

Squash Section Report (October 2018 to March 2019)

1. The 2018 squash season started with the PSA Wimbledon Cup event. This was the first time in 15 years that the squash committee had full control over running the event since the BSPA circuit ended. It was a fantastic event which included selling tickets both internally & externally from the 2nd round onwards, whilst also running a doubles event on the semi-finals day, plus increased social media attention thanks to Joe Gallop who was brought in from Roehampton University to do an event internship. We saw excellent crowds throughout the event & as a committee we have plenty of ideas to build on this event in the future. The men's winner was World no.49 Ben Coleman & the ladies winner was World no.10 Alison Waters.

2. Early December we held the WRFC Junior Bronze Event which attracted an excellent 84 entries from around the region and beyond. Thanks to Tina who ran the event with the support of Phil. WRFC had success through two academy players Christian Faergemann (BU13 winner) & Ameerah Elgarhy (GU15 winner).

3. Later in December we hosted the WRFC Christmas/New Year Doubles Event. This was the second year that Phil has organised the event & once again attracted a strong 10 pairs giving everyone a fun tournament during the festive period.

4. January saw WRFC link up with Squashskills to put on a masterclass coaching day at the club. This was a huge success and all 18 places were sold out & we received great feedback from the players, coaches and squashskills, who are keen to secure another date at the club in near future.

5. Surrey Squash secured a major National Junior Gold event for February which saw 270 juniors compete across 5 clubs, one of which was WRFC. Tina Fuselli helped Surrey Squash with the scheduling & ran the tournament desk with help from Surrey over the 3-day event. The event was a great success & Surrey are hopeful to be successful with another application to host the event again next year.

6. WRFC hosted the England Squash Master Inter County Stage One weekend in March. Many counties from the South of England across various masters age groups competed for places in the finals weekend later in the year. There was a good buzz in the club over the weekend & the matches were played in great spirit.

7. The Winter 2018/19 season came to a close in March. The winter Division 1 WRFC had two teams in the top division, a very rare occurrence by any club.

This really demonstrates the strength in depth we have as the second team are all regular club members playing side by side with the professionals each week. Unfortunately, it proved to be a tough season for the men's second team who have now been relegated to Division 2.

The first team (the professionals!) finished 3rd whilst up against very strong opposition which included many players inside the top 50 rankings in the world. The men's 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th teams all stayed in their respective divisions, keeping WRFC with 6 teams inside the top 6 divisions in the County and the only club in Surrey to have this.

The ladies first team finished mid-table in Division 1, which is gaining in strength each season with many world class players signed up to various opposing teams. The ladies second team had a fantastic first season in Division 2 finishing second only a few points away from promotion.

8. The Warren Cup has been organised by John Sawyer & Raja Ram. The handicap tournament for non team players started earlier this month & is currently at the Round 2 stage. John & Raja have organised this event seamlessly & we look forward to the event progressing and the final being played on the Club Championship finals day in May.

9. Lewis Crabtree has continued to captain the WR&FC Social Team this season. Lewis has done a fantastic job in keeping a full fixture list for the second season in a row, with WR&FC playing 16 fixtures this season. The aim of the team is to give and our lower team/non-team players the opportunity to enjoy playing team matches around the Surrey & London Area.

10. The WRFC squash committee have made a big push to promote Racketball at the club with the introduction of a Racketball Social Night every last Friday of the month. The Racketball Club Championship in April is named the Geoff Mayne Memorial, which we are hoping will have a big turnout. WRFC have also entered a team into the Surrey Social League & are in the process of setting up a WRFC Internal Racketball League.

11. As always, we would like to thank all of the WRFC men's and ladies' team captains who have expertly taken on the roles throughout the Winter season.

12. The club's junior squash programme is growing from strength to strength. The development and elite academy sessions continue to help many juniors reach their goals at county, regional & national levels. The Sunday juniors sessions have seen increased numbers at the Tots Squash & Beginner Squash sessions which bodes well for the future. Thanks to Phil, Tina, Jeremy Colton, Kelcey Button, David Timperley, Rawan Elkalaawy & Seigo Masuda for their ongoing work with the junior programme.

13. Special congratulations to WRFC academy member Luke Camfield for his recent U13 England call up ahead of the 5 Nations Championship in Dublin. We all wish Luke the very best ahead of the event this weekend.

14. The club continued to enhance the squash partnership with Roehampton University, allowing their team players the chance to train with our academy & become involved with the squash programme at the club. This partnership also brings in sponsorship & membership to Wimbledon Racquets. We are delighted that WRFC has gained a social media internship through this relationship to help promote the clubs events. I hope you have all noticed the improvement in communications.

15. The committee would also like to thank Lynne & all of the reception staff for their continued support & hard work over the year. We would also like to share our gratitude to the bar & catering staff particularly during team nights & the numerous events held at the club.

Additional points:

- The internal leagues have been successfully moved to a new online platform and have been integrated with the squash skills website. Every player now has a ranking in Britain and can now plot their way to the top.
- A daytime league is being promoted to generate court usage during the day
- A racketball league to help promote the game along with a social side playing in surrey. A number of badminton and squash players are now regularly participating.

I have not been made aware by management of any new applications for a position on the squash committee and neither have I been notified of any resignations by the existing members.

The committee is now at full strength currently with a maximum 9 voluntary members. This being made up by myself, John Sawyer, Nicky Sands, Paul Mayo, Rolf Buhler, Mark Williams, Geoff Chapman, Raja Ram, Philip Black.

I would personally like to thank all of the committee members for all the work they undertake throughout the year, for giving up their spare time and enthusiasm to help make the squash section of the club as successful and enjoyable as it can be.

Thank you and that concludes the Squash report for 2018/2019

John Cross & Phil Rushworth – April 2019