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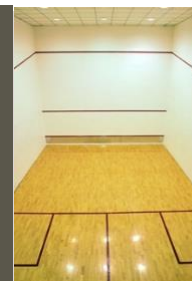
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Issue 5  
May

2024

# On Court >>>



An insight into what's going on behind the scenes at Nunthorpe Squash Club

## Club Competitions & Finals Night >>>

This bumper edition's main feature leads with a review of recent NMPFA EGM and takes look at a look at our end of season legendary club competitions and finals night.

Despite the ongoing concern as to the NMPFA's conduct in managing and administering the charity , we the squash committee would like to take the opportunity on a more positive note to extend a big thankyou to **Squash Members, Residents of Nunthorpe and the Recreation club** for a fantastic end to the Squash playing season.

There was a massive turnout on Finals night, and we have recognised the main talking points within this edition.

We also have a feature with **Kelvin Bowes our Club Secretary** who adds a new dynamic to the squash committee team in our regular **"Ask the Committee Q & A session."**

So, as we now look to the summer period , the close season work does not stop behind the scenes, the committee will be hard at work looking at new ideas to make NSC an even better club for all of us , we also have the annual AGM to coordinate.

Finally, the committee would like to announce three new important updates , the launch our **Summer 2024 Squash Giveaway Competition** open to all current members , a refresh of our fantastic **Club merchandise page** and finally the great news that we have been successful in our application for **funding to support our adult coaching and junior coaching sessions.**

We hope you find this edition as informative as ever.

**The Committee**

# NMPFA EGM Update

The recent EGM occurred on 6<sup>th</sup> April and referring to pre-EGM NMPFA messaging, it was an opportunity to dispel misinformation and provide clarity on the charities CIO aims and future. Unfortunately, the EGM provided none of the pre-meeting hype and free debate was censored by trustees.

The trustees offered that they were disgusted with the social media comments and feel aggrieved at the attacks on their custodianship of the charity however from the onset of comments made by the chair and trustees towards members and residents, the tone of the meeting was set, which was disappointing.

All questions allowed to be submitted were partially answered and some answers didn't provide clarity and avoided the detail required for the questions raised.

Chair & some trustees came across as dismissive, patronising, and flippant in their comments.

Too much time was spent detailing historic issues and problems from 2-5 years ago and no plans were discussed as to the future, only a commentary on what problems the trustees were dealing with and how the charity was suffering during the trustee's tenure.

During the meeting, some residents and section members left the meeting.

**"We are not accountable to anyone; we are THE members, and we can do what we want "** was the standout quote from chairman James Hayton " which left many of the audience flabbergasted.

Attendees voiced their point that no one wants to work with you ( the trustees ) due to your attitude, record of poor governance and belligerent attitude to all stakeholders, this was dismissed as opinion and not relevant by the Chairman.

Phil Cawood (Running ) has also now resigned from trustees leaving only 4 trustees and chair along with Mieka Smiles ( who has not attended any meeting to our knowledge to date). So, **James Hayton, Stewart Wright, John McDermott, Colin Geddes, and Alan Calvert** are NMPFA trustees.

The Lady Harrison charity has now been put in the hands of individuals and has removed residents and section members from having any say or input into the charity.

This change to CIO status has been carefully orchestrated by **Chair James Hayton** with misinformation & sharp practices despite the rhetoric that the trustees have been victims to slurs and have done everything above board, which there is proof, and is untrue.

**So, as we move forward, Squash is unhappy with NMPFA trustees' actions, Nunthorpe Parish Council are unhappy, Former trustees are unhappy, Tennis is unhappy, Residents are unhappy, Middlesbrough Council are unhappy, Running is unhappy, Cricket was/are unhappy, Quoits are unhappy and legal team have pointed out flaws in their conduct.**

**With no apparent plan or future strategy in these challenging times ...It's a sad day for the memory of Lady Harrison's Gift to the area.**

# Squash Summer Giveaway Competition

## Prizes on offer

**Free lights for a month** – Subject to T&Cs

**Junior Academy Fees Paid for a Month** Subject to T&Cs

**Balls/Grips**

**World famous drinks bottles**

## Wear Your Club T- Shirt in the Most Unusual Spot - Win a Great Prize!

We've got a **fun new competition** for you this summer!

We're challenging all our members to wear your club t-shirt in the most unique or unusual location while on your holidays this year. – just like our membership secretary Martin on his holidays this year.



Snap as many photos as you want from different locations and submit them to the club by **August 31st, 2024** - the member with the most creative and interesting photo will win a fantastic prize!

This is a great way for all of us to show our club spirit while enjoying our summer travels. Whether you're scaling a mountain, relaxing on the beach, or exploring a new city, wear that club t-shirt with pride and creativity. The crazier the location, the better!

Not only is this a fun competition, but it's also a chance for the club to promote our merchandise and raise some funds.

Even if you just want to update your playing attire just be sure to stock up on club t-shirts and other gear before your summer trips.

The more members who are sporting our logo, the better - it's great advertising for the Squash Club!

The competition winners will be announced **September 30<sup>th</sup> 2024** by the committee (committee decision final)

So, start planning your photo ops now and get ready to show us your best "unusual location" shots!

Can't wait to see where our members take our club colours this summer.

Just send in your pics to our emails address or WhatsApp group to apply detailing where you were wearing your t shirt.

**Good luck and have a fantastic holiday season.**

# Nunthorpe Squash Club Merchandise

If you wish to take advantage of these great products and offers

All you need to do is email "Nunthorpe Squash Club" & a member of the committee will arrange for your order to be handed over at a convenient time for you- no delivery fees and try before you buy !



## Description - Adult T Shirt

This adult sized T shirt provides excellent ventilation with high durability and it's easy to combine thanks to its colour and design - allowing players to enter the court in a sporty and comfortable style.

It features club logos front & back and features a round neck, all in a regular fit.

**£15**



## Description- Academy T Shirts

This junior sized T shirt provides excellent ventilation with high durability and it's easy to combine thanks to its colour and design - allowing players to enter the court in a sporty and comfortable style.

It features club logos front & back and features a round neck, all in a regular fit.

**£8**

Measurements	XS	S	M	L	XL	XXL	3XL	4XL	5XL
1/2 Chest	44.5cm	48cm	51.5cm	55cm	58.5cm	62cm	65.5cm	69cm	72.5cm
Body Length	67.5cm	70cm	72.5cm	75cm	77.5cm	80cm	82.5cm	85cm	87.5cm
Sleeve Length	23cm	23cm	24cm	24cm	25cm	25cm	26cm	26cm	27cm



## Description- Junior Dunlop Armour protective eyewear

**Stay focused, stay safe.** Keep your eye on the ball. These WSF-approved goggles provide lightweight, durable, and very comfortable eye-protection for junior squash players.

**£15**



## Description- Performance Squash Racket

**An excellent all-around racket from Dunlop .**

In our opinion, the racket offers accuracy While it's not the most powerful, nor the most manoeuvrable racket on the market, it still manages to deliver in all areas, and helped produce some of the most precise, consistent shots out of all the squash rackets we've road tested- great for beginners and accomplished players. Try before you buy.

Adults

**£65**

Juniors

**£25**



## Description- NSC Designer Drinks Bottle

**Much sought after ....Need we say more.**

**£4**

We also have several academy hoodies available in limited sizes – see committee for details - Grips and balls are available in the vending machine.

# Safety Goggles for Juniors

We just want as many people as possible playing the sport we love and to ensure all players and especially juniors play in safe and controlled environment. We must remind all JUNIORS that the wearing of safety goggles/glasses is mandatory for club events, and we urge all junior players and parents to be mindful of the potential injuries when not wearing safety glasses—  
**Safety first approach must be the order of the day.**

Infographic designed & brought to you by



BossSquash.com

## THE IMPORTANCE OF PROPER EYEWEAR

Choosing the right **eye protection** for you is very important when considering playing Squash. Most sporting goods retailers will sell Squash goggles at a very affordable price. So, while you're grabbing some new balls, a hip sweatband, or even a new racquet, consider checking out the goggles. For the momentary lapse in your normally 'on-point' fashion, it's worth it.

If you aren't convinced that you need eye protection, consider the possible damage that can occur:

**01**

### HYPHAEMA

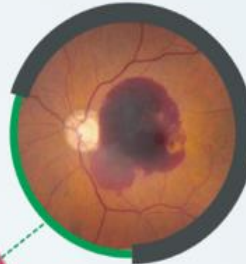
Bleeding inside the eye, which can have long term complications and possibly lead to glaucoma.



**03**

### RETINAL DAMAGE

Hemorrhage and swelling of the retina can permanently reduce vision.



**02**

### PUPIL INJURY

Tears to the iris can distort the pupil and lead to an inability to focus.



**04**

### ORBITAL FRACTURES

Surgery is often needed and double vision or disfigurement can result.



So, next time you're about to play Squash make sure you consider that there is always the possibility of an eye injury. If you're worried about the 'dorky' goggles, just own it. I promise you it's worth it.



# Focus on Kelvin Bowes

NSC Club Secretary >>>

**What inspired you to join NSC? and when?**

If I'm honest I don't play squash but as a proud father to Michael, it's fair to say I've been in and around the club for several years watching Michael develop as an accomplished player . I joined the committee last year in July when I saw an advert posted for the position of club secretary.

**As an avid mini league player could you share your most memorable victory on the court and what it meant to you?**

I certainly don't have a specific victory, but I do remember with fondness winning a point off Michael many years ago at NSC – just before I ran into the wall !– as they say once an oil tanker gets going, it takes a time to stop .....but a points a point in my book.

**What aspects of squash do you find most challenging, and how do you overcome them?**

Squash is such a great sport to play but my role is to support the committee & membership and ensure all the administration is done behind the scenes . It's a massive task and certainly more than I originally anticipated but the good news is that we are starting to see the combined efforts of the committee working together, I hope you can also see positive changes too.

**What squash achievements are you most proud of, whether it's related to your own skill development or sportsmanship?**

Not on a playing front but taking stock of all the squash admin behind the scenes and working a plan to ensure that members are informed is pleasing. The key in my opinion is engagement and sharing of information to our members , the more members are engaged the more they support each other– some great ideas have been put forward by members and it's not just a management committee thing but everyone working together for a common goal – that's the secret of our NSC success and why there's a great buzz around the club at the moment .

**Off the court, what hobbies or interests complement your passion for squash, giving us a glimpse into your life beyond squash?**

Where time allows, I enjoy walking spending time with family and friends , walking the dog , summer months spending time in the garden ferreting about and cranking up the BBQ.

**As a dedicated squash member, what advice would you give to someone new to the sport, based on your own journey and experiences?**

Simply join the club and become of something that's going from strength to strength . It's a great family orientated club with great facilities and really is a shining jewel in the local area .

**Are there any squash-related rituals or superstitions you follow before a match, or perhaps a lucky charm that accompanies you to the court?**

None whatsoever but watching Michael in junior tournaments up and down the country, I suppose part of ritual was for me & Judith his Mum was to make sure he was focused on his matches – play to his strengths , have fun, and make sure he didn't lose a great opportunity to have a good game and progress further in competitions ...he never listened and did his own thing !

**Outside of the competitive aspects, what do you enjoy most about Nunthorpe Squash Club – the camaraderie, events, or something else?**

Past & present committee members have put blood, sweat and tears into the club over the years . The time they spend on a voluntary basis, coaching , attending meetings , off site activities to help and promote squash at NSC is truly fantastic and should not be forgotten – in my own small way although not a squash player I'm here to help everyone , to make NSC an even better club.

**Favourite Food & Drink ?**

Corn beef hash , made to my late father's secret recipe – you can't beat it on a winter's day, in the summer sometimes a nice pint of cold cider but usually Stella is my drink of choice – it gets a bad rap.

**Your idea of a perfect night or day out ?**

Perfect day or night split into 2 – day at the races with lifelong mates & any family event usually does the trick.

# Nunthorpe Squash Club Member of the Month

## Award



April 2024  
Charlie Plews

A sporting club is only as good as its members and the committee has recognised that we have some fantastic members, so to recognise some of the great input that routinely occurs within the club, we wish to celebrate some of our fantastic members every month.

If you'd like to nominate a fellow member

Please contact the committee on our usual email address

The closing date is the 25<sup>th</sup> of every month.

Well, Done, Charlie a big thankyou from the committee and fellow members for representing Nunthorpe at County League level and been named DCSRA top player of the month - MARCH. ( Pictured with G Lewis – Club Coach)



The committee would like to announce that we have been successful in our application for funding to acquire new equipment to support our coaching set up.

Recently we applied to **Grass Roots – The Teesside Family foundation** who are a well-established local charity who offer funding to well-run local sporting organisations who provide sporting facilities in Cleveland.

Following a rigorous selection process and a site visit, NSC has been granted funding to purchase a squash ball automatic launcher to aid our coaching set up.

The ball launcher is now in manufacturing and will be available for delivery and club use shortly.



Full and funded in due course, but the committee are so pleased with this acquisition and now a great relationship with the local charity that we thought it was only fair to announce now and promote the benefits in later editions.

More information on the charity and the battery-operated ball launcher are below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s5Bn159Fn2k>

<https://www.theteessidefamily.com/grassroots-sports/>

# Club Competitions & Finals Night

A record number of entrants, a massive headache for the committee to allocate handicap rankings fairly, all the behind-the-scenes organising and finally we entered the final day, with high expectations and what a memorable day it was.

The committee would like to thank all the competitors for a truly fantastic end of the season. There were some great games observed and the overall level of squash at all levels was pleasing to see. There's a great buzz around the club now but we would like to recognise some of the stand-out moments and people who made the finals competitions and day something we'll remember for months to come.

- The recreation bar staff** – for coping with a truly packed bar with standing-room-only
- Sponsors**- Luna Blu for sponsoring club shirts throughout the season
- Raffle donations and Raffle Coordinator** – Joel Bell and all the kind donations
- Club Competitors**- the winners and losers of all competitions for your commitment to the club
- Poster boy** – Pete Spaldin for coordinating all the competitions and media information
- The Committee** – for putting a great end to the season day ...goes without saying, we are biased!
- Our own Prince Charming** with the sparkly shoes and Jacket compare – Graeme Lewis
- Nunthorpe Residents, you the members, your guests, and players** for making the club vibrant, playing some great squash, packing the club out on the day, and taking the club to new levels.

## 2024 Competitions Roll of Honour

- Club Championship** – Winner **Dan Leech** - Runner Up Michael Bowes
- Club Plate**– Winner **Graham Stamp** - Runner Up Charlie Plews
- Club Handicap** – Winner **Jordan Bedford** - Runner Up Johnny Willis
- Handicap Plate** – Winner **James Watkin** Runner Up Harry Knight
- Club Masters**– Winner **Peter Harrison** - Runner Up Martin Bradley
- Club Ladies** – Winner – **Katie Lewis** - Runner Up Emily Bell
- Club U19**–Winner **Dan Leech** – Runner Up Charlie Plews

# final thoughts.. FROM GEOFF SMITH – CHAIRMAN

Dear Squash Club Members,

I am thrilled to share my gratitude for the overwhelming response and positive feedback we've received regarding our club's annual competitions. With record-breaking entries and an exceptional display of squash skills, it's truly heartening to witness the enthusiasm and competitiveness among all players.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our dedicated committee, whose hard work and commitment made this season possible. Your tireless efforts voluntarily behind the scenes have contributed immensely to the success of our club.

A special thank you is also due to the parents, residents, and supporters from the recreation bar management for their unwavering support throughout the season. Your encouragement and involvement have been instrumental in creating a vibrant and thriving squash community.

As we reflect on the accomplishments of this season, whilst there has been distraction elsewhere not of our doing, it's important to look ahead to the future.

Our planning for next season is already underway, and I am confident that together, as a squash family, we can continue to elevate our presence in the DCSRA squash leagues.

Moreover, nurturing and developing our junior section remains a priority, as they are the future stars of our sport.

Finally, I want to express my deepest gratitude to everyone who made Finals Night a resounding success. It was a truly fantastic and memorable end to our playing season, and I couldn't be prouder of what we've achieved together.

Let's continue to strive for excellence and make our mark in the squash world.

Warm regards, Geoff



## Members reminders

AGM Notices are now displayed in club.

Please put your names down if you wish to join the committee.



## In the next issue

- Club Projects Update
- Club Member of the Month
- Chairmans thoughts
- Ball Launcher update



**DURHAM & CLEVELAND**  
**squash**



## DCSRA Player/s of Month 2024 – Well, done Guys - A great result ....

POSITION	PLAYER	CLUB	LAST MONTH LEVEL	THIS MONTH LEVEL	IMPROVEMENT	MORE
1	Charlie Plews	Nunthorpe	670 →	812	21.2%	▼
2	Martin Bradley	Nunthorpe	1,287 →	1,510	17.3%	▼
3	Mal Tindale	Darlington	3,301 →	3,789	14.8%	▼
4	Oliver Hatfield	Durham Uni	5,719 →	6,546	14.5%	▼
5	Chris Rowsby	Sedgefield	800 →	914	14.3%	▼



Like, share and click away on all our social media pages – raising the profile helps the club enormously.