

Dear Squash Players,

Welcome to the Summer edition of the Club e-newsletter. Inside this issue:

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The **World Masters Squash Championships** were recently held in Birmingham. The Club was well-represented at these but the outstanding performance was provided by **Faith Sinclair** who was Women's Over 60 World Runner-Up losing her final closely 3-2. Well done Faith you did us proud!

**Dumfries & Galloway Leagues** – the D&G squash leagues are scheduled to commence in mid-September. As such, the AGM will be held at the beginning of September. All existing team captains are reminded to attend this meeting as well as captains of any new teams which wish to enter the leagues.

Our new **LED Lighting** units have just arrived and will be installed commencing this week and over the forthcoming fortnight. We believe you will find the LED light-quality superior to the existing lighting and the LED units will definitely save the Club money – around a 25% saving on electricity for the squash courts. The Club has contributed 50% of the cost with the remainder being funded by the Sports Club.

**Racketball Around Scotland** is a new Tour Series consisting of 7 one-day events held monthly at various clubs in Scotland. Dumfries Squash Club will be hosting the 4<sup>th</sup> leg of the series on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September. Further details are available on the notice-board.

**Consett Squash Club Tour** - the Club hosted this on 15-16<sup>th</sup> June and won convincingly on the Friday night 30-7 and more closely 27-23 on Saturday afternoon. Consett SC have invited us to their club for a return match and I will be looking to organise this for June 2013 subject to sufficient interest.

**Awards** – Two members of the Club were recently the recipients of awards. Firstly, **Faith Sinclair** was awarded an Honorary Palatinate by Durham University, a select honour awarded to alumni of the university who have gone on to greater things within the field of sport. She joins recent recipients such as Nasser Hussain, Jonathan Edwards, Will Carling and Marcus Rose. **Jim Scriven** also recently received the Club Volunteer of the Year Award at Nithsdale Sports Council's year-end Awards Evening. Well done both of you.

**Court Utilisation** – from time to time I provide an update on court utilisation. Since the introduction of off-peak pricing in October 2010, overall court utilisation in its first year increased by 13%, while off-peak usage increased by 31.3% and peak usage by 5.5%. For the 10 months YTD of our current financial year overall court usage has increased by 7.5%; off-peak usage increased by nearly 14% and peak usage by just under 4.5%. In revenue terms, court bookings are 4.9% ahead of the same period last financial year.

#### Club Nights

- every Monday night from 6.15 - 9.15pm
- every Saturday afternoon from 2 - 5pm
- **Junior Club Night** – every Saturday night from 5-7pm – [but now finished for the summer](#)

#### Scottish Squash & Racketball Ltd (SSRL) Update

Several new club competitions have been launched by SSRL for both squash and racketball. Further details and the entry form are on the notice-board. The closing date for these competitions is 31<sup>st</sup> August.

**Sports Club Tote** – the club tote continues with tickets costing £1 each. Select two numbers and if they are drawn you will win this month's guaranteed prize of £100 (shared if multiple winners). Tickets now available from the Bar and this month's draw is on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> August.

**Online Booking** – the **PayPal** option to top-up your account on-line via the XML court booking system is proving well-used. If you haven't already done so give it a try.

I hope you've all been enjoying the Olympics particularly since the weather's been so poor. It'll soon be time to commence your training for the coming season so I hope you've been inspired by the performances of Team GB!

Keith Gristwood