

### Carvoeiro Clube de Ténis - Ladies 45+ team: National Champions 2 years running!

Our coach, Graeme Hulme, remarked on the way to Lisbon that last year's win on home ground was tough, but definitely not as hard as it would be to win in Lisbon against the best teams and certainly some of the best players in this age group in the country. We had been training hard for a number of weeks but when we saw the list of competitors it was clear that this was going to be a battle.

One of our team members was heard to say that it would be fine if we just managed to win from Jim Stewart's tennis Academy in Quinta do Lago (our local rivals). Our first match was indeed against them and after winning one single and losing the other; it came down to the double to see who would win the battle of the Algarve. Happily for us, we managed to do just that. So one victory under the belt and on to day 2!

On the second day we had to play against a very strong team from CNG (Clube Nacional de Ginastica), who had also won the day before. Valentina Green and Stella Rocha played the 2 singles matches. More than 3 exhausting hours later – not just for Stella who played this marathon match but for the rest of the supporting team – she finally managed to pull it off! Valentine's match was not so strenuous but was also a victory for the Carvoeiro ladies. The doubles was lost but was of no matter as we had managed a second victory!

So contrary to our expectations we arrived on court on day 3 as almost certain champions as our opponents from Estoril had already lost their first two matches. Stella and Valentina did us proud and we had done it – National champions for the second year running!

Well done to all the players – Valentina Green, Stella Rocha, Debbie Simão, Jill Brand and Mo Beilby and a very special thanks to Graeme for all his patience with us. Oh, and a special mention for the supporter who came with two right shoes and caused much hilarity!



Debbie, (Julie, Fiona, Gaby, Sarah from Jim Stewart TA) Stella, Mo  
Graeme, Phil, Jill, Valentina



Isabel, Maria José, Margit, Maria (CNG), Jill, Valentina, Debbie Mo, Stella, Maria João (CNG)



Gold medals for: Stella, Mo, Debbie, Valentina and Jill. On the photo with Juiz árbitro António Martins.