

Blackheath Squash Club - Chairman's Report 2017

It's been a busy and successful year at the Club. This report seeks to capture the highlights.

Membership

Over the last 12 months I am very pleased to report that our membership has remained at relatively high levels. We currently have 185 members compared to 162 this time last year. Many thanks to our Membership Secretary Roald Piper.

Finance

The Club's finances are robust. The 2016 annual accounts show a cash balance of £24,406 at the end of September 2016. The Club is run on a not for profit basis and this cash surplus will be reinvested in the Club for the benefit of the members. Many thanks to Neil Harris as Club Treasurer for managing our financial affairs.

Kent League Teams

We ran four Senior teams in the North Kent leagues over the 2016 Summer and four Senior teams team for the 2016/17 winter season. Congratulations to the 3rd Senior team for coming top of their division in the Winter season to the 4ths for a close second in their Division.

Tournaments and box leagues

Over the last 12 months we held the annual handicap and main tournaments with good participation from the members. The box leagues continue to be very successful – many thanks to John Mead for organising these.

Junior squash

Another successful year for junior squash with Saturday morning sessions frequently attracting 20+ participants. We deliberately set out to be as inclusive as possible. We are now encouraging the older junior players to transition to senior squash and continue working our younger players through the country's only squash syllabus. Many thanks to John Mead and Danny Dowling for their hard work on running our Junior squash section.

Amsterdam Trip

In the first of what we hope will become an annual occurrence, eleven players headed off to Squash City in Amsterdam for a weekend in May. The group played against both each other and local players for an afternoon also enjoyed the sauna and steam room complex. An excellent restaurant meal in the evening rounded off an energetic day, to be followed by a relaxed day of sightseeing and more squash on the Sunday. Research is underway to find the destination for the 2018 trip. Many thanks to John Mead for organising

Ladies squash

2017 has been a quiet year for Ladies Squash at Blackheath. We did not field a team in the 2016/17 Kent Ladies Winter League and are currently looking for a new captain for the Ladies to reinvigorate the team.

Club refurbishment/improvements

We have continued to maintain the courts this year with the floors being sanded and the court walls being repainted.

Social/Communications

Many thanks to Danny Dowling for maintaining the content of the Club's website. We have had a quiet year on social events.

Future plans

We continue to progress the development plans for the club to expand our courts from 2 to 4. During 2016/17 we have obtained planning permission from Greenwich Council Planning Department and are in the process of making grant applications to fund the development. We are grateful to Jay Patel of Pendleton Associates for his continued assistance and advice in this matter.

Conclusion

We have achieved much over the last 12 months and I would like to thank all those who have made this possible. I look forward to an exciting 2017/18. Enjoy your squash.