

New and continuing initiatives

Welcome to the 2017/18 season. I hope you have a great season of tennis and squash.

TENNIS FINALS 2017

I referred in my April report to the initiatives we are taking to improve the Club. You will have noticed some of these already; others will take longer.

The online booking system is working, albeit with gremlins, and is proving its worth. It is considerably more convenient to book courts now. Most members have no trouble with the system but I know some do. They should get in touch with Dinny Ravet who is the system administrator as well as membership secretary and ask her to reset their access. That usually does the trick, though not always, for which I can only apologise. Once resolved, we will move more aspects of membership to the system to benefit from the efficiencies it offers. This year renewals and new applications will continue to be paper based; please return renewal/application forms by post or email.

The second initiative involves "securing the estate". The first action was replastering and repainting the squash courts and sanding the wood floors. That was successfully completed in June and the courts are playing excellently. It is a little disappointing to see the many black marks on the walls already. May I remind players to use non-marking balls and not to have coloured protectors or tape on the tops of their rackets.

We also inspected the fabric of the club buildings to form a view on their resilience. By and large, the main issues could be dealt with fairly easily. More protracted is the process of agreeing with Tube Lines who is responsible for the subsidising bank behind the squash courts and then working out how to stabilise it and drain the excess water that runs through and potentially could damage the building. I suspect this story will run and run.

We patched and repainted the tennis courts at Lanchester Road in a couple of places this spring. We will monitor how they are wearing as they will need resurfacing in the medium term. There are some exciting new surfaces we could use on all the courts but we will not make any decision without consultation with the membership.

We cleaned the St Luke's court this year and though there is some degradation round the edges the main playing surface is good. We are dependent on Hanover Housing Association, who own the court, before we can undertake more substantive work there. We are grateful to Hanover for giving us access just about whenever we want and among several very positive joint initiatives are encouraging new residents from Woodside Square to become members of Stormont.

The most disturbing development in the last 6 months was the burglary which occurred in late April, or more particularly the damage done to the court meters and other equipment in order to steal the relatively trifling amounts of money they contained. Repairs cost several thousand pounds. We still do not have a working stamp machine for guest fees (it appears that ours is a collector's item) so a new approach looks to be necessary there. We have changed some locks and are considering more sophisticated security measures but are conscious of the importance of balancing security with the need for members to have easy access to the club's facilities.

Stormont teams have enjoyed an active summer with three ladies' tennis teams, two men's tennis, two men's squash, and several junior teams. Results have been mixed as reported later in the newsletter. In tennis, congratulations to Ladies 1 on their strong showing in Division 1 and commiserations to Men's 1 in Division 2 who were relegated. There are still a couple of squash matches to play but with luck both teams should end up mid table in the summer leagues. Simon Ruff, captaining the squash first team, wins the "War and Peace" prize for his zany match reports. It was good to see the broad pool of talent Stuart Miller managed to turn out for the seconds in their first season in the summer leagues. We can look forward to the winter season with confidence.

The summer tennis tournament went well though many of us found the semi-finals were rather squeezed for time. Finals day saw some highly competitive matches with Fabien Zinsner almost toppled from his perch as our men's champion by Nick Ruff and Wendy Levin falling from hers (occupied for most of the last 17 years) to the prowess of Lucy Dean. Other finals also saw some nice reversals of fortune and new champions installed as you can see from the photos opposite.

Stormont is a private members' club so what we do is entirely with the interests of members in mind, having regard to the local community in which we operate and seek to cooperate. If there are improvements or changes you would like, please let me or any committee member know.

Finally, I would like to offer thanks to all committee members on your behalf for the time and effort they put into the club's affairs.

Tony Hulse, Chairman



Lucy Dean beat Wendy Levin 6-0 6-2.

Fabien Zinsner beat Nick Ruff 4-6 6-3 6-4.

Lucy Dean and Sue Goddard beat Wendy Levin and Hannah Rustin 6-4 6-4.

Tim Clarke and Nick Ruff beat Fabien and Matthieu Zinsner 2-6 6-4 6-4.

Hannah Rustin and Ben Wiltshire beat Sally James and Fabien Zinsner 6-3 6-4.

Thanks to all the ball boys and umpires. Thanks to John Lanham for the BBQ and Kevin James for doing the bar.

TENNIS

MIDDLESEX SUMMER TENNIS MATCHES

FEAST OR FAMINE

The joy of being a team captain is having too many players for a match ... but who to pick?

The nightmare of a team captain is not having enough players ... who to take from the team below or can you pluck someone out of the ether?

Members who reply immediately and will move commitments around are much appreciated and chauffeurs and cooks are loved.

LADIES' FIRST TEAM

Ladies 1 Tennis Team in Division 1

We sometimes had the luxury of Lucy playing but beavered on when we didn't.

Sally, Sue Goddard, Dinny, Wendy, Hannah, Lucy, Lou, Barbara, Susie, Abi, Cheryl, Jeni, Sarah and Zoe all played. Starting the season with a shocking 3-21 loss was balanced by a 24-0 win.

Near the end of the season we discovered that from Division 1 only one team goes up to Intermediate (we've never reached those heady heights) and we needed at least 21 points in our last match to stand any chance of going up. The rained bucketed down and our chances were probably down the drain with it.

Did we manage promotion? We waited and waited. Stormont got 103, Barnet got 105 and Highbury 109. So near. Maybe next year

Dinny Ravet, First Team Captain

LADIES' SECOND TEAM

Joint fifth place on points

This was a hard fought season with almost all our matches close to ties, and much challenging tennis along the way. Ending the summer in joint fifth place on points means that we are likely to retain our spot in Division 3. We were delighted to welcome to the team a number of new players who have contributed significantly to these results. Norma, Sarah, Barbara, Cheryl, Patricia, Abi, Lou, and Susie were supported by valuable one-off contributions from Kate, Kremena, Zoe, Hannah, Ping, Waed, Jane A and Jenny T.

Jeni Walwin, Second Team Captain

LADIES' THIRD TEAM

Excellent set of summer matches

The Third team had an excellent set of summer matches, finishing comfortably in division 5. Good tennis, superb home food and a great group of players. So many thanks to Jenny T, Jane A, Lily, Susan, Cheryl, Jane D, Polly, Amira, Ping, Angela, Carol and Hilly.

Sheena MacCallum, Third Team Captain

Highlights from 2017 Finals Day

MEN'S FIRST TEAM

Straight back down!

Following a tremendous summer season in 2016, this transpired to be much more challenging.

The strength of our opponents was undeniably much greater and unfortunately we did not manage to field a consistent team this summer.

So, we got relegated back to Division 3.

I would like to thank Dinny massively for taking on the burden of finding players on the match day of almost all fixtures.

Anyway, we all had fun and it was enjoyable.

I can't name all the players as there were only 16 of us taking part!

Thank you all for your help and let's bounce back very soon.

Fabien Zinsner, First Team Captain

MEN'S SECONDS SUMMER SEASON

Mid-table Respectability

After an unexpected promotion to Division 7, despite having only finished third in Div. 8 last summer, my main aim for this season was consolidation. This proved to be exactly what occurred, as with a couple of other teams' fixtures still to complete Stormont Men's Seconds sit third in the table, with fourth (of eight) as our lowest possible position. This is a decent result considering that after the first three rounds of matches we were second bottom with just 21 points, having struggled to field teams, with a lot of changes of personnel, injuries and last-minute withdrawals. From there we picked up well, gaining some good wins and only tasting defeat again in the last match against the ubiquitous Coolhurst, whose (7th!) team were easily promoted. Thanks to all who played and supported us: Everton and I both appeared in six of the seven matches, Ed managed five, and we were joined by Alex, Antonis, Gabriel and Marc de Leuw, Greg, Mark C, Nigel, Peters S and W, Sam McG and welcome guests from the first team squad, Olli and Tim.

Ian Lush, Second Team Captain



BRITISH TENNIS

New members please join if you haven't yet
<https://www.lta.org.uk/member/>

Free membership for members of LTA Registered Venues
There are now different levels of membership. You can pay for special privileges but the basic membership is still free as a member of a club ie Stormont. Please reply to the first email you get that asks you to opt-in for Wimbledon tickets for the Stormont Club Wimbledon ticket allocation.

Come to our Ballot at the end of April and you too may win the chance to buy tickets.

CLUBSPARK INTERNET BOOKING

Many members haven't registered so are unable to book courts
If you are one of them please send an email to dinnyravet@gmail.com and she will send you another invite to register

TENNIS CLUBTIMES

Wednesday 6-9pm and Sunday 10-1pm continue throughout the year, Thursday 10-12pm (term-time only)

TENNIS

LUCY'S AUTUMN COACHING SCHEDULE

JUNIOR COACHING

Mon 11th Sept to Sat 16th Dec (Half Term –23/10 to 05/11) – 12 week term

DAY	TIME	SESSION	COST
MONDAY	16:00-17:00	U9 ADVANCED	£96.00
MONDAY	17:00-18:15	U14 ADVANCED	£120
TUESDAY	16:00-16:45	TOTS (3-4 YRS)	£78.00
TUESDAY	16:45-17:30	MISS HITS (5-7 YRS GIRLS ONLY)	£78.00
WEDNESDAY	16:15-17:15	MINI RED (5-7 YRS)	£96.00
WEDNESDAY	17:15-18:00	YELLOW BALL	£78.00
THURSDAY	16:00-16:45	MINI RED (5-7 YRS)	£78.00
THURSDAY	16:45-17:30	MINI ORANGE (8-9 YRS)	£78.00
THURSDAY	17:30-18:15	MINI GREEN (10-11 YRS)	£78.00
FRIDAY	15:50-16:35	MINI GREEN (10-11 YRS)	£78.00
FRIDAY	16:35-17:15	MINI ORANGE (8-9 YRS)	£66.00
FRIDAY	17:15-18:00	YELLOW BALL (GIRLS ONLY)	£78.00
FRIDAY	18:00-18:45	YELLOW BALL	£78.00
FRIDAY	18:45-20:00	U14 ADVANCED	£120.00
SATURDAY*	10:00-11:00	MINI RED (5-7 YRS)	£96.00
SATURDAY*	11:00-11:45	MINI ORANGE & GREEN (8-11 YRS)	£78.00

*These sessions are run at Cherry Tree Woods tennis courts.

ADULT COACHING

Starting week commencing 11th Sept

DAY	TIME	SESSION	COST
TUESDAY	19:00-20:00	TENNIS TUESDAYS (WOMEN ONLY)	£10
WEDNESDAY	10:00-11:30	IMPROVERS	£12
SUNDAY*	14:00-15:00	BEGINNERS	£8
SUNDAY*	15:00-16:00	CARDIO TENNIS	£5

*These sessions are run at Cherry Tree Woods tennis courts.

If you would like more information or to book please email me at lucy.o.dean@gmail.com or call on 07846872043. Individual coaching is also available.



DINNY'S JUNIOR TENNIS GROUPS

After school on Tuesdays from 3.50–6.30pm
Ability and friendship groups. Starting on
Tuesday 12 September
Contact Dinny 07961 434889 if you are not
already in a group and/or if your friends are
playing then and you want to join them
Contact Dinny 07961 434 889

Pay your Stormont subscription by
1 October and take 10% off your
subscription.

**Further details are on the membership
application/renewal form and on the
Stormont website www.stormonttsrc.com**

DINNY'S ADULT TENNIS COACHING GROUPS

Beginners and Improvers Drop-in Groups

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 – 11.45am Knowledgeable
and wily doubles players

*** term-time only

Contact Dinny Ravet

29 Fortismere Avenue

London N10 3BN

mobile: 07961 434889

dinnyravet@gmail.com

**FOR ALL
YOUR
TENNIS
COACHING
NEEDS**

COST

Individual lessons £30 an hour

One hour drop in £8

One and a quarter hours £10

One and a half hours £12

Dinny restrings rackets and demos rackets



SQUASH



CHALLENGING SEASON FOR ELITE ATHLETES!

Stormont First Squash Team – It's been a challenging season for the elite athletes of the first team, with limited

availability of players leaving the line-ups resembling butter scraped over too much bread at times. A couple of determined Ruffs have ensured a majority of victories at one & two, but lower order players have been distracted by holidays, marriage, heart-bypass surgery etc – people really need to get their priorities straight and put playing for the squash team above everything else. With two matches left as I write this parchment with my quill, we are on the cusp of getting relegated. Hopefully my ritual sacrifice of an old beanbag will appease the squash gods and spare us the indignity of returning to Division 5 after one season in the premier league/inn. Thanks to Puneet, Alfie, Tony, Stuart, Fabien, Pete, Andras, two Hodges and more. We look forward to the winter season where we're in Division 5 and pushing for promotion.

Simon Ruff, First Team Captain



BRILLIANT HIGHS AND PROBABLY A FEW LOWS!

Stormont Second Squash Team – Simon Ruff and Tony Hulse encouraged me to step up to the plate and organise a Summer Stormont Squash Second Team. With the new throng of young-ish talent available, we agreed there was enough depth at the club to manage two teams for the summer season. Through some brilliant highs and probably a few more lows, the Stormont Second Team have had a thoroughly enjoyable season. With our semi-elite players being gradually siphoned off by the First Team, the team overall have done a cracking job racking up enough points for a respectable season finish.

Safe from the danger zone of the bottom two places in the league, with two remaining games, we look set to finish fifth or sixth from eight teams.

Big thanks to Puneet, Andras, Louis, Nat, Nick, Zach, Tony, Wendy, Freddy and Martin. My apologies to all those other people I have repeatedly pestered to play who have been unable to make it! Hopefully my ritual sacrifice of a Simon Ruff voodoo effigy will appease the squash gods and give us a fifth place finish. I look forward to handing the reigns back to Tony for the winter season. Phew!

Stuart Miller, Second Team Captain

SQUASH CLUB NIGHT
Wednesdays 8pm Join us then

If you pay for squash membership remember to register with England Squash for the benefits

SQUASH COACHING @ STORMONT

It was a busy fun packed summer term for the juniors. 2 Stormont girls, Nina Franchi and Eliya Gardiner represented Haringey in the London Youth Games in June at Redbridge. There was some tough competition, but that has inspired these young players to "up their game" and the girls have now joined the Middlesex Squash County Junior Squad along with 16 Stormont boys. This will involve additional training sessions eight times a year with the county coaching team and every player will be eligible for selection to play in the county teams.

The Stormont squash coaching programme starts again in early September (see right) and we will be welcoming back our regular players and new younger beginners. We currently have a few spaces on left on our programmes, so if you are interested in improving your squash or even trying it for the first time please feel free to contact me to join our groups.

Our schools programme continues with Archer Academy and Tetherdown Primary and we will be welcoming other local primary schools in October to take part in a festival of squash to introduce an inter-schools competition throughout the year.

Due to the change in the Friday programme we sadly had to say good bye to our coach, Tina Fuselli. Therefore Andras is now responsible for coaching the Friday juniors and we also welcome Guido Cannistraci to the team who will be coaching the ladies on a Wednesday morning and stepping in where required.

We are looking forward to an exciting 17/18 season, and we hope to see you on court soon.

Vickie Prow

Play Squash!

Driving Participation in Squash

at

Stormont Lawn Tennis and Squash Rackets Club

13 Lanchester Road, London N6 4SU

www.stormontltsrc.com

Adult and Junior Squash Coaching Sept – Dec 2017

Juniors (Term Time)

Starting w/c 4th Sept – 15th Dec 2017 no coaching during half term (22nd-28th Oct)

Wednesdays: 4.45 – 5.45pm girls only: 7 yrs +
5.45 – 6.45pm intermediate players

Thursdays: 4.30 – 5.30pm beginners/new players 7-11 yrs
5.15 – 6.15pm beginners/intermediate 11+ yrs
6 – 7pm intermediate players 11+ yrs

Fridays: 4.15 – 5.15pm beginners 7+ yrs
5.15 – 6.15pm beginners/intermediate 11+ yrs
6 – 7pm intermediate/advanced 11+ yrs

Fees: £72 members/£84 non members per term. **First 2 sessions free for new junior participants & fees calculated pro-rata on joining.**

Adults (2 x 7 week blocks)

Starting w/c 4th September & 30th October 2017 no coaching during half term (22nd – 28th Oct)

Wednesdays: 10 – 11am Women only. **1st 2 sessions free for new participants. £42 for 7 weeks or £7/session**

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. Equipment provided.

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

Contact: Vickie Prow 07796181286 or email: northlondonsquashcoaching@gmail.com.

With England Squash & Middlesex County Coaches Lucas Cannistraci, Guido Cannistraci, Andras Pal, and Vickie Prow.

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.