

Welcome to the first TWSRC newsletter, our spring 2022 edition, providing you with news on the club, squash and events.

After an awful two years, finally we have shed all of the Covid restrictions. Bookings and membership have broadly returning to pre-covid levels and the club continues to thrive.

In December we held the Colin Payne professional tournament and attracted some fantastic players including two of the famous Malik siblings, Torrie and Curtis (pictured). Curtis won the Men's event beating the Welshman James Peach 3-1 in the final. Torrie was runner-up losing to student expatriate from Japan, Satomi Watanabe, 3-1 in the final.



Team squash resumed for the winter season with TWSRC running three teams in the North West Kent League.

We also completed the 2021 club tournaments at the beginning of this year (details on both over page).

New member Simon Lawson organised a Racketlon-type tournament on 31st March comprising table tennis, squash and racketball, Simon, the expert at racketball, being the eventual winner.

The internal club box leagues continue too and we'd encourage all players to consider playing in these. Lots of players dropped out during the pandemic and it would be great if you are able to re-join. If you'd like to join or re-join please contact Steve Pearce (Steve.mp@aol.com).

If members would like to include items in the next newsletter (summer 2022), perhaps golf, cycling or other events, or provide any feedback on this edition, please reach out to Richard Morris (Richard.k.m.morris@gmail.com) – editor.

Club Facilities and Premises: Completed and planned...

- *The roof on Picton, which has been leaking has being fixed*
- *Car park lighting has been fully upgraded and looks great and the lines will be repainted*
- *The door on Picton Court is due to be upgraded, we are planning a glass back*
- *All of the courts are going to be professionally cleaned – walls and floors*
- *Men's showers have been fixed*
- *Full reecorating of the club planned along with new notice boards throughout*
- *New bar stools are being chosen to replace the rather uncomfy current ones*
- *The patio area will be weeded and tidied*
- *We have sold the large seating area and it will be removed from the terrace imminently*

Upcoming vents

- *Team squash resumes on 10th May for the summer season*
- *The 2022 Club Tournaments to start in September 2022*
- *Mixed Doubles to be played by 10th June*
- *We will be introducing a **monthly club night**, first Thursday of each month (starting June). Free of charge providing you buy a drink at the bar and socialise! NB Racketball continues on other Thursday's*
- *The handicap will be kicking off shortly – look out for details*
- *Finally, it's possible to hire the bar for a private social event*

2021/22 Team News



1st Team



From left: James McMeckan (new from Bromley CC), Jolyon Head (capt), Jonny Powell, and our no.1 Noah Meredith

Our amazing 1st team, captained by Jolyon Head were runners up in the top division of the North West Kent Squash League and runners up in the cup. A great performance! See season report overleaf.

Division 1: Winter League 2021/22

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	Team		P	W	L	D	F	A	Pen	Total
1	Dulwich 1	★	16	14	2	0	225	63	0	225
2	Tunbridge Wells SRC 1	★	16	12	4	0	205	90	0	205
3	Bexley 2	★	16	8	8	0	163	149	0	163
4	Beckenham 1	★	16	9	7	0	153	147	0	153
5	Bexley 1	★	16	7	9	0	152	164	0	152
6	Bromley Sports 1	★	16	8	8	0	138	158	0	138
7	Dulwich 2	★	16	4	12	0	123	198	0	123
8	Bromley LTC 1	★	16	5	11	0	109	196	0	109
9	Canterbury 1	★	16	5	11	0	86	189	0	86

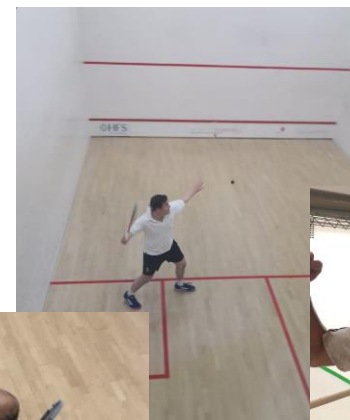
2nd Team

Our 2nd team performed well, avoiding relegation in the super tough division 2.

Squad included: Martin Snow, Michel van Oorschot, Sam Colegate, Neil Bradshaw, David Speed, Thomas Membrey and team captain Adam Barnes

3rd Team

A solid mid-table finish from the TWSRC 3rd team in Division 4, captained by Ed Wales (pictured) and with squad including: Paul McLeod, Richard Morris, Craig Bowers, and new to Tunbridge Wells: Josh Davies, Alex Robertson and our classy no.1 Vinay Asthana (pictured)



Interested in playing Team Squash?

Contact: Adam Barnes

adam_d_barnes@hotmail.com

We will be running 3 teams over the summer, which starts on 10th May, so please let Adam know before 7th May, advising your standard.

NB: Matches are played either on a Tuesday or Wednesday evening starting at 7:30pm

Division 2: Winter League 2021/22

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	Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pen	Total	
1	Poult Wood 1	★	18	15	3	0	232	108	0	232
2	Mote 1	★	18	11	6	1	215	124	0	215
3	Dulwich 4	★	18	12	6	0	201	143	0	201
4	Limpsfield 1	★	18	10	7	1	198	163	0	198
5	Blackheath 1	★	18	10	8	0	182	170	0	182
6	Dulwich 3	★	18	7	11	0	156	194	0	156
7	Tunbridge Wells SRC 2	★	18	8	10	0	151	189	0	151
8	Beckenham 2	★	18	6	12	0	138	193	0	138
9	Bexley 3	★	18	7	11	0	132	204	0	132
10	Park Langley 1	★	18	3	15	0	111	238	0	111

Division 4: Winter League 2021/22

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	Team		P	W	L	D	F	A	Pen	Total
1	Bexley 5	★	14	11	3	0	184	92	0	184
2	Waterfront 1	★	14	9	5	0	174	110	0	174
3	Poult Wood 3	★	14	11	3	0	170	106	0	170
4	Wells Squash Club 1	★	14	8	6	0	144	114	0	144
5	Tunbridge Wells SRC 3	★	14	6	8	0	131	149	0	131
6	Limpsfield 2	★	14	5	9	0	117	163	0	117
7	Sundridge Park 2	★	14	3	11	0	94	184	0	94
8	Blackheath 3	★	14	3	11	0	85	181	0	85

Tunbridge Wells 1st Team Winter 2021/22 Season Review

The first post Covid winter league began with high expectations after the 1st team somewhat surprisingly won the 2021 Summer League, our first division one title for many years. The core team (aka the “fab four”) consists of Noah Meredith, Jolyon Head, James McMeckan and Jonny Powell. We make an effort to put out the same team as regularly as possible, but when one stalwart is missing there is ample back up provided by Zeb Young and Neil Bradshaw.

In Noah Meredith we now have the strongest regular number 1 player in the league which is a considerable advantage in the 4 man team format. He is a young pro currently ranked number 325 in the world, however his standard is much closer to a top 100 player. Time will tell if he is able get his ranking where it belongs, but if you have not seen him play its certainly worth coming down to watch, especially against some of the better number 1’s in the league. James McMeckan is another welcome addition to the team having played for Bromley for many years before moving to Tunbridge Wells just before Covid struck in 2020.

As the season progressed the league table was slightly hard to decipher due to the number of matches being postponed due to Covid, although most clubs did their best in difficult circumstances to keep things moving along. At the half way point we were top of the league, with strong showings from Noah, Jolyon and James masking Jonny Powell’s 100% losing record. Our match with serial champions Dulwich had been postponed at their request, so our main rivals for the title would be played twice in the new year.

At Christmas James and Jonny swapped positions in the team, at which point Jonny had a stern word with himself and disappeared into a Rocky Balboa style training camp and immersed a new and reinvigorated player for the 2nd half of the season - vanquishing almost every opponent put in front of him. Unfortunately, this remarkable turnaround wasn’t enough to help us overcome the challenge of Dulwich. The first highly anticipated heavyweight clash was at home on 11th January, which ended in a draw at 2 matches and 6 games apiece. Noah trounced Brazilian international Vini Rodrigues 3-0, and Jonny produced one of his performances of the season to win 3-0 as well, but alas elation turned to despair when the match was awarded to Dulwich on a minor technicality. Although we were playing in the 2nd half of the season, the match having been re-arranged from the 1st half was therefore a 1st half match and so we had played out of order. In spite of our protests to the International Court of Arbitration for Sport a big red line was draw through the result giving Dulwich a demoralising 6 point swing over and above the actual match result.

We remained in the hunt and we went to Dulwich for a must win match on 8th February. Clearly rattled, they recruited none other than former world top 10 and national champion Darryl Selby to deal with the threat posed by Noah. A highly entertaining match ensued, with Darryl using every ounce of his trickery and experience to finally come through 11-8 in the 4th game, although Noah had opportunities and looked the fresher player at that stage of the match. Unfortunately, the rest of us couldn’t get a result either against a team who ultimately had slightly too much for us, and the decisive blow was landed by Dulwich with the remainder of the season being largely a formality.

We finished a comfortable 2nd place, 20 points behind Dulwich, and 42 points ahead of Bexley in 3rd. It was all very enjoyable - some decent squash played by everyone at times, plenty of gallows humour when things didn’t go so well, and the odd celebratory Mcflurry was eaten after away games.

Final takeaway notes from the season:

Firstly, there is a title in this team. You don’t have to be the best team to win the league, but if everyone gives 100% and plays most weeks it is achievable.

Secondly, winning is nice but it isn’t everything. It’s great just to be playing squash again, keeping fit and enjoying the social side of the game.

Thirdly, if anyone out there would like to help Noah navigate the perilous world of a young professional squash player any help would be appreciated.

Quite frankly to play PSA events and get a proper ranking costs money. Not a lot of money, but covering the cost of a budget flight and hotel would enable him to play some events to get the points to then play the events he should be playing.

And finally thank you to everyone who helps manage the club and keeps everything running. What a fantastic little club in our wonderful town.

It’s just great to have somewhere we can keep hacking away.



by Jolyon Head

2021 Club Tournaments

The pandemic led to the postponement of 2021 club tournaments into the beginning of 2022. The finals being played on Saturday 5th February. A night of breath-taking squash.

Men's 2021 Champion Nick Joughin



Nick Joughin (left), one of our club coaches, working for Zeb, beat Jonny Powell in four sets in a very close pulsating match.

11-7; 6-11; 14-12; 13-11

Jonny nearly took the match to a 5th set with four game balls in the fourth, but Nick's incredible retrieving, shot making and fitness won over in the end.

Great match, well played both and congratulations to Nick our 2021 club champion

Plate Winner Thomas Membrey



The first round losers took part in the plate, with Thomas Membrey (left) beating Craig Bowers in straight sets
16-14; 15-10; 15-9

Veterans Champion Jolyon Head



First team captain Jolyon Head (right) joined the veterans (Over 45's) for the first time, beating Paul McLeod in straight sets
15-11; 19-17; 15-11

Vintage Champion Brian Hunt



Serial winner Brian Hunt (left), continued his long run of winning club tournaments with a very narrow victory over John Barham in a great five set match
11-7; 6-11; 10-12; 11-7; 12-10

Super Vintage Brian Hunt



Brian also won the Super Vintage tournament with a win over Richard Hillier.

Doubles

The 2021 Men's doubles tournament was completed on 23rd April with the Membrey brothers, Thomas and Christopher dominating, beating father and daughter pairing Richard and Jemima Morris in the final



From left: Jemima, Richard, Thomas M, Christopher, Harry, Alex, Thomas B, Paul

Juniors

Our junior academy continues to grow from strength to strength. We set this up to provide affordable, inclusive and high-quality squash for juniors of all abilities. We have been hugely successful with our junior membership doubling in the last 12 months. We now have 50 members of all abilities ranging from age 5 to 18 – one of the largest junior sections in Kent.

We provide an outstanding programme with well-attended Friday and Sunday sessions helping our juniors develop their game, meet new friends and have fun playing squash. In addition, we've launched new Internal junior box leagues and now have two junior teams playing monthly in the Kent Junior League. Our 1st team is performing strongly in Division 2 and our 2nd team is currently unbeaten in Division 4 and well on the way to promotion!

We have enjoyed lots of individual success too. Three of our juniors have represented Kent this year – Tim (BU15); Tom (BU13) and Yashvi (GU11). Tom was also selected for England Squash's South East Aspire squad. A number of our juniors are now regularly competing in England Squash sanctioned events with 7 of our Juniors nationally ranked in England. Exciting times for the club's future!

Finally, this all wouldn't be possible without our brilliant coaches, Zeb and Nick - thank you for all your hard work! We are also grateful to our junior sponsor, JM Heating and Plumbing Ltd, and Kent Sport who gave us a substantial grant this year. If you're interested in joining or finding out more, please visit our webpage on www.twsrc.co.uk.

Update from Declan Wainwright

Coaching

Coaching at the club is provided by Zeb Young and supported by Nick Joughin and Phoebe Colman

Contact Zeb at zebscoaching@hotmail.co.uk or mobile 07737842542 to book a lesson.

Adult group coaching is held on Friday evenings;

Junior group coaching is held on Friday early evenings and Sunday mornings from 11am.



New Members

We have had lots of new members join or rejoin in the last 12 months, a huge welcome to all of the new joiners to TWSRC.

Nick Strong	Full Member	Nick Joughin	Coach	Sean Cannon	Off-Peak
Rory Ferguson	Full Member	-----		Pawan Chitturu	Off-Peak
Vinay Asthana	Full Member	Emile Cannon	Junior Under 18	Emma Howlett	Off-Peak
Vaughn Meyer	Full Member	Abhimanyu Asthana	Junior Under 18	Adam Smyth	Off-Peak
Kaylass Ramlagan	Full Member	Ava Barnes	Junior Under 18	Toby Gebbie	Off-Peak
Adrian Gray	Full Member	Thomas Bower	Junior Under 18	James Cullen.	Off-Peak
Joshua Davies	Full Member	Zoya Asthana	Junior Under 18	Ben Irving	Off-Peak
Simon Lawson	Full Member	Harry Auld	Junior Under 18	Colin Sergeant	Off-Peak
Mark Etherington	Full Member	Matthew Coomber	Junior Under 18	Danny Cass	Off-Peak
David Cheales	Full Member	Kaushal Chitturu	Junior Under 18	Georgia Gale	Off-Peak
Peter Smith	Full Member	Benedict Kazi-Fornari	Junior Under 18	Paul Johnson	Off-Peak
Phoebe Pridham	Full Member	Rajat Chitturu	Junior Under 18	Alison Wainwright	Off-Peak
Danielle Sheppard	Full Member	Helen Coomber	Junior Under 18	Matthew Millar	Off-Peak
Ricardo Negri	Full Member	Ralph Cheales	Junior Under 18	Loic Beuzit	Off-Peak
Alan Shemmings	Full Member	Matt Virrels	Junior Under 18		
B. Kalyan Kumar	Full Member	Antonia Sheppard	Junior Under 18		
Carlos Gris	Full Member	Eddie Sheppard	Junior Under 18		
Tim Wootton	Full Member	Mathilda Kemp	Junior Under 18		
AnilKumar Parameswaran	Full Member	Azlan Kumar	Junior Under 18		
John-Louis West	Full Member	Alexander Stevens	Junior Under 18		
Guy Pridham	Full Member	Melanie Stevens	Junior Under 18		
Thomas Lloyd	Full Member	Francesca Futter	Junior Under 18		
Emma Halcrow	Full Member	Isabella Futter	Junior Under 18		
Connor Doyle	Full Member	Tara Radia	Junior Under 18		
Stuart Guest	Full Member	Fergus Malone	Junior Under 18		
Valerie Vandermeersch	Full Member (S)	Jake Barnes	Junior Under 18		
Benedict Sheppard	Full Member (S)	Amelie Warner	Junior Under 18		
Pardhy Singhania	Full Member (S)	Primrose Phillipson	Junior Under 18		

We plan to hold a new members welcome Friday evening, enjoying the benefits of group coaching, details to follow...