

NEWS ARCHIVE 2013

February 2013

Seniors Competition

For the first time, the clubs annual seniors competition was played across 3 different age categories, with events at over 40's, over 50's and over 60's level. The competitions were also played earlier in the season, so as not to clash with the main club closed competition. The over 40's was competed by 2 of our 1st team, Mark Simpson and Mal Bell. In an excellent hard fought match, Mark eventually triumphed 3-2, after going 2-0 down. His stamina perhaps being the clinching factor over Mals shot making. In the over 50's category, club captain John O'Donnell took on Jeff Sinclair. Jeff came out of the starting blocks faster; taking the first game, but John held his nerve and used his guile to win the match 3-1. The over 60s final was another 5 game thriller between Don Maclennan and Peter Millington. In a match which could have gone either way, Dons ability to play tight drop shots from anywhere on court prevailed and he took the match 3-2.

Durham & Cleveland County Closed

6 of our members entered this years Durham and Cleveland County Closed Championship. In the first round, Stephen Rowsby and Jonathan Slee were drawn against each other with Jonathan edging Stephen out in a 3-2 win. Best overall progress was made by Chris Gillespie, who got to the quarter finals, only narrowly losing 3-2 to Nunthorpes Josh Harris. Elsewhere Robert Pearce, Chris Bunting and Oliver Walls all went out in the first round and joined Stephen in the plate competition, where Robert made it all the way to the final, beating Stephen in a 5 game match along the way, to end up plate runner-up.

April 2013

Club Closed Competition and Presentation Evening

The squash season ended in the traditional manner of the Club Closed competitions, followed by presentation night at Ceddesfeld Hall. This year, the competitions were keenly contested, and even the semi-finals attracted a packed balcony. This year, a mother and son double act of Jean and Chris Gillespie won the ladies competition and the Club Closed respectively. Chris, who is new to Sedgfield this season, but one of the top players in the County, put on a squash masterclass, beating last years champion, Robert Pearce, in the semis, before beating 7 times champion, Jonathan Slee, in the final

The full roll of honour read as follows:

	Winner	Runner-Up
Under 11s	Ben Toas	Jack Stephenson
Under 13s plate	David Worthington	Chloe Hill
Under 13s	Flynn Robinson	Rory Fletcher
Under 15s plate	Adam Foakes	Mitchell Emery
Under 15s	Oliver Walls	George Peden
Girls plate	Chloe Hill	Jessica Weatherspoon
Girls	Ruth Smart	Gemma Hill
Junior handicap	Daniel Toas	Joe Cant
Junior plate	Josh Hetherington	Mitchell Emery
Juniors	Robert Pearce	Oliver Walls
Handicap	Daniel Toas	Peter Redshaw
Over 40s	Mark Simpson	Mal Bell
Over 50s	John O'Donnell	Jeff Sinclair
Over 60s	Don Maclennan	Peter Millington
Ladies plate	Anne Holmes	Amanda Hetherington
Ladies	Jean Gillespie	Linda Cummings
Club plate	Richie Slee	Chris Rowsby
Club closed	Chris Gillespie	Jonathan Slee

In addition to the club competition prizes, awards were presented as follows:

John Rowntree Trophy	Stephen Rowsby
Ladies Player of the Year	Anne Holmes
Mens Player of the Year	Oliver Walls
Club Member of the Year	Stephen Rowsby
Junior Player of the Year	Oliver Walls
Junior Member of the Year	Calum Dunlop

On a lighter note, this years "DAFTA" award winners were:

"Putting their foot in it award"- Club Chairman Mick Carr (for his legendary tact and subtlety)

"Mothers little sunshine award" – Oliver Walls (for putting up stoically with his travelling support)

"Girls Blouse Award" – Gary Hetherington (losing a match to an opponent wearing girls blouse and leggings – the opponent that is, not Gary!)



Ladies closed and Club Closed Champions, Jean and Chris Gillespie receive their trophies from Club Chairman Mick Carr

May 2013

To round off an exceptional season for the club teams, a strong contingent from Sedgefield attended the Durham and Cleveland Squash Association presentation evening, held at Norton.

The evening was rounded off with Sedgefield winning the “Small Club of the Year” award but not before the club and members had dominated the preceding awards

Mens 1st team: Division 3 champions

Mens 4th team: Division 6 champions

Stephen Rowsby: Division 3 player of the season

Oliver Walls: Division 5 player of the season

Gordon Peden: Division 6 player of the season

Under 15's team: Junior champions

Under 19's team: Junior champions

Chris Gillespie: County performance of the season

The new season resumes in September, and it promises to be a big year for the club, with plans underway to construct a 3rd court, and the teams looking to consolidate upon last years success. With the 3rd and 4th teams competing in the same division next year, it also promises to add a bit of spice to the season!



September 2013

The new squash season commenced at the beginning of September, and it looks to be another big year for the club. Plans for a 3rd court are well underway with significant funding in place and a planning application has been lodged. Team-wise, all teams will be looking to consolidate on last seasons success, with the 1sts, 2nds and 4ths all having achieved promotion last season. With the 3rds and 4ths playing in the same division this season, there promises to be plenty of banter within the club with the first “derby match” scheduled for 15th October. The ladies 1st team will be battling hard at the top of division 1, whilst the ladies 2nd team is expected to put in a strong performance in division 2, after their inaugural season last year.

Over the summer break, a series of coaching sessions were held for intermediate and advanced players. Those brave enough to come along on a Saturday morning were put through their paces (and subject to occasional torture!) by coaches Stephen Rowsby, Chris Gillespie and Peter Redshaw. A team squash blitz held on a Saturday afternoon in August was won by Stephen Rowsby, George Peden, Gordon Peden, Dan Toas and Adrian Neasham. The traditional curtain raiser to the season, the Team Handicap Competition, was contested by a record 40 members. After a 2 ½ week period of matches and occasional emergency readjusting of handicaps by the committee, the competition was won by Team Gillespie (Chris Gillespie, Oliver Walls, Simon Hill, Darren Young, Lewis Neasham, Neil Kime, Neil Scott and Sharon O’Donnell) who just pipped the runner-ups Team Rowsby, having drawn level on points over the competition but winning the match between those 2 teams.

Junior Squash

The Junior Squash season has just started with members starting to participate in competitions around the country. The first event saw Oliver Walls reach the final of the Boys under 15’s at the Wycliffe Open in Gloucestershire. In a tough final Oliver lost 3-1. The following weekend three Sedgefield juniors participated in the first England Squash Silver Tournament of the season held at Queens Club in Halifax. All three put in sterling performances. In the Under 19’s Rob Pearce recorded a win over the 16th ranked player in England to finish an excellent 6th. George Peden in his very first Silver competition finished a creditable 10th. In the Under 15’s Oliver Walls reached his second final in as many weeks losing to the number 2 ranked player in England Curtis Malik. This was Oliver’s best ever performance to date in a Silver Tournament.

The Durham and Cleveland County Closed competition is next, with a large contingent of Sedgefield juniors expected to participate. Both Robert Pearce and Oliver Walls will be looking to defend their County titles and we will report on progress next month.

Saturday morning coaching has resumed again and we are always happy to welcome boys and girls between the ages of 7 and 16 to give the sport a try. Please get in touch if you are interested.

October 2013

11 of Sedgefield's junior squash players competed in the annual Durham and Cleveland County Closed championships, held over 2 weekends at Yarm and Nunthorpe squash clubs.

As per last year, the club provided 2 champions. Robert Pearce, won the U19s title, beating Aycliffes Alex MacFarlane in a re-run of last years U17s final. Oliver Walls retained his U15 title in a very competitive category, beating up-and-coming player Ben Cross from Yarm. Oliver also competed strongly in the U17s, just being shaded in the semi-final.

Elsewhere Dan Toas competed strongly in both the U15s and U17s categories, along with George Peden (U17s). Rory Varley and Oliver Larcombe both made the plate finals of the U17s and U19s respectively; both achieving the runner-up position. Keir MacDougall, in his first full squash season, competed in the U15s and Jack Stephenson put up a spirited performance in the U13s

For the girls, Jessica Weatherspoon bravely took on an all-boy field in the U9s mixed, before competing strongly in the U11 girls. Chloe Hill took 3rd place in the U13 girls, while older sister Gemma entered the U15 and U17 girls, with all 3 categories being eventually won by Yarms young star Lucinda Cross.

All our youngsters were a great credit to the club, which now boasts one of the strongest junior sections within the County.

December 2013

The North East Junior Squash Championships held at Pontefract saw a healthy entry of 15 Juniors from Durham & Cleveland including 4 members of Sedgefield Squash Club. In the Boys U19's we were represented by Rob Pearce, U17's George Peden and U15's Oliver Walls and Dan Toas. Oliver reached the final of the U15's losing narrowly to long time rival and England player Michael Mattimore from Northumberland 3-2 (11-9 in the fifth game)

The following week saw the British Closed Championship held in Manchester. The two competitors from Sedgefield, Rob Pearce (U19's) and Oliver Walls (U15's) both qualified for the first round avoiding the need to play through qualifying stages. However the challenge of having to play top 4 seeded players proved too great and saw both playing in the plate. Rob lost his next game against Yorkshires Tom Bamford 2-3 in a tight game. Oliver battled through to the final of the plate competition which included a semi-final win against England number 2 ranked Curtis Malik, before losing narrowly in the final 2-3 to fellow Durham County player Michael Andrews