

Dear Member,

Happy New Year! You might recall that 12 months ago we opened our newsletter with the news that there was nothing material to report about the proposed redevelopment of the Rugby Club site - guess what - we've even less to report on that topic this year (see below)!

Indeed, I do hope that you will be able to agree with me that generally speaking across all aspects of the Club, nothing much in the way of news is actually pretty good news. We continue to go from strength to strength in all departments, we don't have any plans for radical transformation because we all seem to rather like our slightly basic but very low cost and perfectly decent quality facilities, and we have filled our committee vacancies for the time being. But don't be put off from reading on.....!

1. Important Dates

Juniors' Evenings

Saturdays evenings during the season:

6-7pm	Mini Skills
7-8.15pm	Group 1
8.15-9.30pm	Group 2

(The season will run until 28th June with breaks on Feb 9th & March 22nd)

Club Nights

First Sunday in the month at 6pm

(All very welcome, including prospective new members. Free play)

Finals Night

Weds April 23rd at 7.30pm

(Again all welcome - great squash played!)

Club Dinner & Prize-Giving

Late May/early June but avoiding half-term, repeating the extremely successful BBQ format from last year

Golf Tournament

Thursday Sept 4th at Verulam Golf Club

2. Possible Future Redevelopment of the Rugby and Squash Club Site

At one point last summer we did think that something was actually likely to come to fruition (and in consequence we set our current year renewal fee very low to avoid any accumulation of reserves), but in truth with the financial woes of potential partners Esporta very public, any redevelopment now looks further off - indeed one might be forgiven for doubting whether it will ever happen at all. We endeavour to maintain good relations with our landlords the Rugby Club (and you may recall that we have no long term rights of tenure) and so we are not obstructive to their redevelopment thinking, but if the whole scheme were to fold and we were left with the status quo we should be quite happy.

The only challenge arising from the current state of remission is that we will soon have to decide on relining the court walls, which we have held off while the future of the building was uncertain since the expense only makes sense as a medium-term investment.

3. Competitions

The draws are now up on the noticeboard. Please play your games by the dates shown for each round. Good luck!

HARPENDEN RFC SQUASH CLUB
NEWSLETTER - January 2008



4. Juniors

We have not been able to find anyone to step into Andy Green's shoes on a long term basis, but happily Juniors evenings are still working out well anyway through a combination of the good structure that Andy has left in place and a rota of parents and coaches to support Stephen Lloyd. A big thank you to those who help out, and a request for others to take up a little of the load from time to time, particularly if their children take part. The volunteering rota is on the Juniors' noticeboard.

5. Coaching

Stephen Lloyd is the Harpenden Squash Club coach, and offers individual or group tuition to both adults and juniors. Stephen is the Hertfordshire Junior County Coach and is Part 2 England Squash qualified. He is running coaching specifically for Ladies on Monday evenings from 8.00pm. You can contact Stephen at coach@harpendsquash.org.uk or by 'phone on 07817 182337

6. Sponsors

We remain very grateful to John Curtis Ltd and to Goodsports in Harpenden for their continuing support, and ask members to consider using these local businesses. Margaret and Rod at Goodsports will offer a discount to those who make their membership of the Squash Club known; they also sell court tokens of course. (John Curtis Ltd: 01582 764471; Goodsports: 01582 767171)

7. Committee

As you may have seen from the notices in the club itself, we have very sadly lost the most excellent services of Peter Sheaves as Membership Secretary (and team member etc) following his move to the coast. Happily Richard Ciechan has come forward to take Peter's role on the Committee, and all others remain happy to continue to serve.

Chairman	Norman Smith
Club Captain	Neil Melvill
Secretary	Ian Stowe
Membership Secretary	Richard Ciechan
Treasurer	Steve Cole
House Maintenance	Ken Tune
Juniors	-
League Organiser	Troy Stewart
Marketing	Howard Gregory
Club Coach	Stephen Lloyd

Richard cannot continue as auditor now that he joined the committee, and we are very pleased that Graham Warner has agreed to become our auditor with immediate effect.

Thanks are also due to Justin Turnpenny for producing our court booking sheets.

Best wishes for the remainder of the current season

Norman Smith
CHAIRMAN