

SURREY SQUASH AND RACKETBALL ASSOCIATION

Annual Report 2007 – 2008

1. Surrey Squash Committee.

The Surrey Squash Committee, made up of the officers and representatives of the six working groups: (Tournaments, Inter County, Juniors, Leagues and Publicity and Sponsorship) has met on five occasions during the year.

The existing committee members have remained the same this year with Tim Stainton taking over responsibility for the Surrey Cup as well as running the League Master website.

The South-East area development officer, Justyn Price has provided the Committee with regular updates on England Squash matters as well as leading the development of squash and racketball in Surrey and the other counties in the South-East.

Various members of the committee have attended all the England Squash Council meetings, including the AGM, held in the year.

The Club Affiliation Scheme has now been operating for four years and although it still has many shortcomings (which we hope are recognised by England Squash) the collection of fees was much improved, mainly due to the prompt payment by clubs. Thank you to all clubs who helped in this way but there is still one or two who continue to need many reminders. If a club does not pay promptly, this can affect the amount of rebate the county gets from England Squash and can also delay the payment of the rebate. It will also prevent any player from that club playing in graded tournaments or representing the county at any level. The committee may therefore have to make the regrettable decision to stop that club from playing in the Surrey Cup or Surrey Trophy. It is therefore in the interest of all players to make sure their club is affiliated. England Squash have announced that current player membership fees will be increased annually in line with inflation to ensure a steady income stream. They currently stand at £6.50 for Seniors and to £4.50 for Juniors, with court fees at £55 per court up to 4 courts.

Financial matters are an increasing concern, even though the financial position of the county has improved. The income from the new affiliation scheme and entry fees for the leagues and competitions still does not cover all county expenses and we again appeal to all the county teams to continue to adhere to the guidelines on expenditure.

2. Development.

Development of squash in Surrey continues to progress with the help of many enthusiastic club volunteers and Justyn Price as the London Area Squash Manager. We also have a newly appointed Development Coach for Surrey, Graeme Williams,

Jo Robinson, who many of you may know from Ebbisham Squash club, has been appointed London / Surrey Community Squash Coach, a new position which already has improved the uptake of squash and mini squash at grassroots level. The Club

Charter award is still being given to clubs who show that they are maintaining good practice in coaching, child protection and competition at all standards.

The following clubs have been awarded the Club Charter accreditation as listed:

Gold: Esporta Health & Rackets, Varsity Squash & Tennis Club, Wimbledon Racquets & Fitness Club.

Silver: Ebbisham Squash Club, Purley Squash Rackets Club, Limpsfield Squash Club, and Wimbledon Lakeside.

Bronze: Ashtead Tennis and Squash Club,

3. Junior Squash.

Surrey has proved again that it is one of the strongest counties for junior squash. The teams and squads coached by Neil Frankland and his helpers have again travelled all over the country to play in the Inter County Championship and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the coaches and members of the Junior Committee who work very hard to make Surrey junior squash so successful.

In the Inter County Championships, 3 Surrey teams qualified for the Inter-County Finals weekend.

- The Girl's U 15 and U13 teams each came third.
- The Girl's U17 team came fourth.

As last year the boy's teams were not as successful as usual but we have a large number of players ranked in the England top 20 in their age groups.

Individually the following players have been ranked in the England top 20 in their age group.

Boys: Joe Lee, Alex Ingham, Charles Sharpes, Nicholas Hopcroft, David Wardle, Robert Claydon, Hussein Houta, Jonathan Brown

2 in top 5 at Under 19, 12 in top 100 at Under 17, 9 at Under 15, 6 at Under 13 in top 50.

Girls: Harriet Ingham, Emma Wardle, Jane Allman, Francesca Ritchie, Hannah Measures, Katie Wilson, Madelene Peddy, Libby Walters.

6 at both Under 17 and Under 15 in top 50,

For more detailed information on Junior Squash you can visit the Surrey or England Squash website and click on the appropriate links.

4. Inter County Championships (Senior Teams)

Our particular congratulations go to:

- The Men's senior team, who after being runners-up last year went one step better by winning the competition by beating Shropshire in the final by 4-1 after brilliantly beating Yorkshire 4-1 in the semi. The players were Neil Frankland, Neil Desai, Jamie Matthews, James Simpson, Michael Hannings, Tom Richards, Joe Lee, and Phil Nightingale. Well done to you all.
- The Men's Over 55 team of Paul Garbutt, Steve Jackson, Trevor Wilkinson, Stuart Murray and Andy Larkin who beat Yorkshire in the semi by 4-1 and repeated this score in the final against Hampshire.
- The Ladies Over 40 team of Samantha Willis, Claire Baker, Tammy Bennett, Maggie North, Jacky Jones and Jo Robinson who beat, guess who, Yorkshire by 4-1 in the final after beating Leicestershire in the semi by the same score.

Also mention must be made of the Men's Over 45 team of Greg Pearman, Dermot Hurford, Andy Wilde, Paul Ekins and Duncan Marlow who, after beating Lancashire 4-1 in the semi-final, went down 4-1 in the final to guess who!

Overall a superb season, with the other county teams not mentioned above performing well in representing the county. The committee would like to thank all the Captains and players for their support throughout the season and highlight how well Surrey as a county competes in all the Inter County Leagues as the majority of teams are all in Premier Divisions.

5. Tournaments.

Junior Closed Championship

This was held in September 2007 at Wimbledon Racquets and Fitness Club. There were nine age events with plate competitions, with the usual large entry of boys and girls and was supported by Dunlop.

The winners were:

	Girls	Boys
Under 19	Katherine Reilly	Harry Beeston
Under 17	Francesca Ritchie	Matt Costain
Under 15	Katie Wilson	Hussein Houta
Under 13	Katie Wilson	Jonny Brown
Under 11	Mixed	Ben Windle

Junior Open Championship

This was held at St. George's Hill in December 2007 and was sponsored by Technifibre. There were 140 entries in the 4 age groups coming from all over the country and some from abroad. Again a number of Surrey Juniors did extremely well and our congratulations go to the following Surrey players:

- Harriet Ingham won the Under17 Girl's

- Georgie Ingham won the Under15 Girl's.
- Hussein Houta won the Under 15 Boy's
- Alison Thompson won the Under13 Girl's
- Ben Windle won the Under 11 Boy's beating Charlie Lee in the final
- Nick Hopcroft was the losing finalist in Under 17 Boy's.

Thanks to Danny Lee who once again ran the event so efficiently and successfully with support from Claire Baker.

Senior Closed Championship held at Wimbledon Lakeside in October 2007

Results:

- The Senior Men's Championship was again won by Stacey Ross who this year beat Phil Nightingale in the final.
- The Senior Women's Championship was won by Isabelle Tweedle, for the third time, who beat Harriet Ingham in the final.

The winners in the graded events were:

- Grade B Michael Hennings
- Grade C Tim Rye
- Grade D Chris Browning
- Over 35 Peter Crossman
- Over 45 Dermot Hurford
- Over 55 Paul Garbutt
- Over 60 John O'Brien
- Over 40 Ladies Tammy Bennett

Thanks to Claire Baker who once again ran the Championship so efficiently and successfully

Graded Tournaments

A number of clubs have held graded tournaments and they have proved very successful, attracting players of all standards. Lakeside, Esporta, Ebbisham and Wimbledon are amongst those who have organised these events.

The Committee would like to thank all those involved in organising the county tournaments especially Phil Rushworth for the Junior Closed, Danny Lee for the Junior and Senior Open, and Claire Baker and helpers at Wimbledon Lakeside Club for the Senior Closed.

Information about up and coming tournaments is normally on the Surrey website often with the entry form, making it really easy to enter and support your club and county.

6. Leagues

Surrey continues to run leagues throughout the year and it is important to remember the amount of work that this involves. The Winter Surrey Cup is managed by Tim Stainton and his league co-ordinators, the Winter Surrey Trophy by Sue Monckton,

the Veterans and Vintage leagues by Geoff Howes, the Junior league by Claire Baker and the Summer Surrey Cup and Trophy by Sue Hamilton. The Committee and all who play in these leagues would like to thank them for all their hard work and commitment to the county. The results are:

Men - Winter Surrey Cup

Division 1	Colets1	Division 6R	Purley 4
Division 2	Varsity 1	Division 7B	Colets 5
Division 3	St George's Hill 2	Division 7R	David Lloyd Epsom 3
Division 4	Wimbledon Racquets 3	Division 8B	Colets 6
Division 5B	Bourne 1	Division 8R	Cannons West Byfleet 4
Division 5R	Varsity 2	Division 9	Cheam 3
Division 6B	Sandown Park 2		

Women - Winter Surrey Trophy

Division 1	Colets 1
Division 2	Cannons West Byfleet 1
Division 3	Ebbisham 2

Veterans

Division 1	Colets 1
Division 2	New Malden 1
Division 3	St George's Hill 1
Division 4	Wimbledon Racquets 2

Knockout winners:

Vintage

Division 1	Oxshott
Division 2	Woking

Junior

Division 1	Wimbledon R&F 1	Division 7	Ashtead 3
Division 2	Cheam 1`	Division 8	Wimbledon Lakeside 2
Division 3	LA Fitness 1	Division 9	Reigate 7
Division 4	Ebbisham 3	Division 10	LA Fitness 4
Division 5	Wimbledon Lakeside 1	Division 11	LA Fitness 5
Division 6	Ashtead 2		

Summer Surrey Cup

Division 1	Colets 1	Division 5B	Limpsfield 2
Division 2	Wimbledon R&F 1	Division 5R	David Lloyd Brooklands 1
Division 3B	Limpsfield 1	Division 6B	Esporta 3
Division 3R	Wimbledon R&F 2	Division 6R	Purley 5
Division 4B	Elmbridge 1	Division 7B	Amida 1
Division 4R	St George's Hill 2	Division 7R	Woking 3
		Division 8	Warlingham 4

Summer Surrey Trophy

Division 1	New Malden 1
Division 2	Surbiton1
Division 3	Colets 2
Division 4	Ebbisham 2

Premier Squash League – Won by Surrey club Esporta playing under the name of their sponsor PCL Whitehall Security Surrey Health and Racquets Club.

7. Publicity and Sponsorship.

Two issues of the Surrey Squash Hand-out were published and it was distributed to over 60 Clubs, 36 Schools and members of the Patrons' Association. Keith Richards is responsible for its publishing and we thank him for all his hard work in producing and compiling all the information needed to make it a complete view of Surrey Squash. If you have not seen a copy of the handout it is now possible to see the last two on the Surrey Website.

Dunlop has continued with its support to the county and will provide prizes for the Junior Closed tournament and work closely with England Squash providing balls for all Inter County matches. Other Dunlop goods are also available at reduced prices.

8. Surrey SRA Patrons' Association

Membership is now over 50 and the income derived from membership, goes to help our juniors. Patrons receive copies of the Newsletter and information on County events.

Membership details can be obtained from the Secretary, Florence Hepburn, 28, Lynton Road, New Malden, Surrey KT3 5EE.

9. Referees.

During the past year Ebbisham and St. George's Hill have held marker and referee courses but unfortunately there have been no other courses held in the county. The committee hope that more clubs will be interested in running courses as it is extremely important to maintain a good standard of marking throughout the county. Those interested, please contact the County Secretary.

We are still looking for someone to stand as referee co-ordinator. If anyone is interested in the post, please let a member of the committee know. A list of referees who are available to officiate can be obtained from the county captains, and the committee would like to thank all those referees who have given their time at the County Tournaments and Inter County weekends.

10. Surrey SRA Website

Our own website www.surreysra.co.uk was launched two years ago and contains general information about the committee, the leagues, county match venues and results, tournaments and also advertises forthcoming events to be held in the county. We now have the site being managed by Surrey Web Designs and any appropriate information can be sent to them at david@surreywebdesign.co.uk. We hope to continue to enlarge the site to include historical records and past Surrey Handouts. There are also many other links including one to League master where all the league results can be found.

11. Individual Achievements

The County should also acknowledge the many individual achievements that our Surrey players have obtained.

Jamie Mathews, from Ebbisham, the 2007 World Deaf Squash Champion.

Stacey Ross ranked 12 in the England Senior Rankings.

Tom Richards ranked 24 in the England Senior Rankings

Joe Lee led the England Team to victory over France to regain the European Junior U19 Team Squash Championship. He was also the runner up in European Junior Finals and the British Junior Open.

England International selections

035W Samantha Willis

040W Claire Baker and Jackie Jones

045M Greg Pearman and Stuart Farrah

Juniors Joe Lee and Charles Sharpe

British Open Championships

Maggie North Over 50 Ladies Champion

Pat Kirton Over 70 Mens Champion

Samantha Willis Over 40 Ladies Runner-Up

Tammy Bennett Over 45 Ladies Runner-Up

Trevor Wikinson Over 60 Mens Runner-Up

British National and World Masters

Pat Kirton Over 70 Champion this year after being runner-up last year

Greg Pearman Runner-up in the Over 45 event.

Colets remain the top club in the country, as their men are National Club Champions as well the champions in the over 45 category thus qualifying for the ESF European Club Championships being held in Linz, Austria at the end of September.

Colets ladies were runners up in the National Cup Championship.

Looking at all these excellent individual and team results it shows that Surrey players are some of the best in the country. We should be extremely proud of their achievements and of the counties volunteers who work so hard to keep Surrey Squash running smoothly and apologies to anyone whose achievements I have missed

12. The Future

- World Squash Championships being held in Manchester this October.
- Scoring – Increased use of PAR (Points A Rally) in tournaments/events that will potentially gradually permeate through all levels of squash
- Increasing visibility and importance of racketball to the sport and club use and thus commercial viability of the venues, some of which are under threat of closure.
- It is not only us here in Surrey suffering from lack of volunteers to take on roles and help development and advance squash in the county as this very issue was raised by a number of counties at the recent England Squash Council meeting. All activities are being affected by reducing numbers of people willing, or able, to put something back into their sports. If anyone wants to help please just speak to us as there are always jobs to be done.

I would like to wish Surrey every success in the future and thank the committee and all of the volunteers for their hard work and dedication to making Surrey such a successful county and a major force in England squash.

Before closing I would like to thank Richard Williams, not only personally for all the help support he has given me, but also on behalf of the Surrey Committee for his commitment to helping run squash in Surrey over the past 12 years. He has managed, coerced and controlled our finances over the years and without him I am convinced we would not be in such a current healthy position. He has for some poor reason decided to take on other roles as well as on concentrating on playing his real love, Real Tennis, and his aim to play on all available courts both here in the UK and overseas, if he can find any!. We wish him well in all he decides to do.

Richard Winter
Chairman - Surrey Squash and Racketball Association
July 2008