

## Chairman's Report

**Welcome to the summer season at Stormont. At present, it is difficult to discern spring through the rain, but let's hope for better. At least we can watch it fall through the club house windows again!**

There is positive news on our two long term initiatives, the acquisition of St Luke's tennis court and the transfer of the club into a company limited by guarantee. Further detail of the current position and explanation of the resolutions needed at the club's forthcoming annual general meeting are set out on pages 2 and 3. The committee is unanimous in its support for the changes we are making. I hope as many members as possible will attend the AGM at 8pm on 1 May 2024 in the Club House and vote in favour of the resolutions proposed. It is the perfect opportunity to ask questions about our plans and to influence what we do.

I am delighted to report that this week we signed a 125-year lease with Anchor Group for the St Luke's tennis court. This has been under negotiation for five years and, though there were no substantive differences between us and Anchor at any stage, it proved extremely difficult to obtain clarity on what Haringey would impose on us as regards assuming Anchor's Section 106 obligations for the court. With that resolved and the lease completed, we hope in the next few days to sign up the contractor we have selected for the court remediation work.

We invited five firms to propose for phase 1 and have selected one that comes highly recommended by local clubs and is in the middle of the range of possible costs. Phase 1 consists of repairing the root barriers, inserting a second root barrier outside the court on the road side, resurfacing the court, and replacing the chainlink fencing with twin wire mesh which is much more durable. The specification of the work is to a high standard. By the time we have acquired and remediated the court, the cost will be over £100,000. We are investigating possible grants, but they are likely to be modest in relation to the core cost.

Assuming that we can sign the remediation contract in the next few days, the work should have commenced by the time of the AGM. I think we have to anticipate that St Luke's is initially out of action for about three weeks. The tarmac then needs to cure for about five weeks, during which it will be marked up with temporary lines and usable, if a little slow and harsh on the tennis balls. Next, the court will be properly painted in green and red over the space of several days and phase 1 complete. We have to assume that the court will not be available for Middlesex league matches until June, even if everything goes to plan, so a number of home matches may have to be played away.

Phase 2 will be the installation of electronic gates and associated electrical supply. This is needed to comply with the Section 106 obligation Haringey imposed to make the court available to the public for "pay-to-play". ClubSpark provides the booking and access system. It will be programmed to give members preferential rights to book the court up to a fortnight ahead (as is the case now), whereas the public can only book three days ahead, so with a little planning members should not be disadvantaged.

Phase 3 would be installation of floodlighting and building an unobtrusive shelter with toilet facilities. This would be dependent on the grants available at the time.

The transfer of the club into a company limited by guarantee should have negligible everyday effect on members, though it will assist administration and governance of the club. Just to clarify, the new company already exists, Stormont Tennis & Squash Club Limited, and will be used as the vehicle to hold the St Luke's lease and in due course take over nominal as well as beneficial ownership of the Lanchester Road freehold.

My quip about the club house windows was really not a joke. I suspect many members know the background and as police investigations are still continuing, I'll not go into much detail. The story starts with threats against one of our coaches, first by text message and then on paper. This was followed with three nighttime attacks on the club, all involving smashing windows and the third including an attempt to set fire to the coaches'

storeroom, fortunately unsuccessful. CCTV allows us to be reasonably confident that these events were perpetrated by the same person. I apologise that members have had to endure boarded windows for so long, but it was only recently that the police made some progress in identifying the culprit. Until then we had no idea of why this occurred, who this person might be and whether it might recur. The committee has undertaken risk assessments through the period to inform our decision to keep the club open and operating.

On a happier note, I want to welcome Brendon Mounter who took over from Vickie Prow running squash coaching at Stormont from January. We are sorry to lose Vickie and thank her for eight years of sterling service to squash at the club, knowing that she is now doing the same at England Squash. Many of you will also know Brendon as an excellent coach at the club in recent years. He has a strong team helping him in Daniel Moreno and Adam Edge, and we will work with them to expand the range of squash on offer at the club. The programme for summer squash is on page 6.

Paul Salter leads our tennis coaching with excellent support from Dan Shaw and Oliver Klein. Overflow coaching has been possible at Cherry Tree Wood in recent years, which was a useful resource. Unfortunately, Barnet has recently awarded exclusive coaching rights elsewhere, so Paul will be coaching more on the Lanchester Road and St Luke's courts. Members should take full advantage of that. His Junior Programme is set out on page 5.

In conclusion, there is a lot of improvement in the pipeline for Stormont. My thanks to Dinny Ravet and others on hand at the time for their tireless work with contractors, the police and others. I would ask members to bear with us if there is some disruption whilst the planned work is in progress. We will do our best to make sure that the quality of the outcome justifies the wait.



*Tony Hulse 12 April 2024*

# Restructuring of Stormont Tennis & Squash Club

(to be read in conjunction with the AGM agenda, page 3)

## Background

It has long been the intention to restructure Stormont from an unincorporated association to a company limited by guarantee. Members with a good memory will recollect that the proposal has been approved in principle at several recent annual general meetings. There are many good legal and practical reasons why the club would be better constituted as a Company, in summary so that it can contract in its own name (the old Club had to use trustees to hold property on its behalf) and so that it can benefit from the structure and certainty that the Companies Act brings to its governance. The immediate trigger has been the need for a vehicle to hold the lease of St Luke's, which the old club could not do.

St Luke's acquisition has been greatly delayed, primarily whilst clarity was obtained from Haringey regarding how the Section 106 agreement the council imposed on Anchor Group would apply to Stormont as lessee. That is now known, and Stormont will inherit the public pay-to-play obligations previously imposed on Anchor but to date unfulfilled. Thus, at the date of writing, we are on the brink of signing the lease and hopefully by the date of the AGM will have done so.

The new company, initially formed to hold the lease, was incorporated on 3 March 2024 with the four members of our restructuring committee as members and directors (Bernard Lo, Patricia Prichard, Roy Seger and me). Its Articles of Association, briefly summarised below, were approved by the committee in February. As a company limited by guarantee, there is no requirement to use the word "limited" in the company's name in general communications, so to all casual observers the club continues unchanged as Stormont Tennis & Squash Club. You will note that we have taken the opportunity to drop the "lawn" and "rackets" from the current club's official name (Stormont Lawn Tennis and Squash Rackets Club).

The use of a company limited by guarantee (CLbG) for this purpose is common and conventional. Other corporate structures are possible, for instance we considered a Community Interest Company, but a CLbG is simple and well understood, and the LTA provides model articles which we have used as the basis for ours.

Agenda item 6 to the AGM invites members of the club to note this background.

## Restructure

Agenda item 7 to the AGM invites members of the club to approve the restructuring of the club. The existing club cannot be simply "converted" into a company; a new company has to be formed, into which the assets, liabilities and operations of the old unincorporated association are transferred. Although the club rules do not clearly say so, because of the significance of the transfer, this is proposed as a special resolution requiring a 75% majority to be passed. The precise terms of the transfer deed will be approved by the Committee, but essentially the CLbG takes over all the assets and operations of the club in consideration for assuming its liabilities, including its obligation to honour all members' subscriptions for the rest of the subscription year to 30 September 2024. Again, from the perspective of members, it should appear as if the club continues unchanged. It is hoped that the formal transfer will occur on 1 July. Using a quarter date simplifies the accounting.

Under agenda item 8, it is envisaged that the Board of the CLbG will be enlarged on the date of transfer (ie 1 July), with those committee members not already appointed directors of the CLbG at incorporation being invited to join the Board and become members.

As regards the rest of the membership, there is a transitional feature for the quarter to 30 September 2024. It is envisaged that club members will be enrolled as members of the CLbG when they renew for the 2024/25 subscription year. This is so that each member has the opportunity to determine whether he or she wants to take on the £1 guarantee obligation associated with membership in the event that the CLbG has to be wound up. Hopefully this is not a real issue; the maximum amount of the guarantee at £1 is trivial and the likelihood of Stormont being wound up in the foreseeable future is negligible – its finances are robust as you can see from the financial statements presented under agenda item 3. Nevertheless, the committee concluded that members should not have the guarantee imposed on them by a vote at the AGM but should have

individual choice whether they wish to sign up for next year's membership which will entitle them to one share in the CLbG with its associated guarantee of £1. In the meantime, the Deed of Transfer will bind the Board to manage the CLbG in the interests of all club members, regardless of whether they have yet joined the company.

## Lanchester Road property

The club owns its Lanchester Road freehold property. The beneficial interest in the property will transfer to the CLbG as part of the restructuring. However nominally the property is held in trust by two members of the club, a situation necessitated by the club, as an unincorporated association, being unable to hold title to property itself. This will change once the CLbG takes over the club. The Deed of Transfer will require that as soon as practicable, title to the Lanchester Road property is transferred to the CLbG and the trust wound up. In so doing the CLbG will need to grant the retiring trustees an indemnity and release from all liability (in effect, this is the same basis on which the CLbG is taking over the club). Agenda item 8 invites members of the club to approve this arrangement.

## Key Articles

The Articles of Association set out the basis for governing the CLbG. Key clauses are:

- Objects: to operate as a tennis and squash club and any other games that may be conveniently combined with them at the club
- Guarantee: the liability of each member is limited to £1.
- Directors: maximum of 16. The board may appoint directors but at the next AGM they must stand for election by members
- Voting rights: granted to all members who have been a member of the club for at least a year except junior and non-playing members who do not have voting rights.
- Greater flexibility on the classes of playing membership offered which is at the discretion of the board
- Members' votes for a restructuring or winding up require a 75% majority
- Preservation of the mandatory winding up and dissolution clauses from the old rules of the club. Thus, on a winding up of the CLbG, any surplus must be split equally between the LTA and England Squash. Members cannot benefit by winding up the CLbG

A copy of the complete Articles of the CLbG are on the club's website under the club's management tab and there will be an opportunity to ask questions about them and any other aspects of the restructuring at the AGM.

### STORMONT WELFARE OFFICER

My name is Bernard Lo and I am the Club's Welfare Officer. If you have any safeguarding concerns or any concerns that affect your enjoyment of your membership, please contact me on [Bernard.lo@outlook.com](mailto:Bernard.lo@outlook.com). I will deal promptly and, I hope fairly, with any issues.

Middlesex LTA have requested that I draw members' attention to their recently updated policies and these are available at [www.middlesex.tennis/about-us/safeguarding](http://www.middlesex.tennis/about-us/safeguarding).

If, for any reason, you would prefer to contact the County Safeguarding Officer, his name is John Love and he can be contacted on [john.tennis@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:john.tennis@blueyonder.co.uk).



# Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Stormont Lawn Tennis and Squash Rackets Club will take place on Wednesday 1 May 2024 at 8.00pm in the Club House.

## AGENDA

1. Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting to be read and approved.
2. To consider, and to adopt, the Chairman's Annual Report.
3. To consider, and to adopt, the Financial Report.
4. Election of Officers and Committee Members for the coming year (Verbal):
  - a. TONY HULSE (Chairman) (Maintenance, Restructuring)
  - b. KEVIN JAMES (Bar)
  - c. SALLY JAMES (Social)
  - d. BARBARA KALIRAI
  - e. BERNARD LO (Welfare, Data Protection, Restructuring)
  - f. DANIEL MORENO
  - g. JON PRICHARD (Maintenance)
  - h. PATRICIA PRICHARD (Restructuring)
  - i. DINNY RAVET (Membership, Ladies Tennis Captain, Maintenance)
  - j. SIMON RUFF (Men's Squash Captain, Webmaster)
  - k. ROY SEGER (Treasurer, Restructuring)
  - l. VAL WUTTKE (Newsletter)
5. To determine the subscription rates, entrance fees, guest fees and categories of membership for the year 1 October 2024 – 30 September 2025.
6. To note the following actions undertaken in accordance with the authority granted by members of the Club at previous AGMs:
  - The incorporation of Stormont Tennis & Squash Club Limited (the "Company") on 3 March 2024 as a company limited by guarantee
  - The adoption of the Articles of Association of the Company, including the voting rights granted to members and the obligation to pay £1 in the event of an insolvent winding up of the Company
  - The appointment of Tony Hulse, Bernard Lo, Patricia Prichard and Roy Seger as the initial directors (the Board) and members of the Company on incorporation
  - The lease of St Luke's tennis court entered into by the Company with Anchor Group (the freeholder) in April 2024
7. To approve the transfer of the assets, liabilities and operations of the Club to the Company with effect from a date to be determined by the Board (expected to be 1 July 2024) and the following associated actions:
  - The appointment of all other Committee members elected under 4 above as additional directors and members of the Company
  - The appointment of all renewing Club members as members of the Company on receipt of their subscriptions and membership applications for the subscription year commencing 1 October 2024
  - The transfer of the Club's freehold property at 13 Lanchester Road, currently held in trust on behalf the Club, to direct ownership by the Company, the termination of the trust and the granting of an indemnity and release from all liabilities to the retiring trustees
8. Any other business and any other matters which members would like the Committee/Board to consider during the following year.

A confidential members' portal has been established for information relating to the AGM under the Club Management/Documents tab on the Stormont Website. The password will be available from Dinny Ravet (see contact details below).

## Stormont Calendar 2024

- **1 MAY WEDNESDAY 8pm – AGM**
- **5 MAY SUNDAY entries close for Stormont Closed Tennis Tournament.** You must be full members to enter and because St Lukes will be out of action for much of May please start playing your matches immediately and well before play by dates. Book courts and bring balls. Only enter if you can play within play by dates and in the finals.
- **6 MAY MONDAY 13.00 – 16.00 Angela Seger Memorial Doubles Tournament** Followed by tea. Come along and play
- **11 MAY SATURDAY 10.00 – 14.00** Ask Sal will come to Stormont with Tennis clothes and Shoes for our retail therapy
- **7 JULY SUNDAY 1pm – Stormont Tennis Finals and BBQ.** Ladies and Mens Singles, Ladies and Mens Double and Mixed Doubles. Entry forms will be between the Squash courts.

For membership information, contact Dinny Ravet on 07961 434889, email: [membership@stormontltsrc.com](mailto:membership@stormontltsrc.com)

# TENNIS TEAM NEWS

## FLOODLIT TENNIS MATCHES 2023-24

What an exciting floodlit season. What astonishing amounts of rain!

We were top in quite a few Divisions for ages, mostly because we were lucky with the weather and had played more matches than other clubs.

With only four players in a team and no nominations, Clubs can use good players in lower teams and so sometimes you are confronted with surprisingly strong teams.

In some Divisions it was pretty obvious which team would come top but we fought on to the bitter end.

Our marvellous Captains will give you the low down on their teams.

Thanks to all the players, particularly those who always have the dates in their diaries and are ready to play. Big hurray for those who are willing to step in at the last minute.

### LADIES FIRST TEAM DIV 2

Great to have our fit young Ladies Champion, Izzy, in the squad and then she goes and breaks a toe. Oh no! Had we won five points in our last match we would have come second, but hey ho only Barbara and Sue managed to win a set, so we came comfortably third. No promotion but no demotion. Barbara, Dinny, Izzy, Sally, Sue Goddard and Wendy are the regular team players and Katherine played for us in one match too.

Dinny Ravet, First Team Captain

### LADIES SECOND TEAM DIV 3

The second team had a good, if tough, season playing intelligent tennis against mostly nice opponents. Thanks to Katherine Binns, Sarah Leaman, Jeni Walwin, Polly, Ping, Norma, Patricia, Amira, Jane D and Catherine Mulvihill for playing through wind, rain and sometimes very cold courts! Thanks to Paul for his excellent coaching and tips on tactics and Dinny for helping with EVERYTHING!

Susan Carter, Second Team Captain

### LADIES THIRD TEAM DIV 5

The third team has been growing its membership this season, welcoming new members and really enjoying our team practices with coaching from Paul. Although we ended up in the relegation zone, we played some really nice tennis and had a lot of fun. Thanks to Jane D, Catherine M, Janete, Jenny Taylor, Amira, Liz Martin, Natasja, Katherine Binns and Nancy.

If anyone is interested in joining the third team, please get in touch with Amira Kohler, our new third team captain or Dinny Ravet.

Susan Carter, retiring Third Team Captain

### MEN'S FIRST TEAM DIV 3

Must we punish ourselves with expansive petty rage over those fine margins? The ball may be in, the ball may be out, or possibly both simultaneously. It's not binary but grey. The margins are fine and continuous. At what point does a ball stop being in and find itself outside the margins of the court, and banished for all time as an error? Forced or unforced? You be the judge.

How we fritter away the time on things that matter not. Let us not fixate on the final table, for once again our brave heroes of Stormont battled hard and gallantly, and the journey was indeed a fine journey. Permit us not to forget how the journey made us feel while we trudged up and down those potholed roads of Barnet, Haringey and Enfield to the forgotten corners of the sunlit uplands.

Once again salute you all, brave heroes of Stormont Men's Winter League First Team of 2023/2024. Dan S, Alex M-S, Thom, Tim Clarke, Antonis, Ev, Gabe, Cal, Fab, Nick.

Onwards, to the summer. Let us not be tortured by the past too heavily.

Your broken, yet loyal, ghost of a once and future captain, Ash

Ash Spencer, Men's First Team Captain

### MEN'S SECOND TEAM DIV 5

Division 5 in the winter league has proved challenging for Stormont Men's Seconds, but we have somehow survived in it for five years, helped by the 2020 abandonment and some last match escapes. This year was no different, though fortunately we got off to a strong start with a big win and a draw. The rest of the matches all ended in defeat, but some were narrow which meant that we actually avoided relegation (again!) with a whole match to spare. Ash and Josh did sterling work as first pair, winning the majority of our points, with great support from Keith, Dan S, Everton, Thom, Tim Clarke, Peter S, Simon B and Marc de Leuw. Thanks to all and onwards to the summer, if it ever stops raining.

Ian Lush Men's Second Team Captain

### MEN'S THIRD TEAM WINTER SEASON DIV 9

A tough season in the league ended with Stormont M3 in sixth place out of seven. Our Win/Loss ratio of 2/4, that was better than the team in fifth. However, we failed to secure enough sets in our defeats, putting us at risk of relegation. Andy, Marco and Tim Durham were welcomed with their debuts this season and we look forward to seeing a lot more of them and the rest of the squad in the summer league. Thanks everyone for the great support at the practice sessions.

Greg Nowitz, Men's Third Team Captain



### MIXED 1 TEAM DIV 2

A great season for Mixed 1. We won most of our matches (except the one against the team that came top). Coming in second, we still hope to get promotion to Division 1. Sally & Fabien and Izzy & Dan were the core team, with the stars being Izzy and Dan who didn't lose a set. We were helped out by Dinny, Sue Goddard, Katherine Binns and Thom.

Sally James, Mixed 1 Team Captain

### MIXED 2 DIV 3

Despite our best efforts we may finish in the bottom two. It was often hard to field a team but Amira, Barbara, Dinny, Katherine Binns, Sarah, Sue Goddard, Susan Carter, Antonis, Callum, Colin, Everton, Gabriel, Mark Campbell and Nick were our players.

Dinny Ravet, Mixed 2 Team Captain

### OVER 40'S DIV 4 E

These are Saturday or Sunday matches where everyone is happy to be playing and having fun. We're not sure where we will finish. The fixtures and results disappeared in an internet glitch and shockingly we don't have records of all the results of all the matches. Players were Antonis, Everton, John, Keith, Mark Campbell, Marc de Leuw, Simon Binns, Thom, Dinny, Katherine, Norma, Sue Goddard, Susan Carter, Patricia and Wendy. Thanks to all of us.

Dinny Ravet, Over 40's Team Captain

### OVER 55'S DIV 1

We might have beaten the storm at the start of the season but the weather gods finally caught up with us leading 7-1 in our final match, so that we still have one result pending. We currently sit third in the league – best of the rest behind the runaway leaders DL Finchley and Hackney, though Brampton who sit just below us still have two to play.

Enjoyable tennis with mainly close matches testing our adaptation to different surfaces (in the same match!) has been a feature of the season and our policy of encouraging as many players as possible has been a success. Well played Jenny, Gina, Patricia, Sally, Wendy, Dinny, Norma, Tony, Greg, Mark Campbell, Marc de Leuw, John and Keith.

We pause now for the summer but we'll be back for our next joust in the winter 24/25 season.

Colin Cooper, Over 55's Team Captain

# TENNIS

As you may have been aware, I have been renting a court from the local council at Cherry Tree Wood for the past couple of years which has enabled me to expand the programme a little and to offer coaching on Saturday morning and all day Sunday.

Unfortunately for us, the council put the bid for the court out to tender and although I bid alongside other providers, I was unsuccessful in my quest to secure it again. They have gone with a different provider from Camden.

This will mean that I cannot coach there for at least another 12 months when the site comes up for tender again. The committee will allow the continuation of Saturday junior coaching from 9 – 12 at the club.

I am disappointed as the parents did enjoy the ambiance of the park and the cafe but we have to concentrate on continuing to provide quality coaching, as is our remit.

I am looking into the idea of refreshments from 9 – 12 of tea, coffee, and cakes, etc for the parents which may also benefit the adults in the 10 – 12 classes.

We are excited to hear the news that the third court on Woodside Avenue is to be refurbished and I can offer Sunday morning coaching there up to 12 midday

I thank the committee for their support in this matter and we look

**JUNIOR SUMMER TENNIS TERM, JUNIOR CAMPS AND ADULT CLASSES ARE ALL AVAILABLE ONLINE AT [www.tptennis.net](http://www.tptennis.net)**  
**INDIVIDUAL CLASSES AND SMALL PRIVATE GROUP LESSONS CAN BE BOOKED DIRECTLY WITH ME ON 07984349767**

Rates for 1hour private sessions (shared up to four) people – £50  
Adult groups £12.50 (60 mins)  
Adult groups £15 (90mins)

Junior classes £10 a week\* (45mins)  
Junior classes £12.50 a week\* (60mins)

**EASTER CAMPS**  
2nd April – 4th April 10am – 2pm mixed ages from 7yrs – 14yrs  
8th April – 11th April 10am – 2pm mixed ages from 7yrs – 14yrs

**NEW SUMMER TERM**  
to start from 15th April – 25th May (Half term 27 – 31 May)  
continuing from 3rd June – 20th July =13 weeks

**SUMMER CAMPS**  
22nd – 25th July 10am – 2pm 7–12yrs old  
5th – 8th July 10am – 2pm 7–12yrs old  
19th – 22nd July 10am – 2pm 7–12yrs old  
26th – 29th July 10am – 2pm 7–12yrs old

All these dates are bookable on the website [www.tptennis.net](http://www.tptennis.net)



Paul Salter  
Head coach  
Stormont LT&SRC

forward to growing the after-school classes as well next term.

Dan and Oliver have been a great couple of assets to the programme with continued support from Dinny, and I thank them all.

I would also like to report that the Saturday Team Practices have been well attended and I feel going well. I hope that some of the stuff that has been covered is beginning to seep through in the matches, as repetition is

the key and keeping practising the things we go over.

Thank you to all those attending and to Susan and Greg for organising.

Paul Salter

## CLUBTIMES

### SQUASH

WEDNESDAYS 7.30pm – 9pm

### TENNIS

TUESDAYS 10am – 12 noon – restarting from 16 April

WEDNESDAYS 5pm – 9pm

1 court from 5pm

2 courts from 6pm

We need more people to come along later to keep it going for those who can't get there early.

### SUNDAYS

10.00am – 1pm Organised doubles



For membership information, contact Dinny Ravet on 07961 434889, email: [membership@stormontltsrc.com](mailto:membership@stormontltsrc.com)

# SQUASH

I would like to extend our appreciation for the service given by Play Squash (Vickie Prow) over the years and, at the same time, recognise the huge support from the Club to our new Squash Academy.

## DROP SHOT Squash Academy

emerged as a business on 1st January 2024 and has taken over the responsibility of junior squash at Stormont. Currently, there are 28 registered juniors from age 7 – 16 years old. They attend regularly on either Tuesdays or Fridays 5.00 – 7.00pm. Stormont has a great team of qualified coaches: Adam Edge ES Level 3, Daniel Moreno ES Level 2 and Caitlin Carter ES Level 1.

The focus is on building a junior programme that is excellence, with very strong foundations. We have six juniors that are regular members of the wider Middlesex junior programme and we hope to get more juniors into this setting. Future plans to widen the participation by including an adult training session will soon follow. In addition, we are looking at ways of getting racketball sessions as well.

More information can be found on our website [dropshotsquashacademy.co.uk](http://dropshotsquashacademy.co.uk)

Brendon Mounter

## Stormont Squashers Struggle

'You're born, you play squash. You get out in the world, you play team squash. You climb a little higher, you play better squash. Till one day you're up in the rarefied atmosphere of Middlesex Division 2 and you're suddenly playing people who are really good!

That's essentially what's happened to the Stormont first team. We tried so hard, and got so far, but in the end, it didn't really matter. Whilst we only won a single match all season, we never lost 5-0, and we had plenty of narrow 3-2 defeats.

So back to Division 3 we go, I fear. Thanks to Adam who showed the rest of us how it should be done, winning all but three of his matches at no.1. Ruffs won 50% swapping the two and three spots according to ancient custom. Alfie and Louis were a little stretched, like butter scraped over too much bread, but picked up a few games here and there. Thanks to David, Mike and Nat for helping out in various emergencies caused by Louis.

With squash finally getting into the Olympics, what better time to either take up the sport or dust off your old racket and take to the court once more?

Simon Ruff, First Team Captain



## Squash Second Team

This season really had a bit of everything, but in particular it was a season defined by a team in great spirits despite the challenges along the way. We had recruitment problems, illnesses, injuries and one way flights to Mexico, but even so it was one of the most enjoyable seasons in my time at the club!

We got off to a great start by besting Brondesbury early in the season, but sadly we didn't manage to follow it up with a win in the away leg. Even so, we picked up points decently throughout the season and ended up with a 11 point buffer to claim fifth place.

A huge thanks to everyone for taking part and to Nat and Tony for their excellent captaincy. If you're reading this and fancy having a go at team squash, please do reach out, everyone is welcome and the team will need you in the summer!

Mike King

## DROP SHOT Squash Academy

Adult & Junior Squash Coaching  
Learn to play squash, improve your skills and have fun!  
Stormont Lawn Tennis & Squash Racket Club N6

**Tue & Fri**

5.00 - 6.00pm (beginners/intermediate)

6.00 - 7.00pm (intermediate/advanced)

Bookings:

[www.dropshotsquashacademy.co.uk/classes-stormont](http://www.dropshotsquashacademy.co.uk/classes-stormont)

Tel/Text 07986 293 022 | [dropshotsquashacad@gmail.com](mailto:dropshotsquashacad@gmail.com)

## Wooden It Be Nice?

For many years we've held the Nick Hanika Handicap Squash Cup at the end of the winter squash season. Traditionally, the handicap has been implemented using the scores. This time I decided to mix things up and get everyone to play using wooden rackets.

After a scrappy start while we all familiarised ourselves with the antique bats, kindly lent to me for the occasion by Tim Taylor, we were soon hitting with panache and pizzaz. Tony even wore a retro squash tracksuit to complete the 1980s atmosphere, though some would say this is actually just his normal squash kit.

Nick Ruff adapted best to the conditions, his fine fitness coping well with the bouncy single-dot balls and back-and-forth English scoring system. He retains the cup for the second year.

After the match we retired to the club house for a delicious spread of scones, cake and tea – very civilised for a Sunday afternoon!

Simon Ruff, First Team Captain



## CLUB NIGHT SQUASH

Join us on Wednesdays 7.30-9.00pm for routines and games