

## SQUASH REPORT 2021

To all Coolhurst members,

15 months ago you kindly entrusted me with the responsibility of squash secretary, it was a week before we went into lock down. Although I anticipated it would be a different year, I had no idea that we would have so little squash.

As a result my review of the last year from a squash perspective is very short. The squash committee has not been sitting and any squash issues( membership credits, maintenance etc) have been delegated up to the GMC and duly minuted for members information, this will continue to be the process whilst the restrictions on play continue.

We have had no competitions, no club nights, no team games, very limited coaching and restricted conditions for playing on court. We did manage to relaunch the leagues, thanks to Paul Harris for taking over from Neil and Adrian, but then we had to shut down again. I would like to thank the coaches( Lucas, Wendy, Paul Carter, Steve Thompson, Joey and Ben H) for supporting those members who have been attempting to play. I would also like to thank Brent for supporting fitness plans for squash players to try and keep conditioned. I would also like to thank the Coolhurst staff and management in helping to keep the squash section open through such difficult times. I hope all squash players will show their gratitude to the bar, catering and cleaning staff as well as Sarah, Anthony and Ray on their return to the club over the coming weeks.

My greatest thanks however go to all the members who renewed in October, despite the ongoing restrictions 70% of our full members renewed their membership, furthermore the majority of those people who renewed gifted their rebate credit back to the club. One of my commitments to the squash membership is that as we return to active participation, the club has a duty to repay that loyalty and generosity. Hopefully this will be apparent as the plans for the coming year roll out.

Before outlining those plans we have still lost members who have moved away, stopped playing or unfortunately passed away, they will all be missed and remembered at Coolhurst squash. One larger than life absentee at tournaments and team nights will be Johnny Bruce, who died suddenly at the end 2020. Johnny was a stalwart of Coolhurst, Hornsey and Middlesex squash who will be missed, the club passes its condolences to Jane and his two sons.

So moving to the coming year, we can now play full open court squash from 17/5/21 members can play within the guidelines laid down by England Squash. Here are some of the plans, but please contact me if you have ideas as to how we can encourage people back onto court and enjoy the game to the full.

June; A series of coaching initiatives will be launched by the coaching team. Peter H and James Wilson will look at what those plans are and ensure there is something for everyone.

July; We hope to have the leagues live again in July, Paul Harris has agreed to lead. I will also hope to relaunch club nights from early July too.

September; We plan to run our 2021 club tournaments, former squash secretary Giles Clawson, who is now a country member, has agreed to lead on this. We will also hopefully have some world ranked players doing some coaching and exhibitions.

October; Team squash to recommence, Alex Prior with Paddy Joyce's help, has agreed to convene our Coolhurst teams. It's too early to predict but pre pandemic we had 11 adult teams so we have a hard benchmark to reach.

November to early December; We will run the annual handicap tournament in memory of Gareth Pugh. Followed by the return of the Turkey Run doubles tournament.

If we can then take stock and plan for 2022 hoping there are no further setbacks from a health perspective, but hopefully some external tournaments could be accommodated early in the new year.

We have some great members who volunteer their time but as we get squash returning if you have some spare capacity please let me know. We will need help with coordinating club night, supporting junior tournaments , coordinating and marking internal competitions, promoting the club etc.

I hope that gets everyone up to speed with all things Coolhurst Squash. Please attend the AGM and if there are any questions you have concerning the last or the coming year please post them to the club secretary and I will answer them either directly or on the night.

All the best and take care.

Charlie.

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