

Excellent tennis and squash over the the summer

Welcome to the 2023/24 membership year. We have had some excellent tennis and squash over the summer – Middlesex leagues, tournaments and social – and look forward to more this coming year. Congratulations to the league teams on their successes. Further details about the tennis leagues are on page 3 and the squash leagues on page 6.



Stormont prides itself on keeping subscription rates at a very competitive level and is unique locally in offering both tennis and squash as a combined package. We have maintained that stance for 2023/24 with a modest increase of around 6% for seniors and under 5% for juniors and families, depending on the membership category (see the membership application form for all rates). That is in the context of a near 10% consumer price inflation over the period we use to fix subscriptions. However, we have looked again at the question of whether there should be a squash-only subscription, given the low daytime usage of the squash courts. As a result, we are experimenting this year (23/24) with a low-cost weekday squash-only category. The restrictions are the same as apply to combined weekday membership (weekday only play up to 6pm, no team matches and in this instance no voting rights). We will monitor the take-up and see whether this is an innovation we should pursue further.

Those members who attended the AGM in April will know that the Club is in good financial shape and therefore keeping subscription increases below inflation rates is sustainable for a time. However, 2022's strong profitability was anomalous: deferred income from the two previous Covid years unwound and membership numbers remained buoyant, whilst spending on maintenance was below normal levels. In 2023, these factors no longer apply, and we are spending on a range of improvements. The repair and repainting of the exterior of the clubhouse and squash courts is due to start shortly – apologies to members if there is slight disruption whilst that is in progress – and as we all know energy costs have multiplied this year. The bottom line is that the best we can hope to do in 2023 and 2024 is break even. However, we have retained reserves to cope with the situation and, of course, keeping our facilities in good shape is a prime objective for the Committee.

A major destination for planned expenditure will be St Luke's tennis court. The need is obvious, and the lack of progress on its acquisition is frustrating. Improvements include resurfacing, an enhanced tree root barrier, replacement external netting and in due course electronic gates linked to ClubSpark for access. Longer term there are opportunities to floodlight the court (ideally with later hours than are possible at Lanchester Road) and to build a small refuge with toilet facilities, but these would require planning permission which can never be guaranteed. I can assure members

that I chase Anchor Hanover – the court's owners – regularly and each time receive positive assurances, but then nothing happens. I promise to continue chasing.



At the same time as we acquire the St Luke's court, we will need to reorganise the club as a company limited by guarantee which we have concluded is the most suitable mechanism to hold the long leasehold title to the court. It would also represent a better mechanism through which to operate the club than the unincorporated association which we are currently. I have written at length in recent newsletters on this topic and will not repeat myself here as there is no "new news" at the moment, but as soon as there is, the Committee and I will be in touch so that you can vet the proposals and vote on their adoption.

Stormont is a volunteer club. The committee and I are hugely grateful to volunteers for the effort they put into a multitude of tasks: captaining teams, welfare, the bar and finance to name just a few. But inevitably this means we are always looking for more volunteers, in particular chair of the maintenance committee. Dinny has done a sterling job over the last decade, for which we thank her, but she now wants to stand down. Other members of the sub-committee are Jon Prichard (Dinny's predecessor in the role) and myself. This is a vital role; there is always maintenance to be done and a significant budget to control. If anyone is interested, please let Dinny, Jon or me know and we can explain what's involved in more detail.

As I note each year, 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 (07802 608580) or any Committee member know.

Tony Hulse, Chairman, 21 August 2023

NEW – membership email address is
membership@stormonttsrc.com

TENNIS

STORMONT TENNIS CLUB FINALS 2023

Another Fabulous Finals Day with good competitive tennis and delicious food.

Kevin ran the bar and made us punchy Pimms and amazing Aperol Spritz. John Lanham BBQed to perfection and members provided tasty salads and delightful desserts.



Ladies Singles

Izzy MacCallum beat Wendy Levine 6-3 6-2

Mens Singles

Daniel Moreno beat Nick Ruff 6-3 6-4

Ladies Doubles

Izzy MacCallum and Harriet Grynfeldt beat Barbara Kalirai and Sarah Leaman 3-6 6-0 6-2

Mens Doubles

Nick Ruff and Fabien Zinsner beat Tim Clarke and Callum Conway-Shaw 6-4 4-6 6-4

Mixed Doubles

Sally James and Fabien Zinsner beat Izzy MacCallum and Josh Woolman 7-5 6-4



TENNIS

TENNIS TEAMS

Tennis team promotions and relegations went right to the wire

On 25 July 2023 we had FOUR teams top of their divisions. Mens 3 were already going definitely to finish top of division 10 but for the others critical matches were still to be played. Very exciting! Last relevant match wouldn't be played till the 8th of August. Blimey!

LADIES 1 IN DIVISION 1

Ladies 1 were missing Dinny for all but the first match. Players from the other teams stepped up to the plate.

Sally did all the catering and played in all the matches. Harriet also played in all of them. Wendy and Izzy played in five and Barbara and Sue played in four. Playing once for us so they wouldn't be cup-tied for the other teams we had Gina, Norma, Jeni, Katherine, Ping, Patricia, Sarah and Cheryl as our support team.

Mostly we did pretty well apart from one disastrous 0-24 loss and another 2-22. Whoops!

As it stood before the final round we were fifth but only 7 points separated the bottom five teams. We were playing the team comfortably in third position whilst all the others were playing each other. So close. Would any team have good players down from University or have all their best players away?

In our last match we won 14-10. Would this be enough to keep us out of the relegation zone?

Yippeeeee. Yes, all was well and we stayed 5th. So should stay comfortably in Division 1. Phew!

Dinny Ravet, Ladies' First Team Captain

STORMONT 2 LADIES

This was a challenging season. We were very sad to lose Izzy to the first team (although of course that's where she belongs), and we then lost Waed to Holland and Polly to Suffolk, so we struggled to win matches, and after two years in this exalted position we will be returning to Division 3 next summer. 16 players were called on to help us through the seven matches. Wendy and Sue G played in two early games. Grateful thanks to Kate for returning to match play on two occasions. Susan, Janete and Jenny T all contributed valuable points in games that were otherwise lost. Many second team players (including me) didn't find their brilliant form of earlier years but huge thanks go to: Katherine, Norma, Cheryl, Ping, Sarah, Gina and Patricia.

Jeni Walwin
Ladies' Second Team Captain

LADIES' THIRD TEAM

We've had a huge amount of fun in the ladies third team this year, enjoying some fabulous coaching from Paul, lots of amazing food (particularly brilliant eton mess by Amira) and played some really good tennis. Thanks to Katherine B, Catherine M, Janete, Jane D, Amira, Jane A, Jenny T, Julie Tucker, Natasja, Nancy, Sheena and Patricia, who all played brilliantly, and to Dinny for all her help and support. Well deserved promotion to division 4!

Susan Carter,
Ladies' Third Team Captain

MEN'S FIRST TEAM

"We'll always have summer 2023" yelled Coops, as he casually squatted aside The Methodists on a sunwashed July eve to drive Stormont further up the table.

The pouring rain couldn't stop them. It didn't stand a chance. The fixture pile up couldn't stop them. It didn't dare. The changing world order didn't stop them. Why would it? It really has very little bearing on regional Middlesex tennis leagues. When Klaus Meine coined the term 'heroes' in the early 14th century, the winding path of destiny was always going to lead that term to Stormont men's first team's dramatic climb from seventh in the table with just two weeks of the season remaining to an earth-shuddering final position of second, and with it, as the leaves fall, and the seasons disappear behind us into half forgotten memories, their names remain, forever etched into Stormont tennis history, our summer 2023 promotion lionhearts:

Tim, Alex M-S, Thom, Nick, Fab, Cal, Dan S, Colin, Gabe, Alex C, Jordan, James, Antonis, Joel, Dan T, Binsy – I salute you all. Josh did ok too.

Your broken, yet loyal, ghost of a once and future captain, Ash
Ash Spencer, Men's First Team Captain

MEN'S CHAMPION THIRD TEAM

Well, Men's 3 are champions! This came with the added bonus of an undefeated record for Summer of 23. With great relief we finally escape Division 10, after a long term residency there. We all enjoyed some great tennis, both in the matches and at Saturday afternoon practices. Thanks for all your support and wonderful tennis skills: Alex L, Alex C, Colin, Dan, David P, Ed, Everton, Geoff, Greg R, Gregory, Howard, Ian, Jamie, John L, Keith, Kiyo, Marc DL, Marc I, Marco, Mark C, Peter S, Peter W, Simon and Stuart. Looking forward to seeing all of you for the winter league, as well as anyone else who would like to join us.

Greg Nowitz, Men's Third Team Captain

TENNIS TEAMS IN THE WINTER

WE RUN

Three Ladies Two Pairs from each club play each other. 6.30 starts at home 7pm away

Three Mens

Two Mixed

One Mixed Over 40 Saturdays or Sundays

One Mixed Over 55 Monday-Friday daytime

In both the over 40's and Over 55's, matches comprise four rubbers:-

One Men's Doubles, One Ladies' Doubles and Two Mixed Doubles.

Each rubber will comprise two tie break sets. Sudden death deuce.

Players must have reached the appropriate age on 31 December 2023.

Please let Dinny or the relevant team captains know if you would like to be in the squads for any of the teams.

Stormont Calendar 2023-24

- MID SEPTEMBER 2023 enter public ballot for Wimbledon.
- TUESDAY 26 DECEMBER 2023 11.00 – 13.00 Boxing Day Tennis
- SUNDAY MAY 5 2024 Stormont Tennis Tournament entries close
- MONDAY MAY 6 2024 14.00 – 17.00 Angela Seger Memorial Doubles Tournament
- SUNDAY JULY 7 2024 13.00 – 19.00 Stormont Tennis Finals and BBQ

TENNIS CLUBTIMES

Wednesday 17.00-21.00, Sunday 10.00-13.00 and Tuesday 10.00-12.00

TENNIS

Stormont Tennis Coaching Programme

JUNIORS

Children's Classes to resume on the 11th September - 16 December
Half term 23 - 27 October

Saturday classes at Cherry Tree Wood courts from
16 September
9.15-10
10-11
11-12

Myself, Dan and Oliver look forward to seeing you on court very soon for a new term.

ADULTS

Adult classes have been running throughout the summer and will continue through to the end of the year.

All details and bookings are on the website
www.tptennis.net



Juniors

Course	Day	Time	Weeks
Teddy Tennis (Under 4s)		teddytennis.com	
Mini Red/Orange Transition (6-8 yrs)	Tuesday	3:45pm - 4:30pm	Per term
Mini Red Ball (5-6 yrs)	Friday	3:45pm - 4:30pm	Per term
Mini Orange (8-9 yrs)	Thursday	4pm - 4:45pm	Per term
Mini Transition (9-11 yrs)	Wednesday	4pm - 5pm	Per term
Mini Transition 2 (10-12 yrs)	Thursday	4:45pm - 5:30pm	Per term
Mini Green (10-12 yrs)	Tuesday	4:30pm - 5:15pm	Per term
Mini Transition (10-12 yrs)	Thursday	4:45pm - 5:30pm	Per term
Mini Green/Full Ball Transition (12-14 yrs)	Tuesday	5:15pm - 6:15pm	Per term
Yellow Ball 1 (15+ yrs)	Wednesday	5pm - 6pm	Per term
Yellow Ball 2 (13+ yrs)	Thursday	5:30pm - 6:15pm	Per term
12&U Boys Team Training	Friday	4:30pm - 5:30pm	Per term
Girls Teen Training	Friday	5:30pm - 6:30pm	Per term
16&U Boys Team Training	Saturday	4pm - 5pm	Per term

Number of weeks vary per term. Please check on the bookings page for this. All junior classes to be booked online @tptennis.net

Adults

Course	Day	Time	Weeks
Reliable Ralliers	Saturday	11am - 12pm	Ongoing
The Four Fundamentals	Saturday	10am - 11am	Ongoing



VOLUNTEER WANTED

Chair of Maintenance Committee

See penultimate paragraph of Tony's chairman's report on page 1

SQUASH

SEE YOU ALL IN SEPTEMBER

It was a busy run up to the summer holidays for the Play Squash team at Stormont. We had lots of new players from Fortismere school all taking part in our squash sessions for the first time, along with some great squash camps and match play sessions. A huge thanks to our coaching team Brendon Mounter, Adam Edge and Daniel Moreno for all their hard work. We also had some of our older juniors helping and supporting the coaching team: Brodie Thompson, Rafi Weisfeld and Arun Banerjee-Cochrane, we hope they will continue to support us in the future and become our young leaders and support coaches at our new sessions in the Autumn Term.

We'll be starting our Autumn coaching programme as soon as schools start. Starting 5th September with our usual junior and adult coaching programme (details right), with additional sessions with Daniel on a Monday or Friday evening. Watch this space with more information to follow.

We will also be starting the 1st of our many Squash Stars programmes (www.squashstars.co.uk). Starting 19th September. Squash Stars is aimed at 5-9 year olds that builds fundamental skills and confidence, encouraging kids to reach for the stars on and off court. This six-week junior beginner's programme focuses on guiding children to collect stardust in skills such as hand-eye coordination, racket work, movement, balance and match play. The more stardust they have, the brighter they'll shine! For just £42, your star will get six sessions and a kit bag which includes a racket, ball, Squash Stars t-shirt and a pair of goggles straight to your door.

Looking forward to seeing you all in September.

Vickie Prow



Stormont

Play Squash!



Bookings: Contact Vickie Prow 07796181286
admin@playsquash.org or visit
www.playsquash.org for information

Calling all junior Squash Stars!

Squash Stars is a fun 6 week beginner and junior squash coaching programme for kids aged 5 - 11

Starting:

Tuesday 19th September 23 4 - 5pm &
Saturday 23rd September 23 10 - 11am

Just £42 per person which includes:

Racket, ball, Squash Stars t-shirt, goggles and
all 6 sessions

At Stormont Lawn Tennis & Squash Racket Club
13 Lanchester Road, London N6 4SU
www.stormontltsrc.com

Enquiries contact: Vickie Prow 07796181286
Email: admin@playsquash.org or visit
www.playsquash.org for information



PLAY SQUASH Stormont Squash (N6) THIS AUTUMN TERM

Stormont

JOIN OUR JUNIOR SQUASH PROGRAMME Autumn Term 2023 • w/c 4th Sep - 16th Dec

Tuesdays

Starts 5th September

4-5pm Beginners

5-6pm Beginners/Intermediate

6-7pm Advanced Academy-Invitation only

Wednesdays

Starts 6th September

4.15pm - 5pm Beginners U11s (45 mins)

5pm - 6pm Beginners/Intermediate

Fridays

Starts 8th September

4.30pm - 5.30pm Beginners (U11s)

5.30pm - 6.30pm Beginners/Intermediate

6.30pm-7.30pm Intermediate/Advanced

Saturdays

Starts 9th September

10 - 11am Beginners

11-12pm Intermediate

(14 weeks)

£115 members/£140 non members (45 mins)

£150 members/£180 non members (1hr)

No sessions during half term 23/10 - 29/10

Fees payable to: Play Squash 30-96-26 22867560



Booking is essential
First session FREE for new participants
All equipment provided - Join at any point
Termly cost pro rata

Venue: Stormont Tennis & Squash Club.
13 Lanchester Road, London. N6 4SU
www.stormontltsrc.com



SQUASH

STORMONT 1 PERFORMS RESPECTABLY IN DIVISON 2

There were naysayers, there were those who said "you'll lose every game", "lambs to the slaughter", "not with 10,000 men could you do this, it is folly". However the Stormont first team has actually done alright in Div. 2, we're comfortably clear of the relegation risk "death zone" and haven't lost any matches 5-0. Most importantly, I feel like I've had some really good post-match meals (although the home games where the ladies tennis teams hog all the tables and we're left to feed off the pool table like common hyenas aren't ideal).

We've had some superb appearances from second team players too, with Mike Fennel-Stevens, Zach "Return of the Mack" Moss and Punnington-Smythe VII putting in some superb efforts to win their matches and dazzle the spectators with their panache, pizzazz and pilates. Stuart Miller also played.

The core team remains the same as per the last few seasons, Adam having the Edge and winning half his games at 1, Ruffs x 2 winning most of their matches, and Alphonso Lagoon & Hodgemeister Deluxe performing a dextrous rearguard manoeuvre each winning a match and a smattering of games across the year to bolster the team score.

Squash is a wonderful sport and you should start playing it immediately.

Simon Ruff, 1st Team Captain

STORMONT 2ND SQUASH TEAM

At the time of writing Stormont II have one match remaining in the league. If we can emerge triumphant in the match, we will be standing in an extremely respectable third position in division 4.

It has been the most pleasant summer season I can recall, having strength in depth in the 2nd team, meaning very little stress pulling a team together. Through some brilliant highs and a fair few lows, the team has had a thoroughly enjoyable season enhanced by the quality of the suppers increasing ten-fold, which are now provided by local restaurant Bufi.

A big thanks to Mike FE, Puneet, Nat, Zach, Sam, David and Wendy for turning out this season. The lasting impression for me was the high calibre of our team, super team spirit, and how much everyone has improved which bodes well for the winter season!

In addition to the Stormont Middlesex League teams, we also have a thriving club box league system which is just recommencing now the summer holidays are over. If you would like to join the box leagues, please let me know at stu.dmillar@gmail.com or on the usual Stormont squash WhatsApp group.

Stuart Miller, 2nd Squash Team Captain



NEW – membership email address is membership@stormontitsrc.com



Stormont Adult Squash Coaching Autumn 2023

Learn to play squash, improve your skills and have fun!

Autum term starts 4th September

Tuesdays
10 - 11am Beginners Squash

Frídays
7-8pm Beginners/intermididate players

w/c 4th September - 22nd October & w/c 30th October - 17th December 23

7 wks £72 members/£102 non members or weekly £12 members or £17 non no session 23rd Oct - 29th Oct

First session free to new participants and equipment provided
Join at any time pro rata rates applied for block bookings

Venue: Stormont Lawn Tennis & Squash Racket Club
13 Lanchester Road, London N6 4SU
www.stormontitsrc.com

Booking Essential: Contact Vickie Prow 07796181286
admin@playsquash.org or visit www.playsquash.org for information

@playsquash1

Stormont Tennis and Squash Club LIST OF OFFICIALS

COMMITTEE

TONY HULSE (Chair, Maintenance)
DINNY RAVET (Membership, Coach, Ladies' Tennis Captain, Maintenance)
KEVIN JAMES (Bar)
SALLY JAMES
BARBARA KALIRAI
BERNARD LO (Welfare including Young Persons Protection and Data Protection)
DANIEL MORENO
JON PRICHARD (Maintenance)
PATRICIA PRICHARD
SIMON RUFF (Men's Squash Captain, Webmaster)
ROY SEGER (Treasurer)
VAL WUTTKE (Newsletter)

Secretary to Committee HARRIET GRYNFELT

TEAM CAPTAINS

Squash First – Simon Ruff
Squash Second – Stuart Miller
Men's Tennis First – Ash Spencer
Men's Tennis Second – Ian Lush
Men's Tennis Third – Greg Nowitz
Ladies' Tennis First – Dinny Ravet
Ladies' Tennis Second – Susan Carter
Ladies' Tennis Third – Susan Carter
Mixed Tennis First – Sally James
Mixed Tennis Second – Dinny Ravet
Vets over 40 Tennis – Dinny Ravet
Vets over 55 Tennis – Colin Cooper