

Everything has changed

This is not the chairman's report I wrote a fortnight ago. Everything changed when the country was effectively locked down to fight the pernicious COVID-19 virus. In mid-March, I wrote that we would do everything we could to keep the club open and functioning. That choice was taken out of our hands, as it has for all sports clubs. There are hard cases, such as families who would like to use the courts for their once a day exercise, but we have no choice in the matter. I can only assure members that we will reopen as soon as we can. The chances are high that, even then, social distancing will be required, and I would beg everyone to be responsible about that.

Stormont has great strengths as a club and, above all, as a community. The chat on the various team WhatsApp groups is great fun and keeps our spirits up; we will welcome that more and more as the lockdown drags on. We also have financial strengths, the product of many years of prudent stewardship, so our balance sheet is strong for a small club. We will make sure that subscriptions next year are adjusted down for continuing members to recognise our closure this year.

We also have organisational strengths. I am thinking particularly of Dinny as club manager (and all the other jobs she picks up), who has done an enormous amount over the last months to keep the club operating as well as possible within its structural limitations. I am thinking of Paul, Vickie and Tawanda, and the squash and tennis coaching they offer. I am thinking of the team captains who put considerable time into managing the matches that give us so much fun (generally). And I am thinking of the Committee which has been so supportive in the difficult judgements we have faced. They all give a great deal of time for the sake of the club and its community. Moments like now force us to stand back and reflect. We should celebrate what Stormont is. We should also recognise that everything that was fixed or inflexible a fortnight ago has suddenly become fluid and we should use the opportunities that may present themselves to improve the club for members.

An apology is due to our squash players. It took three months to have the heater on court 2 replaced after it went wrong in November. Part of the delay arose because, sensibly, we tried to have it repaired in the first instance; only when that failed was the decision made to order a new one. That took the suppliers and installers ages. Dinny, thank you for your patience in attending three early morning attempts at installation. I am pleased to report that the polar bear which occupied court 2 for all of December and January was eventually shooed out on 13 February and players could bask in the radiance of the large heater slung rather low across the back of the court, at least until 13 March.

On a more positive note, I am delighted that Vickie has agreed to continue running our junior squash coaching. She and Tawanda have run a successful programme this year with most classes full. Although Easter Holiday camps have been cancelled, the summer junior coaching schedule is set out on page 3. They will commence that when they can.

Winter tennis is always a challenge and this year has been no exception – “lashings of rain” this time (in Fabien's words) rather than frost. The match reports on page 4 reflect the position just before the shutters came down. Again, Easter Holiday camps have been cancelled and Paul's

programme of summer coaching is set out on page 3; he will adapt that as necessary. Do sign up when you can. He and Tawanda also offer excellent private coaching.

Progress with the acquisition of the St Luke's court continues to be slow and inevitably has just become slower. The problem here is that we cannot finalise the deal until the continuing obligations of the S106 Agreement entered into by the Woodside Square developers with Haringey have been clarified, as those obligations would also apply to us as owners of the court. The recent twist to the story is that issues have arisen over the developers' compliance with the Agreement. We are entirely in their hands and those of Haringey to resolve them. Fortunately, we continue to enjoy use of the court and the primary impact of the delay is that we cannot commission the repairs that we would like.

I usually finish by wishing all members a summer of excellent tennis and squash. On this occasion the sentiment is more sombre: keep safe and well. We will reopen when we can.

Tony Hulse, Chairman
29 March 2020

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Stormont Calendar 2020

This will be posted on the website and in the Club House window as soon as we know we can open.

Join groups or club times. You may bring any friend up to three times to play with you but you are responsible for their behaviour and safety. After that, if they want to continue playing they must join Stormont.

Online AGM Wednesday 15 April 2020 8.00pm

details on page 2

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Stormont Lawn Tennis and Squash Rackets Club will take place on Wednesday 15 April 2020 at 8.00pm by conference call. Let Tony Hulse or Dinny Ravet know by email at their addresses below by no later than midnight on 14 April if you wish to participate. You will be provided with Zoom dial-in details.

AGENDA

- 1 Approval of emergency procedures for conduct of meeting by conference call and for electronic voting
- 2 Minutes of 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 2020 – 30 September 2021
- 7 To approve the standard terms of the banking facilities used by the Club
- 8 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 by email before the date of the AGM to the chairman – tony@hulse.cc – or the membership secretary – dinnyravet@gmail.com



Wimbledon Ballot: Sunday 26 April

Wimbledon has not yet decided whether the tournament will go ahead this year. It is scheduled from 29 June to 12 July. See www.wimbledon.com for the latest information.

If the tournament goes ahead, we will hold an electronic ballot for the 41 pairs of tickets we have been allocated. Thank you to all the members who opted in and to Dinny for chasing us up.

Our ballot will be held on **Sunday 26 April at 1pm** and will be conducted electronically by Dinny and myself using a random number generator or similar system, with another committee member "auditing" remotely. With this many tickets, every family has a reasonable chance of winning a pair of tickets this year, so do apply by email to Dinny at dinnyravet@gmail.com. Prices are online on the LTA website under LTA Membership Ballots. For the centre court, they range from £140 a pair on Monday 29 and Tuesday 30 June to £480 a pair for the Men's finals day on Sunday 12 July, plus a £2.50 transaction fee.

The main ballot conditions are as follows:

- You must be a British Tennis member and aged 11 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 2019 Wimbledon Ballot by 14 February 2020
- Only one pair of tickets will be allocated per family
- You must email your request for tickets by midnight on 25 April to Dinny at dinnyravet@gmail.com, with details of any dates you do not want tickets

As in previous years, winners will be drawn by lot which entitles them to any tickets from those available. You must provide instructions on any dates you cannot make or do not want, otherwise tickets will be allocated in price order, starting with the highest first. In other words, if your name is drawn first, you will be allocated a finals day ticket (we do not know the seat numbers), unless you have indicated that is a date you do not want. 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 15 May deadline. Reserves may win a ticket any time up to 15 May as a result of the LTA reallocation process so watch out for emails or online at www.LTA.org.uk/ballotlookup.

There will also be a telephone purchase facility (0208 487 7000). The LTA will post out the tickets.

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.

Reminder: British Tennis Membership

Join British Tennis for free as a lite member at 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!!

Bridge at Stormont

Bridge will reconvene once permitted. 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 TOURNAMENTS

Stormont Closed Tennis Tournament has been postponed.

It is our club Knockout Championship Tournament (you must be a member of Stormont). It includes:

Ladies and Mens Singles, Ladies and Mens Doubles and Mixed Doubles. Once a new date has been determined, entry forms will be on the notice board downstairs between the squash courts. Once

the draws are up please arrange and book courts for your matches and bring balls. Winners go through. Finals will be on a Sunday afternoon in September or October, if possible by then, with umpires and ball kids. Start at 1pm followed by a delicious BBQ.

Online AGM Wednesday 15 April 2020 8.00pm details above

TENNIS COACHING

SUBJECT TO CHANGE DEPENDENT ON GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS

NEW TERM TENNIS COACHING FOR JUNIORS WILL RESUME ON 20TH APRIL AND RUN FOR 12 WEEKS UNTIL 21ST JULY

PLEASE GO TO www.tptennis.net for all coaching class information – times, class standards, dates and more. BOOKINGS AND PAYMENT ARE TO BE MADE ONLINE ONLY VIA THE WEBSITE.

All classes are booked on a pro-rata weekly basis via the booking portal. If the term becomes delayed, the system will adjust automatically.

Payment for Adult group coaching and Individual lessons can be made via direct bank transfer to TP Tennis to: sort code 09-01-28 account 31384035 IN ADVANCE OF THE LESSON or by card or cash on the day.

All Junior matches and Leagues have been cancelled for the summer by the LTA and Middlesex Tennis. However local friendlies will be arranged if and when they can be.

If you have any requests for new coaching sessions or want individual lessons/shared lessons, lessons as gifts etc, please email or contact me directly via text/call on 07958 903021

For all other coaching info please visit the coaching website at www.tptennis.net



Head Coach – Paul Salter

W: www.tptennis.net **E:** TPTennis@live.co.uk **F:** <https://www.facebook.com/teachplaytennis/>

JUNIOR SQUASH

EXCITING TIMES

It continues to be a busy and exciting time for the junior squash players at Stormont. Our regular sessions on a Wednesday and Friday are full of juniors playing high quality squash and we have introduced an advanced session on a Tuesday for those players who want to take their play to the next level. Some of these advanced players are now part of the Stormont senior team playing in the Middlesex leagues.

Many of our juniors are also part of the Middlesex Junior Squash squad and have been playing tournaments across the county with outstanding results, many playing over and above their ranking. Stormont now has nine players in the England Squash Rankings.

Stormont's Keya Shah recently played for Middlesex in the Southern and Easter Grand Prix at Bishop Stortford and was part of the winning U13s team (see photo - centre). Also three Stormont juniors, Alex & Oliver Herskovits and Noe Ceasar, were selected by Middlesex Juniors in recognition of their hard work over the season to attend the famous Canary Wharf Classic Squash event on 8th March. They met some of the world's top squash players. "I found the players and matches very inspiring and was in awe at the shots they played", said Noe.

Sadly, we have had to cancel the exciting programme of squash camps over Easter 2020 and the position is very doubtful for our regular programme for the Summer term, however, if we can, we will still run all or some of the programme with prices suitably adjusted. Watch the Stormont and Play Squash Websites and emails. If you have any junior who would like to try squash, please contact me and let's get them on court as soon as we can.

Vickie Prow

Age	Player	Club	England Squash Ranking Mar 20
BU11	Zen Shah	Stormont	101
GU13	Keya Shah	Stormont	69
BU15	Alex Herskovitz	Stormont	152
BU15	Joseph Rennard	Stormont	196
BU15	Richard Cochrane	Stormont	215
GU15	Keya Shah	Stormont	103
GU15	Nina Franchi	Stormont	108
BU17	Oliver Herskovitz	Stormont	109
BU17	Noe Ceasar	Stormont	178
BU17	Jake Maier	Stormont	183
GU17	Nina Franchi	Stormont	97



Play Squash!

Driving Participation in Squash

at

Stormont Lawn Tennis and Squash

Rackets Club

13 Lanchester Road, London N6 4SU

www.stormontltsrc.com

Junior Squash Coaching April – July 2020

12 Week Programme (Term Time)

Starting w/c 20th April to 10th July (11 weeks)
no coaching during half term (25th – 31st May)

Tuesdays: 5pm – 6pm beginners (All ages) – new session
6pm – 7.30pm Advance Training (£135 per term)

Weds: 4.45 – 5.45pm beginners 7-10 years
5.45 – 6.45pm beginners/intermediate 10 yrs +players
6.45 – 7.45pm Intermediate players

Fridays: 5pm - 6pm beginners 7+ yrs
6pm – 7pm beginners/intermediate 11+ yrs
7pm – 8pm intermediate/advanced 11+ yrs

Fees: £66 members/£77 non members per term. **First 2 sessions free for new junior participants & fees calculated pro-rata on joining.**

Tuesdays Advance Training (£135 per term – no free sessions)

Payment should be made for all term sessions in advance 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 Tawanda Mawushe and Vickie Prow

Payments for any sessions which cannot be run because of COVID-19 and the mandatory closure of all squash courts will be refunded or carried forward, at your option.

TENNIS TEAM NEWS

STORMONT WINTER FLOODLIT TEAMS

LADIES 1 in Division 1 have had a tough season.

Abi, Barbara, Dinny, Gina, Sally and Sue have done their best but it hasn't always proved good enough to fight off the other teams.

Abi hurt her shoulder and played one match carrying an injury but since has been unable to play. Harriet stepped in at the last minute as Gina rode to hospital with her mother in an ambulance.

We are at the mercy of Fortis Green not gaining 16 points in their last two matches, one against the top guns, otherwise we will come seventh and go down. Fingers Crossed.

Dinny Ravet, Ladies 1 Captain

Stop Press: We gained 41 points and should stay up

LADIES' SECOND TEAM – Tight Matches

For many years during the winter season the second team has been seesawing between Divisions 3 and 4. This year was no exception. There were some tight matches to begin with, and then towards the end of the season a disappointing outing to Enfield Chase in blustery conditions on an unfamiliar surface. This somehow sealed our fate and we will return to Division 4 next winter. Thank you to everyone who made themselves available for the matches: Cheryl, Norma, Sarah, Waed, Ping and Harriet with early season support from Barbara, Gina and Sue Goddard.

Jeni Walwin, Second Team Captain

LADIES' THIRD TEAM – Excellent Competitive Tennis

Stormont third team have had some excellent competitive tennis this winter often against players from higher divisions and in spite of the grim weather and some team injuries. We may get relegated as although we have finished mid table, other teams have a match in hand. Many thanks to all who played – Jenny T, Harriet, Polly, Jane A, Izzy, Armelle, Amira and Susan.

Sheena Maccallum, Third Team Captain

Stop Press: We will stay up by one point.

Wind and rain and more wind and more RAIN. So hard to know if the evening would prove dry. Some matches cancelled and then it stopped raining. Others were played in drizzle or pouring rain and some were abandoned and had to be reorganised. Team players were great at being adaptable.

This was the position before all leagues were abandoned on 20 March 2020

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FOR MEN'S FIRST TEAM

At the time of writing, we have barely managed to complete half the season's matches.

Lashings of rain have led to numerous postponements and now require us to play the remaining three matches in a one week period. No-one knows what will be our final position. We can potentially get promoted but more likely find ourselves battling against relegation.

It is a tight Division 2 and if we can maintain our position there, it would be a positive outcome.

This season has seen a swathe of different players coming in to support the team, with Tim, Oli, Callum, Alex, James, Andrew, Matt and me variously in the line up. We will also welcome Antonis on Wednesday for the penultimate match and maybe even more players later!

In these times of uncertainty, let's hope for the best.

Fabien Zinsner, M1 Captain

MEN'S SECOND TEAM – Some Hard Fought Draws

A disappointing winter for M2 ended in the ignominy of our first relegation for some years, after two seasons in the heights of Division 5. We struggled with injuries, non-availability and postponements leading to some fixture congestion and despite some hard-fought draws and one (!) victory, crushing defeats in our first and penultimate matches left us facing an impossible task at the end, and we will likely finish second bottom. Thanks nonetheless to my squad, and particularly to Gabriel who played six matches, winning 11 sets, and Andrew who played five. Also turning out were Alex M-S, Antonis, Ash, Everton, Keith, Marc de Leuw, Mark C, Peter S, Thom, Tony and myself.

Ian Lush, Men's Second Team Captain

MEN'S THIRD TEAM – Stellar effort as M3 win their final match to finish top of Division 8

It's been a very successful season in Division 8 for Stormont M3. In the final match of the season, we beat fellow contenders, Wood Vale, away at their courts.

Unfazed by talk of virus, lockdowns or the weight of expectation, we chalked a convincing 11-5 victory to top the table and secure promotion. Our record for the season of six wins and one loss highlights everyone's effort and contribution. Thanks to Alex, Andrew, Ash, Bernard, Colin, Ian, Josh, Mark, Peter Ware and Sam for your support, some fun tennis and great results. Stormont Men's 3 will make our debut in the summer league this year so please let me know if you would like to join us.

Greg Nowitz, Third Team Captain

MIXED 1 in Division 1 – Hard Fought and Fun

This has been a bad year for our team. Last year we stayed in Division 1 so this year was always going to be a tough.

A regular of the first team, Hannah, hasn't been playing as she has been away having a beautiful boy, Hugo (big congrats Hannah and Sam).

We will probably end the season at bottom of the league so next year we will be relegated to Division 2.

Sally and Fabien played most matches and teams were made up of Abi, Sue, Dinny, Barbara, Matthieu, Keith, Paul and Ash. All matches were hard fought and fun but we just didn't win!

Sally James, Mixed 1 Captain

MIXED 2 in Division 2 – Tough at this High Altitude

Mixed 2 climbed to Division 2 but life is tough at this high altitude. We aren't bottom but seventh and will be relegated.

Sue, Barbara, Gina and Dinny were escorted by Ollie, Gabriel, Andrew, Ash, Colin and Everton.

Dinny Ravet, Mixed 2 Captain

MIXED VETS in Division 5 East – Delightful Tennis in Rain, Wind, Sun and Hail

Mixed Vets are in 5 East. It had proved difficult to field teams until I discovered that keen as mustard Harriet qualifies so she's played along with Dinny, Norma and Ping. The gallant men were Andrew, Bernard, Colin, Ian, Keith and Tony.

Some delightful tennis in rain and wind and sun and hail.

Dinny Ravet, Mixed Vets Captain



**All Summer Middlesex Leagues are cancelled.
We will arrange "friendlies" if we can**

Tennis Clubtimes Wednesday 6 – 9pm and Sunday 10am – 1pm will recommence as soon as possible

TEAM SQUASH

STORMONT 1 DUELS DASHINGLY – DREAMS OF DODGING DEMOTION

The 2019/20 squash season has been the cruellest of winters for Stormont's finest. An icy chill has been felt on the spine of each and every player – and not just because the court 2 heater was broken for several months. For with promotion into the heady heights of Middlesex Division 4 comes not only prestige, but also pressure, pathos and no little porcupine. In other words, some of our opponents have been better than us at playing squash and it's caused us to cry on several occasions.



The infamous court 2 replacement heater

However, as we all know, Dinny didn't raise no slugabeds. Our tough upbringings on the mean-streets of N6 & associated regions have given us resilience, grit and determination. We've battled ferociously, uttering the traditional Stormont war-cry when necessary, and though it all hangs in the balance as this humble newsletter goes to press, we may yet evade shameful relegation back into the Division (5) from whence we came.

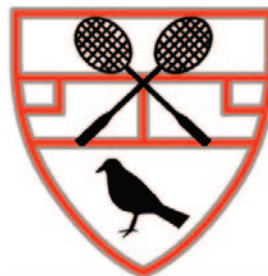
Thanks to Ruffs, Leon, Hodger the Dodger, Look-A-Lake, Puneet Pond, Zen Diagram, Laboratoire Faboir, Dial-Tone, Me'n'Al, Smiller and of course Mike King of Spain. Without you the Stormont first team would be a shepherd without a flock, the wolf would not be kept from the door whilst wearing sheep's clothing/ being dressed as lamb, and to put it more simply, without any players it wouldn't be possible for us to have a squash team.



With this simple yet evocative message in my heart I look forward to the Summer Season, which will hopefully not have to be played in bio-hazard suits to protect us from the coronavirus.

Simon Ruff, First Team Captain

Stormont
Club Night



SQUASH CLUB TIME
WEDNESDAY EVENINGS
8.00 – 9.30pm or later

WILL RECOMMENCE
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

PS **Summer Leagues cancelled** – not enough bio-hazard suits to go round!



Simon taking time off from squash with his newly-wed bride, Husniye, in early March 2020

STORMONT 2 WINTER LEAGUE

Stormont's Second team has had a good season in Division 6. By our standards, we have done well: as of today, five wins to eight losses, and we have some of the weaker teams to play in the last three matches. We are on the verge of the relegation zone, a somewhat metaphysical concept for us as there is no Division 7; but it matters – honour is at stake. The standard of squash is amazingly high but so too is the hospitality which adds to the pleasure of our games. We are competing against old friends here – by which I mean that many of the teams we meet have been in this division for a long time, not that the players are generally old. In fact, many are young and the league is a proving ground for juniors who rapidly progress to higher leagues, our own included. As for the oldies – and I have some company there – they are young at heart, so far as their aches and pains permit!

Special mention of the stalwarts: Puneet, Stuart, David Breslin and Fabien; vital occasionals: Nat, Mike King and Zen; and sterling irregulars: Meenal, Oliver Herskovits (one of our most promising juniors) and Hugh. Thank you for your commitment and efficiency in answering WhatsApps and emails. Thank you also to Simon for managing first team appearances to minimise cup-tying our finest talent. Entertaining match reports do the rounds of the players though if everyone finds themselves confined to home in the next few weeks, Simon and I may produce the compendium "A Year in Squash" for members' diversion. Sure to be a best seller!

Though the summer leagues have been killed off by Coronavirus, we will endeavour to arrange some friendlies as soon as we can. Enthusiastic players, please get in touch with Stuart Miller, Simon or myself.

Tony Hulse, Second Team Captain