

# EVENLODE B.C. Newsletter

Chairs chat.....

As we head rapidly towards the end of the season the recent snowy weather has meant that the season will be extended to ensure all postponed matches have a chance to be played. James has done a fantastic job in the last few weeks in rearranging dates and securing additional court time for us and other teams to enable this to happen. A huge thank you to James from the whole club for doing such a great job on this thankless (and seemingly never ending!) task.

These delays mean an exciting end of season for several of our teams as we battle to win divisions and avoid relegation. Our Ladies A and B teams are in a strong position in both Div 1 and 2 with a top 2 finish for both looking likely. We are also doing very well in the 3D leagues with a special mention to our 3DC team who have already secured promotion by winning division 4 - a great team effort.

Lastly, I would like to say a huge thanks to Lilian who will be stepping down as club secretary at the end of the season having served her maximum term. Lilian has done a fantastic job over the last 4 years and her support and knowledge during my first year as Chair has been invaluable. Lilian will continue to serve on the committee but this means there will be a vacancy to be filled so if you are interested in the secretary position please let myself or Lilian know.

## **Fixtures & Matches, Minutes & Newsletters**

Fixtures, minutes and newsletters as well as other useful general information is regularly updated on the Evenlode website: <http://www.evenlode-badminton.org>.

## **Evenlode End of Season Presentation Evening**

We are planning an awards presentation evening in April, more information to follow shortly.

## **OBL End of Season Presentation Evening**

This will take place on Friday 18 May at The Manor Preparatory School, Abingdon and will include a curry, raffle and live band along with the presentation of the league trophies. If you are interested please see a member of the committee for a ticket, we are guaranteed two trophies at present and your support would be great. Tickets are priced at £12.

## **AGM**

The AGM will be held on Monday 30 April at 7.30 pm at St Helen's School prior to our last club night. If you would like to become involved with the committee, or take over the secretary's role please speak to a member of the current committee and sign up on the form that will be displayed on the noticeboard. Everyone is expected to attend.

## **Summer Club**

We are planning to run our usual summer club starting Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July with the first two sessions at Larkmead (7.30-9.30) and then moving to St Helen's for 6 weeks from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July (8.00-10.00). These sessions will be pay and play at a cost of £5 per evening.

## **Facebook**

Why not join our facebook page 'Evenlode Badminton Club' for latest news updates and information.

## **Fixtures Secretary Report**

As the season draws to and end it worth reflecting on what Evenlode has done this year. We have 14 league teams making us the club with the most teams in the Oxfordshire league. So far we have won two trophies, well done to 3D C and Mixed C teams. The 3D B missed out on league title by 8 points. The ladies B team are top of Div 2 but have to see what the teams below them do. Ladies A are pushing Windrush A and Abingdon A hard, still a few games to go in that league. This year the 5D league started running again and the Evenlode team did very well, highlight has to be beating Abingdon A. The Men's teams have at times found it hard going, a little bit of luck here and there, players being available, it might have been a whole lot different. I have to say it was great to see Men's D field a team of U18's recently and they won the match; quite funny for Captain Steve Vaughan when you consider he is older than the combined age of 4 players from that team.



## **Junior Club**

At Start of season we lost nearly 15 players to the County set up and a few juniors moved up into adult club, this dropped our numbers to around 28. Over the season we have taken on several new juniors and our numbers stand at 52, soon to be 54 if two more decide to join. It is fair to say we are the largest junior club in Oxfordshire now. It is great to see so many under 18's playing in the teams for Evenlode this year. We also have a number of players representing the County as well, and this years' Oxfordshire ICT team has 6 Evenlode players out of 10 in it.

## **Junior News**

Congratulations to Safia, Bron Maisie, Luke, Charlie and Albie who have all been selected to represent Oxfordshire at the U18 ICT which is held in Nottingham during April, this is a 4 day tournament in which most of the counties enter with teams from Ireland, Guernsey and Wales. Good Luck also to Tracie Marriott one of the team managers and to Jamie Cackett who is one of the team coaches. Go Oxfordshire.

Charlie Driver and Maddy Cook won Hertfordshire U17 Bronze grade Tournament Mixed gold medal in January.

Bron and Maisie won Gold at Hereford U19 Bronze girls doubles that's 4 years in a row.

Albie won silver in boys doubles at West Midlands U15 silver and bronze in mixed and boys doubles at Warwick U15 Silver.

Congratulations to Charlie Driver who has won a staggering 8 gold, 5 silver and 5 bronze medals in various U16/U17 & U19 'bronze' competitions including gold county champion in the Oxfordshire U16 in singles, doubles and mixed. Read his player profile later in the newsletter.

## Player Profiles – 10 Questions

Joe Sweeney



I started playing about age 10 at SMASH badminton club based at St Helen's on a Saturday morning. I then started playing in the school team at John Mason, playing other schools and in inter-school tournaments. I built my confidence and went for county trials for U15s, but missed out in the first year and spent a year in the development squad. Got in the following year and played for county for the next 3 years. Enjoyed playing at Evenlode for a couple of years before leaving for University, where I spent 3 years playing for the University 1<sup>st</sup> team. I then came back to Evenlode and had a few good season, before having to retire mid-season for back injury. Had an operation on my back in July 2016 and after 11 months of physio came back for the 17/18 season. Found myself playing Men's C and 3DC this season with some appearances as a sub in other teams as well.

I have enjoyed playing in a variety of matches this season and having a laugh on and off court with all the members.

1. Best and worst venue played in.

Best – St Helen's of course. Worst – Blewbury Village Hall, one court ice box with a low ceiling.

2. Badminton highlight/achievement to date.

Winning the league undefeated Men's B a few years back but I don't think anything will top bumping into Lin Dan coming out of his hotel at the 2012 Olympics and getting a photo with him.

3. Which discipline do you prefer?

Men's doubles. Like the fast play and staying on the attack.

4. What is the best and worst things about badminton?

Best - playing matches in a team/having fun and a laugh at club night. Worst – long trips to away matches and then coming away with a loss.

5. What other hobbies do you have?

Ten pin bowling, swimming and video games

6. Favourite food and drink.

Favourite dish would be Chicken New Yorker. Favourite drink would have to be Lucozade Orange!

7. Best film watched so far.

Captain America: Civil War – Can't beat a good superhero film!

8. Car you own and would like to own.

Currently drive a Renault Megane Coupe 1.6. Realistically I would like a VW Golf Type R. If I won the lottery an Audi R8 V10 amongst others

9. Which club do you like playing against and why.

Gosford Hill because I found the players friendly and there was good competition for our Men's C matches.

10. Best biscuits to eat at a Badminton match.

Chocolate Bourbon, before, during and after!

## Lilian Pallister – Club Secretary



I started playing badminton at school at about 11 and then joined a newly formed club at West Buckland School, a one court hall at a private boys school (changing rooms in boys study block added to the attraction for a teenage girl growing up in the middle of Exmoor!!). I played mixed in the North Devon league. One of our player's mum used to supply copious amounts of food for our home matches on one court! I then moved to London, on to Northumberland and then Scotland and it wasn't until I moved back to Exeter that I took up badminton again, joining a local team. I was quite rusty to start with, but playing higher standard people brought my game up and when I moved to Abingdon 2 years later in 1994 I joined Evenlode and have been a member ever since (coming up for 24 years) starting in the Convent and then moving to St Helen's. Over the years I have played in a variety of teams and have seen members come and go and come back and go again! I have been Treasurer once and am just finishing my second term as Secretary.

1. Best and worst venue played in.

Best – Copperbox. Worst – Stonesfield, one court village hall, no space between end of court and stage and played on a Sunday afternoon.

2. Badminton highlight/achievement to date.

As Captain have won Mixed C a few time, but together with Simon (from Wallingford) won the local 'Better' games over 55's badminton competition organised by Vale of White Horse Leisure Centre and went on to represent the Vale and South Oxford at the Copperbox on the Olympic Park and came 11<sup>th</sup> out of 36 teams.

3. Which discipline do you prefer?

Mixed – James my long suffering partners does all the hard work running around at the back!

4. What is the best and worst things about badminton?

Best – making me get off the sofa and do some exercise. Worst – Weekend matches.

5. What other hobbies do you have?

Crossstitch, cooking and travelling

6. Favourite food and drink.

Chilli and prosecco

7. Best film watched so far.

Bridget Jones' Baby

8. Car you own and would like to own.

Currently drive a Ford Fiesta, now the kids have learnt and passed their tests, thinking of upgrading to a mini.

9. Which club do you like playing against and why.

Oxford Academy and Harwell – always good friendly ladies matches and close games.

10. Best biscuits to eat at a Badminton match.

Chocolate chip cookies.

## Charlie Driver, age 14, attends Burford School



In primary school I played every sport on offer, starting with tennis in year 2, then adding football, athletics, cricket, rugby and golf. It wasn't until 2014 when my mum bought a badminton net for the summer to put in our back garden, that I first picked up a badminton racket. Because I really enjoyed it, we found a local juniors club at Windrush in Witney and I began learning to play properly with Ian and Fiona Roberts. In Feb 2015 they suggested I enter the Oxfordshire Schools tournament, where I came 2nd in the singles and was therefore offered a place in the Oxfordshire Development squad. Now, three years later, I train four times a week within the Oxfordshire Academy Squad, have entered many tournaments across the country, winning Gold, Silver and Bronze medals in singles, doubles and mixed.

1. Who got you into playing Badminton?

Probably my mum as she bought the first badminton set we owned. However, Ian and Fiona taught me how to play badminton properly which was when I truly understood how difficult it was.

2. Badminton highlight/achievement to date?

Highlight to date is getting into the Oxfordshire U18 ICT team this year.

3. Which discipline do you prefer, singles or doubles?

I prefer to play doubles, but I think I'm better at singles. This probably comes down to practise time. I can train alone a lot, but not always for doubles.

4. Favourite school lesson and why?

Favourite school lesson is definitely PE as I love being active and enjoy playing pretty much every sport I do.

5. What other hobbies do you have?

I used to play any sport available as a hobby, but now my spare time is more limited outside of badminton. I play cricket in the summer and have had a few county cricket trials in the past; I sometimes play golf at my local club too.

6. Favourite food and drink?

Favourite food is steak and favourite drink is grape Fanta which is from America.

7. Best/favourite TV programme?

I don't watch a lot of TV anymore, but when I do it's usually sport based.

8. What job would you like to do in the future?

I don't know what I want to do in the future, but hopefully I'll find something I really enjoy when I'm older.

9. What badminton racket do you use (make and name)?

My racket is a Yonex Nanoray 900 which I really enjoy playing with as it's a very good Racket.

10. Best biscuits to eat at a Badminton match?

I enjoy biscuits a lot and my favourite ones would probably be the raisin hobnobs, but personally I think flapjacks are very good for an energy boost mid match.