

NEWS ARCHIVE 2011

January 11

The annual handicap competition attracted 50 participants from the squash club. Club handicap competitions have been dominated in recent years by the Rowsby clan, and this year was no exception (an investigation by England Squash has been called for!). In a tightly contested final, Stephen Rowsby overcame a spirited challenge from Kevin Amer to win 15:11, 0:15, 15:8. Under the handicapping rules, Stephen had to concede an advantage to Kevin, commencing each game on minus 40 points, thereby actually winning 150 rallies during the game which lasted well over an hour.

The annual club closed competitions begin at the end of February with categories for men, ladies and juniors. A report will follow in April's edition

March 11

Sedgefield ladies team have capped off a remarkable season by winning the Ladies Division 2 of the Durham and Cleveland squash leagues and as such are promoted to Division 1 for next season. The team were undefeated in all 15 matches played scoring a total of 264 points out of a maximum 285 points possible.

In terms of individual performances, Anne Holmes topped the individual ladies points table (for both divisions), narrowly beating Sharon Brown, who had led for most of the season, in the last match. Following closely behind were Linda Cummings and Marie Priest in 4th & 5th position respectively. Congratulations to all concerned and especially to captain Sue Smith, who has developed ladies squash at the club over the last few years to a position where we now field a strong, competitive squad and also a ladies friendly team

April 2011

The last 2 months have seen the staging of the annual club competitions which cumulated in the finals night and an "Oscar" styled presentation evening at Ceddesfeld Hall.

Star of the night was Robert Pearce with an impressive 5 trophies across junior and adult categories. His performance only being eclipsed by his teams victory in the presentation night quiz!

The roll of honour read as follows:

Under 11's	Winner:	Aleysha Oakes
	Runner-Up:	Rory Fletcher
Under 13's	Winner:	George Peden
	Runner-up:	Josh Hetherington
Under 13's Plate:	Winner:	Gemma Hill
	Runner-Up:	Mitchell Emery
Under 15's:	Winner:	Robert Pearce
	Runner-Up:	George Peden
Under 15's Plate:	Winner:	Jack Tomlinson
	Runner-Up:	Daniel Toas
Junior Closed:	Winner:	Robert Pearce
	Runner-Up:	Ian Wood
Junior Plates:	Winners:	Jack Tomlinson George Peden
	Runners-Up:	Rory Varley Ben Hetherington
Junior Handicap:	Winner:	Robert Pearce
	Runner-Up:	Gemma Hill
Club Handicap:	Winner:	Stephen Rowsby
	Runner-Up:	Kevin Amer
Seniors Closed:	Winner:	Mark Simpson
	Runner-Up:	John Cant
Ladies Closed:	Winner:	Linda Cummings
	Runner-Up:	Sharon O'Donnell

Ladies Plate: Winner: Lesley Dexter
 Runner-Up: Sharon O'Donnell

Club Closed: Winner: Jonathan Slee (*right*)
 Runner-Up: Paul Kitson

Club Plate Winner: Robert Pearce
 Runner-Up: Gary Hetherington

John Rowntree Trophy: Marie Priest

Ladies Team Player of the Year: Sue Smith

Mens Team Player of the Year: Robert Pearce



Additionally the achievements of the ladies team and men's second team (both winning promotion in the Durham and County leagues) and individual achievements by Anne Holmes and Jonathan Slee were recognised by the club

On a lighter note, "DAFTA" awards were presented to Sharon "Superwoman" Brown (pair of Y Fronts), Malcolm "Worst Performance" Bell (baggy pants), Mark "Dark Side" Simpson (Darth Vader mask), and Chris "Eyesight" Bunting (prescription strength glasses) for reasons too lengthy to go into in this column. Please do not hesitate to ask the individuals concerned for explanations!

May 2011

Durham & Cleveland Presentation Night

At the Durham and Cleveland Squash Association presentation night, Sedgefield swept the board with a number of awards following a successful season

Once again we were awarded "Small Club of the Year" in recognition not just of individual achievements on the night, but also the work that has gone into developing and promoting the club, through completion of the £60,000 refurbishment programme, the junior coaching sessions, expansion of Racketball, and taking squash to local schools along with the inter schools competition

Team and Individual honours went to:

Ladies First Team - Division 2 Champions
 - Anne Holmes, Divisional Player of the Year
 - League Cup (Handicap Competition Runners Up)

Ladies Overall Player of the Year - Sharon Brown

Mens First Team - Jonathan Slee Divisional Player of the Year

Mens Second Team - Division 4 Champions

A great end to an outstanding year.

Isle of Man Squash Blitz

Additionally a delegation from the club attended the annual Isle of Man "Squash Blitz". The tone of the weekend was very much a mix of social and squash (leaving it up to individual clubs to decide on the proportions!) with 24 teams of 6 players competing. Each match lasted 8 minutes in which both players had to score as many points as possible, as all points scored contribute towards the teams overall score. This results in a fast moving intense game. County players were not eligible to enter, which again helped contribute to the more social nature of the event. Notwithstanding this, in one pub the landlord had enquired as to why we were there. On being told that we were competing in a squash competition he looked around the table and said "well you must be here to make up the numbers!" This proved somewhat prophetic with Sedgefield not making the knockout stages of the competition, which was eventually won by the Vale of Lune Squash Club. However a hugely enjoyable weekend was had by those who went and undoubtedly we will be returning next year.

June 11

The junior squash club was delighted to be awarded runner-up in the "Best Team" category at the recent Sedgefield youth awards. The junior club continues to attract new players from ages 7-16. Many just enjoy coming along to Saturday morning coaching sessions whilst others will eventually join the adult leagues. This season we have had Robert Pearce and George Peden playing for the County at U15 and U13 level respectively, whilst others have attended County squad training sessions or regional events.

The junior squash club will take a break at the end of the school term, with coaching resuming at the beginning of September



Although the season has officially ended, events continue at the club, with the Summer Squash blitz which was held on 25 June, and the summer barbeque. Over the summer break, we will be getting the front wall on court 2 refurbished. The season will recommence at the beginning of September with the annual team handicap competition, which is open to players of all abilities, as a means of a warm up for the forthcoming season. We are also planning to overhaul the clubs website, www.sedgefieldsquashclub.co.uk, over the next few months

September 2011

The squash season recommenced at the beginning of September, with the traditional club team handicap competition, which at the time of writing is still being played - results to be posted next month. The internal leagues have started again and the club will be fielding 3 mens teams, a ladies team, and ladies friendly team in the Durham and Cleveland squash leagues.

Junior coaching takes place on a Saturday morning, catering from complete beginners to county standard players, and anybody is welcome to come along and give it a try.

There is also the opportunity to play racketball, which can act as a great introduction to squash, or an alternative for those who prefer a bit more bounce in the ball (and therefore a bit less running!)

However during the close season there was still plenty of activity for those who wanted to remain sharp ahead of the new season. August saw an inaugural "pairs competition", held over the course of 1 evening. The event was a great success, with pairs being put together on a seeding basis to make for an open competition. This format will no doubt be repeated in the future. The results for Augusts competition were:

- 1st: Peter Redshaw and Anthony Wilson
- 2nd: Malcolm Bell and Marie Priest
- 3rd: Chris Rowsby and George Peden

October 2011

Sedgefield Squash Club hosted the seventh mini-squash competition for local primary schools the day before the half-term. For the first time four schools took part in both the competition and pre-competition coaching. Emma Larcombe toured Hardwick Primary (Sedgefield), Sedgefield Primary, St. William's (Trimdon), and Trimdon Juniors in early October, and Dr James Larcombe organised the competition, helped by teachers from the schools and Diane Snowsill (Schools Sports partnership).

Once again, we managed a full round-robin format with five players in each team. This year's competition was the closest ever with the outcome in doubt until the final game of the final match. The decisive encounter, however, came in the second round when Hardwick beat St. William's 3 rubbers to 2, but lost on the crucial points score (45-43) – this has never happened before! Both teams managed similar points against Trimdon Juniors and Sedgefield Primary, so St William's, after finishing a close second last year, went one better this year with a squad that had great depth as well as strength. The morning competition was a resounding success, with many excellent performances from children new to the game as well as more experienced players. The winners will go on to represent the area in the first ever County Durham inter-primary schools competition.

Final results: 1 St Williams 155 pts (2 wins); 2 Sedgefield Hardwick 143 (3); 3 Sedgefield Primary 134 (1); 4 Trimdon Juniors 77 (0)

Anyone who wants to take up the game (or to practice for their next competition) are very welcome to turn up to junior coaching on a Saturday morning and try a taster session