

# Ebbisham Sports Club

## Squash and Racketball Section

### Annual General Meeting, minutes

29<sup>th</sup> September 2022

#### Attendees

Rajeeva Indiketiya, James Neill, Damian Smith, Steve Chesters, Dan Coffin, Graham Leese, Len Scott, I Bayer?, Adam Blewer, Winston Heppolette, Robert Wellard, Philip Pereira, Richard Skinner, Dave Riches, Paul Carrell, Gillian Mead, Paul Steward

1. **Apologies:** Paul Carrell, Alex Coonan
2. **Review and Accept Minutes of 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020 AGM:**  
The minutes were accepted. There were no matters arising.
3. **Teams Reports** – Note, full reports are provided separately in the appendix

#### Mens Squash Teams: Alex Coonan, presented by Adam Blewer

Surrey Cup comprises two leagues per year, Winter and Summer.

2021/22 Winter League first competition since the pandemic.

Declining membership resulted in two Ebbisham teams being entered for both leagues.

It is hoped numbers will improve to facilitate a return to entering three teams in 2023.

**1<sup>st</sup> Team**, captained by **Alex Coonan**, finished 5<sup>th</sup> out of seven in a tough winter league in Division 5R and enjoyed some close matches.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Team**, captained by **Johnny Major**, despite finishing 7<sup>th</sup> out of eight in Division 6B it was a very tight competition, and they were within 10 points of finishing 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### 2022 Summer League

**1<sup>st</sup> Team**, captained by **Johnny Major**, finished bottom of Division 4B, but was always competitive and rounded off by winning their final 2 matches.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Team**, captained by **Henry Strausser**, played in a league of 8 including 3 very strong clubs so they should be proud of convincingly avoiding relegation by winning their final 3 matches to finish 4<sup>th</sup> overall.

#### Ladies Squash Teams: Jo Robinson, presented by Gillian Mead

**Summer 2022 1<sup>st</sup> Team**, captain **Jo Robinson**, Division 2 – WON their league, with a rotating group of 7 team members including 3 juniors. Congratulations to **Maja Leese** on winning all her matches.

**Winter 2020/21 1<sup>st</sup> Team**, captain **Jo Robinson**, Division 2 – finished 2<sup>nd</sup> of 7

No 2<sup>nd</sup> Team in either competition due to lack of numbers, but it is hoped Shauna Brown may return to squash after her travels, and if 1 or 2 top players can be encouraged to join we could field two ladies teams moving forward.

## Veterans Squash Teams

**1<sup>st</sup> Team**, stayed in Division 2

**2<sup>nd</sup> Team**, was relegated from Div 4 to 5, but actually ended up in Div 4 for 2022/23

**3<sup>rd</sup> Team**, stayed in Division 5

## Vintage Squash Teams

**1<sup>st</sup> Team**, relegated from Division 1

No **2<sup>nd</sup> Team**

## Racketball Teams: Winston Heppolette

Summer 2022, both Racketball teams in the Social Divisions; 1<sup>st</sup> team finished 3<sup>rd</sup> of four, 2<sup>nd</sup> team 1<sup>st</sup> of four.  
Both now playing in Social Division 2 for Winter 2022/23

### 4. Competitions and Leagues Reports: presented by Damian Smith

## Squash Championships: Damian Smith

Numbers down after the two year hiatus. Due to the reduced numbers it was decided to run the Handicap as a Mixed entry. This year Championship T-Shirts were awarded instead of trophies to reduce environmental impacts, but unfortunately problems with supply are still ongoing.

The Mens Open was won by **Alex Coonan**

The Ladies Open by **Maja Leese**

And the Committee was delighted to award **Paul Steward** the Cherian Mathews Award 2022 for the fantastic work he has been doing with the Junior section. This is awarded each year to the person who the Squash Committee think has contributed most to squash during the year.

Note from the Committee, a huge thank you to **Damian Smith** for once again running an excellent Squash Championships and for doing so brilliantly every year since 2015.

Damian is now stepping down from the Director's role so if you are interested in taking it on please contact us!

## Squash Leagues: Damian Smith

League numbers are down from 52 in Sept 2019 to 34 in Sept 2022, although this also reflects the reduction in overall membership numbers.

The club has now moved to a new MyCourts IT system for league management and bookings.

## Racketball Championships: Dave Riches

Returned after a 2-year Covid gap, with numbers down to 16 players.

Competition is still running at time of AGM, finals 7/8 Oct.

The Committee's thanks go to **Dave Riches** for running the tournament, with **Paul Mewett** to take over for 2023.

## Racketball Leagues: Winston Heppolette

24 players, a similar number to pre-pandemic. All are veteran+. It would be good to have more ladies and younger players participating, please contact Winston to do so.

A discussion took place around encouraging more participation in the leagues & championships:

Net Points Tournament, teams of 4

Richard Skinner - Have the Open as free to enter

Philip Pereira - offer new league joiners their first league free

Dan Coffin – a barrier to Championship entry may be match clashes

## 5. Events

### Juniors: Paul Steward

Juniors have now shifted from being fully volunteer run to having a paid head coach and junior helpers. Cost per session now at £5 for weekly 1.5 hour coaching and playing, which is still exceptionally good value compared to other Surrey clubs.

The Autumn Term 2022 lists 11 beginners & improvers, and 16 advanced juniors.

Many congratulations to **Maja Leese** (age 13) on winning the Ebbisham 2022 Ladies Championship and gaining an England Girls Under 15 national ranking of 10!

### Racketball Open Tournament, March 2022: Jo Robinson

**Jo Robinson** ran a superb event along with volunteers **Sam Beak** and **James Neill**! We had 30 singles entries and 7 doubles pairs from Cheam, Ashted, RAC, Woking, Woodford Wells, Lee-on-Solent and Ebbisham! A friendly but competitive tournament for all levels!.

### Neil Desai Junior Squash Open Tournament

#### 23rd June 2022, Rajeeva Indiketiya

Lots of round-robin games culminating in competitive finals. Special thanks to the Ebbisham volunteer markers and office/bar staff who helped make the event run so smoothly!

Another successful and enjoyable tournament for everyone.

**Paul Steward** will be organising 2023

### Court Lighting

**Paul Carrell**, along with **Adam Brewer** and **Dominic Walsh**, co-ordinated the supply and installation of the new on-court lighting system with LED bulbs and PIR detectors. These have significantly improved brightness to 900 lux per court, and will be cheaper to run.

## 6. Chairman's Reports

### Damian Smith

As most of you all know I stood down in January 2022 as chairman of the Squash and Racketball Section due to differences I had with the management committee that were not reconcilable at the time, but I am informed that any issues present at that time have since been addressed.

I served more than 2 years as chairman and have served as a committee member since 2009. It has been an honour to be part of a great team that volunteers their free time to support our squash and racketball members. I hope the club and its members have benefited from my efforts and I will continue to serve the club and its members but leave way for others who would like to volunteer and join the committee. I have agreed with the committee to continue to manage the leagues, but I am standing down as the Tournament Director for Squash,

so for 2023, a new Tournament Director is needed. To allow ample time to prepare, this position needs to be filled ASAP and no later than mid-November 2022 to ensure a smooth handover and ample time for planning.

I would like to thank the staff we have at Ebbisham that make it all look so easy when in reality it is far from it. I want to particularly mention **Emma** who has made a real difference to the club and especially the Squash and Racketball Section.

I also have to thank **Lorna** for ensuring we survived as a club during the pandemic through 2020 and 2021. Lorna is the glue that holds our club together.

**Rajeeva Indiketiya** is passionate about squash and even more passionate about Ebbisham so please provide him all the support and assistance, as I will continue to do, but now as just a member. I wish him as chairman and the other committee members the greatest success in taking forward the Squash and Racketball section.

**Damian Smith, Chairman of Ebbisham Squash and Racketball (April 2019-January 2022)**

## Rajeeva Indiketiya

Firstly, my thanks go to Damian for holding the club together especially during Covid, and for all he's done on the committee for the past 13 years!

Looking forward, our recent move to MyCourts should improve booking and management, and our Junior Section is in a very strong place.

But we do need more volunteers to get involved in events. All members are welcome so get involved and indeed join the Committee!

## 7. Questions

Ken gave a background to the old and MyCourt replacement IT systems.

## 8. Election of Committee

Committee Members are **Adam Blewer, Paul Carrell, Alex Coonan, Rajeeva Indiketiya (Chair), Gillian Mead, James Neill, Damian Smith, Paul Steward**.

All current Committee members are available for re-election and are duly elected. Damian will be leaving the Committee in Dec 2022

Please contact Rejeeva if you would like to join us.

## 9. Any Other Business:

**Dan Coffin**, clocks on court are not synchronised – to be referred to the Management Committee

**Gillian Mead**, advised the meeting that 15<sup>th</sup> Oct will be World Squash Day

**Damian Smith**, can a squash ball serving machine be considered

**Winston**, asked if squashballs and racketballs for competitions are provided by the club.  
Yes they are, and should be returned for use in club nights.

**Robert Wellard**, competition score cards should be provided.  
Yes, they are behind the bar.

**Rob**, how to help juniors integrate/play as young adults?

**Paul Steward** replied that best juniors are encouraged to join league and club nights.

**Richard Skinner**, suggested a University Club Night and Young Adult Sessions.

The meeting was closed at 9.30pm.

# Appendices

- Team Reports
- Championships and Leagues Report
- Events Report
- Chairman's Report

## MEN'S TEAM REPORT

### Surrey Cup report – 2021/22

The Surrey Cup runs two league tournaments per year, a Winter League running from October to April, and a Summer League running from May to August.

The 2021/22 Winter League was the first competition run since the 2019/20 Winter League competition ended early. Since that time the membership composition of many squash clubs over Surrey, including Ebbisham, has changed sometimes significantly.

Ebbisham had run three teams in both league competitions for the past twenty-or-so seasons, but a decision was made in the summer of 2021 that the decline in membership numbers meant the club could not fill out three teams as they had done previously, so a decision to enter two teams was made for the 2021/22 Winter League and 2022 Summer League. It is still hoped that membership numbers, and in particular those enthusiastic to play regularly for the teams, can rebound and that we can be in a position to facilitate a third team from 2023.

### 2021/2022 Winter League

Ebbisham's two teams in the 2021/22 Winter League were in Division 5R and 6B (divisions in Surrey are split into two equal sides, with the winners of the 'R' and 'B' sides of each division facing each other in a playoff final at the end of the season). The first team was captained by Alex Coonan and the second team by Johnny Major.

#### **Division 5R: Winter League 2021/22**

[Home](#) | [Division List](#)

	Team		P	W	L	D	F	A	Pen	Total
1	Spencer 2	★	11	9	2	0	169	87	0	169
2	Surbiton 5	★	11	8	3	0	162	84	0	162
3	Ashted 1	★	11	8	3	0	148	103	0	148
4	Sheen 1	★	11	5	6	0	121	132	0	121
5	Ebbisham 1	★	11	3	8	0	99	159	0	99
6	Reigate 3	★	11	2	9	0	74	170	0	74
7	David Lloyd Farnham 1 (withdrawn)	★	6	1	5	0	48	86	0	48

The first team finished fifth out of seven teams, although David Lloyd Farnham dropped out half-way through. The league was tough, and the departure of top players from the 2019/20 season such as Mark Newton and Richard Hunt was felt. Still, all the matches were competitive and the team showed enough tenacity to grind out much-needed points in otherwise losing positions. Even though the team only 'won' three matches all season, they rarely lost 5-0 and would pick up around 5-6 points on average in those losses, with some matches going particularly close to the final match.

## Division 6B: Winter League 2021/22

[Home](#) | [Division List](#)

	Team		P	W	L	D	F	A	Pen	Total
1	<a href="#">The Wimbledon Club 4</a>	★	12	10	2	0	192	67	0	192
2	<a href="#">Limpsfield 4</a>	★	12	6	6	0	139	125	0	139
3	<a href="#">Cheam 1</a>	★	12	7	5	0	137	129	0	137
4	<a href="#">Surrey Sports Park 4</a>	★	12	5	7	0	118	138	0	118
5	<a href="#">Lensbury 2</a>	★	12	5	7	0	115	148	0	115
6	<a href="#">New Malden 3</a>	★	12	5	7	0	115	154	0	115
7	<a href="#">Ebbisham 2</a>	★	12	4	8	0	108	165	0	108
8	<a href="#">David Lloyd Farnham 2 (withdrawn)</a>	★	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

The second team were in a very competitive Division 6B. As the second team were a bit of a mix of players from the previous season's second and third teams, dropping the third team meant a significant step-up in the average opponent level. Relegation shouldn't therefore be seen as a disaster, and there were a lot of positives from an enjoyable campaign. The team actually won more matches overall than the first team, and again were never white-washed. To come within ten points of placing fourth shows how tight the division was.

### 2022 Summer League

Ebbisham again entered two teams in the Summer League, this time captained by Johnny Major (1s) and Henry Strausser (2s). The first were in Division 4B and the second in 6R.

## Division 4B: Summer League 2022

[Home](#) | [Division List](#)

	Team		P	W	L	D	F	A	Pen	Total
1	<a href="#">Limpsfield 2</a>	★	12	11	1	0	160	42	0	160
2	<a href="#">Wimbledon Racquets 4</a>	★	12	9	3	0	116	83	0	116
3	<a href="#">The Wimbledon Club 3</a>	★	12	8	4	0	113	88	0	113
4	<a href="#">Spencer 2</a>	★	12	5	7	0	97	117	0	97
5	<a href="#">Grafton 1</a>	★	12	4	8	0	91	113	0	91
6	<a href="#">Lensbury 1</a>	★	12	3	9	0	78	117	0	78
7	<a href="#">Ebbisham 1</a>	★	12	2	10	0	49	144	0	49

The first team were relegated after finishing bottom of the division, however did finish the season on a high by winning their final two matches. There was a lot of variability in the strength of opponent teams. Some visiting clubs, such as Limpsfield, were able to field an entire team of players higher in strength (on SquashLevels) than all of our players. This meant there were some very difficult matches, but the team still never gave up and was never uncompetitive or seen as a walkover club. The team is certainly re-building and I remain confident of getting back into Division 4 by winning the Summer League 2023.



## Division 6R: Summer League 2022

[Home](#) | [Division List](#)

	Team		P	W	L	D	F	A	Pen	Total
1	<a href="#">Wimbledon Racquets 6</a>	★	14	12	1	1	184	41	0	184
2	<a href="#">Limpsfield 4</a>	★	14	12	2	0	167	68	0	167
3	<a href="#">Sandown Sports 3</a>	★	14	9	4	1	142	91	0	142
4	<a href="#">Ebbisham 2</a>	★	14	7	7	0	99	126	0	99
5	<a href="#">Barnes 1</a>	★	14	5	9	0	89	142	0	89
6	<a href="#">Horley 3</a>	★	14	3	11	0	83	146	0	83
7	<a href="#">Surrey Sports Park 4</a>	★	14	4	10	0	81	156	0	81
8	<a href="#">New Malden 3</a>	★	14	3	11	0	78	155	0	78

The story for the second team was different. The league was split into two groups, with three clubs with very high quality (Wimbledon, Limpsfield and Sandown), and then a second subleague of the remaining five teams with more similar levels. With a few matches to go, it was still close enough that any of the bottom five could be relegated. Ebbisham 2s won their final three matches convincingly to ensure this didn't happen.

The team did struggle earlier in the season due to team availability, but when the regular team played there was usually a victory. The team should be really proud of effectively 'winning' the mini-league of the bottom five clubs and build in this in the next year.

## **LADIES SQUASH CAPTAIN'S REPORT 2021/2022**

### **SUMMER 2022:**

Ladies 1st Team, Division 2 – Won 6, Lost 2, 1st out of 5 (so possible promotion to Division 1 for Summer 2023, if wanted)

Team Members: Emma Mathews, Maja Leese (junior), Jo Robinson (Captain), Gillian Mead, AnnaWilkinson, Imi Wood (junior), Lara Krnic (junior)

No Ladies 2nd Team

REPORT – 1st Team had very good results, even whilst rotating players to enable 3 junior girls, aged 13-15yrs, to play occasionally. Maja played at No.2 behind top female player, Emma, or No.1 winning all her matches. We were pleased that Imi and Lara played in a few matches, along with experienced players Jo, Gillian and Anna to encourage and support them. Sadly, we only had 7 nominated ladies post-Covid, with notable exceptions of Michele Coe-O'Brien who had taken up running in lockdown and gave up squash (but hopefully might return in future) but also Shauna Brown (travelling for 6 months) and Sam Beak (gave up squash for racketball instead and then injured her foot badly for months). So not enough for a 2nd team.

### **WINTER LADIES 2020/2021:**

Ladies 1st Team, Division 2 – Won 7, Lost 3, 2nd position out of 7 so possible promotion to Division 1 in 2022/2023 season (if wanted and sufficient calibre players)

Team Members: Jo Robinson (Captain), Shauna Brown, Gillian Mead, Michele Coe-O'Brien, Maja Leese, Jenny Hodges, Anna Wilkinson, Imi Wood

No Ladies 2nd Team – Unfortunately, no players wanted to play at No.1 position nor be Team Captain so the 2nd Ladies Team was withdrawn which was very disappointing.

REPORT – So good to get back into team squash after months of lockdown. Strong in depth so able to occasionally give the two junior girls, Maja and Imi, a few matches at No.3 string (only 3 players in ladies team squash now from Division 2 down due to smaller number of female squash players).

### **LOOKING AHEAD TO 2022/2023 WINTER SEASON:**

Fingers crossed that Shauna Brown returns from her 6 month of travels back to the Club and squash end September 2022 to play Winter 2022/23 season. A decision has to be made whether to have two ladies teams to give opportunities for the junior girls to play. Also if we can encourage one or two top players from other Clubs (alongside Emma, Maja and Shauna) to join Ebbisham to play in Division 1, we can definitely have those 2 teams – in Divisions 1 & 2 hopefully. Surrey contacts have been approached to see if any top players might be wanting to play Division 1 team squash for us.

JO ROBINSON

LADIES SQUASH CAPTAIN

SEPTEMBER 2022

# Championships & Leagues Report

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## Introduction

Internal championships and leagues are run to maximise the benefit to members and to provide a structure for members to actively participating in competitions to the level they are comfortable with and where they can grow in their ability. This also adds to the social fabric of the club. Members of all levels are encouraged to participate and at all levels. The Championships are run once a year with a Racketball Championship and a Squash Championship. Each one is run to provide something for everyone, and all members are invited to join. During the championship, people get to compete with players of very different abilities, and each competition culminates in a finals evening which is always a great celebration of the sport and the competitors. In addition to the championships, the Section also manages Squash and Racketball leagues that run all year round with promotions and relegations taking place monthly. The goal here is to provide a competitive framework to encourage regular participation at a level of ability that members are comfortable with and I would encourage all members to take part in the leagues.

**Damian Smith, Squash Leagues Director**

## Squash Championships (by Damian Smith)

The good news is that in 2022 we resumed normal competitions after 2 years without any competition. Entries overall were well down on the 2019 championship and reflected in this table. A few things to note. It was decided to merge the Women's and Men's Handicap to have a Mixed Handicap, the 29 figure reflects this the combined entry. While the figures are down, we need to note that we were very much in recovery mode from COVID and while people suggested we cancel again I felt that this would do more long-term damage to the competition and squash at Ebbisham.

Competition	20	20	%
MENS OPEN	45	15	67%
MIXED HANDICAP	41	16	61%
LADIES OPEN	6	5	17%
VINTAGE	11	12	9%
VETERANS	21	14	33%
MENS DOUBLES	30	22	27%
LADIES DOUBLES	9	0	100%
MIXED DOUBLES	16	10	38%

New this year we introduced Championship T-Shirts instead of Trophies to reduce our environmental impact. This was well received by competitors. Unfortunately, there were significant delays in issuing T-Shirts due to a lack of response on getting sizes as well as major issues with the supplier. Also there seemed to be some confusion as to the

purpose of the T-Shirt. The purpose was to replace the trophies as a commemorative item of the Championship win not as a prize. However, the good news is that all T-Shirts except the 'Cool Dry Men's' should be issued shortly. We are still waiting on a delivery for a date when the men's T-shirts will be delivered. There was also a delay on getting the Championship Cups and plates engraved due to logistical issues. Please accept my apologies for the delays.

Finally, I have been very privileged to be the Director of the Squash Championships since 2015 but feel that the time is now right to allow someone else the honour of running the Squash Championships for Ebbisham. If you are interested in taking on this role, then please contact the committee.

## Squash Leagues (by Damian Smith)

League participant numbers are down from 52 in Sept 2019 to 34 in Sept 2022. Again, this is a hangover from COVID as the membership numbers continue to grow then I expect the leagues to grow also.

As all of you will know the club has been impacted with major IT issues which I don't think has helped with league participation as those members who have joined the leagues have not been able to easily book courts and participate in normal activities. I would like to thank you for your understanding and am pleased that the club has launched the new 'MyCourts' IT system allowing all members to participate in leagues and book courts etc.

If anyone has any feedback as to how to get more members to join the leagues, then the committee is open to any ideas you have.

## Racketball Championships (by Dave Riches)

The racketball tournament started on 12 September 2022 after a 2-year gap due to COVID. There is an Open, Handicap and Doubles competition with plate competitions being played for each. The competition is still running, and the finals will be held on 7th and 8th October.

Entries this year were lower than the pre-pandemic years. Nevertheless, we had at least 16 people taking part in each of the competitions, which is not bad considering the number of regular racketball players in the club. Less of the "squash" players have taken part this year.

This will be my last year running this tournament. Paul Mewett has agreed to take over next year.

## Racketball Leagues (by Winston Heppolette)

The previous 12 months reflect a similar picture to the twelve months before that. That is, we still run four leagues per month with 20 - 23 players participating. Furthermore, they remain competitive in that, of the total number of games to be played, one about 20% were not played and the vast majority of these were in league 4 during a four-month period.

As a comparison, in the final month prior to Covid lockdown, we had six leagues with 26 players but in those days, there were four players in a league which meant 6 games per league were played whereas now we have five players playing 10 games.

Of the 24 players currently in the leagues, all of them are in the veteran and above age groups and there are only two ladies with a third re-entering next month. This may be a perennial problem but it would be good to have more ladies and some young players.

## **Chairman's Report**

As most of you all know I stood down in January 2022 as chairman of the Squash and Racketball Section due to differences I had with the managed committee that were not reconcilable at the time, but I am informed that any issues present at that time have since been addressed. I served more than 2 years as chairman and have served as a committee member since 2009. It has been an honour to be part of a great team that volunteers their free time to support our squash and racketball members. I hope the club and its members have benefited from my efforts and I will continue to serve the club and its members but leave way for others who would like to volunteer and join the committee. I have agreed with the committee to continue to manage the leagues, but I am standing down as the Tournament Director for Squash, so for 2023, a new Tournament Director is needed. To allow ample time to prepare, this position needs to be filled ASAP and no later than mid-November 2022 to ensure a smooth handover and ample time for planning.

I would like to thank the staff we have at Ebbisham that make it all look so easy when in reality it is far from it. I want to particularly mention Emma who has made a real difference to the club and especially the Squash and Racketball Section. I also have to thank Lorna for ensuring we survived as a club during the pandemic through 2020 and 2021.

Rajeeva Indiiketiya is passionate about squash and even more passionate about Ebbisham so please provide him all the support and assistance, as I will continue to do, but now as just a member. I wish him as chairman and the other committee members the greatest success in taking forward the Squash and Racketball section.

**Damian Smith, Chairman of Ebbisham Squash and Racketball (April 2019-January 2022)**