

A Team review by Captain Stephen Mallard

The A team squad this year consisted of 26 players, one of the strongest squads we've had for some time. That number is expected to remain similar, and even increase, going into the next season. The addition of some rapidly improving juniors and some very experienced 'stalwarts' mean we have every reason to be excited going forward.

The start of the season was slower than we wanted. Our opening league match was at home against a very strong Sittingbourne side, who came out on top 3.5-0.5; disappointing as we had beaten Sittingbourne away in the League last season as well as beating them in the Kent Foursomes Final.

Fixtures tend to build up in the Spring months due to us being in 4 separate competitions, meaning depth of squad is important and must be utilised. A very close 6.5-5.5 first round loss in the Guildford trophy to Princes at home, and a combined 4 down loss to Wrotham away in the second round of the Kent Foursomes was not what we had hoped for.

Our league form stabilised as the season continued, and we were unbeaten following that initial game loss to Sittingbourne. Unfortunately, Sittingbourne also continued to

win, meaning we came a close second place, some way ahead of 3rd place.

This season saw us play in the Southern Counties Scratch League for the first time. The format involved 5 leagues comprising of 5 teams from the Counties in Southern England, with monthly matches throughout summer. Each match consisted of 5 scratch singles games, with the top team plus best second placed teams progressing to a finals day knockout. We unfortunately didn't progress from our group, but it came down to the last game, narrowly losing 3-2 to Reigate Hill Golf Club.

Performances have continued to improve throughout the year, most recently beating Faversham 4-0 in our final match last Sunday. This puts us in a great position to build on back-to-back second place league finishes and push for the title next season.

Unfortunately, vice captain Dicky Moxham has left the club, but I am pleased to announce Tom Sherreard has agreed to be a vice captain for next year. I am also pleased to announce Jake Bacon and David Frost have agreed to continue their roles as vice captain and A team administrator respectively, and I thank them and the whole A team squad for their commitment this year.

Much appreciated