

Twickenham Ladies report 2022

I will start this year's ladies report with thanks to those who help with the ladies' section. A big thank you goes to Liam who came on board as the ladies' coach and, evident by the progress of players, it has been extremely beneficial to have Liam on board. We thank him for his time and commitment and hope that he is back on board this summer.

Next are the officials, so vital to each and every match. We have very much missed Brian this season but our many thanks go to Janet G, Betty, and David who have kindly umpired and to Carol who is our regular scorer along with Jo and myself who take up the pen when Carol isn't available, not forgetting John and Kim Downey who helped out with both towards the end of the season. Thank you all for giving up your time. We couldn't do it without you. Carol has been involved with the ladies' section for 60 years and Janet G marks her 40th year. Extraordinary achievements and an extra round of applause go to them both for their service as both player and official.

A big thank you also goes to Sarai who is the key that holds the team together with her enthusiasm and encouragement both on and off the field. Along with doing a tremendous amount of work for the ladies' section and from a secretary's point of view Sarai is a pleasure to work with.

I can't forget a thank you to the players; you make the team and game possible but it was a great disappointment that, despite having 25 paid members, possibly the best membership I can recall, availability was sorely lacking. More senior players slipped the net and others made themselves available far too few times. There was a core to the team and I am sure it will be these players that carry the ladies through to next season. Sinwana is to be congratulated on being awarded Player of the Season at the club dinner.

Several of these players took up the opportunity offered by Surrey to attend some batting and bowling tuition over the winter, as well as organising some extra nets once those on The Green finished. I trust you found these coaching sessions useful and it has given you some extra confidence with your cricket skills.

We thank Nigel for the terrific job he does with the pitches, Ana with her bar work when the ladies are at home, as well as the club committee supporting the ladies' team and, thanks to sponsorship, some nice new shirts as part of the membership. Thank you also to Claire for all the hard work organising socials; not only for the ladies but some excellent club events, enjoyed by so many.

As for playing, in addition to competition games, we also played 6 friendlies; a total of 18 games altogether and throughout these games there were some excellent over 50 partnerships, shared amongst players. KMF achieved her first 50 and bowling highlights went to Janet H, Robin and Sarai. There were a number of close games that perhaps should have gone our way, so if we can improve on not giving away so many extras and a few more on the bat which I am confident you can all achieve, more wins will surely come our way. We thank Carol for all her hard work compiling the ladies' stats. It is always interesting to see the outcome of games played summarised.

We had hoped that, with our relegation last year, we would find our playing level but through the lack of winning any league matches (in fact defaulting on two), we are relegated yet again. Now in Division One of the Surrey league, we are confident that 2023 will be our season. We did however fare much better in the Surrey Slam competition, going through to the Plate competition and found ourselves,

after winning a quarter-final match v Horley at the semi-finals and final day at the lovely ground of Horsley and Send in Surrey. However our performance on the day did not merit us getting to the finals as we lost considerably against Walton who eventually went on to win the final of the Plate competition.

September also saw the presentation at Lords and The Oval of the prestigious County Caps awarded to a number of former members in recognition of their playing days for Middlesex or Surrey or for their contribution to women's cricket. An excellent way to end the season.

Next season sees some changes: Leanne is taking over as the ladies' secretary with Priti dealing with fixtures and, although Sarai is continuing with captaining the league side, Robin takes over as the Slam captain. Good luck ladies. I will certainly miss you but my thoughts are the same as a year ago, that the way forward for the ladies is with a more youthful team taking on the challenge of Twickenham Ladies.

Janet Bitmead
Hon Secretary
February 2023