

SURREY SQUASH AND RACKETBALL ASSOCIATION

Annual Report 2008 – 2009

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 committee members have remained the same this year with the exception of Isabel Tweedle replacing our long standing Treasurer Richard Williams and Tim Stainton also taking on responsibility for your Racketball League as well as the Surrey Cup.

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. Regrettably Justyn has now had to stand down from England Squash as he has moved with his family to Birmingham and although we wish him well in his new life we will certainly miss his support. His post of South-East area development officer has been advertised and hopefully a replacement will shortly be appointed.

Surrey has been represented by various members of the committee who have attended all but one of the England Squash Council meetings, including the AGM, held in the year and that one was my fault as I said I would go but at last minute found that jetlag was kicking in after flying back from Australia the previous day!

The Club Affiliation Scheme has now been operating for four years and although it still has shortcomings, we know are recognised by England Squash, the collection of fees was much improved, mainly due to the prompt payment by clubs. England Squash has formed a Working Group to look at the whole issue of members and membership and we have already seen improvements in the communication with England Squash. Thank you to all clubs who helped by paying promptly 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 as always a concern and overall the financial position of the county has improved. As a county we have incurred heavier expenses through our increased involvement in the County Championship at all levels so we need to remain vigilant in order to balance our books and fund squash and racketball development within the county.

2. Development.

Development of squash in Surrey continues to progress with the help of many enthusiastic club volunteers supported throughout the year by Justyn Price. In addition Graeme Williams has just been appointed as Regional Coach for the London Region and Tim Vail as Regional Coach for the South East Region.

Jo Robinson, who many of you may know from Ebbisham Squash club, has come to the end of her three year tenure as London / Surrey Community Squash Coach, and she has achieved an enormous amount in those three years and introduced hundreds of children to the world of squash. Our grateful thanks for all her efforts.

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 and Wimbledon Lakeside

Silver: Ebbisham Squash Club, Purley Squash Rackets Club and Limsfield Squash Club,

Bronze: Ashtead Tennis and Squash Club and Warlingham Squash Club

3. Junior Squash.

Surrey has proved once again that it is one of the strongest counties for junior squash with a best ever representation at the Inter County Championship, where we had 7 teams through to the finals. Congratulations to all the players involved as well as the many parents who acted as chauffeurs and supporters. Special thanks to the coaches led by Neil Frankland and the members of the Junior Committee who work very hard to make Surrey junior squash so successful.

In the Inter County Championships, 7 Surrey teams qualified for the Inter-County Finals weekend.

- The Girl's U13 team of Alison Thomson, Katie Wilson and Rosie Lee are National Champions defeating Gloucestershire in the Final.
- The Girl's U15 were national Runners-Up just losing 3-2 to Warwickshire.
- The Girl's U17 team came fourth after clearly winning their Regional Group.
- The Girl's U19 also came fourth losing to strong opposition.
- The Boy's U15's won the Plate competition with our 2nd team unfortunately having to withdraw.
- The Boy's U17's also won the Plate competition.

- The Boy's U19 were Runners-Up just losing to Gloucestershire

After the disappointment of last year the boy's teams greatly improved with 3 finalists and the Girl's were outstanding with 4 teams through to the finals with one champion and one Runner-up! Congratulations to all.

Individually the following players are currently ranked in the England top 25 in their respective age groups with a number also being ranked in the next age group up as well.

Boys: Alex Ingham, Charles Sharpes, Nicholas Hopcroft, David Wardle, Laurence Bruggeman, Jonathan Brown, Tom Bailey, and Ben Windle

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

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

<http://www.surreysra.co.uk/juniors.html>

<http://www.englishsquashandracketball.com/competitions/search?region=&category=3>

4. Inter County Championships (Senior Teams)

Congratulations go to:

- The Men's senior team could not retain last year's title going down in the semis to Sussex but finished third after beating Yorkshire 5-0 in the Play-off.
- The Men's Over 35 team also beat Yorkshire 5-0 to retain their Premier Division status by finishing 5th.
- The Men's Over 45 team repeated their achievement of last year but this year lost to Middlesex in the Final – Runners-up again!
- The Men's Over 55 team finished a commendable 3rd losing to Yorkshire in the semi-final.
- The Men's Over 60 team also finished 3rd losing to Middlesex, the eventual champions, in the semi-final.
- The Ladies Senior team unfortunately could not field their strongest team and were relegated from the Premier Division.
- However the Ladies 2nd Team of Sandra Dunn, Claire Baker, Cate Mullins, Vicky Strange and Madeleine Peddy are National Champions after beating Yorkshire in the Semi-final and then Cheshire 3-2 in the final.
- The Ladies Over 40 team also could not retain last year's title but did reach the final only to lose 3-2 to Yorkshire.
- The Ladies Over 50 team finished a creditable 4th in the Premier Division

Overall an excellent season, with all our teams 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 our teams are all in the Premier Divisions. Long may it continue!

5. Tournaments.

Junior Closed Championship

This was held in September 2008 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	Harriet Ingham	Lawrence Bruggemann
Under 17	Georgie Ingham	Laurence Bruggemann
Under 15	Hannah Measures	David Smith
Under 13	Katie Wilson	Ben Windle
Under 11	Mixed	Charlie Lee

Junior Open Championship

This was held at St. George's Hill in December 2008 and was sponsored by TWP. There were 120 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 beating Francesca Ritchie
- Georgie Ingham won the Under15 Girl's beating Claire Wright
- Alison Thompson won the Under13 Girl's
- Charlie Lee won the Under 11 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 2008

Results:

- The Senior Men's Championship was won by Tom Richards beating last year's winner Stacey Ross in the final.
- The Senior Women's Championship was won by Sam Willis as unfortunately Harriet Ingham was unwell to play the final

The winners in the graded events were:

- Grade B Dean Newberry
- Over 35 Cliff Martindale
- Over 45 Richard Harrison
- Over 55 Steve Jackson
- Over 60 Patrick Fleming

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	St George's Hill 1	Division 6R	Lakeside 4
Division 2	Purley 1	Division 7B	New Malden 3
Division 3	Princes 1	Division 7R	Charing Cross Sports 1
Division 4	Lakeside 3	Division 8B	Reigate 4
Division 5B	Nuffield West Byfleet 2	Division 8R	Preston Cross 1
Division 5R	Amida 1	Division 9	Spencer 1
Division 6B	St George's Hill 3		

Women - Winter Surrey Trophy

Division 1	Colets 1
Division 2	Lakeside 1
Division 3	St Georges Hill 2

Veterans

Division 1	Colets 1
Division 2	St George's Hill 1 & Purley 1
Division 3	Wimbledon Lakeside 2
Division 4	Oxshott 2
Division 5	Sutton Tennis & Squash 1

Knockout winners: Still to be played

Vintage

Division 1	Woking 1
Division 2	Colets 2

Racketball

Division 1	Surbiton 1
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Junior

Division 1	Varsity1	Division 6	New Malden 2
Division 2	New Malden 1`	Division 7	New Malden 3
Division 3	Reigate 2	Division 8	Surbiton 3
Division 4	Purley 2	Division 9	RAC
Division 5	Reigate 4	Division 10	Reigate 7

Summer Surrey Cup

Division 1	Christophers1	Division 5R	Wimbledon 4
Division 2	Esporta 1	Division 6B	David Lloyd Epsom 3
Division 3B	Reigate 1	Division 6R	Lakeside 4
Division 3R	Colets 2	Division 7B	Bourne 2
Division 4B	Lakeside 2	Division 7R	Priory Health 1
Division 4R	David Lloyd Epsom 2	Division 8B	Dorking 3
Division 5B	Wimbledon 5	Division 8R	Bourne 3

Summer Surrey Trophy

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

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 totally 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 we have had a couple of marker and referee courses but we still need more in order to ensure that club players are actually aware of the rule and play to them!. If any clubs wish to run an evening session please contact Janice, 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.

England International selections

Over 35W	Isabel Tweedle and Samantha Willis
Over 40W	Jackie Jones and Samantha Willis
Over 45W	Claire Baker
Over 45M	Greg Pearman
Over 55M	Alistair Niven
Under 19B	Alex Ingham
Under 17B	Nick Hopcroft
Juniors	Joe Lee and Charles Sharpe

British Open Championships

Maggie North Over 55 Ladies Champion (after winning O50 last year)
Pat Kirton Over 70 Mens Champion (retained from 2007)
Samantha Willis Over 40 Ladies Runner-Up (again!)

British National Championships

Samantha Willis Over 40 Ladies Champion

World Masters

Greg Pearman - Bronze medal in the Over 45 event in NZ
Claire Baker - Bronze medal Over 45 event in NZ

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

- The possibility of Squash in the Olympics – the WSF are leading our sport's aspirations to be an Olympic Sport in 2016
- 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 is always raised at 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.

However, before closing I would like to mention the losses that squash in Surrey and the South East has suffered this year. Some of you will have met both Ian Wright and Norman Wilby. Ian, the long standing mainstay of squash in Kent and leading advocate of Racketball died earlier this year after suffering a heart attack whilst playing in a tournament. Ian had been secretary of Kent Squash for 40 years and was always willing to help all involved in the sport. He also created the British version of Racketball in 1976 and the success of the sport can be measured by over 100 clubs being registered to the British Racketball Association. Then recently we had the sad news that Norman Wilby who had been the Secretary for Middlesex for over 30 years before retiring in 2005 had died after a series of strokes. Much closer to home, and at the other end of the squash spectrum, was the sad and sudden loss of Neil Desai at the age of 22 who died on his birthday last September. All those who had met Neil were always struck by his unfailing good humour and enthusiasm for all that he was involved in. That may have been squash, cricket, law, civil liberties or just helping others but what ever he did he enjoyed it to the full and our thoughts will always be with his family for their deep loss. As some of you may be aware there will be a commemorative event at St Georges Hill in support of the Neil Desai Foundation, which supports those causes that mattered most to Neil. As soon as the details are finalised we will publish them on the website.

Richard Winter
Chairman - Surrey Squash and Racketball Association
July 2009

(Apologies for any errors – they are all of my own making but please let me know and I will correct.)