

Hallamshire Tennis & Squash Club Newsletter

2008 Issue 1



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Welcome to Summer

Summer is here (fingers crossed) and the main tennis season is in full swing. This newsletter is one of a number of changes you will see at Hallamshire over the coming months.

There will be regular newsletters to ensure that all Members are informed of what is happening and how to get better value from their Hallamshire membership.

Also, it will be a two-way means of communication. We want your views. What do you want including in future newsletters? What do you think of various issues around the Club? What should be our priorities for the next 12 months?

Alongside the introduction of the Club Newsletter, the more observant of you will have noticed the launch of

the new website. Just add www.hallamshiretennis.co.uk or www.hallamshiresquash.co.uk to your list of favourites, then you will only be a click away from the latest news about activities at Hallamshire, Sheffield's premier racquet sports club.

The website is still in its early stages of development. There is plenty of information on the site, covering areas from coaching to activities (both on and off court). This will expand over the next year to include more news items, mini leagues and on-line court bookings.

A year ago the Board embarked on a series of presentations, outlining their vision regarding a new structure for membership. After much work, and a period of consultation via the Tennis and Squash Committees, the new pricing

structure was announced. This consolidated popular initiatives (i.e. the gym bolt on) within the mainstream membership structure (see article).

I am pleased to let you know that a monthly payment option is now available for most Hallamshire Memberships. Full details are available elsewhere within this newsletter. I believe that this is another important step in offering services that meet the needs of our members.

Finally, can I take this opportunity to thank all those members that have made me feel so welcome at Hallamshire.

This is a great club with a great history and I am proud to be its Manager.

Steve Ball - Club Manager

WIN £20!!!

We have a newsletter; now we need to give it a name.

Ideally, we would like a name that is inclusive to all our members, says what we do, where we are and is all summed up in a snappy title.

Difficult—huh? That's why we have passed it out to the members.

To give you an idea, the LTA magazine was called "Advantage" for many years. A squash newsletter I used to edit was called "On The T." Each of these is a play on words that fits one sport. What we are asking for is a name that encapsulates both tennis and

squash, not forgetting that we have a gym as well.

We are offering a £20 court voucher to the member who offers the most apt, witty and appropriate title for this newsletter.

This may not be much but the big prize will be seeing your chosen title on the front page for many years.

The winner will be decided by a panel of judges. The only qualifications to enter are that you must be a member and you must be at least 16 years old.

How do you enter?

- By e-mail. If you received this newsletter by e-mail, just reply .
- Via the website. Go to the "About Us" page and click on e-mail.
- Via the "Contact Us" box in reception.
- By Post

Please make sure you include your name and address with your answer - closing date - 20 June 2008.

Tennis Team Challenge

A new tennis team event started last January - the Tennis Team Challenge.

We offer an excellent array of coaching opportunities, lots of court time for free play and block bookings plus many openings for competitive team play against other clubs.

What seemed to be missing was that semi competitive activity between members. Allied to the lack of competitive doubles play, it was decided to introduce the Tennis Team Challenge.

The new competition was advertised in December with a plan to have six teams. The response was overwhelming which meant that an additional team had to be added.

The first matches were played on the 9th January and the event continued every Wednesday evening through to Easter.

We have tried a couple of different formats to test for popularity but it is clearly a winner with over 70 members participating this Spring.

Tennis Team Challenge will be back in September so if you want to participate again, look out for the "sign up sheet" at the end of July.

The website will also let you know when you can sign up for the Autumn '08 Hallamshire Tennis Team Challenge.

New Membership Packages

The new Membership Packages are here. A year ago, the Board promised to address the inequalities in the old pricing — Full Membership was too expensive, Gym Membership was expensive compared to similar gyms, gym plus a racket sport was relatively expensive, junior and student discounts were inconsistent, no full daytime membership and no monthly payment option.

The Board believe that the strategy meets the needs of the Club and its members for 2008 and beyond. The key strands are significantly reducing the cost of adding additional membership categories, repositioning the Gym Membership by pricing it in line with the nature of the facility, introducing a daytime membership across all membership categories, simplifying membership types, improving the range of memberships for young people, consistency of Joining Fees and junior discounts, closing "off peak" squash and gym to new members.

The feedback from members has been very positive, particularly popular have been the reduced rates for 20 categories of membership and the increased discounts for couples and families. Full details of rates are shown in the table below.

HALLAMSHIRE MEMBERSHIP PRICING (FROM MARCH '08)

	Full	U 23	Student	U 18	U 12	U 8
Premier	£370	£263	£169	£150		
Premier Light	£270					
Gold Rackets	£330	£231	£149	£132	£66	£43
Gold Tennis	£330	£231	£149	£132		
Silver Gym (includes Squash)	£275	£193	£124	£110		
Bronze Tennis	£250	£175	£113	£100	£50	£32
Bronze Squash	£188	£132	£73	£58	£36	£24
Gym Light User (Not Members)	£60	£60	£50	£50		

New Technology

The Board has recently agreed to purchase new software that will enable the Club to offer better services to members. The first phase will upgrade the membership information. This should be completed by the end of August. This will lead to On-line Court Bookings and Access Control within twelve months.

It is important that we protect our member's facilities and offer additional services that are expected from a forward thinking club of our status.

This is another important step forward in positioning Hallamshire amongst the top clubs in the country whilst offering members a safer environment and better value for money.

Monthly Membership Payment Scheme

WHAT?

- A monthly payment option for all adult members.
- After paying one month's payment (plus any other fees), the remaining amount is spread over eleven monthly direct debit payments.
- The payment plan is underwritten by Premium Credit Limited.

WHY?

- An additional option for members.
- Helps members spread the cost over the year.
- Reduce the chance of forgetting to renew on time and having to pay a Re-joining Fee.

WHO?

- All adult members who's annual membership exceeds £150.

WHEN?

- On your next renewal.

HOW?

- Complete a Credit Application Form (available at reception).

This option has been introduced purely to meet the needs of members in an ever changing environment. The Club will receive no fees or commission for introducing members to Premium Credit. The plan is covered by the Consumer Credit Act. Many other clubs and gyms have already introduced monthly payment plans and it is felt that Hallamshire should offer a similar scheme. Please note that membership is still an annual contract. Although payments may be spread over 12 months, the contract may not be cancelled mid-year.

What Do You Think?

Your views are important, so please let us know if you have any strong views.

We want to hear your views on which you think are the priority areas for 2008. If you have a view, please forward it to us via the usual channels.

Contact the Club Manager, one of the Management Team or use the Suggestions Box in Reception.

Please give your name & category of membership when responding – THANK YOU.

Dinner Dance 2008

This year's Dinner Dance will take place on Saturday 18 October at Baldwin's Omega, Psalter Lane, Sheffield.. If you haven't been before, it's a fantastic night of fun, music and quality food all at a reasonable price.

If you wish to purchase tickets as an individual, couple, small group or full table, they will be available to buy from July.

This is the Hallamshire "Social Event of the Year" so put it in your diary now.

REMEMBER—Bank Holidays

We will close at 6.00pm on:
Sunday 25 May 2008
Monday 26 May 2008

Hallamshire Diary

Make sure you are part of the action.
Put these dates in your diary now.

Summer 2008

16 May	Wimbledon Fun Ticket Draw Night	7:00pm
19 May	Squash/ Racketball Section AGM	8.00pm
20 May	Tennis Section AGM	7.30pm
Sundays	Squash Club Night	7:20pm
Tuesdays	Ladies Tennis Night	7.00pm
Wednesday	Men's Tennis Night	7.00pm
Fridays	Junior Tennis Night	7.00pm
June - September	Summer League — Squash & Racketball	7:00pm
9–14 June	Tropicana Tour Tennis	All Day
15 June	Wimbledon Warm Up Doubles	PM
June	Mid Summer Party	8:00pm
July	Salsa Night	8:00pm

British Tennis

Membership of British Tennis is currently

FREE to all Hallamshire Tennis Members. Just log on to www.lta.org.uk/BritishTennisMembership and enter your personal details. You will receive a free monthly newsletter, player rating, coaching advice and exclusive discounts.

You can either complete the form on-line or send the information requested by post.

Either way, this is FREE until at least March 2009 if you join now,

Advertise

Why not advertise your business at Hallamshire?

We have a membership of over 1600, many of whom will be keen to support businesses that support their Club.

Join the following businesses:

Irwin Mitchell Solicitors
Barber Harrison & Platt
Mark Jenkinson Auctioneers & Estate Agents
R S Unwin Heating Engineering
Europa Mercedes
Sheffield High School
Birkdale School
Brantwood School
Phil Geesin Machinery
Direct Travel
Baldwin's Omega

BUSA Games

Hallamshire was proud to have hosted the tennis and squash events at the **BUSA (British Universities Sports Association) Games**. For the first time the finals of the top twenty sports were played in one city on one weekend. Sheffield successfully bid for these games and they will be held in the city again in March '09 & '10.

There were several thousand students in the city for the four days of sporting activity. **BUSA** booked 4 indoor tennis courts & 4 squash courts for the event.

The standard was high and featured three Davis Cup tennis players.

Dear Gym Members.....

The Fitness Team would like to thank you all for your constant support and making the gym a pleasant place to be.

In the last year, the gym has undergone a few transformations; the most obvious being the "big clean up" which was all done by your multi-tasking Fitness Team and the Maintenance Crew. The gym was repainted and the exercise equipment reorganised. We then added coloured lighting to create a better ambience which has made the gym less clinical, more comfortable and friendly.

We have entered into a maintenance contract which means that we have a 48 hour repair service. Other changes include a new set of gym balls and flooring for the weights area which is specifically designed for heavy weight usage.

The "gym bolt-on" system for tennis

and squash sections has been very successful bringing new energy into the Gym; racket sport members have commented on how much their game has improved since using the gym and how it's ideal for warm ups, cool downs and strengthening exercises in conjunction to their game.

Since the new membership structure took effect in March, membership and usage has increased giving the gym more of a buzz.

The regular classes have grown in popularity this year, even the aerobics has now gained a male based fan club due to Andy & Ben leading the way. So if you want to increase your fitness or just to have a giggle at Andy and Ben, then why not pop

along to the class.

It is coming around to that time of year when we all think about how we are going to look on the beach. So we have organised a "Beach Blitz" which will help you feel good and look good this year.

Finally, we would like to wish all members a happy and healthy 2008.

**Message from Sam Burgin,
Gym Manager on behalf of the
Hallamshire Fitness Team.**

