

August 2025

# BLACKHEATH SQUASH

## NEWS & UPDATES

### CLUB ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

The Squash Club Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2025 in the main Sports Club bar area. This event provides an excellent opportunity to meet the committee once again and learn more about how they manage the club and ensure its (mostly) smooth operation.

If you want to learn more, or contribute to the running of the squash club, this is a great opportunity to explore further!

#### Blackheath Squash Club - Chairman's Report 2024/25 (Draft) Welcome to the 2024/25 Chairman's Report

- **Membership** - our membership remains at historically high levels. We currently have 258 members (2024: 258). Many thanks to our Membership Secretary Danny Dowling for enrolling our new members and collecting the annual membership fees.
- **Finance** - The 2024 annual accounts show a cash balance of some £96k (2023: £90k). The Club is run on a not-for-profit basis, and this cash is earmarked for the Club's continuing refurbishment, maintenance and future development. We were able to hold our annual membership subscriptions and court fees for 2024/25 at prior year levels with no increase despite increasing inflationary pressures. Many thanks to Neil Harris as Club Treasurer for prudential management of our financial affairs.
- **Kent League Teams** – The Club put out two teams in the 2024 Summer Kent leagues with the 1<sup>st</sup> team winning promotion from Division 3. Two teams also played in the 24/25 Winter Kent leagues with the 2<sup>nd</sup> team winning promotion from Div 5. Thanks to team captains Jon Critchley and Olly Ruff (1st team) and Ville Leppanen (2<sup>nd</sup> team).
- **Tournaments and box leagues** – The box leagues ran throughout the year and continue to be popular with members, currently 14 boxes with 81 participants. Many thanks to George Wooding for running the boxes during the year. The Club's annual tournaments were held in early Summer 2025 and finals night was well attended. Danny Dowling set up a new Racketball box league during the year which has seen an increasing number of participants since it was set up.
- **Junior squash** – Junior coaching sessions run by coach Danny Dowling and helped by Grant, Basil and Pam continue to be popular and included a visit to the Club by ex-professional player Paul Johnson who spent time with the juniors at one of their regular Saturday morning sessions.
- **Ladies squash** – the Club's Ladies Squash Sunday evening sessions also continue to be popular, and we currently have 49 (2024:45) female members. One of a number of events was the celebration of Women's Squash Week. Many thanks to Danny Dowling and Pam Reid for organising the Ladies squash evenings.
- **Senior training and coaching** – The Club's Sunday morning senior training sessions run by Club head coach Ville have run throughout the year and are well attended. Many thanks to Ville for the time and effort on running these sessions and to both Ville and Danny for providing coaching services to Club members.
- **Club Night** – The Friday Club Nights on the first and third Fridays in the month ran throughout the year. Many thanks to Ville, Andre Nowaczek, Niall Quilligan, Pierre Alexandre Mostermans and Sam Adebiyi for hosting these popular evenings.

### BOX LEAGUES



#### Congratulations to the last box league winners!

1. Abhishek Jaywant
2. Simon Haworth
3. Richard Howey Nunn
4. Tom Goode
5. Tariq Rajwani
6. James Bird
7. William Hirth
8. Toby Hughes
9. Marcell Fischler
10. Tom Slade
10. James Mollett
11. Sarab Sethi
12. Sam Cumming
13. Luca de Wet
14. Bram Vanoirbeek

Well done to James Bird and Marcell Fischler who played and won all their games in their box leagues!

If you would like to join the boxes send an email to:

[blackheathboxleague@gmail.com](mailto:blackheathboxleague@gmail.com)

If you would like to join the Racketball Box League send an email to:


[info@blackheathsquashclub.com](mailto:info@blackheathsquashclub.com)

- **Court maintenance** – During the year we had continuing issues with the new court floors which were installed in Spring 2024. We also had an issue with the front court lights which were installed at the same time which resulted in the closure of the club for 3 weeks. We have resolved the light issue and mostly dealt with the flooring issues however we will be seeking an alternative court maintenance contractor for future works.
- **Communications** - Many thanks to Danny Dowling for maintaining the Club's website; and the monthly Club newsletter. Thanks Danny!
- **Club Renovations and future plans** – We carried out major works to the balcony in the autumn of 2024 which included taking out the old bar and kitchen, removing the glass partitions overlooking the courts and installing new lights, floor, ceiling, radiator and sink unit. The new look balcony has been well received by members and visiting teams.

We have also recently re-rendered the external side wall next to the school with the aim of eliminating the damp issues on the left-hand wall on Court 1. It remains the long-term aim of the Club to build two new squash courts on the slab adjacent to the squash building.

- **Garden works** – Danny Dowling and Pam Reid have done a fantastic job improving the side garden, with extensive ground works and new planting it looks really good and has greatly improved the external amenity of the club.
- **Conclusion** – 2024/25 has been another busy year. On behalf of the Committee I would like to thank all our members for their support for the Club. I would also like to thank the Committee and member volunteers who donate their time to make the Club a great experience for all and without whom the Club could not exist. We held a 'Meet the Committee' evening during the year and we will do the same for 2025/26 and hope to see more of our members at this event.

Enjoy your squash!  
*Kevin Clark*  
Chairman Blackheath Squash Club

<div>Kevin Clark Club Chairman</div> <div></div>	<div>Neil Harris Honorary Treasurer</div> <div></div>	<div>Danny Dowling Secretary/Membership Secretary</div> <div></div>
<div>Ville Leppanen General Member</div> <div></div>	<div>Fred Francis General Member</div> <div></div>	<div>Keith Bonsels General Member</div> <div></div>



The biggest movers this time are Ashley Garrett and Stuart Gibbs who both improved by 10.9% with Ashley moving from 1,933 to 2,433 and Stuart improving from 350 to 388 points. Mention also to Oliver Ruff who improved by 7.9% from 3,733 to 4,028, Omar Badr who once again makes the list moving by 7.5% from 641 to 689 and Marcell Fischler who improved by 6.8% to 221 points.

Don't forget to add your match scores to make your ranking more accurate. A big thanks to Dan Mogridge for providing the monthly stats! [SquashLevels](#) is very simple to set up and a great way to track your progress. If you have any questions or need help with [SquashLevels](#) please let us know: [info@blackheathsquashclub.com](mailto:info@blackheathsquashclub.com)

# SQUASH DRILLS & TIPS

We have created a new section on our website where we will include links to videos and content that may help you improve your game.

## DRILLS & ROUTINES WITH PAUL CARTER

[Paul explains some drills you can do that may help your game](#)

**THE COOLHURST OPEN 2025**  
One Day Graded Squash Tournament

**Saturday 30th August 2025**

**Tournament Categories**  
A Grade - Squash Levels (5000 and above)  
B Grade - Squash Levels (2600 - 4999)  
C Grade - Squash Levels (1200 - 2599)  
D Grade - Squash Levels (400 - 1199)  
E Grade - Squash Levels (0 - 399)

Enter online at: [www.cmstringers.com/entry](http://www.cmstringers.com/entry)  
Entries Closing Date: 24th August 2025    Entry Fee: £27.50 (includes Event T-Shirt)  
Host Club: Coolhurst Tennis & Squash Club, Coolhurst Road, Crouch End, London, N8 8EY  
For more information, please contact: Joe Magor | [joe@cmstringers.com](mailto:joe@cmstringers.com) | 07909 531367

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ACCELERATE  
SQUASH

**THE SOUTHBANK CUP 2025**  
SUMMER GRADED SQUASH TOURNAMENT

**6th-7th September 2025**

**TOURNAMENT CATEGORIES**  
A Grade - Squash Levels (5000+)  
B Grade - Squash Levels (2600 - 4999)  
C Grade - Squash Levels (1200 - 2599)  
D Grade - Squash Levels (400 - 1199)  
E Grade - Squash Levels (0 - 399)

Enter online at: [www.cmstringers.com/entry](http://www.cmstringers.com/entry)  
Entries Closing Date: Sun 31st August 2025    Entry Fee: £30.00 (includes event t-shirt)  
Host Club: The Southbank Club, 124-130 Wandsworth Rd, London SW6 2LD    [www.southbankclub.co.uk](http://www.southbankclub.co.uk)  
For More Information, please contact: Natasha Burrell    Tel: 07645 140660    Email: [natasha\\_burrell@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:natasha_burrell@hotmail.co.uk)

  
ENTER ONLINE

## Upcoming events and calendar

**REMINDER:**  
Please make sure you add your opponent to your court bookings. If you bring a guest (maximum three times a year) please select your opponent as “Guest”.

## Comedy Corner

When you booked the court for 5:00pm and the people before you are still playing at 5:02

