

Henley Squash Club Newsletter

September 2018

New Season 2018/19

Welcome to a new winter season, traditionally the start of the squash year. Over the summer there has been considerable activity in the Club.

National and International Squash

The highlight of the summer has to have been Jill Campion winning at the World Masters Championships in Charlottesville Virginia USA (29 July – 5 August). It was a tense affair for anyone watching but she eventually secured the win 3:2 (more on the club website).

Jill and David Wright played for England and Wales respectively in the Home International Masters squash at the end of the regular season.

Team Squash

Throughout the summer we have had three teams in the top three divisions of the Oxfordshire League. I am pleased to be able to report that the 1st team, led by Simon Street, won the first division with a clear margin of 28 points (max 19 per match). The 2nd and 3rd teams both finished in a creditable third position in the second and third division respectively.

The winter leagues are just about to start this week, and we are fielding three teams this year - a reduction from four last year, as we found it difficult to put out full sides every week. We have dropped the 4th team which was in division 5 and maintain the 1sts in Div 1, 2nds in Div 3 and 3rds in Div 4. The 1sts will again be led by Simon and the 2nds and 3rds will be run by Paul Ireland. If you are interested in playing in the teams please do not hesitate to contact Simon, Paul or David Wright (contact details on the website). If there is sufficient demand for an additional team we will reconsider the merits of again running a 4th team.

Our Veterans team (over 45s playing in the Berkshire Veterans League) begins the new season on 17th September. This team plays on alternate Monday nights throughout the winter. Please let Simon Street or David Wright know if you would like to be considered for the team.

Internal League

The Internal League continues as always - currently running 9 divisions of 5 or 6 players. September and October are traditionally busy months as many players who took a rest from squash over the summer return to the fray! Please encourage any casual squash players that you know to sign up. Playing in a League 'forces' you to play regularly – much better than casually arranged matches. Prospective players should contact Duncan Nightingale.

All-Club Player Rankings

Henley Internal League matches have been feeding into the SquashLevels system for a few months now - together with results from all team matches and individuals' championship and tournament results. This is a great way for the whole club to be linked together - both team players and Internal League players - on the same ranking list. It is also a great way to track peoples' progress independently from the division or

team they are playing in. Just click on a player's name in the list to see a graph of their progress over months and years!

You can find links for the All-Club Player Rankings on the 'Teams' and 'Leagues' pages of the website. Also on the 'Leagues' page are links for 'Player of the Month' and 'Player of the Year', representing those whose 'level' has increased by the most over the period! Anyone in the club, no matter what standard, can show highly in these lists based on their own improvement.

Club Night

Club night runs from 5.20 to 6.40 every Saturday evening. It has been very quiet the last few weeks as our glorious summer comes to a close. Please come and use the courts as they are always booked out for the Club's use and are free to members of all standards. Hopefully in the next few weeks we will incorporate more structure to the evenings with drills and learning objectives as part of the fun of the session.

Junior Squash

The longstanding Chairman of the junior club, Richard Little, stood down earlier this year which leaves a gap to be filled. Any member with children playing squash, or just about to take the sport up, would be welcome to join in the management of the junior activities with a view to becoming the new Chairman. In the meantime, I would like to reiterate the club's thanks for Richard's many years of service.

Coaching

Squash, like many sports, can be enjoyed without any specific coaching. However, good quality coaching can improve your game and enjoyment. The club enlists the services of 3 excellent professional squash coaches lead by Ross Gore. Coaching is available for both juniors and adults of all standards on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. For members with children who would like to take the sport up this is a great way to start. Through this programme we have developed some really excellent players who now play in the Club's teams and at higher levels.

Have your ideas heard

If you have ideas about how you would like the club to develop, please let the Chairman know. Preferably by email but in person or by phone is OK too. What's wrong, what would you like to change or improve, we will listen and make it happen if possible and to the general benefit of the members.

Good Luck

David Wright

Dauidwright49@gmail.com