



Fenland Squash Club

Annual Newsletter – August 2011

MEMBERSHIP

The squash club front door lock will be changed on Sunday 4th September and subscriptions for 2011/12 will be due from this date. Membership can be renewed and new keys collected at the club between 10:30 and 12:30 on the following Sundays: 4th, 11th and 18th September. Please bring along your renewal membership form(s) along with payment (cheque made payable to 'Fenland Squash Club' or cash) and your old key(s). Please ensure that all details are correct on the renewal form and the form is duly signed. Please note that a form is required for each person applying for membership, even if 'partner' or 'family' membership is being applied for.

Alternatively, send your cheque and membership form(s) along with a self addressed envelope and old key(s) to: **Paul Hackett, 34 School Lane, Swavesey, CB24 4RL**. Your new key(s) will be posted at the earliest convenience. However, if you would prefer to collect your key(s) in person, then contact Paul on 07711 847381 to arrange a mutually convenient time.

Subscriptions for 2011/12 are as follows:

Adult: £65. **Partners:** £97.50 (two adults). **Family:** £103 (includes up to 2 adults and 3 children). **Junior:** £11 (children & full-time students under 18, reduced to £8 if parent or guardian is a club member). **Off-peak and Company:** £27 / named player (players restricted to day time play up to 6pm and weekends, excluding times when the school or junior club have booked the courts).

CLUB NEWS

MEMBERSHIP: Slightly up on last year despite having lost 27 members for various reasons, but gained 30 new members during the course of the year. Membership as of July 2011 stands at 123, of which 26 are juniors. With the exception of this year, club membership has steadily declined over the last few years and the committee are keen to fetch numbers back up again. If you know anyone who may be interested in taking up squash or racketball, or returning to the sport, then please encourage them to consider joining Fenland Squash for this. Similarly, if you have any ideas on how to increase membership then the committee would welcome your input.

LEAGUES: These run for ~6 weeks per league between September and June, the number of players in any one league is typically between 5 and 8. Where possible a '2 up/2 down' system of promotion/relegation is observed. Over the last year the number of members who have put their names down to play in the leagues has typically been between 40 and 50 for each league month.

Unfortunately the number of members not playing any games seems to be on the increase – in the last league less than half played any games (55% of players did not play any games in the Apr - May, 46% in Feb - Mar, 33% in Dec 10-Jan 11). Due to the large number not playing, the promotion/relegation decisions are difficult to make.

A common gripe within the leagues is 'if I don't contact other members then I never get contacted by them' or 'whenever I try and contact them they seem to be unavailable for any dates or they tell me they will call back and never do' – unfortunately this situation has led to some disgruntled members dropping out of the leagues.

In order to make the leagues run smoothly, please try to find time to play your league games and also to make contact with other members in your league. If you find that you cannot play in your leagues due to injury or other reasons, please let Jamie Tuffee know ASAP so he can temporarily remove you from the leagues until you let him know you are ready to return. Play as many games as you can – the more games played the more competitive the leagues will be and that has got to be beneficial for the club (the first thing a potential new member is likely to look at in the clubhouse is the league tables).

On a more positive note there are members who do play most of their games or manage to get 2-3 games played per league, so many thanks to these stalwarts who make the running of the leagues a worthwhile task.

Call for players: currently there are a small percentage of lady and junior members in the leagues. It would be fantastic if we could increase these numbers. Also, any members not in the leagues wanting to develop their game by playing players with different abilities then please indicate on the renewal membership form or contact Jamie or put your name on the list pinned up on the club league notice board.

LADDER: This was started the beginning of June for those in the leagues wishing to continue play over the summer break. To date there appears to have been little movement in the ladder, a possible indication that members are not arranging games to challenge others above them. There is the question of whether to continue the ladder when the leagues restart, and we are open to your views on this before making a final decision in September.

CLUB NIGHT: During September we are looking to hold a club night. This will be open to both members and non-members and will be a good opportunity to meet others in the club and play short friendly games with people of differing abilities. It will also be a good opportunity for club members to invite non-members to come a long to get a feel for the sport and the club. Further details will be posted towards the end of the summer break.

SUMMER TEAM HANDICAP TOURNAMENT: Firstly, a big thank you to Glynis for organising this, the team captains for pulling together their teams on the various nights, and all those that played games. As usual, it was great fun with some very close games played. The end result was: 1st – team C, 2nd – team A, and 3rd – team E. See website for full details of final scores and who was on each team.

HANDICAP TOURNAMENT & CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP: If you haven't already signed up to take part in one or both of these events, then please do so when next down the club house. These will begin early October after you have managed to get back on form following the summer break.

CLUBHOUSE ROOF: A big thank you to all members who have kindly agreed to loan the club money so we can finance the roof repair. We are looking to have the work carried out in August, weather permitting. Further details will be provided in due course.

JUNIORS: Juniors have had weekly training during term time and over 30 players, age range 7-16 years have regularly attended one of the three sessions. Two junior teams have played in the **junior county leagues**, the **first team of Will Blake, Jonny Richardson, Alex Cleland and Oli Chamberlain winning Division I**. Players have also participated in the county tournaments. **Hayley Green was selected to represent the Eastern Region in the area championships held in Birmingham.**

The **results of the 2011 junior championships** are as follows:

Junior Champion – still to be decided between Will Blake and Alex Cleland

Plate winner – Peter Hill, Plate runner-up – Lewis Hawkins

U13 Champion – Nick Whyatt, Runner-up – Hannah Gingell

U13 Plate winner – Jack Lewin, Runner-up – Christian Marin

Girls Champion – Marianne Kerley, Runner-up – Hannah Gingell

Plate winner – Gemma Bedlow, Runner-up – Emily Dixon

The winner of the Gary Warrington Cup for the **most improved junior – Peter Hill**
Club player of the year – Luke Ramsden

Next year junior club will again be held on Thursdays after school commencing on Thursday 9th September. Contact Glynis for further info.

COACHING: If you are looking to take your game to the next level, then perhaps a bit of coaching is what you need to give you the edge over your competitors. During the next squash season we will be looking to run some coaching sessions at the club. Further details will be sent by email and posted on the club website and clubhouse notice board in due course – watch this space!

TEAM NEWS

LADIES TEAM: The ladies ran one team in Division 1 of the county leagues this year, consisting of Alex Macfarlane, Fiona Bedford, Glynis Fenwick, Hayley Green and Debby Rushton. We started off the season unusually well and by Christmas were lying in third place in the division. The star of the first half was Hayley, who was unbeaten, and we won many of the matches 3-2. We were unable to maintain this pace for the whole season but still finished a respectable sixth.

MENS TEAM: After a tough season in Division 1, the first team have been relegated to Division 2 pending the potential of a last minute play-off to remain in Division 1. The men's team have won both of their matches in the Peterborough summer league.

The men's 2nd team is first on the list for inclusion in the Cambridgeshire winter leagues and we should know more after the Cambridgeshire SRA AGM. We are especially hopeful as there does seem to be genuine interest from a number of players in the club.

COMMITTEE

The committee currently consists of: Paul Hackett (Chairman/Membership/Website), Tim Maris (Treasurer), Vicky Hope (Secretary), Jamie Tuffee (Leagues), Andy Prendergast (Teams), Tim Dean (Club Maintenance), Geoff Green (Enquiries), John Morley, Paul Kynoch, Jeremy Weaver, Kevin Ward.

As usual, the committee is always in need of new members to help with the running of the club, so if you would like to know what being on the committee involves then please contact Paul Hackett to discuss.

The minutes of all committee meetings are posted on the notice board at the club house and on the website for all members to read.

CLUB MAINTENANCE

If you are aware of anything in the club that is broken or needs attention, then please report to Tim Dean. The committee is committed to maintaining the club facilities to a high standard for all members to enjoy.

AGM

The date for the AGM will be announced during September.