

# HENLEY JUNIOR SQUASH CLUB

Presents...



## WINTER NEWSLETTER



Welcome to our latest newsletter. If you need further information on any of the activities then please contact Richard Little ([richardlittle@quintessa.org](mailto:richardlittle@quintessa.org); 07786 942670).



## 2011 Christmas Party

Once again the players of Henley Junior Squash Club turned up in good spirits and made for a great party on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December.



Members Prepare for the Annual Christmas Party Identity Parade

First place prize in this year's fancy dress competition went to Max Djemil for his squash-playing Santa. He went far beyond the call of duty and played several games in his full attire (which included a pillow stuffed up his jacket)!



Father Christmas in action



Rupert steps up to the oche

The main competition involved games of squash, darts and table tennis, plus an impossible quiz and various relay races involving squash rackets, squash balls, balloons and copious amounts of rule bending!!



The Matts oversee the relay races



Round the world table tennis

After three hours of intense competition, Andy stepped forward to announce the winners and losers! James McNaughton was mightily relieved that he and his Team Rudolph did not repeat last year's feat of coming last and having to sing a Christmas carol in front of everyone. Instead, this year the honour went to Team Elf captained by Jonathan Betts who collectively did a superb job of singing 'We Wish You A Merry Christmas'. This meant that the overall winners were Team Santa captained by Bec Dixon – well done!

Thanks go to: Bec, Jonathan, Freddie and Andy for organising the party; Jane and Fiona for all the food (it was as yummy as ever); Shelley for looking after the finances; and Andy, Matt B and Matt D for ensuring the smooth running of the whole event.



Jane and Fiona feed the masses



Team Rudolph wish us a Merry Xmas



Team Santa hard at work on the quiz



Team Rudolph exhausted from their efforts

## Junior and Adult Fun Tournament

We hosted our first every fun squash tournament for junior and adult players on Sunday 5th February. The emphasis was on having fun and encouraging players of all ages and abilities to come together for an afternoon of squash. It was great to see some adults returning to squash such as Chilli Brener and Huseiyn Djemil, as well as U9 players Beth Ireland, Cameron Parke, Oliver Quinn and Sidni Brener. The 22 players were put into four mixed ability teams, including an all-female team. No fewer than 70 games were played over the 3 hours of frenetic squash with many being closely fought (five ended up 15-14)! The winning team comprised junior club members Cameron Parke, Freddie Borg and Max Djemil, and adult club members Paul Ireland and Roger Betts. They had a slightly higher average score than the all-female team of Bec Dixon, Beth Ireland, Helen Henshaw and Ruby Borg and adults Chilli Brener and Fiona Dixon. The tournament was a great success due to the hard work of the organiser Fiona Dixon and the enthusiasm of the players (both young and not so young)!



Participants in the junior and adult fun tournament



Overall winning team



Winners of the "most supportive team"

## 2012 Junior Club Championship

The Junior Club will be holding its annual championship for club members during the weekend of **3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> March 2012**. The plan is to have competitions for two age categories: "Year 6 and under" players; and "Year 7 and over" players. Depending on the number of entries, both competitions will be run on an initial round-robin basis followed by semi-finals and finals. This should ensure that everyone who enters the competition plays at least 3 or 4 matches.

All members are encouraged to enter – it will give them a great opportunity to put into practice all the training that they have been putting in with our coaches. Trophies will be presented for players finishing in positions 1 to 4 in the competitions. If you would like to enter, all you have to do is to send Richard Little an e-mail or text ([richardlittle@quintessa.org](mailto:richardlittle@quintessa.org); 07786 942670) and let him know which age category you wish to enter by **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February!** The entry fee is £5.

## Training of Mini Squash Coaches

Five members of the Junior Club attended the squash leaders' course at LA Fitness Burnham on Saturday 17th December 2011. Jonathan Betts, John Batts, Freddie Borg, Ella Jennings and Dominic Opalinski successfully complete the training course run by England Squash and Racketball. They can now all help Andy and Matt with the coaching of our after-school groups. Well done to all five!



Not a squash racket in sight - attendees at the squash leaders' course do some desk-based work!

## Regular Activities

**After-school coaching** on Wednesdays and Fridays during term time for all standards of player.

**Junior leagues** - see [www.henleysquash.co.uk](http://www.henleysquash.co.uk) for details!! Well done to the latest league winners:

Division 1: Max Djemil

Division 2: Charlie Borg

Division 3: No matches played

The leagues are open to members of all ages and abilities. They are a great way of developing and improving your game. If you are interested in entering them, please let Jane Gray know ([jane.gray@btconnect.com](mailto:jane.gray@btconnect.com); 01491 579779).

**Turn up and play** on Sundays for both members and non-members. The Year 6 & under session is from 2.15 to 3.45 pm and the Year 7 & over session is from 3.45 to 5.15 pm. Rackets and goggles are provided for those who do not have them. The sessions will continue to cost £3 for members and £4 for non-members. Just turn up and play!

## Committee Vacancies

We still have two vacancies on the Junior Club's committee: a treasurer and a schools' liaison coordinator. If you are interested in either role, please contact Richard for a chat.

Shelley Djemil has kindly offered to continue as treasurer on a short-term basis until we find a new treasurer. However, we cannot rely on Shelley's good will on an indefinite basis. Clearly the club cannot function without a treasurer, so it is vital that we find a treasurer. To put it bluntly, **no treasurer, no club!** So please do consider whether you would be willing to put something back into the club and help us out. We would ensure that there is a transition period which will allow Shelley to "teach you the ropes" and ensure a smooth handover!

## Squash Birthday Parties



Do you fancy a party with a difference? Then how about a squash party at Henley Leisure Centre!!! Instead of the usual football or swimming party, why not have fun on the squash courts! Parties for up to 12 children of all abilities can be hosted for between 45 and 90 minutes. For the younger children the focus

would be on ball and racket skills, for the older children match play would also be introduced. A session on the squash courts could be followed by a relaxing swim! Costs would range from £20 to £60 depending on the number of children and the duration of the party.



## Local Squash Events

The **Oxon Junior Open** will be held on **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February** at the Racquets Fitness Centre in Thame. The event has competitions for boys U11, U13, U15 and U17 and girls U15 and U17. Entry forms can be downloaded from:

[www.englandsquashandracketball.com/competitions/572](http://www.englandsquashandracketball.com/competitions/572).

The closing date for entries is Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February.



The **Berkshire Junior County Closed** is open to all those born, living or attending school in Berkshire who have not played for another county in 2011/12. The event will be held on **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March** at the Windsor Squash Club. It has competitions for the U11, U13, U15 and U17 age categories. Entry forms can be downloaded from <http://www.berkshiresquash.org/>. The closing date for entries is 10<sup>th</sup> March.

## International Squash Event!!

The British Open is the most prestigious and iconic squash tournament in the world. It's coming to the O<sub>2</sub> arena in London from 14<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> May. It will be a superb chance to be inspired by seeing the world's best female and male squash players on an all-glass court! Tickets cost from £15 to £45 per session (typically comprising four separate matches). For more details go to

[www.britishopensquash.net](http://www.britishopensquash.net)