



gxsquash



September 2014

Welcome to the new season

The pain of the Brazil 2014 World Cup is fading to a dull ache and the euphoria of the Commonwealth Games is a receding memory. Time to dig out your squash racket and get back on court as the 2014/15 season is almost upon us.

The Glasgow games gave us an insight of what squash can bring to a major games festival (medals for home nations!). And did you know that ex-gxsquash junior member Kerry Sample represented Trinidad and Tobago on the squash court in Glasgow?

October 5 is membership renewal night so why not come along to renew your membership, sample some refreshment and watch the final of the Summer Handicap Tournament?

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Court Booking System

The court booking system is now one year old. The initial launch was a bit of a shock to members who were comfortable with the previous system and even more so to those of trying to support it.

The system has developed over the year and now it seems most members are familiar with its functions but it is worth pointing out some of them:

- Instantaneous credit purchase from the club or over the web
- Keyfob access to the club and when logging into the booking terminal
- The facility to invite members to play on booked courts and to share the cost of the court

The address of the booking system has now been simplified to make it easier to remember in case you don't have the link handy: www.gxsquash.org.uk/booking

Membership

Membership numbers continue strongly with a similar level of membership as last year Family Membership are particularly popular.

Once again, Membership fees for the coming

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season (2014/15) are to be held at the same level as the previous year, one of the lowest annual squash fees in the country.

Membership rates are currently:
Adults: £98
U25's: £48
U-18's: £20
Families: £140
Corporates: £160 (4 players)

Please Note: We can only accept cash or cheques in payment of Membership!

Court fees also remain unchanged at £2 for off-peak and £3 for peak times for a 45 minute court.

Renewal night is Sunday 5th October at 7.00pm when the finals of the Handicap Competition will be held. Come along, pay your subscription and watch the Finals.

This year, key fobs do not need to be changed but we will change its validity to October 4th 2015 upon receipt of your membership fee.

If you cannot make it to the membership renewal evening, send your fees to:

John Mayfield,
9 Valentine Way,
Chalfont St. Giles.
HP8 4JB.

You can send in your application at any time before or after 5 October.

Please check your details on the club's database and let us know if anything has changed - in particular, please let us know if your email address has changed.

Open Day

We will be holding an Open Day on Saturday 18th October from 10 am to 12 noon. The purpose is to encourage new members to join the club although current members are also welcome to come along. If you know someone who may be thinking of taking up a sport, please invite them to come along and have a go!

Appropriately, that date coincides with World Squash Day 2014 when clubs and organisations around the world will be

organizing events to promote the game of squash.

Get Playing!

It is an odd thing but for a club with a decent level of membership such as ours, you don't see that much squash being played. Tournament entries are going down and the number of league players is dwindling too. Is this the bitter harvest of those non-competitive sports education policies from the seventies? Are members too shy to make contact with other like-minded individuals and organize that game of squash that they both secretly desire so much?

However it may be, we are keen to encourage greater use of the courts. If you have any suggestions as to how this might be accomplished then please share it with the Committee.

There has been a list on the noticeboard for some time where people have added their name if they are willing to be contacted for a friendly. Lists on noticeboards are helpful but you have to be standing in front of them for them to be of any use to you. To get over this hurdle, we will be making a virtual list available online on the club website at www.gxsquash.org.uk/members/friendly

Visit that location and register your details:

- Days and times you like to play
- How much notice you need
- Approximate standard

If you have a court to play on and no opponent, just plug in the date and time and you will see a list of members who might be interested in playing on your court.

Summer Handicap Tournament

The Rob Milliner Summer Handicap Tournament will commence over the last weekend of September with the final rounds being held over the first weekend in October. The final will be held on Sunday 5th to coincide with membership renewal. Register using the list on the noticeboard or via the form on the club website (follow the link from the home page).

The last year's final was contested by Simon

Committee

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Position	Name
Chairman	David Sledge
Membership Secretary	John Mayfield
Treasurer	Ainsley Kemps
Club Captain	Stewart Hefferman
Ladies Representative	Anita Crosbie
House Member	Richard Crosbie
League Secretary	David Sledge
Elected Member	Rakesh Gulati Nick Hallchurch Ian Swallow

Can you help out? We are always on the lookout for volunteers to join the Committee or help around the club. Speak to a Committee member about it.

AGM

We held an AGM on 8th May and the minutes of the meeting can be found on the club website at the address below:

http://www.gxsquash.org.uk/public/documents/GXSC_agm_2014.pdf

Follow gxsquash on social media

Tweet @gxsquash to tell us about your latest match or to share your thoughts about any aspect of the Club.

Why not tweet your progress in the Handicap Tournament? Messages will be visible on the club website.

You can also keep up with news on our [facebook](#) page.

Are you over 55 years of age and interested in representing gxsquash?

Email ian.nunn@nunn-hayward.com

Free who beat Chris Hockin. In the plate competition for players ejected in the 1st round, Mark Lilley beat David Campkin.

Entry into this competition is free of charge so why not sign up today? Add your name to the list on the noticeboard or sign up using the [form](#) on the club website.

Introducing Guests

Members are reminded that they are entitled to introduce non-members to play at the club up to 6 times a year. We are happy that members should be able to continue this practice as this can attract new members to the club but please do not abuse the system. If you are regularly playing with a visitor, you should be encouraging them to join the fold.

When playing a non-member, please make sure that you select the 'Buy Guest Fees' option on the bottom left of the screen when logged into the court booking terminal to pay for your guest. This takes you to a screen where you can indicate the number of guests (adult or junior) and payment is taken directly from your account.

Squash Leagues

The Winter Leagues will re-commence at the start of October. Make sure you have renewed your membership to ensure your place in the leagues. Members who withdrew from the leagues for the Summer should add their name to the list on the noticeboard, email leagues@gxsquash.org.uk or use the [form](#) on the club website before the end of September to guarantee their place in the October league.

Very few games have been played in the bottom couple of leagues for some months so any league members who haven't played a match during the August/September league will be removed unless they make contact to confirm their intention to play.

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Make sure you wear the correct footwear on court!

Help us to keep our courts safe and clean by encouraging others to wear the right footwear.

The use of the booking system to record match scores via the terminal in the club house is going pretty well. Most scores are being entered that way although there are sometimes discrepancies with the written scores so perhaps it is time to hide the pens. Historic league records will be maintained on the club website where members will also be able register for entry into the leagues, maintain their status in the league and view their complete league history.

Squash Ladder

Following the arrival of the new booking system, the squash ladder has ceased to be the playground of even the last few hardy souls. You know you're in trouble if even CH no longer plays. If we can get the old booking terminal back on the wall, I am sure we can restore to its former glory.

Team News

1st team: The 1st Team had another successful season finishing 3rd in Division 1 of the Bucks Leagues last year under the leadership of Stewart Hefferman. This will be our 6th consecutive season in Division 1

Vintage: The Vintage Team had another difficult time in the Middlesex Leagues last year. Team captain Ian Nunn is taking responsibility for the team once more and is keen to hear from players aged 55 and over who are interested in representing the club.

Are you over 55 years of age and interested in representing gxsquash in the Middlesex Vintage Leagues? If so, Ian Nunn would like to hear from you. Why not contact him now?

Email: ian.nunn@nunn-hayward.com
Mobile: 07711 846772

Racketball

Don't forget you also have the option of playing racketball. It is the UK's fastest growing sport played on a squash court and with similar rules using a larger ball and a shorter racket.

Racketball is generally less intense than squash and has a lesser impact on the body though the rallies tend to be longer.

The club has invested in some equipment so you can try your hand at the sport. It can be found in the left hand cupboard on the balcony. You are welcome to borrow the equipment (two rackets and a selection of balls). Please make sure you return it to the cupboard after use.

Club House

The club house remains in reasonable condition. The water dispenser has now been changed for a new water fountain in a bid to prevent the proliferation of half-empty cups.

The courts have had their annual maintenance during August. This amounted to just a cleaning of the walls and floors this time around. The door closure fittings will also be refreshed as they have become awkward to operate.

A new thermostat has been installed to control the on-court heaters so hopefully conditions won't be so oppressive this coming winter. Last year, we received regular complaints about the heat from some quarters interspersed with thanks from others. You can't please everyone!

Club Night

We have had a couple of attempts over the last year to revive Club Nights on both Friday evenings and Sunday afternoons but after a brief flurry of interest, attendance soon waned to unsupportable levels. As a result, Club Nights are off the agenda for the foreseeable future.

Lost and found

A surprising variety of kit collects around the club. This is mainly towels and clothing but the odd racket has been known go unclaimed.

Any items remaining by the end of September will be disposed of. If you think this may include a precious item of your own, then contact a member of the Committee to see if it can be located or consider it gone forever.

Honours Board

Tournament	Winner	Runner-up
Club Champion	S Hefferman	T Loran
Veterans' Champion	S Hefferman	R Fisher
Summer Handicap Champion	S Free	C Hockin
Winter Handicap Champion	S Free	M Burnett
Summer Handicap Plate	M Lilley	D Campkin
Winter Handicap Plate	I Swallow	R Foskett
Winter Points Champion	A Aggarwal	S Free
Lower League Tournament	D Sledge	R Foskett



Winter Handicap Tournament Finalists 2014



Club Tournament Finalists 2014



Summer Handicap Tournament Finalists
2013



A shot from the archives showing current members Mike de Semlyen and Bill Baker

Juniors

The Juniors (a Junior is anyone under 19) have had a very good year and have developed their skills as well as having gained some good experience of playing a variety of opponents in the Bucks junior leagues. Many juniors have joined the senior leagues and have managed to hold their own amongst our older members

A group of Juniors entered the Bucks junior tournament last September all performed way above their mark.

We also have 2 juniors, Vivek Gulati & Rory Brady who have been invited to the Bucks Team Squads in their respective age groups. They were put through various tests of fitness, squash nous and mental agility. We wish them well this season and hope they are selected for the Bucks teams

This is Vivek's second year - he was delighted to represent the County a few times last year.

We have once again entered the lowest division the Bucks league to develop a team spirit and build up some inter-club rivalry. We will usually be playing these games on Sundays

Sadly, as Squash is not an Olympic sport and doesn't get much television exposure, we struggle to get numbers. Rakesh Gulati (07887 744505 rakesh@gulati.co.uk) is keen to take on another 4 Juniors so that we can play against the other clubs with a full complement and allow for some team rotation. There will be the usual après squash goodies of crisps, choccies and drinks

The intention is to meet Saturday late morning where a fully qualified England Squash coach will be present.

As we saw in Brazil and Glasgow, England's squash team fares better than it's football team and are rewarded with gold on the podium rather than in their pockets.

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Memorial Centre News

The Memorial Centre will be holding a number of events over the coming months:

- **Jumble Sale:** 26/27 September
- **GX Book Fair** 11 October
- **When Peggy Met Ella:** 11 October
- **For the Fallen:** 26 October
- **Serpents and Dragons** 27 October
- **When Magic and Science Collide**
29 October
- **Fireworks:** 1 November
- **Live Crafts Fair:** 15 November
- **Love Food Festival** 29/30 November

More information is available on their website (gxca.org.uk). The Memorial Centre are always on the lookout for volunteers to help with events, especially in preparing for and clearing up after the Jumble Sale and marshaling the fireworks event. If you can help, please call the Memorial Centre Office (01753 883759) and let them know - don't forget to mention the Squash Club.

Quiz Night

The Squash Club will be entering a team in the Quiz Night on Friday 24 October so if you are interested in taking part, contact David Sledge (07788 813627, dsledge123@gmail.com). There is no limit to the number of teams we can enter.

Housekeeping

Please help us to keep the club tidy by clearing away your drinking cups when you have finished with them. Also, if you are the last person to leave the club at any time of the day:

- Turn off all the lights
- Ensure that the front door is locked

Please help us to keep our club secure and our costs down.

