



**Berkhamsted Lawn Tennis & Squash Rackets Club**

**Broadwater, Lower Kings Road, Berkhamsted, HP4 2AL**

## **Squash & Racketball Newsletter Summer 2013**

Hello all,

With the new winter season fast approaching we thought it was a good time to let you know of some of the exciting events that we have coming up at the club over the next few months and report on what has been happening over the past few months.

### **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September - Harry Faulkner Day.**

On Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September the club will be hosting a celebration of squash in memory of Harry Faulkner. Harry was one of our elite junior players who played at the club for many years, he loved squash and the club was like his second home. Tragically, he suffered a heart attack and passed away in February of this year whilst playing in a first team match at St Albans.

The day has a dual purpose; we want to hold an event where people can come along and remember Harry by celebrating & sharing his love of the game of squash, and secondly the day will be a fund raising event for the charity CRY. CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young) is an organisation founded to raise awareness of conditions that can lead to young sudden cardiac related deaths. If you are not aware of them please take a moment to visit their website - <http://www.c-r-y.org.uk/>

The event will be an all-day extravaganza of squash. We will begin by having a "round robin" tournament for club members of all standards to participate in, and later in the day the club will be full of elite players dazzling us with their skills. Many of the Herts County League first division players will be there along with a whole host of county, international juniors and professional players. The confirmed headliners for the day will be Nick Matthew (you really shouldn't have to ask who he is!) and Alison Waters. The bar will be open all day, food will be available, commemorative T-shirts will be sold and we will be having a charity auction and live music in the evening. Full details will follow in due course.

We ask all those who want to be part of this to drop Mark Shattock an email on [mshattock@plparchitectures.com](mailto:mshattock@plparchitectures.com)

There is no commitment required at this stage but we do need to plan the day in terms of timings / formats etc. and so really need to have an idea of how many people are likely to want to play.

There will be a suggested entry fee of £10 for all those who would like to play (£5 for spectators) in the tournament on the day, and of course every penny of this will go straight to CRY.

### **A flying Spratt for charity!**

Ever dreamed of pushing Kev Spratt out of an aeroplane? Well, we can't fulfil that dream but we can give you the next best thing! Kev's daughter, Vikki, is bravely taking on her first ever Skydive on September 14<sup>th</sup> and is doing this to raise money for CRY. Follow the link below to pledge sponsorship money, and of course wish good luck to Vikki!

[www.justgiving.com/Vikki-Spratt](http://www.justgiving.com/Vikki-Spratt)

### **Junior ESR Silver Event**

On the weekend of 31/08 – 01/09 the club will be hosting its first silver event for junior players. These are very prestigious events and to be asked to host one is a real coup for the club, and thanks go to coaches Adam Fuller and Michael Evans who have been asked to do this based on their fantastic success running junior Bronze events over the past few years. The countries top juniors will be all competing in this event so we encourage you all to pop along and support them and enjoy some top quality squash – all for free of course!

### **Teams**

Congratulations to the men's squash first team who have won this years Herts Division 1 summer league. Also doing well are the men's second team who are currently top of Div 2 with a game in hand and not many matches left in their season. The men's third team are in the thick of it in Div 3 and with a strong finish can snatch third place in their division.

The Racketball summer teams also had strong seasons in the Bucks County Racketball League – the first team finishing fourth in Division 1, and the second team finishing third in division 2, just two points off a play-off spot.

Very shortly we will be asked to enter teams for the winter squash leagues so anyone interested in playing team squash this winter please email Mark Shattock ([mshattock@plparchitecture.com](mailto:mshattock@plparchitecture.com)) so that you can be included.

### **Berkhamsted Closed PSA Event**

The first weekend in August saw the club host its annual professional squash tournament – the Berkhamsted Closed. The event was well supported by members and those who managed to attend were treated some very entertaining high level squash. The event was one by one of our own elite junior players Angus Gillams who defeated the number 1 seed (currently ranked No.140

in the Squash World Senior Rankings) on his way to winning the event. It was Angus' first victory in a PSA event and to cap off a fabulous weekend for him as he also was awarded the "Ryder Cup" to reflect his outstanding effort, progress and achievement in the last year, and it was his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday during the weekend! Well done Angus – we all look forward to seeing you win many more tournaments over the coming years, and surely the beers are on you after the weekend you had?!

### **Junior success**

Our junior section continues to thrive under the watchful eyes of coaches Adam and Mike. Congratulations go to Grace Gear who was part of the England U15 squash team that competed in and won the European team event. Also, another mention goes to Angus who was picked to represent England in the World Junior Open, and managed to get through to the last 16. Adam Fuller was selected by England Squash to go out with the team as their coach for the event, so congratulations to Adam as well!

### **Box Leagues**

Thanks to all those who continue to support our internal squash and racketball box leagues. Having so many members regular playing in the leagues keeps them both competitive and enjoyable. The new winter leagues will start in September so keep an eye out for an email from league organisers Mark Shattock (Squash) and James Deacon (Racketball) who will issue preliminary sets of their respective leagues the week before they start.

### **Racketball Doubles Event – The Cowper Challenge**

Thanks to club stalwart Jan Cowper for organising a racketball doubles tournament with a difference. See note on the clubs website for details.

### **Racketball Tri-County Cup**

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October sees the inaugural Racketball Tri-County Cup being played at BLT&SRC! This tournament brings together the cream of racketball talent in Herts (Berkhamsted), Bucks (Aylesbury) and Oxfordshire (Thame) in a 10-a-side battle that should be highly entertaining and full of top class action on court, and of course followed by some top class action in the bar afterwards! More info will be sent out in due course, but in the meantime should you wish to be part of the Berkhamsted team please register your interest by emailing James Deacon on [james.deacon@kcom.com](mailto:james.deacon@kcom.com)

## **Court Corridor**

As I'm sure you will have noticed, the work on the corridor is nearly complete and we hope you'll all agree it is looking fantastic and is a vast improvement on what was there before. There are just a few more cosmetic finishing touches to do, which will be completed over the next few weeks.

## **Squash & Racketball Committee**

If you think you could make a difference to the way the Squash & Racketball section is run then why not offer your services and join the committee? As well as sharing your opinion, you'll need to be willing to "get your hands dirty" and help out with the running of what is a thriving squash & racketball club! Drop James or Mark a line if you'd like to get involved, and don't forget you can contact the S&R committee to discuss any matter S&R related by emailing [squash@bltsrc.co.uk](mailto:squash@bltsrc.co.uk)

We hope you enjoy the rest of your summer, and we'll see you all on court soon!

James & Mark