



gxsquash



September 2010

Welcome to the new season

I hope you are looking forward to the coming season with as much anticipation as I am. This promises to be another great year - the 1st team will be playing top level county squash again following another terrific performance in division 1 of the Bucks league last season.

Yet again, the summer has highlighted the potential disappointments of spectator sport so participation is the obvious remedy. So, dust off that racket, sign up for the Summer Handicap Tournament and fill in your form to renew your membership.

Gerrards Cross Squash Club



Open Day

Saturday 9th October

10am – 4 pm

- Demonstration matches
- Challenge a team member
- Coaching clinic
- Free court bookings with all new memberships purchased on the day

Memorial Centre, East Common, GX
Contact: enquiries@gxsquash.org.uk

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Membership

The Membership year ends and begins on Sunday 3 October at 6.00pm when the lock on the front door will be changed. New card keys will be issued and measures will be taken on the Booking System to prevent members from booking courts who have not paid their subscriptions.

The new Membership rates are:

Adults:	£98
U25's:	£48
U-18's:	£20
Families:	£140
Corporates:	£140 (4 players)

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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.

Squash at Gerrards Cross still probably represents the lowest priced squash in the UK, which together with first-class courts offers exceptional value for money.

Court costs remain unchanged at £2 for off-peak and £3 for peak times for 45 minutes.

Come along to the Club at 7.00pm on 3 October, watch the finals of the Handicap competition, pay your subs and collect your new key. If you cannot make this date, send your fees to John Mayfield at 9 Valentine Way, Chalfont St. Giles. HP8 4JB. with a stamped addressed envelope at any time before or after 3 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.

Summer Handicap Tournament

The Rob Milliner Summer Handicap Tournament will run from **Wednesday 29th September** until **Sunday 3rd October**. Richard and Anita are keen to improve on the disappointing turnout for the Ken Hewison Winter Handicap Tournament which ran during the first week of February.

The final of that tournament was contested by Robert Rickman and Ian Nunn who play in leagues 1 and 9 respectively. This is an excellent illustration of the handicap nature of the tournament which means that anyone can reach the final and win (league 1 won on this occasion). In the plate competition for players ejected in the 1st round, David Sledge beat Stephen Hanover.

The Committee have agreed to drop the entry fee for this competition and the reduced numbers entering mean that players are no longer expected to play multiple games on the final day in order to reach the final 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.

Court Booking System

Remember to keep your contact details up to date by maintaining your profile on the Member Information page on the court

booking system. Here are some other tips about using the system:

- Find your opponent to send them a notification that the court is booked and give them the opportunity to pay their share of the court.
- Booking a court for a league match? Click on the League Match button to send a notification email to each member of your league. They will then be given the option to sign on to your booking the next time they access the court booking website.
- Take care when replying to email messages from the court booking system. They may not be addressed to who you think they are and you can't guarantee that anyone will receive them.

Online Purchase of Credit

You can now purchase booking credit over the web through the club website by means of PayPal. You need to register on the club website in order to use this function but you don't need your own personal PayPal account. The credit does not get applied to you account immediately but we are usually able to credit your account within a day or two.

Open Day

The Club will be holding an open day on Saturday 9th October. The event will be aimed at prospective new members and current members alike.

Members of the first team will be on hand to give demonstration matches and will be making themselves available for challenges so bring your kit along!

There will also be a professional coach on hand to offer tips and advice.

Mark the day in your diary now!

Introducing Guests

Members are reminded that they are entitled to introduce non-members to play at the club up to X times a year. When doing so, please make sure that you select the 'Visitor booking' option on the court booking website to pay for your guest. We are happy that

Committee

Position	Name
Chairman	David Sledge
Secretary	Maria Branton
Membership Secretary	John Mayfield
Treasurer	Ainsley Kemps
Club Captain	Rory Fisher
Ladies Representative	Anita Crosbie
House Member	Richard Crosbie Vincent Paul
League Secretary	David Sledge
Elected Member	Rakesh Gulati Nick Hallchurch

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 in June and here for the benefit of anyone who was unable to squeeze into the meeting room are some of the major talking points:

- The Club heating system is to be re-vamped to avoid a repeat of the conditions experienced last winter. This will include keeping the courts above a reasonable minimum temperature.
- The electrics are to be inspected and overhauled.
- It was reported that some members might be indulging in physical activities other than squash or racketball, possibly on the courts. I hope they are using the appropriate protective gear. It was not clear whether shoes were involved (non-marking or otherwise) or whether this was a lights on or lights off activity.

members should be able to continue this practice as this is can attract more members to the club.

Squash Leagues

The Winter leagues are set to resume at the beginning of October. If you are intending to re-join the leagues in time for the October league then add your name to the list on the noticeboard, email leagues@gxsquash.org.uk or use the [form](#) on the club website.

Use the online league system to record your league scores online. This allows members to register for entry into the leagues, enter their scores for league matches and maintain their status in the league. The main purpose for this change is to prevent the problems caused by illegible or incorrect scores on the sheets and the fallibility of emails when trying to communicate with the league secretary. Future leagues may see a points bonus for scores recorded over the web.

The contest for the leading points scorer throughout the 2009/10 Winter leagues was won by Robert Rickman with Malcolm Mackay coming second.

Squash Ladder

The squash ladder remains popular with a small number of members. There are currently 30 members signed up to the ladder with 75% of matches being played by just 3 of them.

New members are able to challenge anyone on the ladder for their first challenge. After that, members are restricted to challenging up to 4 places above their current position.

1st Team celebrate successful season

The 1st team completed a magnificent first season in the top flight of the Bucks leagues during which they beat every other team in the league to finish third overall.

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Team News

1st team: You are probably aware of the exploits of the first team who put in a fine performance throughout last season during which they beat every other team in the league one to come third. This has guaranteed another season of top level squash at your club. This is a hugely creditable performance for a small squad from a small club.

Vintage: The vintage team put in a solid performance to finish mid-table in the Middlesex league.

2nd team: The Club didn't field a second team last season and a recent recruiting drive failed to find a solid core of 5 or 6 committed members that would be required to form a team for next season.

Ladies: Struggled during last season and are looking for new blood to make a squad for this year – see separate story.

We are very pleased to be hosting top flight County squash again this season. Watch out for the 1st team home matches on Wednesday evenings. See the website for details.

Ladies' Team

The Ladies struggled to put out a full team throughout last season and were on the verge of withdrawing from the league for the coming season when they were thrown a lifeline. The other teams in the league have offered them the option of fielding a male player from the lower leagues. So, if there is anyone from the last three leagues who is interested in representing the club, please contact Maria Branton on 07711 202100.

Club Night

We ran a questionnaire on the website to canvas opinions about re-instating Club Nights. 19 members responded with the vast majority being in favour and so we are likely to set something up once the new season is under way.

Friday night was the most popular time to hold the sessions with 9 votes. One member did use the form to try and steer proceedings away from their favoured slots but was unable to overcome the power of democracy.

Keep an eye out for details which will be posted shortly.

Honours Board

Tournament	Winner	Runner-up
Club Champion	S Hefferman	M Burnett
Veterans' Champion	R Gulati	V Paul
Ladies' Champion	M Branton	No challenger
Summer Handicap Champion	M Burnett	R Gulati
Winter Handicap Champion	R Rickman	I Nunn
Summer Handicap Plate	M Branton	A Crosbie
Winter Handicap Plate	D Sledge	S Hanover
Winter Points Champion	R Rickman	M Mackay
League 7+ Tournament	D Colwill	I Nunn

Photographs of the Club

We recently put out a request for club-related photos for display on the club website which resulted in a total of one! It was a clip from a local newspaper from the 70's showing the winners of the Club Tournament. This was just the sort of thing we were hoping for. Surely, other members have images from club tournaments that we could show off. If so, please send a copy to dsledge123@gmail.com. We are also able to scan prints and cuttings.

Do you tweet?

Are you a twitterer or a tweeter (or whatever the correct term is)? Tweet @squash 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.

Lost and found

We have collected a fair amount of old kit over the past year, mainly towels and clothing left in the changing rooms. 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.

We will be setting up a section on the website where lost and found items can be reported and claimed. Any existing paper notices relating to items lost will be taken down also.

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.

Juniors

The Club still doesn't have a Junior section. If there is any enterprising member who is interested in running or assisting with junior coaching sessions, then please get in touch with a member of the Committee. However, if you are desperately trying to put off the time when your offspring surpass your abilities in yet another activity then I suggest you don't put your hand up for this one.

Quiz Night

The Memorial Centre will be holding their annual Quiz Night on Friday XXth November from 7:30 pm. Last year, the club fielded a sub-strength team (in terms of numbers, that is) although subsequently several members said that they would have liked to join in. So, to avoid disappointment, sign up now by emailing dsledge123@gmail.com. There is no limit to the number of teams we can enter.

Jumble Sale

The Memorial Centre is holding their annual Jumble Sale over the weekend of 24th to 25th September. They are looking for volunteers to help out at the end of the event – around 2 pm on Saturday 25th. Please notify us at dsledge123@gmail.com if you are able to help.

Website news

Development of the club website continues with several new sections being added in recent months:

- Event calendar listing team fixtures, tournaments and other events at the club.
(www.gxsquash.org.uk/about/calendar)
- Image gallery showing club-related photographs.
(www.gxsquash.org.uk/public/images)
- Squash section with sub-sections containing the rules of squash and news feeds from squash news sites around the web. (www.gxsquash.org.uk/squash)