

## Major Innovations

Welcome to Stormont's Spring Newsletter. I hope everyone has a great summer season, whether playing tennis or squash.

A major innovation from April is the introduction of our new, online booking system. It is based on the LTA's Clubspark and has been built by Lucy Dean. Many thanks, Lucy.

The system has the great virtue of allowing us as members to book courts remotely. It will also enable the Club to understand court usage better than we do at present and hopefully encourage more play. It will certainly help us to work with Hanover, the Woodside Square developer, and the residents there regarding use of the St Luke's court.

Details of how to use the system are set out on page 6 and further guidance will be posted on the Stormont website. The big points for me to make are that squash and tennis courts can be booked up to two weeks in advance and will cost £1 a session paid for through a Stripe account. For those who don't know Stripe, it is very similar to PayPal and is linked to a credit or debit card. The increase from the current 50p booking fee reflects the transaction costs the Club has to pay Stripe to operate the system. Courts can be cancelled up to 24 hours in advance and booking fees will be refunded to your card; there is no refund for cancellations in the last 24 hours. Bottom line: no more booking stamps and much greater assurance that you can get the court you

want without needing to visit the Club. Court lighting remains as before: £1 coins in the meters.

New systems inevitably need to bed down so please bear with us if there are teething problems or changes members want. Dinny has kindly agreed to add to her roles as coach and membership secretary those of system administrator and technical support. Thank you, Dinny.

Many of you will know that Howard Barrett joined the committee last year and I am hugely grateful to him for proposing a Development Plan for the Club, taking feedback from many of you in the process. His research suggests that the Club gets many things right: we are seen as a friendly, inclusive, neighbourhood club, offering good value for money and giving members opportunities to improve their player skills through our coaching, Club play, matches and other regular sessions. But there are areas for development and we need to prioritise these, recognising that much of the work has to be done by volunteers.

### The main issues are:

- Securing the long term use of St Luke's as a third court; linked with that is welcoming those Woodside Square residents who want to join the Club. We are hugely grateful to Hanover for the access they have given us so far but we will need to finalise terms for the future over the next few months. I will give an update on the latest position at the AGM.
- "Securing the estate" by which I mean dealing with the issues which could do fundamental damage to the Club: most obvious is the bank behind the squash courts, which is subsiding, and is one cause of the damp that has led to the squash court paint flaking in places. Relaying the Lanchester Road courts is another, though not so urgent.
- Developing a better understanding of the life expectancy of the squash courts: there is an immediate need to repair the squash court walls, which will occur this year once we understand the sources of damp better. But the courts are already 15 years past their original life expectancy and we need to plan forward for the best ways to maintain them and ultimately to fund a rebuild.
- The booking and membership system: I

have outlined the progress of the booking system above but in the medium term we want all aspects of membership to be online with the attendant benefits of efficiency, security and understanding of members' needs.

- A step plan for squash at Stormont: we are pleased to welcome a number of new squash players this year and Vickie Prow and our squash coaches do a great job but the courts remain under-utilised. Squash as a sport is recovering from a decades-long decline in membership and we should take full advantage of that

resurgence without sacrificing all the benefits of easily available courts. I will report in the Autumn on our proposals.

### We recognise that there are also "business as usual" elements to progress:

- Maintenance: we need to improve the decoration of the Club and replace some of the equipment, for instance, the cooker.
- Tennis initiatives: Dinny and Lucy are already giving members of all ages more playing opportunities.

Please come to the AGM on Wednesday, 19th April. Let the Committee hear your views on the topics I have outlined above, and any others you want to discuss. We are always looking for volunteers to help us with these and other initiatives, whether as a Committee member or otherwise. Just contact Dinny, any Committee member or myself if you would like to get involved.

Finally, I would like to thank all members of the Committee on your behalf. They give their time freely and without them the Club could not function.

*Tony Hulse, Chairman*

### AGM

**Wednesday 19 April 8.00pm**

details on page 2

*free drink before*

# Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Stormont Lawn Tennis & Squash Rackets Club will take place on Wednesday 19 April 2017 at 8.00pm in the Stormont Clubroom.

## AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for absence
  - 2 Minutes from previous Annual General Meeting to be read and approved
  - 3 To consider, and to adopt, the Annual Report
  - 4 To consider, and to adopt, the Financial Report
  - 5 Election of Officers and Committee Members for the coming year
  - 6 To determine the subscription rates, entrance fees, guest fees and categories of membership for the year 1 October 2017 – 30 September 2018
  - 7 To approve a special category of membership for residents of Woodside Square and to determine the subscription rates for them
  - 8 To approve the standard terms of the banking facilities used by the Club
  - 9 Any other business and any other points which members would like the Committee to consider during the following year
- Nominations for the Committee to be sent in writing before the date of the AGM to the Secretary, c/o Stormont LT & SR Club,  
13 Lanchester Road, Highgate, London N6 4SU or tony@hulse.cc

## Stormont Calendar 2017

- **APRIL 9 SUNDAY 3pm** Handicap Squash Tournament
- **APRIL 10 MONDAY** ONLINE BOOKING SYSTEM GOES LIVE
- **APRIL 15 GOOD FRIDAY** Hot Cross Buns after morning tennis lessons
- **APRIL 18 TUESDAY** After school lessons begin
- **APRIL 19 WEDNESDAY 8pm** AGM
- **APRIL 22 SATURDAY** Junior Tennis matches begin
- **APRIL 23 SUNDAY 1pm** Stormont Wimbledon Ballot
- **APRIL 29 SATURDAY 10am-2pm** Ask Sal brings tennis clothes and shoes to Stormont for us to buy
- **MAY 1 BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 1pm** David Dorton Doubles Tournament – bring something to share for tea
- **MAY 1 Entries for Stormont Closed Tennis Tournaments CLOSE**
- **MAY 27 SATURDAY** Road to Wimbledon Tournament
- **MAY 28 SUNDAY** Borough Open Day Tennis and Squash
- **MAY 30 – 1 JUNE** May Half Term Camps
- **JUNE 4 SUNDAY** Road to Wimbledon Tournament
- **JULY 14 FRIDAY 4.30-7.30pm** Junior BBQ
- **JULY 23 SUNDAY 1pm** Stormont Closed Tennis Finals

## SUMMERTIME IS THE WARMEST TIME TO PLAY TENNIS

Join groups or club times.  
Bring your friends.  
Non members welcome up to three times.  
£1 visitors fee applies

### Reminder:

#### British Tennis Membership

Join British Tennis for free at [lta.org.uk/membership](http://lta.org.uk/membership). Put that you are a member of Stormont which is in Middlesex. Our Wimbledon ticket allocation and your entry into our ballot depend on the number of Stormont B.T. members we have. As B.T. members you are asked every year if you want to opt in for Wimbledon tickets. Please do so immediately.

The St Luke's padlocks need to be treated gently.  
Make sure the numbers are lined up on the slight metal ridge.  
The brick is there to encourage the bolt to close because it's very stiff!!

### AGM

Wednesday 19 April  
8.00pm

*free drink before*

## TENNIS TOURNAMENTS

**Monday May 1 starting at 1pm David Dorton Tournament** is a fun Doubles Day. David Dorton was a keen gardener so prizes are plants. Turn up and depending on how many come you play with the same or different opponents and play loads of tennis. Bring something yummy to share for afternoon tea



**Stormont Closed Tennis Tournament** is our club Knockout Championship Tournament (you must be a member of Stormont). Ladies and Mens Singles, Ladies and Mens Doubles and Mixed Doubles. Entry forms are on the notice board downstairs between the squash courts. Once the draws are up you arrange and book courts for your matches and bring balls. Winners go through. Finals on Sunday July 23. with umpires and ball kids. Start at 1pm followed by a delicious BBQ.

*Mucking in with a little light maintenance!*

## Bridge at Stormont

Bridge has continued throughout the year. We meet once a month, usually on the second Friday, at 8pm to play bridge in the Club room. Please contact Patricia or Jon on 0208 883 7567 or 07774 146644 for further information if you are interested in playing.

Tennis Clubtimes Wednesday 6 – 9pm and Sunday 10am – 1pm continue throughout the year  
Thursdays 10.30am – 12.30pm (term time only)

## STORMONT WINTER FLOODLIT TEAMS

Thanks to everyone who played, particularly those who filled in at the last minute.

### LADIES' 1 IN DIVISION 2

We had a mixed season. We didn't win a set against the team who won the division but we fought tenaciously.

We had one draw but in others were stunningly victorious.

The last match was a battle for second place against very tricky and annoying opponents but Lucy and Dinny won the crucial three sets needed and an extra one.

In order of those who've played the most.

Sally, Dinny, Hannah, Lucy, Gina, Sue Goddard, Wendy, Barbara and Abi all played for the firsts.

*Dinny Ravet Ladies 1 Captain*

### LADIES' SECOND TEAM

After some tricky matches we are guaranteed a place in Division 3 next winter. Particular mention should be made of the final match against Barnet, the division leaders, where Barbara, Norma, Sarah and Kremena won a total of three sets. No other club had managed to take more than one set from Barnet and many opponents didn't win any. We should also note the really convincing win against Pavilion (not an easy match at all) on the coldest night of the winter when Sue, Norma, Barbara and Abi took all sixteen points. Everyone has played their part in this series of hard fought matches – thank you to Norma, Sarah, Kremena, Barbara, Wendy, Sue G, Patricia and Abi.

*Jeni Walwin Second Team Captain*

### LADIES' THIRD TEAM

The 3rd team were unexpectedly promoted to Division 4 this winter. The matches are not yet completed but we have done well and it looks like we should stay in this Division. Many thanks to stalwarts Jenny T, Sarah, Jane D, Ping, Angela, Jane A and Amira, and lots of welcome thanks to new/returning match players Cheryl, Hilly and Joanna.

*Sheena Macallum Third Team Captain*

### MEN'S FIRST TEAM Up and down...

The men's first team found itself surprisingly promoted to Division 2 this winter season even though we finished third last year. Undeterred, we did our best to match the required standard. Unfortunately, we were slightly unlucky on several counts: our opposing teams seemed to turn out their best sides against us; we suffered some last minute dropouts from our crème de la crème player; and above all innumerable miss-hits from our opponents that definitely cost us a few sets. Bottom line, we finished seven out of eight with a margin of only a set between us and the two teams above. So we need to rebound next season. Until then, thanks to all the usual suspects, Tim, Nick, injured Ben and Matt, also to Antonis and Lanham Junior for supporting the team when needed.

*Fabien Zinsner First Team Captain*

### MEN'S SECOND TEAM - the unfinished journey

Older readers (i.e. almost everyone!) may remember the excellent British post-apocalypse science fiction film *The Day the Earth Caught Fire* and its cliffhanger ending, with two newspaper headlines shown – 'World Saved' and 'World Doomed'. As I write, the Men's Second Team winter season is at that point; our final match has been postponed by two weeks to 3 April (because, believe it or not, the opposition forgot to book the courts at their park venue!) and the result will either see us achieving promotion in second place, or falling just short in third. At least we will go into it knowing exactly how many points we will need for promotion – quite possibly 15...

All of which preamble is to say that we have had a solid winter campaign, with some excellent results and lots of sterling effort on the part of a squad of 11 (so far). So thank you to Alex, Andrew S, Antonis, David P, Edmund, Everton, Keith, Marc de L, Peter S and Tony for turning out in some very mixed weather, putting up with my cooking and persistent emails and generally representing Stormont with aplomb. I am pleased to say that five of our players are in the top twenty in the standings and we are looking forward to the summer season as well as our final winter match. Thanks too to Dinny for the support and advice as ever.

*Ian Lush Second Team Captain*

### MIXED 1 IN DIVISION 1

In this division they hit the ball hard and know where to put it to hurt the most, as do we. If you're not on top of your game the sets slip away. So we found it heavy going in Division 1.

In order of those who've played the most were Sally, Fabien, Matt, Tim, Lucy, Dinny and Hannah. Sadly Hackney gave us a walkover and we have no idea how the points will be awarded for this match.

At present we are seventh with a tough playing, hard drinking team to play in our last match.

*Dinny Ravet Mixed 1 Captain*

### MIXED 2 IN DIVISION 2

Slim pickings in Division 2 for the second mixed team. We came across many coaches and tour players and frequently lost but we did manage to draw one match!

Many players joined in the battle some stepping in at the very last minute. 13 was not a lucky number.

In order of those who've played the most Tim, Barbara, Antonis, Hannah, Dinny, Andrew, Lou, Nick Ruff, Ian, Howard, Everton, Angela and Jeni.

*Dinny Ravet, Mixed 2 Captain*

### MIXED VETS IN DIVISION 4B

Some of the weather was mean and so were some of the opponents. We played all our matches and are comfortably fifth of six. Fair play, compliments and afternoon tea are the highlights of these matches.

In order of those who've played the most Angela, Dinny, Keith, John Lanham, Ian, Patricia, Howard, Ian, Marc, Greg and Ping all contributed.

*Dinny Ravet Mixed Vets Captain*

### Wimbledon Ballot: Sunday 23 April at 1pm in the Club House

Stormont has been allocated 41 pairs of tickets for our Wimbledon ballot. Thank you to all the members who opted in and to Dinny for chasing us up. Our ballot will be held on **Sunday 23 April at 1pm in the Club House**. With this many tickets, every family has a reasonable chance of winning a pair this year, so do come along. Full details are online at [www.wimbledon.com](http://www.wimbledon.com). Wimbledon runs from 3 July to 16 July. The main ballot conditions are as follows:

- You must be a British Tennis member and aged 9 or over to enter the ballot. Your British Tennis membership details (including email addresses) need to be up to date
- You must have opted in to the 2017 Wimbledon Ballot by 17 February 2016
- You or your delegate must attend the ballot in person and your delegate must be able to select tickets on your behalf
- Only one pair of tickets will be allocated per family

As in previous years, winners will be drawn by lot which entitles you to select your tickets from those available. Thus the first winner can select his or her preferred court and date from all the tickets (we do not know the seat numbers); the last winner (no 41) will have no choice (other than to refuse the ticket). We will draw some reserves in case there are a number of refusals. We will input the winners' ticket allocations to the LTA website immediately following the ballot. The LTA will contact winners by email as per their British Tennis membership details and allow them 14 days to claim the actual tickets allocated and to pay for them online. Please accept and pay or reject them immediately so that if you do not want them they can be offered to the reserves before the 19 May deadline. There will also be a telephone purchase facility (0208 487 7000). The LTA will post out the tickets. If you do not claim your tickets by 7 May, they will be reallocated to reserves. Reserves may win a ticket any time up to 19 May as a result of the LTA reallocation process so watch out for emails or online at [www.LTA.org.uk/ballotlookup](http://www.LTA.org.uk/ballotlookup). Please ensure that your LTA contact details are up to date. Log into your member's area and tick on 'Details' to edit your profile.

**AGM**  
**Wednesday 19 April**  
**8.00pm**  
*free drink before*

# TENNIS



For more information please contact the coaches individually -  
**Dinny 07961434889 or**  
**dinnyravet@gmail.com or**  
**Lucy 07846872043 or**  
**lucy.o.dean@googlemail.com**  
 All juniors aged 8 years and older must be a member of the club to participate – details can be found at [www.stormontltsrc.com](http://www.stormontltsrc.com)

## FOR ALL YOUR TENNIS COACHING NEEDS

### DINNY'S ADULT TENNIS COACHING GROUPS

#### Beginners and Improvers Drop-in Groups

Monday 10 – 11.30am\*\*\*

Wednesday 10 – 11.30am\*\*\*

#### Improvers and Rusty Players Drop-in Groups

Friday 9 – 10.15am

Saturday 10 – 11.00am

#### Invitation Groups

Tuesday 1.30 – 3.00pm

Saturday 11 – 12 noon

Friday 10.15 – 11.45 Knowledgeable and wily doubles players

\*\*\* term-time only

**COST**  
*Individual lessons £30 an hour*  
*One hour drop in £8*  
*One and a quarter hours £10*  
*One and a half hours £12*

**Contact Dinny Ravet**  
 29 Fortismere Avenue  
 London N10 3BN  
 mobile: 07961 434889  
[dinnyravet@gmail.com](mailto:dinnyravet@gmail.com)

## JUNIOR COACHING

### TUESDAYS 18 APRIL – 11 JULY

3.50–4.35pm Yellow ball 12 years and under

4.30–5.30pm Mini green 10 years and under

5.30–6.30pm Yellow ball 18 years and under

**One hour courses £96.00 for the term**  
**45 minutes £78.00 for the term**



Dinny restrings rackets and demos rackets



## Easter tennis camps

03/04 – 06/04 & 10/04 – 13/04



SESSION	AGE	TIMES	COST PER DAY (member/non-member)	COST FOR 4 DAYS (member/non-member)
MINI TENNIS	4-10 YRS	10-12PM	£15/£16	£54/£58
YELLOW BALL	11-16 YRS	2-4PM (TUES is 3-5PM)	£15/£16	£54/£58

## LUCY'S SUMMER SCHEDULE

### JUNIOR COACHING

**TUESDAY 18 APRIL TO MONDAY 17 JULY (HALF TERM – 29/05 TO 01/06)**

DAY	TIME	SESSION	COST (12 weeks)
MONDAY	16.00-17.00	U9 ADVANCED	£96.00
MONDAY	17.00-18.15	U14 ADVANCED	£120.00
WEDNESDAY	16.15-17.00	MINI RED (5-7 years)	£78.00
WEDNESDAY	17.15-18.00	YELLOWBALL	£78.00
THURSDAY	16.00-16.45	MINI RED (5-7 years)	£78.00
THURSDAY	16.45-17.30	MINI ORANGE (8-9 years)	£78.00
THURSDAY	17.30-18.15	MINI GREEN (10-11 years)	£78.00
FRIDAY	15.50-16.35	MINI GREEN (10-11 years)	£78.00
FRIDAY	16.35-17.15	MINI ORANGE (8-9 years)	£66.00
FRIDAY	17.15-18.00	YELLOWBALL (Girls only)	£78.00
FRIDAY	18.00-18.45	YELLOWBALL	£78.00
FRIDAY	18.45-20.00	U14 ADVANCED	£120.00
SATURDAY	11.00-11.45	MINI ORANGE/GREEN	£78.00

If you would like more information or to book please email me at [lucy.o.dean@googlemail.com](mailto:lucy.o.dean@googlemail.com) or call 07846 872043

## ADULT COACHING

### STARTING WEEK COMMENCING 18 APRIL

DAY	TIME	SESSION	COST
TUESDAY*	19.00-20.00	WOMEN ONLY	£10.00
WEDNESDAY	10.00-11.30	IMPROVERS	£12.00
THURSDAY*	19.00-20.30	MEN ONLY	£15.00

Sessions are on a drop in basis

\*Sessions are at Waterlow Park, Highgate Village

To book and for more information please email Lucy Dean at [lucy.o.dean@gmail.com](mailto:lucy.o.dean@gmail.com) or on 07846872043.



# SQUASH



## STORMONT 1ST SQUASH TEAM

The club's finest athletes (and Fabien) have had a challenging time in Middlesex Division 5 this winter, missing our no. three player Alfie, who's been away on a four year coal-mining apprenticeship in Braemar. Winning seven out of 18 matches we should avoid relegation.

Coming up are the **Nick Hanika Handicap Cup** on the 9th April from 3pm (free entry!) and the summer season, where Stormont 1 will be battling it out in the dizzy heights of Division 4. Aspiring team players please make yourself known!

*Simon Ruff First Team Captain*

## STORMONT 2ND SQUASH TEAM

This is the first year for Stormont 2 in the Middlesex Squash leagues and we started at the bottom in Division 6. We never imagined how hard it would be and how high the standards of squash there. The good news is that a large squad had chances to turn out in matches, we managed a few wins and we had some epic games. We also enjoyed some "learning experiences" on court – not always totally fun as we know from other walks of life – and sometimes had to console ourselves with the level of hospitality which was excellent, clearly a reflection of priorities for teams in this league. We should end up sixth out of nine, respectable in the circumstances, and encouraged by the experience to run a second team in the Summer leagues.

Thanks to Stuart Miller for his dedication throughout the season,

especially for the period when I was recovering from my unfortunate encounter with a lawn mower; also to David Breslin, particularly his heroism in taking the no. one slot for much of the season; to Andras Pal, our coach; to Nat Hodge often at no two or three and showing maturity way beyond his years; and to James Bloom, Nick Davies, Zach Moss, Adam Taub and guest players when back from the dreaming spires of academia, Alfie Lake and Louis Hodge.

*Tony Hulse Second Team Captain*

## Non-team squash

If you'd like to play squash at Stormont why not come along to club night every Wednesday from 8pm and join the squash ladder (email – [stu.dmler@gmail.com](mailto:stu.dmler@gmail.com) for details). The club also offers squash coaching and is working to introduce local school children to the game too.

*Simon Ruff Squash Captain*

## GROUP TRAINING AT STORMONT

I would like to say Thank you to Tony and Simon for helping to set up group coaching at Stormont.

The sessions were launched on 4th of March and since then we have had three great sessions.

If you want to improve your game and help the team win with your newly learnt drop shots or just want to be challenged and pushed to the limit then join us.

Every Saturday an improvers session starts at 13:30 (maximum of eight players) followed by a fitness / hitting under pressure at 14:30 (maximum four players) which will test and improve your stamina and technique.

To book your place or for enquiries contact Andras by email – [andras.squash@gmail.com](mailto:andras.squash@gmail.com) or phone 0740-255-7654

*Andras Pal Esr level 2 Squash coach*  
Taster, group, individual sessions. Racket stringing also available. Call, text or email me for more details.

## MID WEEK DAYTIME SQUASH CLUB TIME

There are quite a few weekday members who would like to form a group. How?

Any volunteers to run a club time in the daytime?

**STORMONT SQUASH MEMBERS** please ensure you join England Squash at [www.englishsquash.com/membership](http://www.englishsquash.com/membership). It costs nothing as a Stormont member and you need to be members to play in tournaments and matches

**WEDNESDAY  
SQUASH  
CLUBTIME  
8PM ONWARDS**

## Squash Coaching Program April – July 2017

Squash Coaching	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
<b>Juniors (12 weeks/term)</b>							
<b>Beginners (7 - 12 years)</b>		4.30 – 5.15pm		4.30 – 5.30pm	4.30 – 5.15pm		
<b>Beginners (10+ years)</b>		5.15 – 6pm	5.15 – 6pm	5.15 – 6.16pm	5.15 – 6.00pm		
<b>Intermediate Players</b>			5.45 – 6.30pm	6 – 7pm	6.00 – 7.00pm		
<b>Advance Players</b>							
<b>Beginners Girls Only (7-12 years)</b>			4.45-5.30pm				
<b>Beginners Girls Only (10+ years)</b>							
<b>Adults (6 weeks block)</b>							
<b>Beginners – Women &amp; Girls Only</b>			6.30 – 7.30pm				

**Equipment can be provided, but please wear clean non marking training and appropriate kit.**

Start Dates: 18th, 19th, 20th & 21st April, final sessions: 11th, 12th, 13th & 14th July 2017 (no coaching during week of 27th May - 2nd June)

**Fees:** Juniors for 12 weeks = £72 members/£84 non members. **First 2 sessions free for new junior participants & fees calculated pro-rata on joining.**  
Adult for 6 weeks = £6/session or £30 for all 6 sessions.  
Payment should be made by BACs to Sort code: 30-96-26, Acct: 22867560. Payment in cheque (payable to "Play Squash") or cash must be given to the coach.



*Tetherdown school visiting Stormont as part of getting local schools interested in playing squash*

**Booking is essential for all group coaching and can be made at any time.**

**Contact: Vickie Prow 07796181286**

**or email: [northlondonsquashcoaching@gmail.com](mailto:northlondonsquashcoaching@gmail.com)**

With England Squash & Middlesex County Coaches – Lucas Cannistraci, Stephen Thompson, Andras Pal, Zubid Rehman and Vickie Prow

## Easter Junior Squash Fun Match Play Tournaments and Camps (8-16 yrs)

**A fun day of friendly match play tournaments for all standards, ages and abilities – so no excuses.**  
Wednesday 5th April, Thursday 6th April, Monday 10th April, Tuesday 11th April, 10am – 3.30pm  
Fees: £20/day or £15/day if 3 or more days booked.  
Participants must bring a packed lunch and refreshments  
Booking is essential: Contact Vickie Prow, Tel: 07796181286  
Email: [northlondonsquashcoaching@gmail.com](mailto:northlondonsquashcoaching@gmail.com)

## STORMONT COURT BOOKINGS GOING ONLINE FROM 10TH APRIL

I am delighted to let you know that Stormont's tennis and squash court booking system is going live online from Monday 10th April 2017. The objective is to make the process of booking courts easier and more accessible for members and to replace the current paper booking sheets. The system is provided by the LTA under the ClubSpark banner and is delivered by the LTA's technology partner, Sportlabs Technology Limited.

Members will be able to book courts and pay for them online using a computer at home/work and on smartphones and many other mobile devices. We will also be installing a secure tablet in the entrance hall to the squash courts which members will be able to use to make and check bookings if they need to.

A step by step Member Guide will be posted on Stormont's website but the main action members should take to use the system will be to respond to the email invitation to register an account with ClubSpark. For a preview of how the system works and background to ClubSpark, search for ClubSpark Support/ On line court bookings via a search engine. You will also find there further details on how ClubSpark uses personal information and their privacy policy.

A particular attraction of Stormont has been that courts are cheap to book (50p generally for an hour for tennis or 45 minutes for squash, £1 at peak times for tennis). However, as the new system requires payments to be taken online through Stripe, a payment provider, the cost of which the Club bears, we have decided to standardise the booking fee for all courts at all times at £1 per session.

As I note in my chairman's report, Stripe is similar to PayPal, a large US corporation with a global presence. Its European operations are conducted out of Ireland but its data protection conforms to UK (and European) requirements.

When booking for the first time, members will need to enter the details of the credit or debit card they want to use. For subsequent bookings, they will be asked to confirm that they want to use the same card or to enter a different one. Stripe will then send the member a text to his or her registered mobile telephone giving a verification code which needs to be entered into the payment menu. When the payment has gone through, a confirmation will appear on the screen giving details of the booking and an email confirmation will also be sent to the member's registered email address.

As now, a member will only be allowed to book one session per day. Consequently, if two sessions are required, the second will need to be booked by his or her partner or opponent. That will require a certain level of synchronisation, given the payment mechanism involved.

The system does not distinguish between adult and junior members. Thus, junior members will be able to use the system to book a court but they will need their parent's or guardian's permission as Stripe will collect payments through their parents/guardians' registered credit or debit card. The standard control mechanism will be that the verification code is sent to the parent/guardian. It will be possible to register the junior member's mobile telephone and card if they have one but that will be at the discretion of each parent/guardian for which Stormont accepts no responsibility.



### HOW TO REGISTER?

Members will shortly receive an email invitation from the Club to register or log in to ClubSpark. Either register and log in directly with ClubSpark or click on the link to access the log in/register pages of ClubSpark's website and follow the instructions there. Members can also log in to ClubSpark through their LTA, Facebook, Microsoft or Gmail accounts. Once this is done, members will need to accept the Terms and Conditions and select their Communication Options.

Once logged in Members will be able to access the Online Court Booking Sheet by clicking "Book a Court". The URL is <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/StormontLTandSRC/Booking/> if you need to get there in the future.

It is important to note that from the 10th April members will not be able to book a court except on line. Accordingly, members should register as soon as possible. It will still be possible to play on unbooked courts or if bookings are not taken up within 10 minutes of the allotted time.

*Tony Hulse, Chairman*

**For more information and help please use the Member Guide or contact [dinnyravet@gmail.com](mailto:dinnyravet@gmail.com).**

**AGM Wednesday 19 April 8.00pm**  
*free drink before*