

Introduction

Welcome to our Spring 2023 newsletter, providing you with news on the club, squash and events over the last 12 months.

- All members will have noticed a dramatic improvement in the club facilities, with many more improvements planned, making the club surely the best presented club in the South East.
- In January, we held the annual Kent Open, sponsored by 501 Fun – a brilliant event with the highest quality squash and seeing our own Noah Meredith reach the final.
- The 2022 tournaments were finally completed last month, with Jolyon Head (pictured) being crowned as both the club champion and vets champion, then topping off a good year by being called up to the England O45's squad.
- We started a monthly club night (1st Thursday of the month) which has proved hugely popular. We are also holding ladies only nights.
- The junior academy, now with 80 members is one of the strongest in Kent and goes from strength to strength.
- For the off-peak members a new ladder has been established.
- The internal club box leagues continue too and we'd encourage all players to consider playing in these. If you'd like to join or re-join please contact Steve Pearce (Steve.mp@aol.com).



Jolyon Head, club champion and England O45 representative

Upcoming Events

- *Team squash resumes in May for the summer season where we plan to run four teams*
 - *Interested in playing? If you're box 3 or above standard and keen to play, please contact Adam, adam_d_barnes@hotmail.com*
- *An interclub event and social for all abilities covering singles, doubles and length on Saturday 3rd June from 2pm*
- *The 2023 Club Tournaments are due to start in Autumn 2023*
- *Did you know...it's possible to hire the bar for a private social event, please contact Mark Nicholson if you'd like further details*

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.

Contact Declan Wainwright if you know someone interested in joining the junior academy declan.wainwright@yahoo.co.uk



Club Facilities and Premises: Completed and planned...

Over the last year there's been an amazing transformation of the club, including:

- Repainted bar area. New photos, making the club look like... a squash club. New trophy cabinet and noticeboards.
- New LED lights improving the brightness and looking great...plus costing significantly less on electricity and maintenance (and avoiding the dangerous job of changing the tubes).
- The courts have been professionally cleaned and floors sanded.
- New glass door on Picton giving a modern fresh feel.
- New bar stools and new fridges in the kitchen area
- Decking has been cleaned and behind the stairs cleared.

What's planned:

- LED lighting for Courts A and B
- Servicing of the heaters
- Redecoration of the remaining areas



A huge thanks to the committee members who have managed this including Alison Barton who managed the redecoration, and Simon Lees for organising the new glass door and LED lighting (amongst many other things).



New glass door on Picton



Brilliant LED lighting on Picton

Kent Open, sponsored by 501 Fun, 12th – 14th January 2023



Owain Taylor receiving the winners cup from Martin Steyn

In the second week in January 2023 Owain Taylor and Torrie Malik became the 501 Fun Kent Open champions after two high quality finals. After a week of superb squash featuring players from 16 nations we ended up with two all-British finals in front of a packed gallery at TWSRC.

Our 1st team No.1 Noah Meredith played superbly but was unable to deliver another giant-killing act as Welsh international Taylor controlled the fifth game of a pulsating battle to clinch victory with a scoreline of 10-12, 11-6, 11-8, 10-12, 11-5. In a tournament sponsored by our 1st team captain, Jonny Powell, owner of 501 Fun, and dedicated to former Kent and England player Colin Payne, Noah had taken out top seed Valentin Rapp (Germany) and third seed Temwa Chileshe (New Zealand).

But despite Noah showing plenty of the attacking skills that earned him two enormous victories, Taylor's solid control gradually wore down his opponent's resistance. The two players are separated by more than 100 places in the world rankings, with Taylor at 112 and Noah then at 215, but the 21-year-old from Brighton threatened another shock result as he hit back from 10-7 down to win the opening game on a tiebreak.



Taylor dominated the second and won the crucial third game after being 6-4 down. Noah started the fourth game in positive fashion to lead 4-1 and after a titanic tussle he won another tiebreak to take the match into a fifth game. This time there was to be no fairytale finale as Taylor controlled proceedings with some precision squash to win it 11-5. Afterwards, Taylor said: *"Noah showed all week what a threat he can be, but I am very pleased to win the tournament. It was a great match and it's always good to play in a club which has been full of fans every day."*

The **women's final** was a triumph for top seed, and last year's runner up, Torrie Malik's hard-hitting style against Scotland's Alison Thomson. Malik powered through the first two games but Thomson hit back in the third with some intelligently structured rallies that moved her opponent around the court. Thomson threatened to take the match to a fifth game as she held game ball at 10-9 but Malik finished strongly to win it 12-10 to take the title.

Thomson said: *"I was very pleased to reach my first PSA final after coming back from injury but Torrie played very well."*

Malik said: *"It's lovely to win in a club that feels like home. It's not far from where we live and I want to thank the crowd for supporting me all week."*



Jonny Powell presenting Torrie Malik with the winners trophy

2022 Club Tournaments

The club tournaments were finally completed in March this year, a little delayed due to injuries and a hangover from the pandemic. No ladies events took place this year...hopefully the last time that this happens

Men's 2022 Champion Jolyon Head



Jolyon won the prestigious Men's championship beating James McMeckan in the final 3-1

Vintage Champion Matt Harris



Matt Harris, in his first year eligible, beat John Barham in the Vintage championship...but all was not lost for John

Super Vintage John Barham



...and avenging last years Super Vintage defeat, John secured victory

Men's Doubles Winners Thomas and Christopher Membrey



The Membrey brother's retained the doubles trophy for a 2nd year after beating Richard Morris and Craig Bowers in the final

Veterans Champion Jolyon Head

Jolyon also won the final of the Vets with a 3-0 win over Vinay Asthana. Possibly a first ever for anyone to hold both titles.

Plate Winner Jon Webberley



Jon Webberley beat Miles Montelius in the fiercely fought Men's plate final

Handicap Winner Rob Hunt



Rob Hunt won the handicap, beating Chairman Martin Steyn in the final

Mixed Doubles Winners Jemima and Richard Morris



Jemima and Richard Morris beat Simon Lees and Sara Barraud in the final of the mixed doubles

TWSRC 1st Team Report



Report by Jonny Powell
TWSRC 1st team captain

A solid campaign saw TWSRC 1st team finish 4th in the league whilst capturing the prestigious Cornwallis Cup at the end of the season. It was a tough start to the campaign, racking up four consecutive losses, albeit to very tough competition. In the 2nd match of the season, the team travelled to face Bromley LTC only to find former World no.50 Josh Masters laying in wait at 1, pushing Steve London into the 2nd string. Noah and Jolyon put up extremely respectable performances but went down 3-2 and 3-1 respectively. A narrow 3-2 loss for James at 3 concluded the match in Bromley's favour but we still managed to mop up some points with Jonny winning 3-1 at 4.

Noah remains the best regular number 1 in the league and only lost out this season to Josh Masters and Daryl Selby, both brought in specially to thwart our efforts. With an impressive 80% win rate, Noah only dropped 3 games throughout the rest of his matches. With Noah playing more professional tournaments, we called on the assistance of Noah's Brighton teammate, Pete Higgins, to deputise in his (or anybody else's) absence. Whilst not being at the same level as Noah, Pete has dutifully taken some beatings at 1 that allowed the rest of the team to compete in their regular positions. His free-wheeling style has racked up a number of very important points for the team, notably pinching two games off Simon Culver from Bromley LTC.

Division 1: Winter League 2022/23										
Home Division List										
	Team		P	W	L	D	F	A	Pen	Total
1	Dulwich 1	★	18	16	2	0	267	72	0	267
2	Bromley LTC 1	★	18	14	4	0	220	133	0	220
3	Bexley 2	★	18	10	8	0	197	158	0	197
4	Tunbridge Wells SRC 1	★	16	8	8	0	155	165	0	155
5	Dulwich 2	★	18	7	11	0	155	196	0	155
6	Bromley Sports 1	★	18	9	9	0	151	183	0	151
7	Bexley 1	★	17	7	10	0	149	177	0	149
8	Canterbury 1	★	17	7	10	0	145	177	0	145
9	Beckenham 1	★	18	5	12	1	140	210	0	140
10	Poult Wood 1	★	18	4	13	1	114	222	0	114



Our regular No. 2, Jolyon Head had a tough start to the season, only notching his first win in December against Dulwich. That said, the standard of opponents played was extremely high and despite carrying a thigh injury, Jolyon managed to secure a number of crucial points for the team. The second half of the season was much more successful with his training to get in the England O45 team clearly paying off. Captain Jonny Powell had a relatively predictable season, with some trademark 3-2 battles going either way. A respectable 56% win rate in a season of wildly fluctuating form and fitness! James McMeckan had a relatively slow start to the campaign, picking up 4 points in his first 5 matches. The tide turned in the second half though with James securing a number of very important wins. Despite being a 3-0 loss, James's match of the season has to be against former team-mate, Sam Stabler of Bromley Sports, as he went down in the closest of encounters, 10-12, 11-13, 20-22!



The Cornwallis Cup final was played on home turf against a tough Bexley team. Noah Meredith took on Chris Tomlinson in a high-quality affair, beating him 3-1. Captain Jonny Powell slotted a silky backhand nick from the return of serve at 10-10 in the fifth before closing out the victory 3-2. James put in an assured performance at 4 to clinch the match before Jolyon went on (in what was a dead rubber) and lost 3-0 to Tim Richards. A strong league position and a prestigious cup win rounded off a decent season for TWSRC 1st team.



TWSRC 2nd Team Report



Report by Sam
Colegate, 2nd
team captain

TWSRC 2nd team concluded the NW Kent Squash League campaign with a mid-table finish in Division 2. It was a season filled with ups and downs, but the team produced some impressive performances against tough opponents, showing that on their day, they are a force to be reckoned with.

Leading the charge for the 2nds was their number one player Martin Snow, whose solid season was peppered with some spectacular lobs and backhand volley drops. Snow’s leadership skills were put to the test this season, not only as the team’s No.1 player but also as treasurer, a role that brought its own set of challenges. Despite these pressures, he dug deep and fought hard for some crucial wins, making him an invaluable asset to the team.

Meanwhile, the team's captain and No.2, Sam Colegate, faced his own challenges throughout the campaign, including niggling injuries in the first half and some associated match rustiness. Colegate finished with a 50:50 win:loss record, a stat that could have been rosier if not for two heartbreaking losses where he had match ball on both occasions. The team is currently in negotiations for a sports psychologist to help him overcome these mental hurdles in the future!

Division 2: Winter League 2022/23										
Home Division List										
	Team		P	W	L	D	F	A	Pen	Total
1	Mote 1	★	18	15	3	0	246	98	0	246
2	Bexley 3	★	18	15	3	0	237	123	0	237
3	Beckenham 2	★	18	13	5	0	214	142	0	214
4	Limpsfield 1	★	18	11	7	0	210	148	0	210
5	Dulwich 4	★	18	8	10	0	172	193	0	172
6	Dulwich 3	★	18	7	11	0	157	198	0	157
7	Tunbridge Wells SRC 2	★	18	7	11	0	157	203	0	157
8	Blackheath 1	★	18	7	11	0	140	198	0	140
9	Bexley Park 1	★	18	4	14	0	129	228	0	129
10	Park Langley 1	★	18	3	15	0	109	242	0	109



TWSRC 2's ever-reliable no.3, Rob Stevenson, also finished with a 50:50 win:loss ratio, a very solid season considering he had been regularly pulled up the order and answered the call admirably each time. Stevenson's box-office style of play provided plenty of ‘oohs’ and ‘aahs’ from the galleries each week, delivering some sublime and on some occasions, ridiculous, shots that paid off when it mattered most.

The 4th string relied on the goodwill of several players throughout the season, including Zac Woolven, Neil Bradshaw, Vinay Asthana, Joshua Davies, Thomas Membrey, Paul McLeod, Sean Cannon, Craig Bowers, and Richard Morris which certainly kept the opposition guessing. Woolven was the standout performer, winning all five of his matches in a superb debut season for TWSRC, while Bradshaw and Asthana also contributed crucial wins when called upon.

Overall, it was at times, a tough winter season for the 2nds, but they can hold their heads high with a respectable finishing league position. At one point, things were looking a little shaky, especially during the long return journey from Dulwich in an electric car with a depleted battery. But like the car, the team brought it home when it mattered and will be recharged and ready to go again for the Summer League.



Martin Snow

TWSRC 3rd Team Report



Report by Richard Morris 3rd team captain

For sheer thrills and spills, TWSRC’s 3rd team kept everyone on the edge of their seats. With just three games to go the 3rds were in a critical position deep in the drop zone, 20 points adrift from 8th placed arch-rivals Wells. Relegation and humiliation loomed. However, what followed was a demonstration of incredible team-work, commitment and good fortune.



The season started well enough with a good win over Bexley, but then we took four consecutive defeats. We were introducing two new-to-team players, Sean Cannon and our team shirt sponsor Neill Thomas. Both had had steep learning curves into the pressures of team squash, taking heavy defeats in their first few games, before getting into winning habits. New member Carlos Gris was reveling in the ‘marked’ match combat and pulled off an impressive 4:2 win: loss ratio. Important contributions from Ed Wales, Josh Davies and Tom Ballard also kept us in the running.



At the halfway mark, whilst in a relatively comfortable position lower/mid table, our No.1 Vinay Asthana tore his calf muscle and was under strict orders (from Physio Will Burke) to rest. With Vinay out and each player having to move up a position, we were punished, losing heavily in five out of our next six matches.



Suddenly relegation threatened, we were 20 points from safety. With the final three games remaining, we faced an enormous challenge. Fortunately, Vinay, under pressure from his captain, (but against the advice of his physio), declared himself ‘available for selection’. Now the games against Limpsfield, Park Langley and Beckenham were all *must-win* matches. For each game it was critical to secure the 5 bonus points for a win. The team now fixed at 1. Vinay, 2. Paul McLeod, 3. Craig Bowers and 4. Richard Morris, were ready for battle.

Against Limpsfield, the match finished 2-2, but the 3-0 wins for Richard and Craig gave us the 5 bonus points. Away to Park Langley, in the penultimate game, losses for Richard and Paul, meant that Vinay had to beat the formidable Fergus Bennett, 3-0. Captain’s orders were clear, *‘leave nothing on the court’*, Vinay delivered! Another 5 bonus points. Our final match against Beckenham really needed a maximum win. Unfortunately, timing couldn’t have been worse. Paul celebrated his birthday the night before. Badly hungover he took a 3-0 loss. Richard also succumbed 2-3, but Vinay and reliable Craig won again ensuring we won the 5 bonus points and were out of the relegation zone. But we were now in the hands of our opponents. We needed Limpsfield to beat local rivals Wells, or Mote to thrash Bexley, to stay up. To our horror Limpsfield fielded their weakest ever team and were smashed by Wells 17-1. We were just left to pray that Mote would beat Bexley in the final game of the season. That they did, beating them 17-3. Thank you Mote! We survived to fight another day. Just!

Craig, Vinay and Paul

Division 4: Winter League 2022/23

[Home](#) | [Division List](#)

	Team		P	W	L	D	F	A	Pen	Total
1	Mote 2	★	18	15	3	0	255	102	0	255
2	Sundridge Park 1	★	18	15	3	0	242	104	0	242
3	Maidstone 1	★	18	13	5	0	217	153	0	217
4	Poult Wood 4	★	18	11	7	0	200	162	0	200
5	Park Langley 2	★	18	8	10	0	178	175	0	178
6	Wells Squash Club 1	★	18	6	12	0	148	206	0	148
7	Limpsfield 2	★	18	6	12	0	143	203	0	143
8	Tunbridge Wells SRC 3	★	18	7	11	0	142	208	0	142
9	Bexley 6	★	18	4	14	0	139	212	0	139
10	Beckenham 3	★	18	5	13	0	101	240	0	101



Expensive curry for Limpsfield to bribe them into fielding a strong team against relegation rivals Wells – they didn’t!

Junior Academy goes from strength to strength

Report from Declan Wainwright – TWSRC Squash Club Committee Junior Lead & Welfare Officer

With over 80 juniors, our Club's junior academy is now one of the largest in Kent. Open to all abilities, from complete beginner to nationally ranked juniors, our academy aims to provide affordable, inclusive and high-quality junior squash. I'm really pleased to report that our academy continues to perform very strongly.

- Our regular Friday and Sunday group coaching sessions continue to be extremely popular. Given this and the doubling of our junior membership we are now offering a free monthly Saturday session to cater for this increased demand.
- We also operate two junior teams that compete against other Kent clubs. Our 1st team competes in Division 2 whilst our 2nd team competes in Division 3. Both teams are performing strongly and seeking promotion!
- Some 40% of our junior members are girls and, for the first time in more a decade, the Club put out a junior all-female squash team! Our Girl's 1st team played Bromley in March as part of the England Squash 'rallying together' initiative. Well done to Isabella, Francesca, Abby, Amelie, Yashvi and Jasmin who played really well.
- We continue to support England Squash's Squash stars programme that aims to widen participation amongst 5- to 9-year-olds. In the February intake, our sessions were full and we we're delighted to welcome 11 new juniors to our sport and the club!



Joseph, Tom and Abhi - our three Kent players



Tom and Abhi with their Intercounty plate winners medals

We also continue to develop some very talented junior squash players who have achieved some amazing success: -

- Three of our juniors were selected to represent Kent in the recent Intercounty Championship finals in Birmingham. **Joseph Smith** helped the boys u11 team finish 8th while **Tom Wainwright** and **Abhi Asthana** helped the boys u13 team win the Intercounty plate!
- Most of our juniors participate in the monthly West Kent Box Leagues. In March, **Maxwell Barton** won the overall March league! Well done to all our other recent box winners.
- Many of our juniors are now competing in England Squash sanctioned tournaments testing themselves against nationally ranked juniors. Highlights include **Abby Bradshaw** (England GU11 no 27) finishing runner up in the Girls u11 Bromley Challenger event, while **Abhi Asthana** (England BU13 no 30) finished 30th in the England Junior National Championships.
- Our juniors are not just competing domestically. One of our juniors is now competing on the international stage! **Tom Wainwright** recently finished a very credible 5th place in the 2023 Croatian National Junior Open Championships in Zagreb. This brilliant result has propelled him into the European top 100 at boys u13 level! He is now the European BU13 no 95.

Congratulations to the above and indeed **all our fantastic juniors**! A big thank you also to our brilliant coaches and parent volunteers too. You can find out more about our outstanding academy programme and how to join at www.twsrc.co.uk or please contact Declan directly at declan.wainwright@yahoo.co.uk.



John Barham has a challenge ahead of him...

1 CYCLIST

2 RIDES

900 KM

IN MAY 2023, I INTEND TO UNDERTAKE TWO CYCLING CHALLENGES. FIRSTLY, A 7-DAY RIDE ACROSS PORTUGAL FROM CHAVES IN THE NORTH TO FARO IN THE SOUTH. AN AVERAGE OF 120KMS AND 1640 M OF CLIMB PER DAY.

SECONDLY, A RIDE CLOSER TO HOME – THE RIDE-LONDON 100. A 100-MILE RIDE ON TRAFFIC-FREE ROADS THROUGH LONDON AND AROUND ESSEX.



I AM RAISING MONEY FOR TWO CHARITIES: **MNDA** AND **MIND**. BOTH OF WHICH HAVE PERSONAL SIGNIFICANCE.

A SPONSORSHIP FORM IS AVAILABLE BEHIND THE BAR.

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR DONATIONS.

(FUNDS CAN BE TRANSFERRED VIA THE COURT BOOKING SYSTEM)



Interclub Tournament & Social

Six teams, 4 (or 5) players per team

Format: 1 x Singles Match

1 x Doubles Match

1 x Length Match

Each team plays each team – 5 matches in total

All points count

Players can stick to one format (e.g. doubles) or rotate – captain's choice



Date: Saturday 3rd June 2023 from 2 - 6:30pm

Entry £10 per head

(to include food during the day)

Sign up sheet will be on noticeboard



Are you interested in helping the club through sponsorship?

Do you have events you would like to publicise linked to the club?

Please contact
Richard
Morris

Richard.k.m.morris@gmail.com

