

Chairman's Report

**Welcome to the Summer season at Stormont.
I wish all members the best of tennis and squash.**

Members will recollect that we planned to restructure the Club from the existing unincorporated association to a company, Stormont Tennis & Squash Club Limited, which we formed in March 2024 to acquire the long lease to St Luke's tennis court. The transfer was scheduled to take place on 1 October 2024, the start of the current membership year. In the event, we had to postpone the transfer because at the last moment our advisers identified a risk that the transfer of the land at Lanchester Road could trigger a stamp duty charge. The basis for the charge is obscure (to put it mildly), but it is a risk we could not afford to take because the sums involved could be large.

As a result, the "temporary" arrangements put in place for the 2024/25 membership year for members to become members of the Company whilst also remaining members of the "old" Club still continue. This was not the intention. Nevertheless, it is the old Club in which Stormont's main activities are currently taking place, including holding assets such as bank accounts, receiving income and paying expenses. Fortunately, members' ability to enjoy Stormont's tennis and squash facilities has not been affected.

We are seeking advice on the stamp duty risk and whether some of the exemptions in the legislation which triggers the charge could also be applied to our situation. After all, there is no real disposal of the Lanchester Road property; it merely moves from one structure to another with the same ultimate beneficiaries. However, getting this advice is taking time and I am not sure when we will be in a position to proceed with the restructuring. If we cannot proceed without triggering a tax charge, we may have to consider retaining the old Club as the operating vehicle for Stormont with just St Luke's lease in the company. That would be inconvenient because there are considerable advantages to operating through a corporate structure. However, those advantages do not justify the risk of a substantial tax penalty.

Please do join us for the AGM on 23 April 2025 at 8pm in the Club House. To the extent that I have more news by then, I will update members verbally. I should also explain the slight changes to the AGM agenda from last year. Because we currently have a dual structure, both entities having a requirement for a Board/Committee, annual reports and accounts, but with many of those elements identical or similar for both, I am proposing that the AGM is run on a combined basis. I hope members attending the AGM will find it reasonably easy to follow the agenda and more efficient than going through virtually the same matters for each entity separately.

As many of you know, Paul Salter is standing down as our head coach after 8 years. He is one of the best coaches I have known in my 50 years at the Club, and he has enjoyed great successes both as our coach and on the international circuit, not least captaining Tennis England Veterans' successful 4 nations campaign in 2022. Happily, Paul is not leaving us entirely and will keep up some of his weekend coaching at the Club, that is when he recovers from his recent shoulder operation. We wish him a speedy return to full strength.

I am delighted that Dan Shaw has agreed to take over from Paul. Many of you will know Dan both from his coaching as Paul's assistant coach and his participation in Club matches, tournaments and other



Above. St Lukes up and running!

Right. No play day! Hoar frost on a tennis net taken on an incredibly cold January morning this year.



events. Dan's schedule for coaching is on page 4. He, Paul and I will work closely together to make sure that the transition is smooth. I hope members will take advantage of the extra coaching Dan is proposing.

We spent a lot of money last year on St Luke's, as you will see from the club's accounts at the AGM. With the hiatus over the Club restructuring, we have taken a pause on the bigger projects planned for St Luke's such as flood lighting and facilities. However, in the meantime, the many repairs and small improvements necessary to keep the Club going have continued. My thanks to Dinny Ravet for all her work on superintending these, as well as to all Committee/Board members, team captains and other volunteers for their contribution to the Club.

As I say each year, Stormont is a private members' club so what we do is entirely with the interests of members in mind, having regard to the local community in which we operate and seek to cooperate. If there are improvements or changes you would like, or if you would like to contribute by joining the Committee/Board, please let me (07802 608580) or any Committee/Board member know.

Tony Hulse Chairman 26 March 2025

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meetings of the Stormont Lawn Tennis and Squash Rackets Club (the “Club”) and Stormont Tennis & Squash Club Limited (the “Company”) will take place on Wednesday 23 April 2025 at 8.00pm in the Club House.

AGENDA

1. Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting to be read and approved (Club only).
2. To consider, and to adopt, the Chairman’s Annual Report (Combined)
3. To consider, and to adopt, the Financial Reports (Combined and Company only).
4. Election of Officers and Committee Members and Directors for the coming year (Verbal) (Combined):
 - a. TONY HULSE (Chairman) (Maintenance, Restructuring)
 - b. KEVIN JAMES (Bar)
 - c. SALLY JAMES (Social)
 - d. AMIRA KOHLER (Secretary)
 - e. BERNARD LO (Welfare, Data Protection, Restructuring)
 - f. DANIEL MORENO (Squash)
 - g. JON PRICHARD (Maintenance)
 - h. PATRICIA PRICHARD (Restructuring)
 - i. DINNY RAVET (Membership, Ladies Tennis Captain, Maintenance)
 - j. ROY SEGER (Treasurer, Restructuring)
 - k. VAL WUTTKE (Newsletter)
5. To determine the subscription rates, entrance fees, guest fees and categories of membership for the year 1 October 2025 – 30 September 2026 (Combined).
6. To note the following actions undertaken in accordance with the authority granted by members of the Club at previous AGMs and, as applicable, by the Directors of the Company:
 - The incorporation of the Company on 3 March 2024 as a company limited by guarantee and the appointment of all Committee members as members and directors of the Company
 - With effect from the date of members’ renewal applications and subscriptions (1 October 2024) or such later date if a new member, all members of the Club also became members of the Company, including voting rights granted to members and the obligation to pay £1 in the event of an insolvent winding up of the Company.
7. As a resolution requiring the consent of at least 75% of the members entitled to vote at general meetings of the Club, to renew the authority previously granted by members of the Club for the transfer of all the assets, liabilities and operations of the Club to the Company with effect from a date to be determined by the Committee (but not later than the next AGM) and to authorise members of the Committee to enter into an agreement of transfer and such other documents as may be required for that purpose (Club).
8. As an Ordinary Resolution requiring a simple majority, to authorise the Company to enter into the agreement of transfer and other documents referred to in 7 above for its own part, namely to accept the transfer of all the assets, liabilities and operations of the Club to the Company with effect from a date to be determined (but not later than the next AGM) and to authorise members of the Board of Directors to enter into such agreement of transfer and other documents as may be required for that purpose.
9. In connection with 7 and 8 above, and subject to resolution of the tax issues potentially associated with the transaction to the satisfaction of the Committee and the Board of Directors, to approve the transfer of the Club’s property at 13 Lanchester Road, currently held by trustees on behalf the Club, to direct ownership by the Company, the winding up of the trust arrangements and the granting of a release from all liabilities and indemnity to the retiring trustees (Combined).
10. To approve the standard terms of the banking facilities used by the Club and by the Company (Combined).
11. Any other business and any other matters which members would like the Committee/Board to consider during the next year (Combined).

For membership information, contact Dinny Ravet on 07961 434889, email: membership@stormontltsrc.com

TENNIS TEAM NEWS

FLOODLIT TENNIS MATCHES 2024-25

With only four players in a team and no nominations, clubs can use good players in lower teams until they have played up twice, and so sometimes you are confronted with surprisingly strong teams.

In some divisions, it was pretty obvious which team would come top and who would come bottom, but we fought on to the bitter end.

Our hardworking captains will give you the lowdown on their teams.

Thanks to all the players, particularly those who always have the dates in their diaries, who reply immediately, and are ready to play. A big thank you to those who are willing to step in at the last minute.

Please put the dates for the summer matches in your diaries as soon as you get them. Ladies Seconds and Thirds are in the same division, and they play that match first, and guess what, it's at Stormont. The six who play for the seconds on that night are nominated and are then committed to the second team.

LADIES FIRST TEAM DIV 2

We finished fourth out of eight teams this season. Once again, there is no promotion, but there is no demotion. Barbara, Dinny, Hannah, Harriet, Izzy, Sally, and Sue Goddard were the regular team players, and Katherine and Waed each played for us in one match, too.

Dinny Ravet, First Team Captain

LADIES SECOND TEAM DIV 3

The second team had a soggy start to the season with two matches rained off, but we soon got going and won or drew every match. We were just tipped for the top spot by our arch-rivals, Potters Bar. Well done, Waed, Dinny, Wendy, Catherine M, Gina, Sarah, Amira, and Norma.

Particular credit goes to our star of the season, Armelle, who was the top scorer in the division at the time of writing.

Susan Carter, Second Team Captain

LADIES THIRD TEAM DIV 6

The thirds have had a pretty successful winter season, and with one match to go it looks like we will hopefully stay in the sixth division. It's been a whole team effort with early appearances from Armelle (before she got snaffled by the second team!), Janete (before she got lured by the sun and sand of Brighton!), Amira, Chie, Jaga, Melissa, Nancy and Natasja. We also launched a new fun "Give It A Whirl" tournament. So throughout the winter, 20 ladies played one randomly paired match per month, fighting for the coveted prize of being treated at the celebratory bash in the clubhouse. Well done to Susan for being the inaugural winner! We look forward to longer, warmer days and plenty of tennis this summer...

Amira Kohler, Third Team Captain

MEN'S FIRST TEAM DIV 3

A tennis ball, a perfect sphere with a radius of about 3.3 cm, holds a quiet elegance in its form. Its surface, a smooth canvas, stretches around, a planet, a world, an island, a story, a punchline. Its interior, vast and hidden, is an atmosphere in which we breathe.

The stalwarts – Nick, Dan, Fab, and Thom, in their thoughtful contemplation, marvel at the felt that cloaks its surface, each fibre a small but powerful whisper of friction. They might see how the ball's flight is altered by the drag it faces, a force where each detail, from air density to velocity, dances in harmony with the ball's journey.

The bench – Gabe, Cal, and Alex, ever curious, ponders how these forces shift as the ball speeds, tracing its path through the air with keen eyes. I, the quiet observer, the witness, the bystander, focus on the pulse within – the internal pressure, a force that pushes outward, keeping the ball's shape whole, the force that sustains its perfect sphere, a hidden strength that gives life to every movement.

We missed out on promotion by two points, but the ball remains whole. Still perfect and ready once again to start its journey to the other side of the net as the sun begins to shine. A new game awaits. Every team is ready to breathe.

Your ghost of a once and future captain, Ash Spencer, Men's First Team Captain

MEN'S SECOND TEAM DIV 5

The floodlit winter league of 2025 has been tough and challenging. So unfortunately, Stormont 2 will be going down! The competition was very strong this year, sadly all of our matches ended in defeat, our closest match being against Brackendale in which we narrowly lost 7-9.

I'd like to thank Tim Durham, Alex Leach, Marc Deleuw, Andy Cooklin, Simon Binns, Ash Spencer, Marco, Dan, Greg Nowitz and Kiyoo.

Thanks to all involved, I look forward to the summer.

Everton Loundes, Men's Second Team Captain

MEN'S THIRD TEAM WINTER SEASON DIV 9

We found our place. Our winter home is definitely Division 9. Like a tasting menu, we sampled everything, with three wins, two draws (!), and two losses. Both losses came against the runaway leading teams, so overall we competed very well. The final standings have Stormont in fourth place, by just 1 point. Congratulations to Louis and Danny, who both had successful debuts, and we hope to see them feature again in the summer. There should be a good opportunity for more debuts, so please let me know if you would like to play matches. Thanks also for all the support for the Saturday practice sessions.

Greg Nowitz, Men's Third Team Captain

MIXED FIRST TEAM DIV 1

The heady heights of Division 1 proved a step too far for us this winter, not least because our usual team of Izzy, Dan, Sally, and Fabien was disrupted this season, as Izzy was away on honeymoon for four of the matches and Fabien was unable to play three of the matches.

Despite fighting hard, we finished the season by coming last in the division with 11 points. Dan and Sally were the stalwarts, with guest appearances by Hannah, Wendy, Harriet, Sue, Ruth, Nick, Marc, and Thom.

Sally James, Mixed 1 Team Captain

MIXED SECOND TEAM DIV 3

Huge thanks to all who participated in the matches. We fought hard. Towards the end, we faced a couple of tough opponents. Overall, it was a valiant effort from all, which has possibly left us in third position. Thank you to Dinny, Nick, Gabriel, Harriet, Kathryn B, Ash, Thom, Sue, and Callum.

Barbara Kalirai, Mixed 2 Team Captain

OVER 40'S MIXED DIV 4 E

These Saturday or Sunday matches are two sets of single-sex doubles and two sets of mixed. Fun. It was often tricky to find players. Those who played were Amira, Colin, Everton, John, Keith, Thom, Dinny, Sue Goddard, Susan Carter, Ash, Harriet and Patricia. Thanks to all of us.

Dinny Ravet, Over 40's Team Captain

OVER 55'S MIXED DIV 1

Our third Over 55's season was dogged by injury – both in matches and just before – which affected our toughest encounters against the in form teams of the division. Once over that hurdle, and despite a postponement for snow, we completed our matches before most of the other teams. We sit safely in sixth place out of eight, with the only risk being an unlikely miraculous transformation in the fortunes of Pavilion against the top two teams, DL Finchley and Coolhurst. For the first time, there is a league 2, and rumours are that more clubs will be entering teams in the autumn, thus upping the stakes. Congratulations to Sally, Wendy, Susan, Ping, Patricia, Gina, Norma, Dinny, Keith, John, Greg, Andy, Bernard, Dan, and Tony. Excellent and enjoyable tennis has been the order of the day. We've had some great battles but always played in the right spirit.

Colin Cooper, Over 55's Team Captain

TENNIS

HELLO EVERYONE!

First off, I'd like to give a huge shout-out to Paul for his incredible support, kindness, and leadership over the past three years. He is a fantastic coach and has left some big shoes to fill. I'd also like to thank Tony and the entire committee for their support during this transition – I'm thrilled to be taking the reins as the club's new Head Coach!

With the court at St Luke's all spruced up, our junior programme has made a smooth transition from Cherry Tree Wood, and our junior players have been showing up strong – no matter what the weather decides to throw at us. The mini reds, greens, and full-ball juniors have been bringing an infectious energy to Saturday mornings. Huge thanks to Rafael, our coaching assistant, for being an awesome help throughout this!

Weeknight coaching has been buzzing throughout the winter months, and I have to mention how amazing our all-girls session on Thursdays has been – it's completely full. The girls have been working hard, and Alice's support as an assistant

**JUNIOR SUMMER TENNIS TERM AND ADULT CLASSES
WILL BE AVAILABLE TO BOOK ONLINE AT
www.dstennis.co.uk**

Individual classes and small private group lessons can be booked directly with me – Dan Shaw on 07598 745695

Rates for 1 hour private sessions – £40

**Adult groups – £12.50 (60 minutes)
Adult groups – £15 (90 minutes)**

**Junior classes – £12 a week (45 minutes)
Junior classes – £15 a week (60 minutes)**

NEW SUMMER TERM

To start from
21st April – 23rd May
(Half term 24th May – 30th May)
Continuing from 31st May – 19th July = 12 weeks

New Cardio tennis starting after Easter

**Monday 5-6pm for juniors
and Thursday 7 to 8pm for adults,
£12.50 for members, £15 for non members**



coach has been invaluable. I'm especially excited to see how our youngest team players do in the U14 Middlesex league this summer – get ready to cheer them on!

Speaking of exciting things, I'm thrilled to announce the launch of two new cardio tennis classes! We're bringing more fun to the court with a Junior Cardio Tennis on Mondays and an Adult Cardio Tennis on Thursdays. These sessions are all about combining

tennis and fitness in a fun, sociable way, and they're open to everyone – whether you're a total beginner or a seasoned team player. So, no excuses – come burn off some calories and maybe even get a few laughs in.

Finally, I want to reassure everyone that while Paul is stepping back from his head coach role, he will still be with us as our Performance Coach on weekends. Our U18 team has made some serious strides in competitive

tennis, and I know Paul can't wait to see how they progress in the Middlesex leagues this year.

I've had the pleasure of meeting many of you already, but I know there are still a number of members I haven't had the chance to meet yet. I'm really looking forward to seeing more of you around the club, so don't hesitate to say hello!

See you on court!

Dan Shaw



Message from Paul Salter: Just to say that I have enjoyed my time as head coach and want to thank everyone who has helped me during my time and for all the people who have attended lessons over the years.

ADULT GROUP LESSONS

Saturday 11–12 Reliable Ralliers with Paul Salter book online at www.dstennis.co.uk

Drop in lessons with Dinny
Monday 12–13.30 Feisty Doubles Termtime only
Friday 9–10.15 Rusty Rackets and Improvers
Friday 10.15–12 Competent Doubles Players. Invitation Group.



CLUBTIMES

SQUASH
WEDNESDAYS 7.30pm – 9pm

TENNIS
TUESDAYS 10am – 12 noon Term time only
WEDNESDAYS 5pm – 9pm
We need more people to come along later to keep it going for those who can't get there early. Any volunteers to run the second half?
Should we open the bar?
SUNDAYS 10am – 1pm Organised

For membership information, contact Dinny Ravet on 07961 434889, email: membership@stormontltsrc.com

SQUASH

DROP SHOT Squash Academy

At the moment, we have suspended the Saturday sessions due to poor uptake. Tuesdays are not great either, with only three kids in attendance. However, The Archer Academy has increased our provision by doubling its numbers from 12 to 24 students on Wednesdays for two hours. To clarify, that is 12 new students per hour. This is great news. In addition, I have sent leaflets to promote our junior programme here at Stormont. Also, on Fridays, the sessions are well attended, with 11 students coming on a regular basis. This can only be good news.

More information can be found on our website dropshotsquashacademy.co.uk

Brendon Mounter



Junior member Justus Wong reaching the finals of the Boys U13 at Cumberland Junior Bronze tournament a couple of weeks ago and earned himself a silver and runner-up medal.



DROP SHOT Squash Academy

Adult & Junior Squash Coaching
Learn to play squash, improve your skills and have fun!
Stormont Lawn Tennis & Squash Racket Club N6

Tue & Fri

5.00 - 6.00pm (beginners/intermediate)

6.00 - 7.00pm (intermediate/advanced)

Bookings:

www.dropshotsquashacademy.co.uk/classes-stormont

Tel/Text 07986 293 022 | dropshotsquashacad@gmail.com

STORMONT SQUASH TEAM

'We enjoyed a challenging season in Div 5 of the mixed Middlesex squash leagues. After our success in the summer, the winter league was considerably more demanding. Nevertheless, everyone had wins and close losses, some of them amazing cliff-hangers which could easily have gone either way.

We benefitted from the support of ex Stormont 1 players. Special credit to



Simon Ruff who won 9 of his 10 matches; he disguises his strength with an extraordinary laid-back style, that is until he needs to turn on the "turbo"! We allowed him a pass for the day his daughter was born (congratulations to him and Liz). Louis Hodge also gave us great help, that is until his travel schedule unfortunately took him overseas.

Besides Simon, the stalwarts were Daniel Moreno, David Breslin, Alex Wardle, Wendy Levin and myself. Wendy managed to win six out of her 11 matches, a tremendous achievement; just as important, she was a vital source of tactical advice to the rest of us ("Tony, can't you see that your opponent is slow moving forward?". "Er, really! I'd better try some drop shots then!"). Other vital contributors were Tim Durham, Jonathan Gillbanks and Adam Taub; and with one match each, thanks to TaoHai Kahn, Denton King and Sunil Saggarr. I won't name names but in one match which we won 20-0, the ages of four of us totalled over 270. I should emphasise that our youngest team member on another occasion was 14. So, we field a diverse team!

In summary, we enjoyed a lot of fun with a number of gastronomic highlights on the way – we know how to do victuals in the squash league, none of these tennis snacks. I am delighted to hand over the reins to Alex Wardle who has volunteered to run the team in the summer.

Tony Hulse, Captain

CLUB NIGHT SQUASH

Don't miss Squash Club time on Wednesday evenings 7.30 to 9.00pm – routines, practice and games. This will continue through the summer except for a break in August.

Reminder: Please do not leave Lime bicycles and other rentals at the Club. They should be left outside Club property on Lanchester Road (not causing a nuisance to local residents) so they can be collected by Lime and other hirers. Thank you.

The Story of Stormont: the first 65 years 1910-1975

Anne Ruff

1910-1925

Stormont Lawn Tennis Club was established in Stormont Road, Highgate. This was a period of extensive property development in the area and enthusiasm for tennis. It is thought that the Club was initially named Highgate Tennis Club, but as there were several other clubs similarly named in the vicinity, the Club adopted the name of its road. No Club tournaments were held during the First World War.

1926-1939

In early 1926 the Club moved to "... a piece of rough timbered uneven ground" in Lanchester Road, Highgate, a private road. Three grass tennis courts and a small wooden pavilion were built. There was a playing membership of around 60.

The grass courts could only usually be used between May and September.

In 1932 Lanchester Road was adopted by the Borough of Hornsey. Improvements were made to the Club's facilities. A water supply was added in 1932 and electricity in 1935.

The grass courts were replaced by hard courts in about 1935. Regular fund raising and social activities took place.

1939-1945

The outbreak of the Second World War restricted the Club's activities. No Club tournaments were held.

1946-1960

The first post-war Finals Day was held in 1946 and they have been held annually thereafter. In 1950 a 21 year lease of an enlarged site was obtained. The Club then built a fourth tennis court on this additional land. A Junior Section became well established during this period with coaching usually available during the school holidays. In 1955 the courts were dug up and re-laid and a new junior pavilion was erected. There were three main courts together with the fourth court and a practice wall.

At the 1959 AGM it was apparent that the Club was in financial difficulties. The Club's 50th birthday was noted as being on 10th May 1960.

1960-1970

Between 1960 and 1970 adult membership numbers continued to fall and the condition of the courts deteriorated.

In November 1970 the Chairman stated that the Club was no longer financially viable. At an Extraordinary AGM on 16 December 1970 members and residents of the area agreed that they wanted the Club saved and provided financial support to keep it running while a way could be investigated to see if it could be saved.

1971-1975

Members of a local family, who were active in the Club, were instrumental in ensuring its survival. The owner of the freehold of the land leased to the Club agreed to sell the land to the Club. The sale took place on 15th September 1972. The purchase was financed by selling off part of the land to a developer on which a block of retirement flats was eventually built.

The sale also gave the Club sufficient funds to build the squash courts as well as a new pavilion and changing rooms. Haringey Council rejected a plan for three tennis courts but accepted a revised plan with just two tennis courts and the squash court complex.

On 1st June 1974 the Stormont Lawn Tennis & Squash Rackets Club was officially opened by the Mayor of Haringey with exhibition tennis and squash matches. A new era began.

Men's and Ladies' and Junior teams thrived. Membership grew to the point that the Club had a waiting list and the Club was financially sound. The emphasis was on keeping the Club a local hub in accordance with its motto, 'your friendly neighbourhood tennis and squash club'.

The story continues on www.stormontltsrc.com.

Stormont, 1975



STORMONT WELFARE OFFICER

My name is Bernard Lo and I am the Club's Welfare Officer. If you have any safeguarding concerns or any concerns that affect your enjoyment of your membership, please contact me on Bernard.lo@outlook.com. I will deal promptly and, I hope fairly, with any issues.

Middlesex LTA have requested that I draw members' attention to their recently updated policies and these are available at www.middlesex.tennis/about-us/safeguarding.

If, for any reason, you would prefer to contact the County Safeguarding Officer, his name is John Love and he can be contacted on john.tennis@blueyonder.co.uk.



Stormont Calendar 2025

- 23 APRIL WEDNESDAY 8pm – AGM.
- 26 APRIL SATURDAY entries close for Stormont Closed Tennis Tournament. You must be full members to enter. Please start playing your matches immediately and well before play by dates. Book courts and bring balls. Only enter if you can play within play by dates and in the finals.
- 27 APRIL SUNDAY 3pm Squash Handicap Tournament.
- 7 MAY MONDAY 13.00 – 16.00 Angela Seger Memorial Doubles Tournament. Followed by tea. Come along and play.
- 10 MAY SATURDAY 10.00 – 14.00 Ask Sal will come to Stormont with Tennis clothes and Shoes for our retail therapy.
- 6 JULY SUNDAY 1pm – Stormont Tennis Finals and BBQ. Ladies' and Men's Singles, Ladies' and Men's Doubles and Mixed Doubles. Entry forms will be between the Squash courts.