lobbing wasn't enough and Alice and Jamie won 6-0 6-1 6-1.

Nick Souness also made an excellent debut in the mixed standing in as sub with Debbie Wilson against Sue Newberry

and Dave Gale. It was an exciting match with many long rallies and deuces and some fast serving from Dave and great cross court rallying between Sue and Nick with good net play by all. Debbie and Nick won 6-4 6-1 6-3.

Caroline Floccia and Alan Mayes started their mixed strong taking the first set. Nick Haley and Fiona Crutchley then took control of the next 2 sets to win the match 3-6 6-1 6-0.

Sue Newberry and Dave Gale played for a second time against Janet Butler and Dudley Tolkien. Despite flashes of brilliant backhands by Dudley and good retrieving by Janet, their 35 years of experience as a pair unfortunately wasn't enough to beat Sue and Dave who won 6-3 6-1 6-1.

In their third match of the week Fiona Crutchley and Nick Haley faced Debbie Wilson and sub Nick Souness. It was a great game with long rallies and a lot of deuces. Both Nicks covered a lot of court to make some great shots but it was Fiona and Nick who won 6-3 6-5 6-1.



WEEK 17

Another dry week so most of the scheduled matches took place in the Brewin Dolphin Mannamead Winter Tennis League.

In the match of the week between two equally placed pairs in the Mixed Dave Gale and Sue Newberry were quick out of the blocks and took the first set 6-1, even though there were many deuce games. The second set saw Nicky Slight and Dave Bate surge ahead to a 5-1 lead but Sue and Dave hung in and managed to pull it back to a tiebreak, but were unable to sustain the pressure and lost the tie break. The third and deciding set saw a very close battle with some great tennis that eventually gave Dave G the chance to serve for the match at 5-3. However Nicky and Dave took the game. So it was at 5-4 Sue and Dave had a very rare 40-love lead on Dave B's serve but lost that game also so there was another tie break. Sue and Dave won this 7-0 and were pleased to take the match 6-1 5-6 6-5.

It was an enjoyable cold evening for tennis and there were some long rallies but Debbie Wilson and sub Jack Allman were too strong for Janet Butler and Dudley Tolkien and won 6-0 6-0 6-2.

Alice Wildgoose and sub Jay Stuart played Caroline Floccia and Alan Mayes and won 6-3 6-0 6-1.

In an epic match lasting over the two hours in chilly conditions Simon Dusting and sub Phil Whitby breezed through the first set with Simon's consistency being complimented by some powerful serving by Phil. Chris Janes and Varun Philip found more form in a closely fought second set coming from behind to win the tie break. Buoyed from levelling the match, Chris and Varun took the third in what was a much closer set than the score suggests, with long rallies and consistent ground shots from Varun and Simon. Chris and Varun won 1-6 6-5 6-2.

In a great match with long rallies, Andy Weymouth and Bob Verey played Jason Vosper and Yuen Siu. Andy Weymouth's sharp volleys made the difference in the first two sets but strong play from Yuen helped turn the tide in the final set. However, it was Andy and Bob who won 6-4 6-3 3-6.

After a two week break Alex Cox and Eric Vicente were keen to get some tennis underway and came straight out of the traps flying with a 6-0 first set against Dave Gale and Steve Matcham. Dave and Steve regrouped quickly to counter act this taking a 4-2 early lead with a higher level of consistency than the first set. Alex and Eric managed to fight back taking many deuce games to close out the set 6-4. Steve unleashed some terrific forehand winners down the middle and Dave found some extreme angles for his drop shots during the third set but Alex and Eric held their nerve to close out the third set and win overall 6-0 6-4 6-2.

Alan Mayes and sub Jack Allman were too strong a pair for Phil Hore and Paul Cooper beating them 6-0 6-0 6-3.

On slightly mizzly damp evening Chris Janes and Varun Philip had a flying start and were 5-1 up in the first set against Bob Verey and sub Anthony Watt, before Bob and Anthony started playing a bit steadier and managed to get a few more games before just losing the set. The second set was a much closer affair with Bob and Anthony hanging on for a couple of set points against them and forcing a tie break which they managed to win. By the third set Bob and Anthony's serving was getting going and some good net play from Anthony ensured an easier third set and a win for them 4-6 6-5 6-2.

There was a very tight match in mens B between Jon Jacobs and Mike Scott against Sean Westonholme and Simon Dixon with plenty of momentum swings throughout. Jon and Mike went a mini break down in the first set tie break but managed to clinch it 7-5. Sean and Simon stormed ahead in the second set but Jon and Mike pulled level for the tiebreak and took the it comfortably 7-2. It was all square at four all in the third set and Jon and Mike clinched the final set with a couple of deuce games winning overall 6-5 6-5 4-6.

Chris Shorter and sub Phil Whitby got off to a slow start but came from 1-5 down in the first set to win the tie break. Phil's rocket serve and strong drives were key to the final result. Andy and Dan never gave up and put in some devastating lobs. Chris

and Phil were relieved to take the final set 10-8 in the tie break and win overall 6-5 6-4 6-5.

In the match between Mike Smith and Nick Souness against Pete Ireland and Jon Shackel there were some fantastic rallies and good all round tennis. Mike and Nick were just too strong with their serving games providing the difference in the end and they won 6-0 6-1 6-0.

In Ladies A Hilary Picton and Linda Trebilcock and Jenny Whybrow and Sandy Johnson had an enjoyable match with every set being fought for with lots of deuce games and good rallies. Linda and Hilary were too strong overall though and won 6-2 6-4 6-0.

Jenny and Sandy played again this week in a very hard fought match against Julia Whetton and Ann Short. It was a very tactical game and Jenny and Sandy won 6-3 5-6 6-5.

Sandra O'Sullivan and sub Debbie Wilson played Helen Wright and Sarah Blain and won 6-5 6-4 6-2.

Alison Miles and Lyn Helliwell made a great start against Hilary Picton and Linda Trebilcock with Lyn playing some deft drop shots and strong volley interceptions. Alison's angled forehands were unreturnable and they raced to a 4-0 lead before Hilary and Linda got going. Hilary's service and forehand improved and Linda got her backhand passing shots working to win five games in a row. Alison and Lyn forced a tie-break but their opponents were much sharper and won it 7-2. The second set started with Hilary and Linda being the sharper pair and they led 5-3 before Alison and Lyn forced another tie-break which also went the way of the first, 7-2 to Hilary and Linda. The third set was won by Hilary and Linda 6-2 but that score does not reflect how closely contested the games were.

Hilary and Linda played again this week this time against Julia Whetton and Ann Short. After a slow start Ann and Julia started to get their game together in the second set. By the third set Julia's spin and Ann's long reach started to make it difficult for Linda and Hilary. The latter were leading 5-3 but let it slip, Hilary having too many unforced errors, and the set went to a

tie-break. This was a very close game which Hilary and Linda managed to win and overall by 6-0 6-2 6-5.

In Ladies B there was some great tennis on a crisp evening between Angela Wright and Caroline Abernethy against Linda Haston and Janet Butler. The first set went to a tiebreak with Angela and Caroline taking it. The third set being closer but again Angela and Caroline taking the spoils and winning overall 6-5 6-2 6-4.

In a close first set Anne Hughes and Nicky slight nearly took Val Knight and Caroline Hambly to a tiebreak in the first set. In the second set following competitive rallies Val and Caroline moved ahead to take it, and the final hard fought set and overall 6-4 6-3 6-2.

Keen to get revenge for their defeat in the first round match Jill Cansfield and Elizabeth Nodder took the first set quickly against Pat Hexter and Liz Gill. Liz and Pat then dug their heels in and managed to get four games in the second set. Having got their second wind Liz and Pat managed to take the third set on a tie break. All games were closely contested with long rallies and many deuces but Jill and Elizabeth won 6-1 6-4 5-6.

Stephanie D'Haussy and Caroline Floccia proved too strong for Christine Woodward and sub Candy Birch and won 6-2 6-2 6-2.

Playing for the second time in three days Val Knight and Caroline Hambly played Anne Hughes and Nickly Slight. Longer games this time with the first set nearly reaching a tie break, and the second set being very competitive but by the third set Val and Caroline were playing great tennis and won 6-4 6-4 6-0.

To complete a first round match Libby Allman and Debbie Theophilus played Christ Woodruff and sub Sue Jameson. Despite the score it was a competitive match with long rallies and several deuce games. Libby and Debbie won 6-0 6-2 6-0.

Libby and Debbie played a second match this week against Pat Hexter and Liz Gill and again despite the score it was a hard

fought match with some very good rallies but Libby and Debbie had another success winning 6-2 6-2 6-2.

Playing again after a few months off with an injury it was good to see Noelle Boucherat back on court enjoying playing in the sun. There were some fantastically long rallies with some great serving and slice shots from Noelle and some nifty net play from Christine Woodward. Consistently strong baseline shots, and some good volleying and serving from Anne Hughes and Nicky Slight proved to be enough for the winners on this occasion 6-2 6-1 6-2



WEEK 16

Another dry week so most of the scheduled matches took place in the Brewin Dolphin Mannamead Winter Tennis League.

Match of the week goes to a Mens B game between Pete Ireland and Jon Shackel against Sean Westonholme and Simon Dixon. Jon and Pete started well and stormed into an early lead in the first set going 5-0 up quickly, but the fear of being bagled resulted in Simon and Sean coming back to 5-5

only to lose the tie break. The first game of the second set was an epic battle that went on forever but was eventually won by Jon and Pete. There was another nail biting second tie break which was again won by Jon and Pete. The third set again saw Jon and Pete take an early lead only to be pegged back by Sean and Simon but they couldn't force a third tie break. Jon and Pete eventually coming out winners 6-5 6-5 6-4.

Lester Ellicott and Richard Turner played current league leaders Mike Smith and Nick Souness. Credit goes to Lester and Richard who played through the match with injuries. Nick and Mike won 6-0 6-0 6-2.

Sean Westonholme and Simon Dixon had a busy week playing twice, this time against Dan Baugh and Andrew Regan. Unfortunately they came out on the losing side again as Dan and Andrew won 6-5 3-6 6-2.

In Mens A there was a game of two halves between Andy Weymouth and Bob Verey and Simon Dusting and sub Phil Whitby. Bob and Andy started well and took the first two sets, but by the third set Simon and Phil had dusted off their rustiness and started playing some good tennis with less errors and some strong serving from Phil. It was Andy and Bob who won 6-2 6-3 0-6.

Ben Knight and Tom Pantling played Jason Vosper and Yuen Siu. Jason and Yuen struggled against Tom's power and Ben's placement who were the worthy winners 6-1 6-3 6-1.

In a much closer game than the score reflects with some great rallies at the net, Ladies A pair Fiona Crutchley and Nicky Trevaskis overcame Esther Pettit and Sandra Fox 6-2 6-0 6-0.

Hilary Picton and Linda Trebilcock made a good start and soon took the first set. Jenny Whybrow and Sandy Johnson learned from their loss of the first set and fought back in the second with deft drop-shots and well-placed lobs. Unfortunately this was not quite enough to overcome the penetrating backhands from Linda and some strong angled forehands from Hilary who clinched the second set. The final set started with some long, hard-fought deuce games but Hilary and Linda managed to win

the crucial points and this gave them the impetus to then run away with the set 6-0 and overall winners 6-2 6-4 6-0.

Playing during the day were Ann Short and Di Harrison Webber against Helen Wright and Sarah Blain. It was an afternoon match and the low sun was quite a problem. However it was a good game but Ann and Di managed to achieve the win with some good attacking net play and won 6-3 6-2 6-4.

Tania Belcher and Henrietta Ferguson got off to a good start against Alison Miles and Lyn Helliwell with a 2-0 lead. However, Lyn and Alison fought to get to two all after which a close contest for the first set continued to four all. After some great rallies, Alison and Lyn won the first set. Alison and Lynn then kept ahead in the second set which they then won and then got to a 5-0 lead in the third set before Tania and Henrietta got a few games. Alison and Lyn won 6-4 6-3 6-2.

Alison and Lyn then played again against Sandra O'Sullivan and sub Debbie Wilson. There was great net play from Debbie and Alison and good serving from Lyn. Alison and Lyn won 6-4 6-3 6-5.

Sandra played another match this week, this time using Georgia Jones as sub. There were some good rallies but Sandra and Georgia were too strong for Esther Pettit and Sandra Fox beating them 6- 6-3 6-2.

In Ladies B there was another long competitive match between Val Knight and Caroline Hambley and Jill Cansfield and Elizabeth Nodder. Despite Jill and Elizabeth winning more games, they lost the two tiebreaks and therefore the match with the bonus points giving Val and Caroline more points on the night. The scores were 6-5 2-6 6-5.

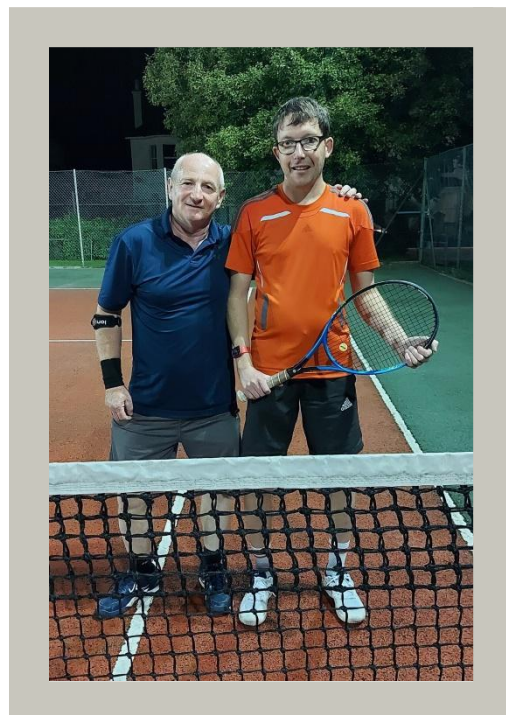
In another closely-fought match there was only one point difference at the end of the three sets but again the bonus points made the difference and it was Janet Butler and Linda Haston who won 6-3 3-6 6-5 against Liz Gill and Pat Hexter.

Current Ladies B leaders Stephanie D'Haussey and Caroline Floccia found that Libby Allman and Debbie Theophilus gave them a good work out running for every ball. However, Stephanie and Caroline took the points 6-1 6-4 6-4.

In an exciting mixed match Jose Rojas did some great serving and Debbie Wilson some great network but it just wasn't enough to stop Dave Bate and Nicky Slight with some great serving from both Dave and Nicky and more consistent ground shots and volleying gave Nicky and Dave the win 4-6 6-4 6-0.

Dudley Tolkien and Janet Butler started well but Fiona and Nick proved too strong and won 6-1 6-0 6-0.

Nicky Slight and Dave Bate played another mixed match, this time against Caroline Floccia and Alan Mayes. For this match, some very well placed shots from Dave and Nicky just gave them the edge and led to a three set victory. Despite some great court coverage from Alan and some nifty net play from both Caroline and Alan, the well placed shots from Dave and Nicky were enough to give them the edge and the match 6-4 6-3 6-3.



WEEK 15

Another dry week without any frost so most of the scheduled matches took place in the Brewin Dolphin Mannamead Winter Tennis League.

In Ladies B there was a great game between Jill Cansfield and Elizabeth Nodder and Linda Haston and Janet Butler which was hard fought to the end. It was all to play for at one set all but it was Jill Cansfield and Elizabeth Nodder who triumphed over Linda Haston and Janet Butler 6-5 3-6 6-2.

Anne Hughes and Nicky Slight when they played Jane Williams and Victoria Roberts. After a slow start Vicky and Jane settled into the second set and the final set went to a tie break which could have gone either way. Both Jane and Vicky played extremely well, with some great deep shots from both and some great power and speed from Jane, but it just wasn't quite enough to beat Anne's good play at the net and baseline shots and Nicky's serving and drop shots and they won 6-1 6-3 6-5.

On a very cold evening Stephanie D'Haussey and Caroline Floccia played Angela Wright and Caroline Abernethy. It was a fairly tight match with some exciting rallies. Plenty of deuce points keenly fought over but the winning spoils went to Stephanie and Caroline who continue to top their division.

Obviously buoyed by her good win in the ladies, Caroline paired up with Alan Mayes in the mixed against Sue Newberry and Dave Gale. Alan and Caroline got off to a great start and won the first two sets comfortably with some good net play from Caroline. The third set was a much tighter affair with Dave and Sue finding a bit of form and winning it. However Alan and Caroline won overall 6-2 6-1 4-6.

Jose Rojas with sub Stephanie D'Haussey took on Nicky Slight and Dave Bate. Very strong serving from Jose and Dave was matched with good returns from Nicky and Stephanie. The match was very even over the first two sets but Jose and Stephanie came through stronger to finish winners 6-5 6-4 6-2

In a competitive match in Mens A between Jason Vosper and Yuen Siu against Phil Hore and Paul Cooper. there were lots of deuces. Paul and Phil unlucky only to come away with six games as Jason and Yuen won 6-2 6-2 6-2.

Sam Williams and Tom Pantling had to work hard in minus temperatures to beat Andy Weymouth and Bob Verrey 6-1 6-1 6-2.

In Mens B Andrew Regan and Dan Baugh and Lester Ellicott and Richard Turner enjoyed playing despite it being a bitterly cold night. Andrew and Dan won 6-4 6-0 6-2.

Nick Souness and Mike Smith started the match really well with a clear 6-0 in the first set. But Sean Westonholme and Simon Dixon came back into the second set to push the league leaders to a tie break. Nick Souness and Mike Smith were strong enough though to complete the match 6-0 6-5 6-2

In Ladies A there was a tough match between Sandra O'Sullivan and Luisa Waring against Hilary Picton and Linda Trebilcock. Sandra and Luisa played strongly and won 6-5 6-3 5-6.

In a game of many long rallies and deuce games it was Jenny Whybrow and Sandy Johnson who triumphed against Helen Wright and Sarah Blain 6-4 6-3 6-4.

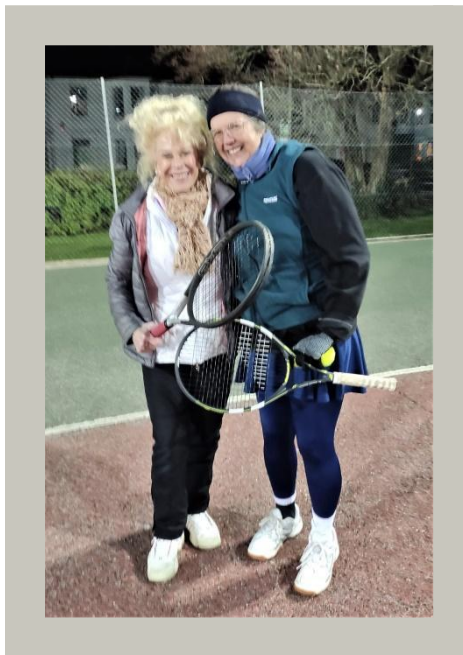
Despite hard low returns from Sue Newberry and great volleying by Sue Gale, Fiona Crutchley and Nicky Trevaskis were adept at returning most of these with looping baseline shots which led to Sue and Sue making the errors and this consistency coupled with good court coverage was enough for Nicky and Fiona to keep the pressure on to win the match 6-2 6-2 6-3.

Ann Short and sub Rachel Youngs-Pearce had a very close match against Esther Pettit and Sandra Fox and despite a very strong third set by Esther and Sandra, Ann and Rachel had already won the two tie breaks and thus winning overall 6-5 6-5 2-6.

Alison Miles and Lyn Helliwell played Roanna George and Katherine Rowe. In a close first set with Katherine putting away any half court or gentle shots and Alison then responding with hard, low returns, the set could have gone either way, but Roanna and Katherine clinched it. Alison and Lyn fought back with determination to win the second set, and continued on good form in the third. At 0-5 down Katherine held her serve convincingly, and she and Roanna came back to 3-5, saving two match points before Lyn finished the match with a winning high backhand volley and overall 4-6 6-4 6-3.

Esther Pettit and Sandra Fox played Tania Belcher and Henrietta Ferguson. Esther and Sandra were successful in the two tie-break sets and came through strongly in the third to win 6-5 6-5 6-3.

Roanna George and Katherine Rowe played Nicky Trevaskis and Fiona Crutchley. In a game of great volleying from both Nicky and Fiona, lots of close rallies and a tight first and second set. Roanna and Katherine then had a very strong convincing third set and came out winners 6-4 6-5 6-0.



WEEK 14

For the first time in quite a few weeks it's been a mostly dry week and 20 matches were played this week in the Brewin Dolphin Mannamead Winter Tennis League.

A competitive match in Mens B was played between Chris Shorter and John Putman against Jon Jacobs and Mike Scott, with the first and third sets being closely fought and could have gone either way. Chris and John slightly lost their way in the second set against consistent play from Jon and Mike. The pendulum swung again in the third as Chris and John started

well and were able to keep up the momentum and win 6-4 1-6 6-2.

Playing a second time this week were Chris Shorter and John Putman. This time their opposition were Lester Ellicott and Richard Turner. Lester and Richard came close in the first set and nearly took the set but Chris and John played better as the evening progressed and won 6-4 6-3 6-1.

Mike Smith and Nick Souness played Andrew Regan and Dan Baugh and it was a close game between the two pairs with the result not reflecting the match at all. Mike and Nick continue to enjoy being at the top of the table and won 6-1 6-2 6-1.

Jon Jacobs and Mike Scott played again facing Lester Ellicott and Richard Turner. In three quality sets which again were closer than the score suggests. Good baseline shots from Lester and some deft touches at the net from Richard. Ultimately Jon & Mike being slightly more clinical in the key moments saw them through the match 6-2 6-2 6-1.

Making the most of a rain free evening were Andy Weymouth and Bob Verey playing Phil Hore and Paul Cooper in Mens A. Some strong volleying from Andy and accurate ground strokes from Bob were too good eventually for Phil and Paul who put up a valiant fight being 3-1 up in the second set before Andy and Bob came back to take the set 6-3 and overall 6-2 6-3 6-3.

There was a competitive match played on a chilly evening between Sam Williams and Tom Pantling against Chris James and Varun Philip. Despite Chris and Varun putting up a resilient defence in the third set and hoping the brief snow shower would distract their opponents, it was Sam and Tom who were too strong on the evening playing quality, clinical tennis, giving few easy points away and finishing well to win 6-3 6-0 6-4.

Alan Mayes & Jose Rojas played Dave Gale & Stephen Matcham in a keenly contested match with some great rallies

and powerful serving. Steve and Dave enjoyed their performance but Alan and Jose came out on top 6-3 6-4 6-0

A crisp winters evening greeted Alex Cox and Eric Vicente when they played Jason Vosper & Yuen Siu. Alex and Eric came out of the blocks faster and took a quick first set with Eric producing some excellent drop shots. Jason and Yuen upped the level in sets 2 and 3, with Jason becoming a return machine, whilst Yuen banged down some of the fastest serves seen this season. The final game of the final set epitomised the competitive nature of the players with Alex and Eric coming back from love 40 to deuce. The pendulum swang back and forth with each side having the advantage at least five times each, until Alex & Eric came out on top 6-0 6-2 6-4.

There was a good match in Ladies A between Tania Belcher and Henrietta Ferguson playing Helen Wright and Sarah Blain. Tania and Henrietta were consistent and despite Helen and Sarah making a good comeback in the third set took the match 6-4 6-4 6-4.

On a frosty evening, making for a slightly slippery surface, Hilary Picton and Linda Trebilcock played Esther Pettit and Sandra Fox. All players managed to stay on their feet. Esther and Sandra played some very good lobs which were difficult to chase down due to the frost but in general Hilary and Linda were too strong for their opponents and won 6-2 6-1 6-4.

After taking the first set to love, Nicky Trevaskis and Fiona Crutchley found themselves fighting to stay in the second set after some superb volleying at the net by sub Di Harrison-Webber and consistent play by Ann Short. The set went to a tie break which Nicky and Fiona managed to win. They then went down 3-1 in the third and had to battle back to take the third set and win overall 6-0 6-5 6-3.

Roanna George and Katherine Rowe played Jenny Whybrow and Sandy Johnson. In a match full of good angles and rallies with lots of drop shots from both sides but Roanna and Katherine managed to come out on top with some brilliant serving and won 5-6 6-2 6-2.

Sandra O'Sullivan & Luisa Warring took on Esther Pettit & Sandra Fox in a great game. It was all to play for in the first set going to a tie break which Sandra and Luisa won. Esther and Sandra came back strongly after losing the second set and won the third set but it was Sandra & Luisa who won 6-5 6-3 2-6.

It was an icy evening with a slippery surface when Stephanie D'Haussey and Caroline Floccia played Liz Gill and sub Candy Birch in Ladies B. Despite the icy conditions there were long rallies but it was Stephanie and Caroline who won 6-4 6-2 6-1.

There was plenty of action when the more experienced pair of Janet Butler and Linda Haston met Jane Williams and Victoria Roberts for an enjoyable if chilly match. Janet and Linda quickly got off the marks and soon went into a 3-0 lead but Jane and Victoria soon challenged with some clever drop shots. Linda and Janet rallied though to take the first set despite excellent chasing by Jane. After taking the second set, Janet and Linda capitalised with Linda's passing winners and Janet's hard-hit angles sealing the win 6-4 6-1 6-0.

Despite two snow showers the mixed pairings carried on and it was a good match between Sue Newberry and Dave Gale playing Roanna George and Simon Disting. There were some great rallies and a strong finish by Roanna and Simon but it was Sue and Dave who won 6-4 6-2 2-6

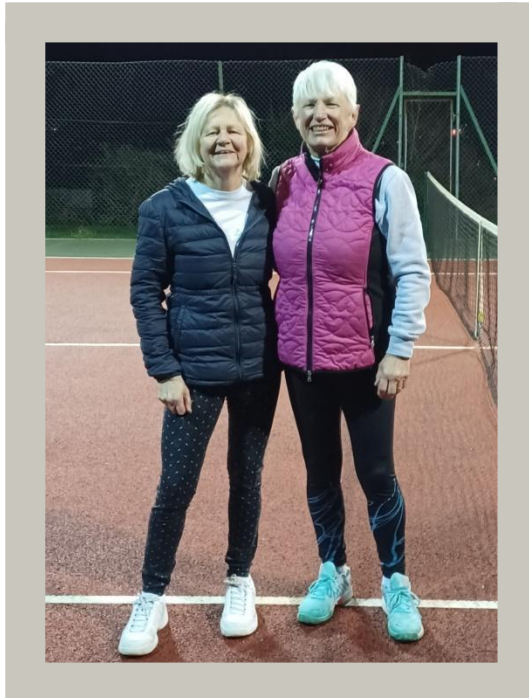
Dave and Sue played another mixed again the day after and despite the rain showers coming in earlier than expected there were good rallies and lots of great shots from both pairs. Good hard serving from David and Gary, but also Sue won a couple of serve games to love. Many quality rallies which the more consistent Gary and Alice tended to win on the crucial points. Some good court coverage from Gary also made a major contribution and Alice and Gary won 6-4 6-2 6-5.

In a close match with very strong serving by Jose Rojas, and great court coverage by Nick Haley, it was Fiona and Nick who beat Debbie and Jose 6-3 6-3 6-1.

Caroline Floccia and Alan Mayes played Roanna George and Simon Disting, with strong net play from both ladies in this hard fought match contributing to some excellent play. Alan and

Caroline were more consistent in their overall game and came out worthy winners 6-2 6-3 6-3.

Nicky Slight and Dave Bate played Janet Butler and Dudley Tolkien on a cold dry evening. Despite some great running and sliced backhand shots from Janet and some nifty net play by Dudley, it was Dave's powerful serving and hard hitting that made the difference and they won 6-0 6-1 6-0.



WEEK 13

Despite the wind and rain there were quite a few matches played this week in the Brewin Dolphin Mannamead Winter Tennis League starting off the second half of the season.

The Ladies A and B matches played at the start of the week featured in last week's Herald report so we start this weeks with Mens A.

There was a lucky break from the rain which allowed Andy Weymouth and Bob Verey to play Alex Cox and Eric Vicente at 8pm and not 6pm and it was definitely worth rearranging as both pairs provided some excellent tennis on the night. A bit of Christmas rust was evident in the first two sets but in the third set there was some great free flowing rallies and big serving from all players. Bob must have been given some mongoose serum for Christmas as he made some ridiculous gets and returns from all over the court. Andy backed this up with some precise volleying but it was the consistency of Alex and Eric that got them over the line for the win 6-3 6-1 6-4.

Also playing in the later slot were Ben Knight and Tom Pantling and Phil Hore and Paul Cooper. Phil and Paul might have wished for rain as they lost 0-6 1-6 1-6.

Another pair fortunate enough to play in the later slot were Alan Mayes and Jose Rojas against Chris Janes and Varun Philip. There was a good standard of play achieved by both pairs but it was Alan and Jose who ran out winners in this close encounter 6-3 6-4 6-5.

In Mens B Pete Ireland and Jon Shackel played Andrew Regan and Dan Baugh. All players felt rusty after the Christmas break but it was Pete and Jon who got back into the groove a lot quicker and won 6-1 6-4 6-3.

On a windy evening Chris Shorter and John Putman played Sean Westonholme and Simon Dixon. There were some good rallies despite the blustery conditions and Simon and Sean almost took the final set having finished strongly. Chris was disappointed there were no rain showers so he was unable to try out his Christmas present of a lightweight rain jacket. However, he was pleased that him and John came out winners 6-2 6-4 6-5.

Despite constant rain during the day it finally cleared up in the evening and Roanna George and Katherine Rowe were able to fit in their game against Sue Gale and Sue Newberry in Ladies A. Roanna and Katherine were in control in the first and third sets but Sue and Sue pushed them in the second set and were unlucky not to take it after being 5-3 up but Roanna and

Katherine forced a tie break which they won and came out on top 6-3 6-5 6-2.

On a windy but dry day Angela Wright and Caroline Abernethy fitted in a rearranged match against Jane Williams and Victoria Roberts in Ladies B. Despite the wind there was some great serving from both pairs. After a close few games Caroline and Angela pulled ahead in the first set. The second and third set going their way also and they won 6-4 6-2 6-2.

There was a window of opportunity again for play on Wednesday evening at the later 8pm slot which meant most of the mixed matches took place.

Caroline Floccia and Alan Mayes played Dudley Tolkien and Janet Butler. Dudley and Janet rallied well in the second set only just losing it, but the remaining sets went the way of Caroline and Alan who won 6-0 6-4 6-0.

Just managing to finish before the rain appeared again were Alice Wildgoose and Gary Brookes playing Nicky Slight and Dave Bate. Nicky and Dave took the first set but Alice and Gary showed their current good form by taking the next two sets, in what was an enjoyable match, and they were pleased to run out winners 5-6 6-2 6-4 in the dry.

After playing each other just before the Christmas break it was a closer match this time between Fiona Crutchley and Nick Haley against Sue Newberry and Dave Gale. Nick and Fiona took the first set but Dave and Sue pulled ahead 4-2 in the second set. Nick and Fiona then dug deep to take the set. Dave and Sue then took the lead 3-2 in the third set and again Nick and Fiona had to dig deep to take the set. Fiona's ground shots were consistent and always a good length. Nick was quick around the court and hit some good sliced angled shots and it was this play that saw them win 6-1 6-4 6-3.

In a re arranged match between Debbie Wilson and Jose Rojas and Caroline Floccia and Alan Mayes it was Debbie and Jose who started the strongest and won the first set. Alan and Caroline reacted to this and became more dominant in the final 2 sets winning them both and thus overall 3-6 6-1 6-2.



WEEK 12N

There were a few re arranged matches between Christmas and New Year in the Brewin Dolphin Mannamead Winter Tennis League and a few Ladies matches to start off the second half of the season.

On a pleasantly cloudy and warm winter's day Sue Gale and Sue Newberry played Jenny Whybrow and Sandy Johnson in a rearranged Ladies A match. Both pairs were pleased to be on court playing again after a short break from matches over the Christmas period. It was a tactical game by both pairs trying to use all areas of the court and varying shots. Despite quite a few deuce games and long rallies it was Sue and Sue who came out on top 6-2 6-3 6-4.

Starting their first match of the second half of the winter league season Nicky Trevaskis and Fiona Crutchley had a potentially difficult match against Linda Trebilcock and Hilary Picton but

Nicky and Fiona started well in both the first and second sets going 5-1 up in the first set and 5-0 up in the second, but Linda and Hilary always have the ability to come back which they did in both sets to bring them to 5-4. Nicky's backhand slice and Fiona's top spin were just too much for Linda and Hilary allowing Nicky and Fiona to take both sets 6-4. Linda and Hilary started strong in the third set taking a lead of 4-2. Nicky and Fiona came back to level it at 4-4 but the consistency of Linda and Hilary getting every shot back enabled them to take the third set 6-4. However, Nicky and Fiona were the winners by 6-4 6-4 4-6.

Despite it being a cold and windy day the weather obliged the 8pm starters with the wind suddenly dropping and a lovely evening perfect for playing winter league developed. Sue Gale and Sue Newberry were playing Tania Belcher and Henrietta Ferguson and had to ensure their concentration and tactics were spot on to make full use of all the court to finish as winners by 6-3 6-3 4-6.

Also playing in the late slot and enjoying the lovely evening were Alison Miles and Lyn Heliwell playing Esther Pettit and Sandra Fox. It was a very close first set in which Sandra and Esther played with consistency and with Sandra using lobs to good effect, although in a subsequent set she confessed to forgetting how tall her opponent was! Lyn and Alison stepped up a gear in the following two sets and with some hard deep shots and excellent net play with many winning volleys from Lyn they won 6-5 6-1 6-2.

In another tactical game full of good tennis, long rallies and many deuces and with the score at one set all and looking as though the result could go either way, it was Sandra O'Sullivan and Luisa Waring who came out on top beating Jenny Whybrow and Sandy Johnson 6-5 4-6 6-3.

Playing at the weekend in between the showers, which involved two cross county trips from Cornwall to Devon for Liz Gill as their original morning start time was rained off, there was a

good Ladies B match between Anne Hughes and Nicky Slight against Pat Hexter and Liz Gill. Despite some lovely tennis and consistently great slice shots from both Pat and Liz, it was the serving and volleying which took the match for Anne and Nicky 6-2 6-4 6-4.

Anne and Nicky came back the next day to play Libby Allman and sub Karen Harley. Anne and Nicky had a slow start, but then found their feet in the second and third sets with some good serving, well placed lobs and some sharp volleying to win 3-6 6-4 6-3.

In a top of the table tie between Stephanie D'Haussey and Caroline Floccia against Val Knight and Caroline Hambly it was the expected close match. Stephanie and Caroline just taking the first set on a tie break and Val and Caroline making a fantastic come back in the third set where they went from 5-1 to force a tie break. However Stephanie and Caroline continue their winning streak into 2023 and won 6-5 6-1 6-5.

Unfortunately one of the pairs in Ladies B has had to pull out of the winter league due to injury. Hilary Monk slipped and damaged her ankle and will be out of action for a few months and so her partnership with Chris Woodroffe is over for this season. Chris and Hilary have only just returned to the winter league after a two season absence so we wish them all the best and Hilary a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing them return fighting fit and raring to go for next seasons winter league.



WEEK 12X

There were no scheduled matches this week in the Brewin Dolphin Mannamead Winter Tennis League but some keen ladies played a few matches and got some apres Christmas exercise.

First match post Christmas and a competitive afternoon for the ladies four of Caroline Abernethy and Angela Wright playing Libby Allman and Debbie Theophilus. Caroline and Angela hung in for a close two set lead with the third set going to a tie break and Caroline and Angela inched ahead to take the match on a blustery but dry day 6-4 6-4 6-5.

Angela Wright and Caroline Abernethy took advantage of a beautiful New Year's Day morning with ideal conditions for tennis to play their second match in a few days. This time they played the Saltash pairing of Jill Cansfield and Elizabeth Nodder. It was the Mannamead pair of Angela and Caroline though who started quickly and took the first set with ease. The Saltash ladies fought back to force a tie break in the second set but Angela and Caroline took the tie break. Caroline and

Angela had some lucky net cords in the third set and coped better with a strong sun at the far end of the court causing the ball to disappear into the bright light and won overall 6-0 6-5 6-3.

League Overview

We're at the halfway stage in the Winter league and although there are some pairs in all the divisions still having some outstanding fixtures to re arrange, the league positions are starting to take shape.

In Men's A Alex Cox and Eric Vicente have a thirty point lead over second pair of Jason Vosper and Yuen Siu. This is Jason's first time in the Men's A and with new partner Yuen Siu they are proving to be a capable pairing. The bottom half of the league is very close with five pairs separated by 17 points. So, all to play for in the second half of the season.

In Men's B the debutant pairing of Mike Smith and Nick Souness are proving to be the pair to beat and are topping the league, although experienced winter league pairing of Pete Ireland and Jon Shackel aren't too far behind.

The Ladies Divisions are slightly different this season. Due to not so many pairs entering, last seasons A and B divisions were combined to form Ladies A and Ladies B this season was formed mostly from the C division pairings from last season.

It's very tight at the top of Ladies A with the regular pairings of Nicky Trevaskis and Fiona Crutchley just ahead of Hilary Picton and Linda Trebilcock. Currently the A division is split into two halves, the top comprising mainly last year's A and the bottom last year's B.

Topping the table in Ladies B are Stephanie D’Haussy and Caroline Floccia who are enjoying playing different pairs this season. Keeping tabs on Stephanie and Caroline are second placed pair Val Knight and Caroline Hambly. Jane Williams and Victoria Roberts were happy to celebrate their first ever win in the Winter league. It was a welcome return for Chris Woodroffe and Hilary Monk after a two year absence from the Winter league.

In the mixed league it’s close at the top with Fiona Crutchley and partner Nick Haley just keeping last season’s winners Alice Wildgoose and Gary Brookes off the top of the table. Janet Butler and Dudley Tolkien are still enjoying their 35th season as a mixed pairing in the Winter league.

It’s still all very much to play for with twelve weeks of matches to come and some catch up matches from the first half, so positions at the top and bottom of each league could change each week.



WEEK 12

There were no scheduled matches this week in the Brewin Dolphin Mannamead Winter Tennis League but some pairs fitted in some re arranged matches and had some pre Christmas exercise.

There was a close match in Mens B between Mike Smith and Nick Souness against Pete Ireland and Jon Shackel. The match was evenly poised with some great groundstrokes from all four players. Jon thought he would distract the opposition by dressing in a festive manner, with Christmas pudding hat and Santa coat. However, this didn't work and strong serves and consistent baseline play from Mike and Nick were enough to see off the opposition as they won 6-2 6-1 5-6.

After mastering skating around the court last week, Lynn Helliwell and Alison Miles found the wind and rain harder to adapt to and got off to a slow start which Ann Short and Julia Whetton capitalised on. Ann served well and Julia's quick reactions at the net gave them a convincing lead, winning the first set 6-1. Lyn and Alison then picked up in the second set, and with a little more consistency, won it 6-1. All to play for in the third set but at three games all in the last set there was no clear winning pair emerging. Alison and Lyn finally gained sufficient momentum to clinch the match, 6-3 in the final set and win overall 1-6 6-1 6-3.

Despite Tania Belcher and Henrietta Ferguson pushing all the way through the match. In particular Tania's sliced forehands, the consistency of Nicky Trevaskis and Fiona Crutchley allowed them to win the crucial points to take all three sets 6-3 6-1 6-2.

Julia Whetton and Ann Short played a second match this week and in another hard fought enjoyable match with lots of rallies and good tactics were successful this time and they won against their fellow Yelverton pair of Jenny Whybrow and Sandy Johnson 2-6 6-4 6-4.

In the mixed match between Sue Newberry and Dave Gale playing Janet Butler and Dudley Tolkien it was Sue's cross court forehand drives and dropshots which were a deciding factor. Dudley had moments of a younger Dudley with some sublime winners, and Janet covered the court very well as usual, but it was Sue and Dave who won 6-3 6-0 6-2.

Sue and Dave played again the next day against Alice Wildgoose and Gary Brookes but despite some good rallies the more consistent play of Gary and Alice, coupled with their net interceptions saw Alice and Gary triumph 6-2 6-3 6-1.

We now have a short break for the Christmas festivities and the league will resume early in January.



WEEK 11

In the Brewin Dolphin Mannamead Winter Tennis League it was a week of icy conditions and skates were needed.

There was a nail biting match in Ladies A with the closest result you could achieve. Played in icy conditions Alison Miles and

Lyn Helliwell faced Sue Gale and Sue Newberry. Sue Gale served consistently well in the first set, and long rallies with many games going to deuce led to the first tie break which went to the two Sues. The second set continued to be a close contest, with Lyn and Alison returning well. A few timely interceptions at the net by Alison were countered by Sue Gale's low sliced shots, successful lobs and Sue Newberry's deep forehand drives which led to another tie break, this time it went to Lyn and Alison. So all to play for in the final set and the game could have gone either way. It was getting a bit icy as again they went to another tie break. Alison and Lyn skated better and won it to take the match overall 5-6 6-5 6-5.

Some great returns by Helen Wright and winning volleys from Sarah Blain were not enough to stop Nicky Trevaskis and Fiona Crutchley taking all three sets 6-2 6-1 6-2.

Nicky and Fiona played again against another Plympton pair and took early control winning the first two sets. Lyn Helliwell and Alison Miles then fought back from 5-2 down to force a tie break in the third set. A great match of tactical play with a combination of deep shots and low shorter balls from both sides making for a competitive game. Nicky's sliced angled shots and Fiona's consistent competitive edge combined with well executed winning shots giving them the points 6-2 6-2 6-5.

In Mens A there was a very close match between Phil Hore and Paul Cooper playing Dave Gale and Steve Matcham. Steve and Dave adapted quickly to the tricky wind and cold conditions by winning the first set decisively but Phil and Paul managed to take advantage of a small shift in momentum and finally won the match 1-6 6-5 6-2.

In a highly competitive match played in great spirit saw Alex Cox and Eric Vicente play Steve Matcham and Dave Gale. The first set saw Alex and Eric take an early 2- 0 lead but Steve and Dave clawed back the games with dogged determination and some incisive net play to level it at five games all. The tense tie break was no different with Alex and Eric just edging it. In the second set Eric upped his energy levels and helped them establish a 5 -1 lead as Dave's normally reliant serve deserted

him for a short period. Again some canny net play brought Steve and Dave back into the set to make it 5-4 but they just ran out of steam at the end. Alex and Eric kept the momentum and won 6-5 6-4 6-0.

Andy Weymouth and Bob Verey were far more consistent than Alan Mayes and Jose Rojas and won 6-2 6-4 6-5.

In Men's B Jon Jacobs and Mike Scott were the first pair to take a set off Mike Smith and Nick Souness and looked like they would go on to win the match. The second set went to a tie break with tight rallies but Nick Souness and Mike Smith managed to take it. The third set was close as well with the match going to the wire with Nick and Mike taking the set and overall 2-6 6-5 6-4. Jon and Mike had more points until the bonus points were added on.

It was a close game for the first two sets between Pete Ireland and Jon Shackel against Chris Shorter and John Putman before Pete and Jon started to pull away with accurate lobs, strong drives and some fast serving from Jon. There were some close rallies, nevertheless in the third set, with all four players getting some good volleys and overheads but steadiness, Jon's great serving and Pete's angled winners were the main factors in their 6-4 6-4 6-1 win.

Pete Ireland and Jon Shackel played Sean Westonholme and Simon Dixon on a cold evening and won 6-3 6-1 6-2.

Sean and Simon were more successful in their second match against Lester Ellicott and Richard Turner. Despite wearing artic mittens for the duration Simon managed to not only hold his racquet but keep his serve and play well and Simon and Sean were delighted to get their first win of the winter league since playing together for three seasons 6-3 6-3 6-3.

In Ladies B Anne Hughes and Nicky Slight played early in the day against Angela Wright and Caroline Abernethy to avoid the icy evening courts and were rewarded with a great game. It was still freezing cold but was another match where tie breaks

decided who would get the bonus points. There were some great slice shots from Caroline and good play from both of them at the net. Countered by some effective lobs and net play from Anne and good serving from Nicky meant that they just took the lead on two out of three tie breaks. Anne and Nicky won 6-5 6-5 5-6.

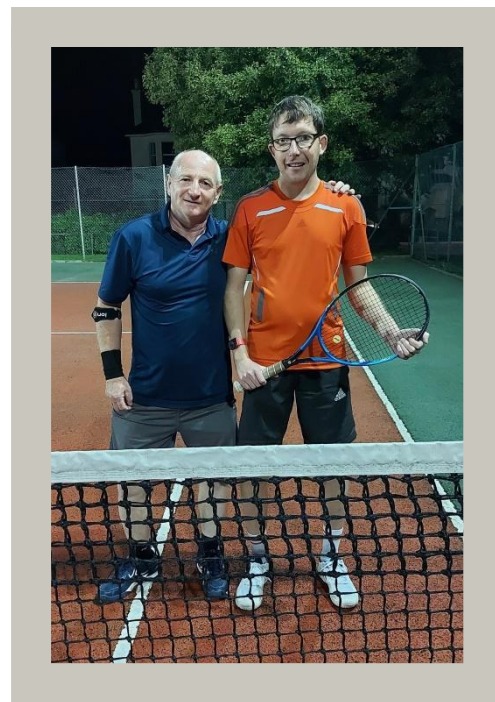
Chris Woodward and sub Candy Birch continued their winning streak against Jane Williams and Victoria Roberts. Jane's serves were strong and Vicky had successful short cross court shots which proved tricky to pick up. However, Candy and Chris played their game well and proved too much for Jane and Vicky winning 6-0 6-2 6-3.

There was a marathon match between Saltash pairings Val Knight and Caroline Hambly playing Pat Hexter and Liz Gill, which lasted two and a half hours with two tie breaks. Liz started with a lengthy service game with umpteen deuces which was finally won by Val and Caroline. This was a sign of how competitive the match would be. Pat and Liz fought strongly in the first set, but were overtaken by Val and Caroline who won this set 6-3. In the second set Pat and Liz had a consistent winning streak, benefitting from the hard to return spin shots from Pat, but it ended in a close tiebreak, won by Val and Caroline. In the final set Pat and Liz were 5-1 up before Val and Caroline came from behind to force a tiebreak, which they won to secure the win 6-3 6-5 6-5.

In the mixed Alice Wildgoose and Gary Brookes played Roanna George and sub Simon Dusting won 6-2 6-1 2-6.

In the first two sets Nick Haley and Fiona Crutchley were able to take the critical points in each game to win the sets, however Nicky Slight and Dave Bate fought back hard from 3-1 down in the third set to force a tie break which they won 7-5 but it was Fiona and Nick who won 6-0 6-1 5-6.

Nick and Fiona played again the next day and started strong winning the first set to love against Sue Newberry and Dave Gale. Dave and Sue fought back in the second set forcing it to three all before Nick and Fiona took control again finishing off the second set and winning the third to love and overall by 6-0 6-3 6-0.



WEEK 10

In the Brewin Dolphin Mannamead Winter Tennis League it was a week of perfect winter conditions for playing tennis.

Jon Jacobs and Mike Scott had a busy week in Mens B playing three matches in all. The first was a completion of a match from the start of the season playing Sean Westonholme and Simon Dixon. Jon and Mike won 6-5 6-3 6-4. They then continued to play their second match against Sean and Simon. Jon and Mike started strong and soon took the first set. Sean and Simon regrouped in the second set and went 3-0 up. The score then went to 4-4 and Jon and Mike took the second set. The third set went to a tie break with Sean and Simon triumphing but it was Jon and Mike who took the win 6-1 6-4 5-6.

Jon and Mike then faced Lester Ellicott and Richard Turner later in the week. There were some good smashes at the net by

Richard and some deft touches by Lester but consistent shots from Jon and Mike saw them through the three sets 6-0 6-0 6-1.

Lester and Richard played a second match against Pete Ireland and sub Martin Burley. Pete and Martin came out on top winning 6-2 6-0 6-1.

It was a tough game between Michael Smith and sub James Spurgeon against Chris Shorter and John Putman. A strong start from Mike and James was too much for Chris and John to fight back and it was Mike and James who won 6-0 6-1 6-3.

In a closely fought match in Mens A between Chris Janes and Varun Philip and Bob Verey and sub Jim Aird played in good conditions, some big aces from Jim and consistent ground shots from Andy were not enough to prevent Chris and Varun, aided by some nimble net coverage by Varun, from clinching the points 6-3 6-3 1-6.

A top of the table match between Alex Cox and sub Matt Bowers against Sam Williams and Tom Pantling did not disappoint. Matt and Alex got off to a blistering start and managed to keep the momentum with Alex serving out the first set to take it 6-1. The second set was a lot closer with Sam and Tom taking a commanding 4-2 lead after forcing several errors from Alex's backhand. The tide was turned with some hard hitting ground strokes and deft volleys from Matt with them taking four games to close out the set. The third set was all Sam and Tom racking up a 5-0 lead before Matt and Alex showed some resistance to get two games back. Alex and Matt came out winners 6-1 6-4 2-6.

Despite wearing many layers all players contributed to an energetic match. The three sets followed a similar pattern of long rallies, service breaks and multiple deuces. In each set Jason Vosper and Yuen Siu just took the crucial games to beat Chris Janes and Varun Philip 6-3 6-3 6-3 and the match finished only a few minutes before the lights went out.

In Ladies A Hilary Picton and Linda Trebilcock struggled in the first set against Henrietta Ferguson's strong cross-court forehands and Tania Belcher's amazing squash forehands. Tania picked up and put away some shots which Linda and Hilary thought were winners. The latter took some time before they finally triumphed in the first set tie-break 8-6. After that, although most games were very closely fought it was Hilary and Linda that won the big points and claim the last two sets and overall 6-5 6-1 6-1.

In a very close match in Ladies B with lots of lovely long rallies and deuce games to keep them warm in the cold weather, it was Jane Williams and Victoria Roberts who were happy with their first win in the Winter League against Chris Woodroffe and Hilary Monk 6-4 4-6 6-3.

Val Knight and Caroline Hambly enjoyed playing in the dry against Jane Williams and Victoria Roberts. There were very long rallies especially between Jane and Val but it was Val and Caroline who won 6-2 6-0 6-1.

On a beautiful calm evening, perfect conditions for a lovely evening of tennis Chris Woodward and sub Candy Birch played Pat Hexter and Liz Gill. The results didn't reflect the hard fought games which saw very lengthy deuces! Candy and Christine had their work cut out as Pat and Liz were on form with their usual strong shots and serves, making life difficult for Candy and Chris with their perfect slices. The last set saw a tie break with Candy and Chris eventually clinching it and winning overall 6-3 6-3 6-5.

It was a great match between Stephanie D'Haussey and sub Pauline Smith with a fairly tight score and some suspenseful rallies. It was Pauline's first League match and she proved to be a great partner for Stephanie as they triumphed 6-5 6-2 6-2.

Jill Cansfield and Elizabeth Nodder came out on top against Linda Haston and Janet Butler in a very good match with many deuces and very long games 6-4 6-3 6-5.

In the mixed Alice Wildgoose and Gary Brookes played Fiona Crutchley and Nick Haley. It was a fun match and Alice and Gary won 6-2 6-4 3-6.

In another enjoyable match Alice and Gary then played Dudley Tolkien and Janet Butler and won 6-2 6-0 6-2.

Caroline Floccia and sub Jack Allman proved too strong for Fiona Crutchley and Nick Haley and despite discovering their form in the third set it was Caroline and Jack who won 6-2 6-3 4-6.

Roanna George and sub Simon Dusting played Nicky Slight and Dave Bate. With the set scores varying greatly it was Roanna and Simon who won 6-5 6-1 1-6.



WEEK 9

In the Brewin Dolphin Mannamead Winter Tennis Mixed League it was perfect conditions for playing,

In their first match of the week Dave Gale and Sue Newberry came out fighting with some excellent serving to take the first set 6-2. However, Dave Bate and Nicky Slight rallied in the second to eventually take a tense second set tie break 6-5. This proved to inspire Dave and Nicky who went on to win the final set 6-4 playing some excellent net shots along the way.

In their second match of the week, Sue Newberry and Dave Gale took the first set against Debbie Wilson and sub James

Spurgeon. In the second set Dave and Sue were up but Debbie and James dug deep to force a tiebreak which they then won. Dave served well, Debbie was sharp at the net and James and Sue had some good groundshot rallies. The final set was very close too but Dave and Sue managed to clinch it and win 6-3 5-6 6-2.

Encouraged by playing on a beautiful, dry and mild evening with no wind, Dudley Tolkien and Janet Butler put in their best performance of the season so far, but unfortunately it was not enough to stop Debbie Wilson and sub Mike Smith winning 6-3 6-3 6-1.

Nick Haley and Fiona Crutchley dominated the first two sets, but in the third Roanna George and sub Simon Dusting started well with a 2-1 lead, the next game was a critical one which went to several deuces finally being won by Nick and Fiona who then went on to win the set and overall 6-0 6-0 6-2.

Jason Vosper and Yuen Siu played Dave Gale and Steve Matcham in a competitive match although it wasn't looking good for Dave and Steve after Yuen and Jason raced to a 5-0 lead in the first set. However they settled to win the next 2 games, before conceding the set. The second set was closer with Yuen being the best player tipping the balance in many of the long rallies in their favour. Yuen and Jason eventually served out the set. In the final set Yuen was obviously in a rush to finish and cranked up the pace on his shots to winning effect, and Jason and Yuen won 6-2 6-4 6-2.

In Mens B Chris Shorter and John Putman played Andrew Regan and Dan Baugh for the second time in another very close match, much like the first encounter. With solid play from John, and Chris displaying the reactions of a twenty year old at the net, John and Chris won the three sets 6-4 6-4 6-5.

Pete Ireland and Jon Shackel played Lester Ellicott and Richard Turner and good serving from Jon put pressure on Lester and Richard with Pete and Jon winning 6-2 6-1 6-0.

In Ladies A despite some fabulous drop shots by the Sues, it was not enough to stop Sandra O'Sullivan and Luisa Warring winning 3-6 6-5 6-2 against Sue Newberry and Sue Gale.

Jenny Whybrow & Sandy Johnson got off to a good start after a very long opening game against Alison Miles and Lyn Helliwell. They used lobs and drop shots to their advantage to go 4:1 up, however Lyn & Alison who'd struggled to get into a rhythm recovered with some hard, deep drives to win the first set 6-4. In spite of some heavy rain and puddles on the court it was a most enjoyable game with Lyn and Alison finally winning 6-4 6-2 6-3.

It was a competitive and close match between Esther Pettit & Sandra Fox and Tania Belcher & Henrietta Ferguson. Despite some great shots from Henrietta finding the angles and volleys from Tania, it was Sandra and Esther who battled to the end, winning the third set tie-break 7:3 and overall 2-6 6-2 6-5.

Helen Wright and Sarah Blain were disappointed in their play in this match and with Linda Trebilcock at her best with reliable and accurate groundstrokes and good volleying, it was Linda and Hilary Picton who won 6-1 6-0 6-2.

On a rainy evening Ladies B pair Stephanie D'Haussey and Caroline Floccia were too strong for Jane Williams and Victoria Roberts winning 6-1 6-1 6-1.

Another pair playing in unexpectedly wet conditions Val Knight and Caroline Hambly achieved a hard fought three set win against Linda Haston and Janet Butler. The first set was 6-2, while both second and third sets went to tie breaks. The second set tie break was very tight (9-7) but Val and Caroline comfortably won the third set tie break and overall 6-2 6-5 6-5.

In a long match, because of some great rallies, it only just finished before the lights went off. Elizabeth Nodder managed to pick up some great balls with good coverage of the court and Jill Cansfield did some great shots down the line. But it was Anne Hughes' good deep shots and some great serving from Nicky Slight that helped to secure this match for them 6-5 6-1 6-3.

With Candy Birch subbing for Noelle Boucherat, who is nursing an injury, Angela Wright and Caroline Abernethy had Candy running at the baseline but she was able to keep them at bay with her effective returns and, together with her net shots, Candy and Christine Woodward managed to clinch the match 6-4 3-6 6-5.

After a slow, sluggish start against Chris Woodroffe and Hilary Monk, Pat Hexter and Liz Gill got going to take the first set 6-4. With the use of lobs and angled shots from both pairs, Pat and Liz capitalised on their first set win to take the match 6-4, 6-3, 6-3.

Libby Allman and Debbie Theophilus faced Jill Cansfield and Elizabeth Nodder. The final score didn't reflect the tightness of lots of games and it was Libby and Debbie who took the points 6-2 6-0 6-2.

Jill and Elizabeth were catching up with their matches but unfortunately didn't fare very well either when playing Stephanie D'Haussey and Caroline Floccia who won 6-0 6-1 6-0.

Chris Woodward and sub Candy Birch played Chris Woodroffe and Hilary Monk. The first set went to a tie break and despite the hard work of Hilary and Chris, Chris and Candy clinched it. Candy's precise shots and Chris' baseline shots proved too much for Hilary and Chris and Chris and Candy won 6-5 6-1 6-0.

Libby Allman and Debbie Theophilus defeated Chris Woodward and sub Candy Birch 6-2 6-1 4-6.



WEEK 8

In the Brewin Dolphin Mannamead Winter Tennis League Mens A there was a competitive match which could have gone either way between Chris Janes and Varun Philip playing Dave Gale and Steve Matcham. Despite some deft touches from Dave and great baseline rallies from Steve, Chris and Varun ultimately edged the game 6-5 6-4 6-4.

In a great game between Dave Gale and Steve Matcham against Andy Weymouth and Bob Verey there were many long rallies with good serving from all four pairs. Despite some stunning pick-ups from Bob and drop volleys from Andy, Dave & Steve managed to win the first set after a very close battle. They then went 5-3 up in the second set only for Bob and Andy to get it back to a tiebreak which they won 7-4. The final deciding set was very close with both pairs still hitting good winners. Dave and Steve finally edged the set to win 6-3 5-6 6-4 and celebrate their first win of the season.

Alex Cox played his first match in several weeks after having to take time out for a shoulder injury and returned to the court with a great energy level and ruthless volleying to back up Eric's high level returning and reaction volleys at the net which proved

to be just a little too much for Phil Hore and Paul Cooper. Paul did some great sliced serves and Phil's backhand was solid as always and kept Alex and Eric in countless hard fought rallies. However Alex and Eric won 6-0 6-1 6-0.

In a very even match in Mens B Jon Jacobs and Mike Scott started well and managed to clinch the first set. Andrew Regan and Dan Baugh came back strongly in the second set with an early break before Jon and Mike regained some composure and managed to clinch the last few games. Dan played solidly throughout, hardly missing a shot from the back and great net play from Andy but some superb tactical lobs from Jon enabled them to win 6-3 4-6 6-3.

In a very close fought match between Pete Ireland and sub Graham Martin against Chris Shorter and John Putman the first set went to a tie break which was won by Chris and John 11-9. Second set was won by Pete and Graham and they did well to come back from 2-4 down in third set to clinch the match 5-6 6-3 6-4.

Michael Smith & Nick Souness played Lester Ellicott & Richard Turner, and in tough conditions the weather took its toll in the first set. The current league leaders managed to find their composure and came into the match strong from the second set. Nick Souness and Mike Smith continuing their lead at the top winning 6-2 6-0 6-0

In Ladies A Sandra O' Sullivan and Luisa Warring played some excellent angles and great returns of serve to beat Julia Whetton and Ann Short 6-3 6-4 6-3.

Hilary Picton and Linda Trebilcock stormed to a 3-0 first set lead before Katherine and Roanna pulled it back to 3-3. The first set went to a tiebreak which Katherine and Roanna won 10-8. However having won the set Katherine and Roanna seemed to lose their concentration allowing Hilary and Linda to take a 5-0 lead before they staged a comeback but the set went to Hilary and Linda. The final set saw Katherine and Roanna take a 2-0 lead and were still 5-3 up but Hilary and Linda didn't

give up and took the tiebreak 7-5 and overall won the match 5-6 6-3 6-5.

Jenny Whybrow and Sandy Johnson played another Yelverton pair, Tania Belcher and Henrietta Ferguson in a very enjoyable close match with a tense and hard fought match deciding tie break in the third set. Jenny and Sandy won 6-2 3-6 6-5.

Despite some long rallies and good running by both Esther and Sandra, Sue Newberry and Sue Gale stuck to their game plan and with some great cut outs at the net they were able to beat Esther Pettit and Sandra Fox 6-3 6-0 6-3.

Tania Belcher & Henrietta Ferguson were somewhat slow starters but gradually found their rhythm in the second set and beat Helen Wright and Sarah Blain 0-6 6-2 6-2

Hilary Picton & Linda Trebilcock played Sandra O'Sullivan & Luisa Warring and came out winners 6-3 6-2 6-3.

In Ladies B Val Knight and Caroline Hambly started well winning the first set to love, but Chris Woodroffe and Hilary Monk came out fighting in the second set taking it to a tiebreak which Val and Caroline won 11-9. Val and Caroline took the match 6-1 6-5 6-3.

Wind and weather held off when Anne Hughes and Nicky Slight played Linda Haston and Janet Butler. There were some great lobs from Anne and Janet covered the court really well and both Linda and Janet did good cross court angle shots but it was Anne and Nicky who won 6-3 6-1 6-3.

On a pleasant evening after all the wind and rain Jill Cansfield and Elizabeth Nodder were glad to be on court and despite Jane Williams and sub Claire Law playing well with lots of long rallies it was Jill and Chris who had a good win 6-1 6-2 6-0.

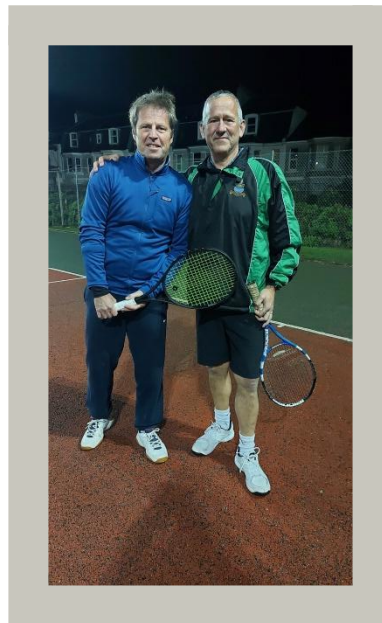
Two Saltash pairings did battle in the match between Val Knight & Caroline Hambly against Jill Cansfield & Elizabeth Nodder. Val & Caroline won the first set but Jill & Elizabeth came back strong in the second but were finally beaten in the tiebreak 7-9.

Jill and Elizabeth found their form again and took the third set but Val and Caroline won 6-3 6-5 3-6.

Despite some great backhand returns from Dudley Tolkien and Janet Butler's well placed lobs they were unable to stop Nick Haley and Fiona Crutchley from taking the three sets 6-0 6-1 6-1.

Battling the elements again in the mixed Alice Wildgoose and Gary Brookes fared better than Debbie Wilson and Jose Rojas, despite some excellent serving from Jose, and won 6-2 6-5 6-4.

In a fun filled windy evening Caroline Floccia and sub Dave Small beat Nicky Slight and Dave Bate 6-4 6-1 3-6.



WEEK 7

In the Mens A of the Brewin Dolphin Mannamead Winter Tennis League there was a topsy turvy match between Phil Hore and Paul Cooper and Neil Coleman and sub Jason Vosper. Phil and Paul certainly didn't hang about by taking the first two sets but perhaps celebrated their first win too early as Neil and Jason

took the final set with ease as the weather took a turn for the worse but Phil and Paul had done enough to win 6-1 6-3 1-6.

Eric Vicente with sub Matt Bowers proved too strong for Chris Janes and Varun Philip winning 6-1 6-2 6-3. Chris and Varun got better in each set but not enough to take a set off Eric and Matt.

On one of the few evenings where it was mild and calm Ben Knight and Tom Pantling proved too strong for Dave Gale and Steve Matcham although the rallies and play did not match the score line of 6-1 6-0 6-0.

In Mens B Andrew Regan and Dan Baugh played Lester Ellicott and Richard Turner. They were glad to miss the worst of the rain and the score flattered Andrew and Dan as there were quite a few deuce games which could have gone either way but Andrew and Dan won 6-0 6-1 6-1.

Sean Westonsholme and Simon Dixon gave the Mens B leaders Nick Souness and Mike Smith a tough match especially with Simon's unorthodox serve. Nick and Mike both had to ensure their base line play and serves were good to take the points and win 6-1 6-1 6-1.

Jon Jacobs and Mike Scott started the first set with a break of serve against Chris Shorter and John Putman and although there were a number of trades of breaks throughout the set, they took the first set. In the second set Chris and John edged ahead with some solid play. There were some notable down the line shots from John when the net man crept over too far. Both teams then held serve well throughout the set and Chris and John took the set. Jon and Mike then regrouped and hardly made a mistake to take the third set and the match 6-3 3-6 6-0.

Playing on a dry but windy evening Ladies A pair Sue Gale and Sue Newberry played some good tennis in the first set to beat Ann Short and sub Rachel Youngs-Pearce. Ann and Rachel did well in the second set and took it on a tie break but the two Sues rallied again to win overall 6-2 5-6 6-1.

Roanna George and Katherine Rowe both served and played well in the windy conditions to beat Helen Wright and Sarah Blain 6-1 6-1 6-2.

Roanna and Katherine played a second match and took a while to warm up but after a close first set, they then got into their groove to win the match against Tania Belcher and Henrietta Ferguson 6-5 6-1 6-1.

Tania and Henrietta also played a second match this week but unfortunately they were on the losing side again. Luisa Warring and Sandra O'Sullivan made a great comeback to win the second set and be overall winners 6-4 6-5 6-5.

There was an unusual score in the match between Esther Pettit and Sandra Fox playing Jenny Whybrow and Sandy Johnson with Esther and Sandra winning 6-2 6-5 0-6. The second set was the hardest fought one which could have gone either way as the tie break score was 13 to 11 with both pairs having several set points!

In another topsy turvy scoreline Stephanie D'Haussey and Caroline Floccia played Chris Woodward and sub Debbie Wilson and won 6-1 2-6 6-2.

Val Knight and Caroline Hambly had an enjoyable, hard hitting competitive match against Angela Wright and Caroline Abernethy. Val and Caroline began well, leading 3-0 but Angela and Caroline fought back to a tiebreak with Val and Caroline holding out to win the set. The second set was highly competitive with lots of deuces and Angela and Caroline playing lots of great winning shots, taking them to a 6-3 win. Val and Caroline dominated in the final set winning 6-5 3-6 6-0.

Caroline Floccia was another to play a second match and paired up with Debbie Wilson as sub. Despite the wind Caroline and Debbie managed to beat Anne Hughes and Nicky Slight 5-6 6-2 6-2.

There was a great match between Angela Wright and Caroline Abernethy playing Pat Hexter and Liz Gill on a lovely dry evening. Despite plenty of slicing and dicing from Liz and Pat, Caroline and Angela managed to hold the opposition at bay

with the third set being the most competitive. Angela and Caroline won 6-2 6-1 6-4.

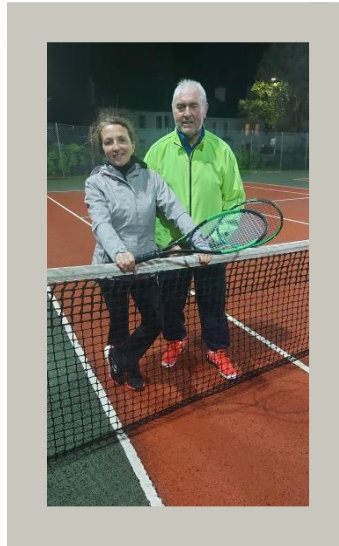
In a busy week for Angela and Caroline they also played Chris Woodroffe and Hilary Monk. Chris and Hilary gave a good account of themselves with cross court rallies from Chris and Hilary hitting the lines with her forehands. Angela and Caroline were the pair on form though and controlled the match from the start. There were torrential showers during the match so they did well to finish. Angela and Caroline won 6-1 6-1 6-0.

Chris Woodroffe and Hilary Monk also played again against Linda Haston and Janet Butler. Chris and Hilary improved as the game progressed but it was Linda and Janet who won 6-1 6-4 6-3.

Janet and Linda played another match a few days later and won against Chris Woodward and sub Cathy Bryan 6-4 6-2 6-1.

Alan Mayes and Caroline Floccia played Dave Gale and Sue Newberry. It had rained all day but by 8pm the rain had passed through. The match was evenly balanced with Dave and Sue taking the first set on a tie break. The second set was quickly over, with Alan serving powerfully, they came out comfortable winners. The deciding set was closely fought and went to another tie break with Caroline and Alan taking it 7-2 and overall 5-6 6-0 6-5.

The only other mixed match to play this week was between Alice Wildgoose & Gary Brookes and Roanna George & Dave Whitlock. It was a really close match with good court coverage which Alice and Gary won 6-5 5-6 6-2.



WEEK 6

Congratulations to all those who played this week despite the bad weather and particular congratulations to the ladies on Monday night who turned out and finished their games despite a yellow weather warning.

In Ladies A Hilary Picton & Linda Trebilcock and Alison Miles & Lyn Helliwell found it was challenging playing in extremely windy conditions. Linda was embarrassed that some of her serves didn't even get to the receivers although they were standing on the service line. From the other end it was totally different and hard work to return Lyn's good serves with the wind behind them. Hilary and Linda took a while to adjust to the windy conditions which enabled Alison and Lyn to gain the advantage in the first set. Hilary and Linda gained momentum in the second set to take it, and they continued to dominate in the third set winning overall 4-6 6-3 6-1.

Alison & Lyn had also played earlier in the day against Helen Wright & Sarah Blain and won 6-1 6-2 6-2.

In an all Yelverton players match played at Yelverton in windy conditions, but before the rain set in, Ann Short & Julia Whetton coped better with the conditions finding the lines with both width

and depth to win important points. Both Tania Belcher & Henrietta Ferguson played some superb winning shots but were less lucky with the lines and Julia and Ann won 6-1 6-1 6-3.

Fiona Crutchley and sub Alice Wildgoose played Jenny Whybrow and Sandy Johnson. With winds gusting to over 50mph it became a game of just trying to hit the ball, get it over the net and keep it in the court! First set was very close as everyone tried to learn how to cope with the conditions, ending in a close tie break (11-9) going to Alice and Fiona who then seemed to cope better with the wind to win the next two sets 6-0 6-1.

Esther Pettit and Sandra Fox played Helen Wright and Sarah Blain and were delighted with their first win 6-1 6-2 6-1.

Despite lovely backhand volleys from Sandra O'Sullivan and excellent forehands from Luisa Warring it was not good enough to beat excellent drop shots from Roanna George and good serving from Katherine Rowe who won 6-2 6-5 6-3.

Roanna George & Katherine Rowe played Sue Gale & Sue Newberry on Saturday morning and enjoyed some sunshine. Sue and Sue gave Roanna and Katherine a bit too much net practice and this was one of the differences that meant Roanna and Katherine won 6-4 6-2 6-2.

Sue and Sue played again the day after and got off to a storming start taking the first two sets. As it was Remembrance Sunday they then stopped to observe the two minute silence. Their opponents Henrietta Ferguson and Tania Belcher got going again quicker than the two Sues and took the final set. Sue and Sue had done enough though to win 6-0 6-2 3-6.

In Ladies B it was a slow start for Anne Hughes and Nicky Slight, who allowed the high wind to distract them with Vicky Roberts and Jane Williams taking full advantage of this in the first set. However Anne and Nicky regained some focus and won 2-6 6-2 6-3.

In a challenging game for both pairs with accurate shots at a premium in the swirling, blustery wind and with many potential

winning shots, from both pairs, being blown out of court or failing to even get over the net. However, it was Pat Hexter and Liz Gill who coped marginally better to take the three closely fought sets 6-4 6-4 6-3 against Jane Williams and Victoria Roberts.

Libby Allman and Debbie Theophilus coped with the windy weather well and despite the many deuces they overcame Linda Haston and Janet Butler 6-2 4-6 6-2.

Angela Wright played with her sister Andrea Wood as sub against Linda Haston & Janet Butler. Despite it being Andrea's birthday, Janet and Linda showed no favours and took the game 6-4 4-6 6-3.

Libby Allman & Debbie Theophilus beat Jane Williams & Victoria Roberts 6-1 6-1 6-2.

In a rearranged match against Saltash club rivals Pat Hexter and Elizabeth Gill got off to a good start and never took their foot off the pedal. With Pat playing one of her best games, using numerous well placed and angled shots they took the honours winning 6-2 6-3 6-2 against Jill Cansfield and Elizabeth Nodder.

Stephanie D'Haussy & Caroline Floccia beat Angela Wright & Caroline Abernethy 6-1 6-2 6-1.

In Men's A Ben Knight and Tom Panting were the more consistent in this match played in windy and heavy showers, beating Alan Mayes and Jose Rojas 3-6 6-2 6-3.

In a game where two subs featured Eric Vicente and sub Matt Bowers played Simon Dusting and sub Phil Whitby. There was a strong start from Matt and Eric who quickly went 5-0 up. Phil and Simon managed to then win three games in a row but Eric and Matt kept going and won 6-3 6-2 6-3.

In Men's B there was a top of the table clash between Michael Smith & Nick Souness and Andrew Regan & Dan Baugh. It was the toughest test yet for Nick and Mike as Dan and Andrew caused trouble with some fantastic net play. In the end it was

the strong serving from Nick and Mike which got them through 6-3 6-4 6-1 and stretched their lead at the top of the table.

Chris Shorter and John Putman proved too strong for Lester Ellicott and Richard Turner beating them 6-1 6-2 6-0.

In the mixed Nick Haley and Fiona Crutchley got off to a great start winning the first set quite easily but then found themselves 4-1 down in the second set. As the momentum kept switching between the two pairs, Nick and Fiona then pulled back to win the second set 6-4. Some great serving by Dave helped Nicky and Dave secure the third set but it was Fiona and Nick who won 6-1 6-4 4-6.

Despite great serves from Jose and some good rallies, Nick Haley and Fiona Crutchley just managed to keep the consistency to take the match 6-4 6-1 6-2 against Debbie Wilson and Jose Rojas

There was some great skill from Dave and some fantastic running and pick-ups from Janet but it was Nicky Slight & Dave Bate who won 6-1 6-1 6-1 against Janet Butler & Dudley Tolkien .

Every set was so close between Caroline Floccia & Alan Mayes and Roanna George & Dave Whitlock. Dave's serve caused Caroline plenty of problems on the forehand side with Roanna making the most of it at the net. More controlled play from Alan pushed them onto the back foot and forced the errors and Alan and Caroline won 4-6 6-5 6-4.



WEEK 5

Surprisingly a good amount of matches were played this week despite there being lots of showers all week.

In Men's A Jason Vosper and Yuen Siu renewed their rivalry against Andy Weymouth and Bob Verey. Once again Jason and Yuen just overcame Bob and Andy. The first set was competitive with only one break going to Jason and Yuen 6-4. In the second set after an early break Jason and Yuen appeared to be on their way to victory, however Bob and Andy broke back. At 4-5 Yuen had to survive a very long service game to force the tie break. An unfortunate net cord was the difference for Jason and Yuen to help them win the tie-break. Despite their continued efforts and a number of deuces Bob and Andy failed to win a single game in the final set. The final score was 6-4 6-5 6-0 to Jason and Yuen.

In a thoroughly enjoyable match between Dave Gale and Stephen Matcham against Simon Dusting and sub Phil Whitby, Dave and Steve came back from 2-5 down in the first set to force a tie-break and then trailed in the tie-break also, before eventually winning 6-5. Overall Simon and Phil were a bit more consistent on the key points and edged the match with some long rallies. There was some great serving from all four players, and plenty of winning shots, in particular Phil Whitby's angled forehands which, it was said, Usain Bolt would struggle to reach. Simon and Phil won 5-6 6-3 6-2.

In a hard fought match trying to dodge the showers and the gusty winds, Sam Williams and Tom Panting overcame Jason Vosper and Yuen Siu 6-5 6-3 6-4.

Chris Janes and Varun Philip had to come from behind on more than one occasion against Simon Dusting and sub Phil Whitby and forced a tie-breaker in the second set which ultimately deciding the match. There were some cracking rallies with Simon and Phil showing their quality in the third set with some thunderous drives and ground strokes but Chris and Varun came out on top winning 6-4 6-5 1-6.

Alan Mayes & Jose Rojas overcame Phil Hore & Paul Cooper 6-0 6-1 6-2, in a match played in atrocious conditions. Jose and Alan were too strong and consistent for Phil and Paul.

In Men's B Andy Regan and Dan Baugh started very quickly against Pete Ireland and Jon Shackel racing into a 4-0 lead. The match then evened out, but John and Pete finished strongly and took all the last four games of the deciding set and came out winning 3-6 6-4 6-2.

John Putman and Chris Shorter made a somewhat slow start and promptly lost the first eight games and, with Simon Dixon and Sean Wolstenholme making very few mistakes, it looked as though Chris and John were going home early. However, after managing to string a few shots together, they won the second set 6-4. In the third set Simon and Sean came back from 2-5 to 5-5, with Chris and John winning the tie break. Simon had served strongly but John's interceptions and solid drives from the back of the court were key factors in the match. In the words of the previous Herald tennis reporter, John and Chris managed to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat and won 0-6 6-4 6-5

A very tough match where the first set did not reflect the tight points between the two pairs. Nick Souness and Mike Smith continue to collect maximum points. Jon Jacobs and Mike Scott showed great determination throughout the match but it was Mike and Nick who won 6-0 6-4 6-1.

In the Ladies A match between Fiona Crutchley and sub Alice Wildgoose against Sandra O'Sullivan and sub Debbie Wilson there were some excellent forehands from Fiona and great serving from Alice, with some fun rallies at the net. Fiona and Alice won 6-0 6-2 6-2.

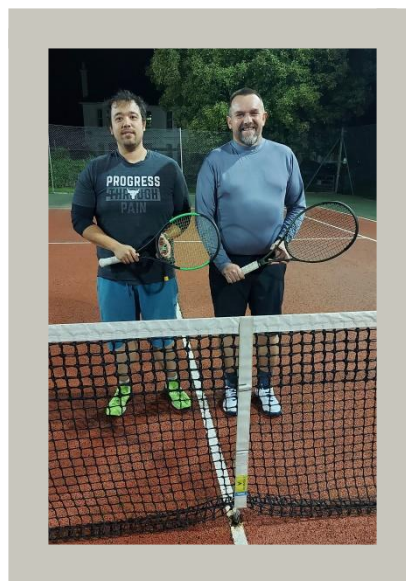
Playing between some showers Sue Gale and Sue Newberry were just a bit too strong for Helen Wright and Sarah Blain and won 6-2 6-2 6-1. They wished they had umbrellas on their hats as they were needed at many end changes.

Sue and Sue were obviously still in a playing in the dark and wet mindset and weren't quick to adapt to playing in dry and sunny daytime conditions and very quickly lost the first set 0-6

to Linda Trebilcock and Hilary Picton who were playing very consistently. A change of tactics from Sue and Sue meant an improvement in the second and third sets with some good forehand drives from Sue N and some classic drop shots from Sue G but Linda and Hilary remained the more consistent pair and were overall winners 6-0 6-4 5-6.

In the only Mixed match played on a very wet Wednesday Alice Wildgoose and Gary Brookes playing Nicky Slight and Dave Bate braved the weather and despite the rain and strong wind had some good rallies! There was some great lobbing from Nicky and Dave but it was Alice and Gary who won 6-0 6-2 6-3.

On a drier Friday evening Caroline Floccia & Alan Mayes played Janet Butler & Dudley Tolkien. Dudley and Janet fought well but were overcome particularly with Caroline dominating the net. Final score 6-0 6-2 6-0



WEEK 4

Unfortunately due to half term and one evening of rain there were not as many matches played this week in the Brewin Dolphin Mannamead Winter Tennis League.

In Ladies A there was a closely fought contest between Julia Whetton and Ann Short who played Helen Wright and Sarah Blain. After a slow start Julia and Ann got going and came out

on top 3-6 6-2 6-4. Hilary Picton and Linda Trebilcock were too strong for Jenny Whybrow and sub Rachel Young beating them 6-1 6-1 6-3.

Sandra O'Sullivan and Luisa Warring managed to beat Jenny Whybrow and Sandy Johnson in a very hard fought, enjoyable match 5-6 6-2 6-4. There were plenty of deuces, angles and long rallies. Played in a friendly but competitive manner and all players are looking forward to the return match.

In Ladies B Stephanie D'Haussey and sub Debbie Wilson played Libby Allman and Debbie Theophilus. Both pairs were equally matched and there were lots of long rallies but Stephanie and Debbie, after losing the first set, won the next two and overall by 3-6 6-2 6-4.

There was a hard fought game between Pat Hexter and Liz Gill against Linda Haston and Janet Butler, with both pairs gaining points after long rallies involving, volleys, lobs and angled cross court shots. The match went down to the wire with a final set tie break which the Pat and Liz won 7-5 to claim the match 6-5 3-6 6-5. Unfortunately Pat and Liz didn't fare so well in their second match of the week. Despite Liz and Pat's canny and good play in the first set winning it easily in a match played during the day, Libby and Debbie coped better when the sun came out and won the next two sets easily and were overall winners 1-6 6-1 6-0.

Jane Williams and Vicky Roberts played very well and were unlucky to lose two tie breaks and nearly got maximum points for a losing pair and it was probably one of their best results in the winter league. However the win went to Janet Butler and Linda Haston 6-5 6-4 6-5.

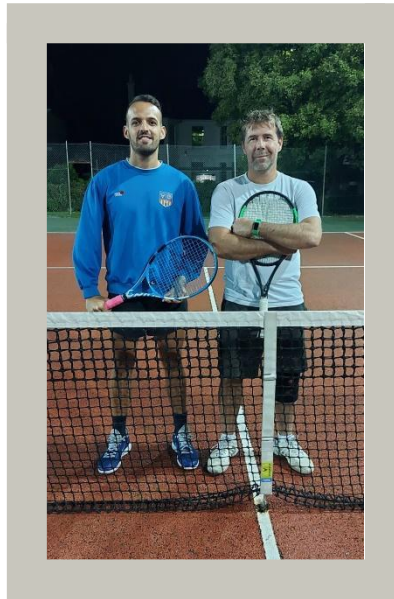
In a rescheduled match played during the day between another all Saltash pairings, Christine Woodward and Noelle Boucherat and Jill Cansfield and Elizabeth Nodder, the weather varied from sunny to cloudy but fortunately refrained from raining. A

warm although very windy day, nevertheless all coped with balls not quite going where they planned. Elizabeth and Jill are a formidable pair and made it a tough match, with Elizabeth's serves and Jill's shots kept coming back making for long rallies. Noelle was aggressive at the net and together with Chris's strong long shots to the baseline they edged their way to winning the match. The match included many deuces and could have gone either way. After two and a quarter hours hard play they treated themselves to coffee and yummy biscuits. Christine Woodward and Noelle Boucherat won 4-6 6-5 6-3.

In the mixed David Gale and his wife Sue Gale as sub played Dudley Tolkien and Janet Butler. There was some vintage play by Dudley Tolkien and he hit some sublime backhands, unfortunately only to be thwarted by the net cord. David and Sue went on to finish as comfortable winners 6-1 6-1 6-1.

With Stephanie D'Haussey standing in for her ladies partner Caroline Floccia in the mixed with Alan Mayes they were the more consistent pair in this hard fought battle of Hill Lane friends and beat Debbie Wilson and Jose Rojas 6-2 6-3 6-3.

There was only one mens match played this week and that was in Mens A. In a game where both pairs featured English and Spanish v English and Spanish, Alan Mayes and Jose Rojas played Alex Cox and Eric Vicente. Alan and Jose started on top form and after a long battle took the first set 6-4. The second set saw Alex and Eric fight back and storm into a 4-1 lead but Alan and Jose hung in and pegged them back to 5-5 so a tie break decided it in Alex and Eric's favour. The third set was evenly matched and was 4-3 in Jose and Alan's favour when the timed lights went out at 10pm. Watch this space next week for exciting conclusion to this enthralling match.



WEEK 3

There was a well fought match in Mens A. Good serving from Andy Weymouth and volleying from sub Phil Gasche ensured they maximised the points over the valiant Phil Hore and Paul Cooper, whose returns of services were a real strength, but not enough to stop Weymouth and Gasche winning 6-3 6-3 6-2.

There was a second match in the week for Phil Hore, playing with sub Dave Small who was playing his first winter league match. The wind made serving interesting for both pairs but Jason Vosper and Yuen Siu coped with the blustery conditions better winning 6-5 6-4 4-6.

Jose Rojas and Alan Mayes were too strong for Simon Dusting and Neil Coleman in a somewhat one sided match. Jose's power along with the precision of Alan saw them to a comfortable victory 6-1 6-1 6-3.

In Mens B Division, Michael Smith & Nick Souness continued their good start to the season beating Chris Shorter and John Putman 6-2 6-3 6-2 This result did not reflect the very close points with some great rallies between the two pairs. Nick and Mike stayed consistent with their big serves and net play but John and Chris used their vast experience and clever shots to make it difficult throughout the match.

Andrew Regan and Dan Baugh beat Sean Westonholme and Simon Dixon 6-4 6-4 6-3.

In Ladies A there was a game of two halves! Sue Newberry and Sue Gale came out very strong, completely dominating the first set. However the game turned at two all in the second set when Nicky Trevaskis and Fiona Crutchley were far more consistent and took control winning all but one of the remaining games to take the win 2-6 6-3 6-0.

Roanna George & Katherine Rowe continued their winning form and in a match of long rallies and lots of deuce games they beat Alison Miles and Lyn Helliwell 3-6 6-3 6-2. Jenny Whybrow and Sandy Johnson beat Helen Wright and sub Vicki Finnegan 6-3 6-3 6-1. It was an enjoyably close battle with many games going to deuce but Jenny and Sandy had the upper hand. Nicky Trevaskis and Fiona Crutchley were also successful in their second match of the week against Esther Pettit and Sandra Fox. It was a tactical game with lots of lobs from both pairs but Nicky and Fiona came out on top 6-3 6-1 6-2. Esther and Sandra also played for a second time this week but unfortunately things didn't go their way again, with Julia Whetton & Ann Short eventually coming out winners 6-4 6-5 5-6.

In Ladies B there was a welcome back to Chris Woodroffe and Hilary Monk, who had taken some time out from the winter league. Hilary returned with great cross court drives and Chris with some great volley interceptions. However Anne's baseline shots were too good and Anne Hughes and Nicky Slight won 6-1 6-2 6-2.

In the first of many matches this season between all Saltash club members it was Val Knight and Caroline Hambly who took the first set but then had an uphill struggle to come back from 2:5 down to play a tie break in the second set as Chris Woodward and Noelle Boucherat found their form. Chris and Noelle dominated the second set tiebreak and also the start of the third set, reaching 5:2 and match point when Val and Chris fought back to level at five all. A closely fought final set tie break was finally won by Val and Caroline who were overall winners 6-3 5-6 6-5.

It was a second hard fought win of the week for Val Knight and Caroline Hambly, starting well and taking the first set 6-4. However Libby Allman and Debbie Theophilus took the second set 6-5. Val and Caroline initially dominated the third set with a 5-2 lead, but Libby and Debbie fought back to 5-4 before finally being beaten 6-4.

In the mixed division there was a good win for Alice Wildgoose and Gary Brookes beating Alan Mayes and Caroline Floccia 6-5 6-3 6-3. They continued their good form by beating Janet Butler and Dudley Tolkien 6-1 6-1 6-1.

Sue Newberry and Dave Gale completely dominated the first set, despite rain stopping play for thirty minutes, and went on to win 6-1. There was strong serving from Dave and Jose, but Jose Rojas and Debbie Wilson managed to win the second set on a tie break. Coming from 0-3 down in the third set Jose and Debbie pulled back into the lead at 5-3 but again the set went to a tie break with Jose and Debbie finally winning 1-6 6-5 6-5. Dave and Sue won more games than Debbie and Jose but the winner's bonus five points made the difference.

In an evenly contested match with good rallies and a variety of shots Roanna George and Dave Whitlock beat Nicky Slight and Dave Bate 3-6 6-5 6-2.

A slow start from Fiona Crutchley and sub Jay Stuart meant they had to work hard to come back from 4-1 down to take the first set 6-4. They then continued to dominate through the next two sets to win all three sets 6-4 6-1 6-3 against Caroline Floccia and Alan Mayes.



WEEK 2

The Brewin Dolphin Mannamead Winter Tennis League continues apace with the mixed matches all being played despite it being rather a wet evening. Fiona Crutchley and Nick Haley made a good steady start beating Roanna George and Dave Whitlock 6-3 3-6 6-5. It was a very close match decided by a tie break in the third set. All players were stretched by good court play ensuring all areas of the court got some use.

Despite actually getting more games in total than their opposition Nicky Slight and Dave Bate came out second best to Sue Newberry and Dave Gale 6-1 4-6 5-6. Sue and Dave were slow starters, both perhaps wishing they were still on their holidays and it wasn't until the third set tie break they found their form. Dave Bate's badminton skills shone through with some lovely volleying and cross court angled shots. Nicky also played some good cross court drives.

Stalwarts of the mixed league, Dudley Tolkien and Janet Butler, played well in their 35th competitive season together but despite an enjoyable evenings tennis their opposition Debbie Wilson and sub Mike Smith won more of the critical points and came out winners 6-2 6-4 6-1.

In the Ladies A division Hilary Picton and Linda Trebilcock had to really concentrate to get the upper hand but Esther and Sandra managed to mount a determined fight back in the third set, but Hilary and Linda ran out 6-0 6-0 6-3 winners. Another

pair still wishing they were on their summer holidays were Julia Whetton and Ann Short as Nicky Trevaskis and Fiona Crutchley proved too strong and won 6-0 6-1 6-1. Katherine and Roanna enjoyed their first match of the season on a pleasant autumn evening and, with some lovely volleying from Katherine, beat Sandy Johnson and sub Di Harrison-Webber 6-3 6-2 6-1.

Unfortunately Alison Miles and Lyn Helliwell weren't able to keep up their winning form from last week and in a match of outstanding rallies and some great retrieving after many acutely angled shots, Sandra O'Sullivan and Luisa Waring won 1-6 6-3 6-5.

In the Ladies B division Liz Gill and Pat Hexter played together for the first time in a few years. They were giving a few years away to their opposition Stephanie D'Haussey and Caroline Floccia who's combined age probably didn't come to Pat's age. There were some challenging rallies but Stephanie and Caroline won 6-4 6-1 6-3. After nearly two hours of competitive tennis and lots of rallies Jill Cansfield and Elizabeth Nodder came out on top over Chris Woodroffe and Hilary Monk 6-2 6-3 6-4.

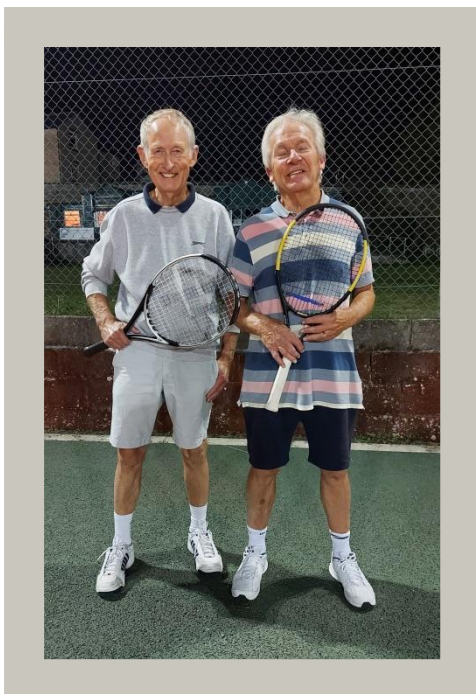
Despite Christine Woodward's excellent baseline shots and Noelle Boucherat's slices, Anne Hughes and Nicky Slight, with their good volleying and serving, managed to win 6-3 6-4 6-3.

Once they had mastered how to switch the floodlights on Ben Knight and Sam Williams beat Chris Janes & Varun Philip 6-1 6-1 6-1. Ben obviously didn't have any issues getting used to playing under floodlights as he gave the opposition a masterclass in volleying. In a match lasting nearly two hours Alan Mayes and sub Jack Allman overcame Dave Gale and Steve Matcham 6-1 6-0 6-1 with the scoreline not quite reflecting the many deuces and close rallies. There was a winter league debut for Eric Vicente who partnering Alex Cox beat Jason Vosper and Yuen Sui 6-1 6-1 6-2. It was a solid all round performance from Eric with accurate serving, good net play and winning down the line shots. This combined with Alex Cox's retrieving and some good overheads made it hard for Jason and Yuen to score many points. Yuen hit a number of 100mph plus serves which were not easy to return. Jason

Vosper hit some good backhand winners past the opposition at the net.

In Mens B there was a close game between Chris Shorter and John Putman against Andrew Regan and Dan Baugh. Chris and John went ahead in each of the sets but Andy and Dan came back strongly and there were some excellent rallies. Dan was very consistent and Andy made some decisive net interceptions but John's skilful shot selection and Chris's variety of serves caused some problems for Andy and Dan. However John and Chris had to draw on their experience and proved to be the tie break kings by winning overall 6-5 4-6 6-5. Mike Smith and sub James Spurgeon had a very close match against Pete Ireland and Jon Shackel and won 6-1 6-4 6-0.

In a match to be continued as they ran out of time Jon Jacobs and Mike Scott are two sets up against Sean Westonholme and Simon Dixon 6-5 6-3 with the third set finely poised at 4-4.



WEEK 1

The Brewin Dolphin Mannamead Winter League has started. Thirteen matches were played this week.

In the Men's A division Alex Cox and sub Matt Bowers beat Andy Weymouth and Bob Verey 6-1 6-0 6-1. Despite blustery conditions which made for difficult volleying, that did not stop Matt Bowers dominating at the net in his first taste of winter league action, in as a substitute for the ill Eric Vincente. The volleys were set up by some consistent and accurate serving by Alex Cox. Not to be outdone though, Andy Weymouth sent down some bombs of his own when serving but shots of the match go to Bob Verey with an on the run behind the back return and a ridiculously acute angled volley from knee level for a winner into the tram line. Ben Knight and Sam Williams beat Paul Cooper and sub James Spurgeon 6-2 6-2 6-0. Alan Mayes and Jose Rojas started powerfully against Chris Janes and Varun Philip and won the first 9 games straight off. Chris and Varun fought their way back into the match and took the second set with many long rallies of a high standard. Eventually power from Jose and precision from Alan won the day and they won 6-0 4-6 6-1. After ten seasons playing in the winter league Paul Matthews has taken a break this year ending his seventh season pairing with Jason Vosper. Jason Vosper now partnering Yuen Sui made a strong start to winter league beating Simon Disting and Neil Coleman. Jason and Yuen are a new pairing for the winter league, but play together for Newton & Noss Mayo in the P&D Summer league. In the match Yuen and Jason raced to a second set lead but in the third set Simon and Neil settled and led 5-3 but could not finish off Yuen and Jason who forced the tie break. Simon and Neil could not recover and lost the tie-break 7-1 with Jason and Yuen winning overall 6-1 6-3 6-5.

In the Men's B division Andrew Regan and Dan Baugh beat Jon Jacobs & Mike Scott in a close fought match 6-4 6-5 3-6.

Pete Ireland and Jon Shackel beat Sean Westonholme and Simon Dixon 6-5 6-2 6-3. Two new pairings for the winter league met in the first game and both pairs were trying to settle into the new surroundings with Nick Souness and Michael Smith starting the strongest. An early break of serve was key to their success which they maintained throughout. During the second set Richard Turner and Lester Ellicott started to settle and held on to some big rallies throughout but it wasn't enough to derail Nick Souness and Michael Smith to their great start to Division B winning 6-1 6-1 6-0.

In the Ladies A division Nicky Trevaskis and Fiona Crutchley were playing Hilary Picton and Linda Trebilcock. There were some epic rallies between Linda and Nicky. Despite going down 4-1 in the second set Nicky and Fiona turned it around and won 6-4 6-4 2-6. Alison Miles and Lynn Helliwell were obviously keen to play winter league tennis and in the first of their two matches played Esther Pettit and Sandra Fox but despite steady, consistent play from Esther and Sandra which produced some great rallies, Lyn and Alison had the upper hand with more winning shots. Sandra's persistent lobs interrupted Lyn and Alison's rhythm in the last set, but they managed to regain momentum to come back from 1-5 down to win the final set. The final score was 6-1 6-2 6-5 in favour of Alison and Lynn. In the second match Alison and Lynn played Henrietta Ferguson and sub Georgia Jones. In a most enjoyable game Lyn and Alison got off to a fine start, playing consistently well through the first two sets. However, Henrietta and Georgia found their form in the final set, but Lyn and Alison came out eventual ewinners 6-2 6-1 1-6.

In the Ladies B division Libby Allman and new partner Debbie Theophilus played Anne Hughes and Nicky Slight. In a friendly game with some long rallies and many deuces Libby and

Debbie came out on top 6-3 6-3 3-6. Stephanie D'Haussey and Caroline Floccia played their first match of the season in lovely conditions against Val Knight and Caroline Hambley and proved too strong winning 6-3 6-0 6-0. Angela Wright and Caroline Abernethy also appreciated the lovely conditions for an evening's tennis when playing Jane Williams and Victoria Roberts with Caroline and Jane having long cross court rallies. All was square after the first two sets. However, Caroline and Angela pulled ahead to win 6-4 4-6 6-1.

There were no mixed matches as it coincided with the presentation evening for the Head Summer League.



WEEK 0

The Brewin Dolphin Mannamead Winter League will be starting again in October.

This year there are a few changes. After ten years of sterling work organising the league Andrew Leigh has decided to take a bit of time out from tennis and handed over the organisational reins to Dave and Susie Gale. During those ten years Andrew has brought the running of the Winter League into the 21st Century with many aspects available online and via mobile.

Also Dave Williams who has been doing the Winter League Herald reports since chalk and slate has decided to, due to poor health, hand over the reports to Dave and Susie too.

We wish Andrew and Dave all the best and thank them for their hard work in keeping this popular event going for so many years. It will be big shoes to fill on both fronts.

We are pleased that there are some new pairs in the league this year and some familiar old faces appearing. Dudley Tolkien who is playing his 37th year in the winter league and celebrating 35 years with his current mixed partner Janet Butler. Also returning this year are the league's oldest pair – octogenarian Pat Hexter and septuagenarian Liz Gill. It's great to see them turn out each year despite the cold, wind and rain.

There are sixteen mens pairs split over two divisions, twenty two ladies pairs over two divisions and eight mixed pairs in one division. We wish them all well for the months ahead.

The league will run from October until the end of March and we hope to have the first match report out after the completion of the first week of play.

For all those taking part enjoy your tennis.

