

UNDER 125 CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Last year was an exceptional year, which I had hoped to be a launching platform for this year. We managed to win two matches, and with a little bit of luck could have drawn against Oxford. Their captain said, and I quote him accurately, If there are any more matches like this one, then you will have to find a new captain, I cannot take the suspense any more. It went to the wire with our player losing on time with a won position. We lost 9 – 7.

I would like to thank all the team for their efforts, and sometimes, great performances, against the odds. All our boards are normally out graded. The board count last year, when we came second, was 47.5. This year the count was slightly less at 43. When our board count is usually 27 – 30, per year, this is exceptional, to say the least.

I have to praise the juniors, of whom I call my engine room, In the under 125s, Chantelle Foster, Jamie Tilston, Matthew Saunders, Alec Howe, Calum Harris and William Claridge - Hansen. These were in my under 100s. Unfortunately, they won't be next season, but I am hoping that they will excel themselves in the under 150s next season. With those juniors in the team, we stand a chance of taking the title. My engine room is positive proof of the importance of the under 100s competition.

Under 100 Captain's report

The new under 100s Competition got off to a brilliant start, with the team beating Oxford 9 – 3. The adults scored 5 and the juniors scoring 4. The next game, against Hants, we lost 7 – 5, with a scratch team of juniors, who managed to score 2.5 points, and the adults scored the same.

The next game was against Berks, we drew 5.5 – 5.5, defaulting one board. The juniors scored 3 and adults 2.5. We had to play Oxford, in the 3rd or 4th play off, and won 9.5 – 2.5. With the adults scoring 5.5, the juniors scoring 4.

Besides me, there was only one other adult player who played all four games, Fred Day. I would like to thank Fred, who fully supported me

and willingly put his head above the parapet to be shot at, so to speak, by the juniors. On board one he had some very hard games. No adult, from all four Counties, had an easy game, in all four venues.

I would also like to thank the other adults, and juniors, who filled in. Andrew, Frank, Malcolm, Mike, Brian and Ian. On the junior side, Simon, Richard, Chappells. With Joe Butler and Joshua Ye.

Next season the Old under 100s will be called the under 125s, and the cup will be called the Chris Stothert Trophy, much to my surprise and delight. I consider this a great honour, from all four Counties, and am proud to have my name on the Trophy. I thank all those who voted for this.

Regards

Chris Stothert