

Dear Member,

I'm not usually lost for words but I've made the mistake of going back to previous annual newsletters before settling down to pen this year's, and I fear that I'm starting to sound like a scratched record we've had another really great year and once again even better than the previous one! A good-sized membership, a very strong junior section, some excellent teams and sound finances all point to a club in robust health (which we hope explains the record low turn-out at this year's AGM!).

So please get your renewal subscriptions to us by Sept 1st so that we can change locks and door codes promptly. The Renewal Form is the last page of this newsletter

However, I do need to apologise for the late cancellation of this year's Club BBQ, which I know was disappointing for the Juniors in particular. We will get things back together for next year, but each year we face the same situation with a good turn-out on the night but nearly zero ticket sales a couple of days in advance and the committee all frantically ringing around eliciting vague pledges of support. This year was the worst so far, exacerbated by the change of management at the BBQ venue meaning that we were rather late in confirming the date to members and putting tickets on sale (although having them available earlier has never made any difference in previous years!) and with only a few days to go we simply couldn't give the pub any idea of numbers (bearing in mind that the club has to underwrite the cost). Any thoughts for how we gain earlier commitment next year much appreciated (we've tried discounts etc) as also any offers of help in the organisation (which for as long as we can remember has fallen on the same 2 or 3 committee members). But anyway, sorry for this year's disappointment

1. Rugby Club Development

I don't think that there will be many expressions of surprise, but the proposed development has once again faded into the background. The collapse of Esporta (the proposed operators of the new complex) has been covered extensively in the financial press. The Rugby Club board are looking at various options to revive either the 'Esporta' scheme or alternatives and say that they will keep us informed of any progress. The view of the Squash Club committee is that at least in the current financial climate there is unlikely to be any threat to our current status again for some while; this view will drive our maintenance programme now

2. Subscriptions

As usual, prior to the AGM the committee had met to discuss spending plans and subscription rates and to agree a proposal to put to the AGM. Our proposal had been that we should move subs back up part-way towards where they had been prior to the sharp reduction last year. The background to this proposal had been that our subs are very low anyway, that with the redevelopment now less likely we must begin more extensive maintenance over the next few years (re-plastering a court is c£3,000 and a new floor is

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c£4000) and that the specific circumstances behind last years reduction no longer applied. Our reserves are still very strong, but we wanted to avoid a really big hike later.

Unusually this proposal had been posted with a proxy voting form rather than a request to come and discuss the pro's and con's at the AGM, but without any background to present the argument. Although the AGM itself supported the proposal, we received 10 proxy votes against but with no opportunity to discuss the matter of course. The committee and the AGM felt that this was a highly unsatisfactory state of affairs but that we would accept the 'vote' on this occasion. Therefore for 2008/9 our subs will remain at current reduced levels and we will fund the beginnings of the enhanced maintenance programme from reserves

So subs for 08/9 are very low indeed even by our standards. Under the circumstances we hope that members will do the decent thing and pay promptly please

3. 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 Juniors' season will recommence on Sept 6th)

Club Nights First Sunday in the month at 6pm.
(All very welcome. Recommencing Sept 7th)

Club BBQ & Prize-Giving Returning for 2008/9, probably late May!

Golf Tournament Thursday Sept 4th at Verulam Golf Club

4. Competitions

Congratulations to the winners and finalists from this year's Club competitions:

	<i>Winner</i>	<i>Runner-up</i>
Open Champion	Chris Lynam	Justin Turnpenny
Ladies Champion	Viv Palmer	Zoe Pulver
Handicap Champion	Tim Jenkins	Chris Belfield
Veteran Champion	Eamon Price	David Wells
Vintage Champion	Tony Clifford	Steve Cole

5. 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)

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6. Committee

We are delighted that Viv Palmer has stepped forward (or at least been pressed forward) to represent the interests of the lady members on the committee. We continue to operate the Junior Section without an organizer, relying largely upon Steve Cole's goodwill to provide some organisational support for Stephen Lloyd, but we do really need to find a parent(s) to take up this post (any volunteers?).

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
Ladies	Viv Palmer
Club Coach	Stephen Lloyd
Auditor	Graham Warner

Very best wishes for the new season

Norman Smith

CHAIRMAN



**HARPENDEN RFC
SQUASH CLUB**

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM 2008-9

Subscriptions for the new season from 1st September 2008 are now due. The entry & alarm codes for the clubhouse will be changed shortly after this date, so please return this form as soon as possible, together with your subscription cheque to:

Richard Ciechan, 20 Prospect Lane, Harpenden, Herts AL5 2PL (01582 766116)

Subscriptions 2008-9 Season:

Category	Fee	Rugby Members (75% of full fee)
Full Adult	£50.00	£37.50
Family*	£60.00	£45.00
Junior	£10.00	no discount
Student at college	£13.50	no discount
Off-Peak Adult	£25.00	£18.75

Please note that our subscription rates have been reduced to 2/3rd of our usual level as a concession for the 07/8 & 08/9 seasons, in view of our sound financial position.

* Family membership covers two adult members living at the same address, plus children under 19 years of age living at that address, or elsewhere but in full-time education. For England Squash membership we will use the home address. Those of you renewing on Family Membership terms need to provide the name and date of birth of each playing member of your family so that we can pass this information to England Squash. Please do not include non-players since this increases our costs unnecessarily.

NAME:Date of birth:

ADDRESS:

.....

POST CODE:Tel. No.:

email address:

please tick here if you are happy for us to share your email address with other members. (NB we won't share it with anyone else)

SPOUSE NAME:Date of birth:

JUNIOR 1 NAME:Date of birth:.....

JUNIOR 2 NAME:Date of birth:.....

JUNIOR 3 NAME:Date of birth:.....

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP: FEE ENCLOSED: £.....

Cheques should be made payable to: HARPENDEN RFC SQUASH CLUB