

Finchley Manor Club

Squash section report 2006/2007

	Committee 2006-2007	2007-2008		
Secretary	Barry Cullen	standing for re-election		
Membership	Ken Picton	"	"	"
Team Reps	Rick Prior	"	"	"
	Tim Taylor	"	"	"
Ladder Leagues	Rick Prior	"	"	"
Veterans	Peter Hughes	"	"	"
Ladies/Coaching	Judith Williams	"	"	"
Elected	Tom Morris	"	"	"
	David Whiter	"	"	"
	Mike O'Connell	"	"	"
Racketball	John Williams	"	"	"
Juniors	Craig Rossiter	"	"	"

Bennet and Hall Squash Tournament 2006

As usual the domestic event of the squash year was the **Club tournament**, again very generously supported by **Messrs Bennet and Hall (David and Graham Bettis)**. Finals were held on Saturday, 20 May 2006.

Men's Open: Gary Nitschke beat David Hershman

Ladies Open: Judy Williams beat Rachel Davies

Team Handicap: Gary Nitschke beat David Hershman

Club Handicap: Lee Rossiter beat Rael Braverman

Veterans: Tim Taylor beat Bruce Cade

Vintage: Pat Earle beat Paul Davison

Winners of the various Plate events were: **Mark Lemon (Open & Team H'Cap); David Szucs (Club H'Cap); Susan Morawski (Ladies)**.

Junior winners were: Jonathon Walker (U-9), Andrew Taylor (U-11); Robert Winsley (U-15); Josh Kenny (U-17). Lee Rossiter performed the remarkable feat of winning both U-13 and U-19 events.

On behalf of the club we express our thanks for another very successful tournament run by **Peter Hughes and Judy Williams**.

We are again most grateful to our sponsors: **Messrs Bennet and Hall, Millet Sports and Geffen Sports**. (As has now become customary the tournament surplus of £118 was sent to the North London Hospice.)

Teams 2006/7

Three summer teams took part in the 2006 Middlesex summer leagues: first, **David Hershman (capt.)**, second, **Paul Davison (capt.)**, third, **Peter Hughes capt.**. Although there were some close and well-fought matches the overall results were disappointing in terms of league positions. However summer leagues provide an opportunity to "blood" new match players and we shall continue to take advantage of that.

As in previous years in the winter we ran eight men's teams in the Middlesex leagues: first, **David Hershman (capt.)**, second, **Rick Prior (capt.)**, third, **Antony Taylor (capt.)**, fourth, **Peter Hughes (capt.)**. Vets 1 **Bruce Cade (capt.)**, Vets 2 **Phil Hyslop (capt.)**, Vintage 1 **Peter Hughes (capt.)**, Vintage 2 **Clive Bowman (capt.)**. We had a mixed bag of results, with Vets 1 finishing second in Div 2, the first team around mid-table and other teams finishing somewhat lower than that (although all (?))

avoided relegation.)

Juniors: Whereas our senior teams have struggled for results, our junior players have been leading the way in the county leagues. This season, as with last season, we were well represented in the Middlesex Junior league, (U-13, U-16 and U-19) and our U-13 team have been runaway winners, with U-16 team also doing very well. Some of our juniors are playing regularly for county teams as well as for the club. (see **Juniors** below).

General

a) Maintenance:

A major programme of court heating improvement has taken place during this past year. Under the supervision of **David Whiter** we had a new gas supply, new boiler and new pipework fitted, together with provisional connection to on-court radiators on court one should these be fitted at a future date. Annual court cleaning and inspection took place in the summer. Steps were taken (sorry about this !!) to replace the decrepit ladder used by the groundsman to replace court lamps. Plans for extensive court refurbishment are being drawn up for 2008.

b) Membership:

Our membership numbers remain very healthy. We finished the 05/06 season with **275 senior members and 80 juniors**, thus taking our senior membership above the 04/05 level (268) and slightly increasing our junior membership as well. As squash is not a growth sport in the face of extensive competition from fitness, football and other sports, to keep our membership at this high level is a considerable achievement. Much credit for this should go to our long-time membership secretary, **Ken Picton** who has had his trials substantially increased this year by the maladministration of our membership account by England Squash. We are fortunate that Ken is a man of much patience.

c) Club night:

Sunday evenings' club nights continue to be one of this club's success stories. Following on last year's successful appeal to our club night regulars to help out with organising, we have been able to maintain a year round service, including the summer months. We are grateful to all those who take their turn on the organisers' roster (though more to take a turn would be even better !). We are also grateful to members such as **Judy Williams, Peter Hughes and Craig Rossiter** who have given their time to organise Speed Squash events in the club night slot at various times.

d) Website:

The squash section website (www.finchleymanor-squash.co.uk) has become an integral part of the information network of the club. Under the care of our webmaster **Rick Prior** this plays a key role in recruitment and circulation of information to members and non-members alike. Rick is always looking for material to publish on our website. He welcomes contributions from members so if you have any news that you feel will interest other FM squash players, contact him on rick@rickprior.com.

e) Juniors:

Something has already been said above of the excellent performance of our junior teams. But junior provision at FM runs well beyond putting out competitive teams. Under the expert guidance of **Judy Williams, Craig Rossiter, Tim Taylor and Peter Hughes** FM juniors have access to **Saturday morning coaching** which has over the past few years gone from strength to strength. If you have a child who looks as though squash could be their game, do bring them along on Saturday morning.

In addition to running Junior teams in the Middlesex leagues, Judy and her fellow coaches have promoted events such as **inter-county friendly matches** for some very small squash players (U-9, U-11). These have been enthusiastically supported by parents and friends.

A number of our juniors represent Middlesex on a regular basis. Four of our juniors, **Lee and Nicky Rossiter, Andrew Taylor and Rober Winsley**, have England rankings. Three of these (Lee, Nicky, Andrew) together with **Ashil Shah**, form the backbone of the county U-13 team, and Lee and Robert play for the U-15 county team. Two of these boys, **Lee Rossiter and Andrew Taylor** are Middlesex champions in their age groups (U-13 and U-11). Three of our girls performed very creditably in the county championships, with **Hannah Taylor and Georgia House** doing well in the U-15 event and **Jenny Hartley** finishing runner-up in the U-19 girls.

g) Web Based Booking System and Fob entry:

The WBBS has now been in operation for over a year. Although we have had a few teething troubles, with the system going down or the lights failing, overall we are very pleased with it. Many members have expressed satisfaction with the convenience it gives them. And as a committee we are happy that we have found a low-cost, high-reliability system that will give us good service for many years to come. (However we still have to ask members to ensure they **cancel courts when not required**; failure to do so, leaves courts empty but with lights fully on.)

In line with our WBBS experience, we have gone further by introducing a fob entry system for all our squash members. Again, after a few hiccups, this appears to be working very well. In due course the club as a whole intends to follow the squash section's lead by installing fob entry for all sections (but don't lose your fob - they cost £5 to replace !).

h) Miscellaneous

Thanks to the initiative of **Rick Prior** in February of 06 and 07 we played host to the Metropolitan Police squash finals, which, on both occasions were very successful evenings with some excellent squash played to a high standard. This led in turn to the visit of Epping S.C. for a friendly evening of squash at all social levels. This was much appreciated by those who took part.

Safety matters: members are advised that eye-protectors are available for sale in the bar. It is mandatory for all young people (U-19) to wear these when playing squash.

Barry Cullen
Squash secretary
April 2007