



## ESSEX SQUASH & RACKETBALL ASSOCIATION COUNTY REPORT July 2025

### Annual Report Overview– Dave Neller

ESRA County Chair Report – July 2025 AGM



Wow, another year has gone by already! Picking up from what I mentioned in last year's report we (or rather Tony Bickley & Geoff) have been working hard to improve our social media interaction. The new website and social media networks are now in place, and we will be adding more links and information as we move along. A coaches network has been suggested, which is very active in some other counties and may be underway in Essex at the time of writing this report. Our National Governing Body, England Squash are also working hard on their image, and the perception of squash. The run up to the 2028 Olympics provides opportunities to showcase the game and an ambitious project is on the

table for squash facilities at the Copper Box in the Olympic Park as a legacy as part of the London Squash development work mentioned later.

The new England Squash membership packages were launched mid-2024 and Essex mandates England Squash membership for County league and Inter-County squad players, which is the £15 'Play' level detailed below. By doing this the County gets 20% rebate from England Squash for every player and club affiliated, which goes mainly towards development and Inter-County team costs.

**Club** - Affiliation costs are £75 per court capped at 6 courts.

#### **New player packages**

1. **Digital (free)** – (A great opportunity to engage with individuals outside of the squash community)
2. **Support (£10)**
3. **Play (£15)** - (ESRA mandate for County League and County Squads players)
4. **Compete (£25)** – (Recommended)
5. **Youth Members (£15)** - Will receive all benefits available in the 'Compete' category, as will Coaches Club members (in addition to their existing Coaches Club membership benefits).

As you may be aware county funds dictate the amount we have to spend on Inter-County squads, covering general expenses was the prime direction, and hence we dispensed with providing a player payment. You will see from the Inter-County report that Essex did rather well, which is great, but means we will have more expense going forward, which Elaine explains in the financial report.

England Squash are a relatively small organisation with limited resources. They have gone through a number of reorganisations and downsizing over recent years and are now very reliant on County organisations to manage their own affairs. That said, I would encourage all players, clubs, coaches and organisers to visit the England Squash website at [www.englandsquash.com](http://www.englandsquash.com) to check out all the latest news, the various membership benefits and tool kits available to download. Also, a recent national review has shown that squash has bounced back quite well since the pandemic.

England Squash are working on expanding coaching pathways and networks (something we have discussed for Essex coaches). Memberships take up are on target and growing steadily. A new schools initiative 'Ready Steady Squash' will be fully launched in September. All this and more were discussed at the May Council meeting, I will get all the papers loaded to our ESRA website which I encourage you to review in more detail.

The Essex Closed was run very successfully at Lexdon again, I would like to thank Jenny Wright and her team for all their hard work, and of course the sponsors for making this another successful tournament. At the time of writing this the structure and timing for the next County Closed is under discussion and will be decided soon.

The results from the Inter-County squads are detailed later in the County report, a special thanks to all the captains who worked hard to field squads, and to those who gave up their weekends to play.

Essex is a member of the London & South East Regional Forum (LSERF), which encompasses London, Kent, Sussex, Surrey & Middlesex and accounts for about 25% of the UK's squash facilities. LSERF has



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full England Squash support, and we are currently focusing quite a lot on London. We successfully run a second season of teams in the London Youth Games, with regional and finals events held at Redbridge (8 teams of 5 – 3 boys/2 girls) and are working hard to establish a London Squash entity which encompasses several Essex boroughs. As an example, a project run in Walthamstow by Trevor Grinstead attracted over 220 participants.

The ESRA committee are here to manage the activities you as players want in the county, this includes the county leagues, inter-county squads, junior programs, development, and county competitions. In addition, we must constitutionally manage certain aspects of the county governance, like safeguarding, accounts, AGM, communication etc. All the elected members are voluntary, and we try where possible to act upon issues that may arise within our squash community. We welcome helpful advice and volunteers to take on some of the more challenging items, such as the county closed.

I would like to say a special thanks to the members of the committee and volunteers who do all the work, and personally thank Geoff Went who has tirelessly managed the county leagues for many years and will be handing over that task to Tony for the following seasons.

Going forward we will face more challenges, however, the growing interest in Padel offers opportunity as it gets more players of all ages engaged in racket sports and given the right encouragement could well transition many of them to Squash and Racketball, plus provide more opportunity for coaches. We recognise times have changed and the whole social media environment provides a great way of engaging and creating communities round our sport, which is borne out by the great work going on with our juniors and junior development. We will also of course focus on delivering on the fully inclusive England Squash initiatives which you can find on the ES website noted above.

Above all we thank you for your support and enthusiasm in keeping the game alive, so please continue to take every opportunity to participate in tournaments, friendlies, leagues, social media groups etc. and above all have fun.

## Essex Squash Development

The main thrusts of Development work have recently been as follows:

- Essex Squash SWOT – population (latest version attached) with Actions/timescales.
- Essex Junior Squash – guiding towards re-structuring and re-building.
- Women's squash – ladies ladder expansion to North of the county
- England Squash Grant – spend – received grant (early Jan - £2.5k)

As stated last year one of the main ways to do this is to create smaller pockets of driven activity in each region of the county, hence why we now have “Regional Development Reps” in the West, Central and North areas of the county – who are responsible amongst other things for spending the ES grant received recently in and around Hub Clubs as follows primarily for the junior development

- **West** – Trevor Grinstead/Vicky Ashworth – Walthamstow/Woodford Wells
- **Central** – Jake Byrne/Matt Nott – Bishops Stortford/Park Drive Maldon
- **North** – Sally Meanley/Chris V – Lexden/Frinton/Mersea (with a hope that OTW will be in the future involved in some way)
- **South-East** – Gemma Walton/Alex Walton (Kingswood, Old Brentwood (Harry Burr) – Clements; Rayleigh/Thurrock; Trugym – met online 18<sup>th</sup> Feb.

The main intention is to develop these hubs around which regular sustainable development activity can take place targeting women and girls, older players, those who have yet to find squash (adults/juniors), less active, disadvantaged etc. Meetings have taken place and will continue to do so.

### **Essex Junior Squash:**

EJS continues to be an area of challenge and has now stabilised with a new committee and implement and has a new structure of development.

### **Women's Squash:**

Again, as last year with the juniors, women's development continues to be difficult to energise for all sorts of reasons. There is a thriving ladies social league running (weekly) now at Five clubs



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## Essex Ladies - Kerry Munn

As stated last year The ladies Essex league was disbanded at the end of the summer season 2023 due to lack of teams being able to enter. Maureen Duke from Woodford Wells created a social activity for the ladies to keep ladies squash competition in the area and is played at now Five venues on a rotational basis and is a very successful format which is enjoyed by all the participants.

We now have a group of [40+] participating ladies who are all invited to play every fortnight and we are averaging around [15] players per event. Players are from Redbridge, Woodford Wells, Walthamstow, Kingswood, Epping, Connaught and Old Brentwood.

The Format is as follows:

Each venue hosts a match approximately once a fortnight and Maureen matches up levels to those who are available on that night. After lots of squash, we all retire to the bar and have some food and drink and socialising.

In an effort to advance the ladies activities, funding has become available from England Squash to the enable the Ladies activities to improve participation. An Open participation activity is planned to start In September 2025 to include all existing players and new players whatever their level of ability to join. Specific details are yet to be finalised

## Senior Ladies Intercounty Activities - Lara newton

The Essex Ladies Senior team had some tough battles against two strong sides at the most recent Inter-counties event held in Market Harborough.

First up was Middlesex (1-4). Gemma Walton and India Webb lost 3-0 each against some clinical players. The top three seeds followed with some close battles: Lara Newton vs Anya 3-2, Amelie Brooke vs Emily 1-3 & Piper Tatum vs Tilda 1-3.

Avon put out a strong side, beating us 5-0 but not without some challenge. Lara has a tight 3-2 loss to Wai. Piper Tatum and Gemma Walton both earning a game in their respective matches. Amelie Brooke and India Webb again facing some skilled players in their games losing tough 3-0s.

The women played well and left it all on the court and it was a really enjoyable weekend.





## Marketing & Media Report – Tony Bickley

### **Marketing Report – 2024/25**

#### **2024/25 Activity**

There were four key objectives for our 2023/24 activity, which were as follows:

- Increase Membership
- Enhance Visibility
- Promote Events
- Foster Community Engagement

#### **Increase Membership**

As the membership is now tracked by England Squash at an individual level rather than a club level, it is more difficult to track engagement levels. In terms of Essex League Squash, it was great to welcome Witham Squash Club into the leagues for the summer season.

#### **Enhance Visibility**

Enhancing our visibility and engagement was one of the key objectives we focussed on for this year. Through increased traffic on our social media platforms (notably Instagram) and our website, we can see our visibility increasing.

A key part of this has been the consistent highlighting of achievements within the Essex squash community. In particular, we have made a point to celebrate the successes of our county representative sides, showcasing their performances in regional and national competitions. Additionally, we have proudly promoted those Essex players who have gone on to represent England at age-group level — a testament to the talent and dedication developing within our clubs. These stories have resonated strongly across our channels and have helped to raise the profile of both the players and the sport within Essex.

#### **Promote Events**

We made a concerted effort to increase awareness and participation in our events across the county. The Essex Cup and Essex League Squash both saw healthy attendance and strong competition, with positive feedback from players and clubs alike. In addition, our support of the Essex Closed competitions in both squash and squash57 saw an increase in participants against the previous year.

#### **Foster Community Engagement**

Community engagement outside of competitions continues to prove to be a challenge. There are examples across the county of where this can work really well. An example being the Summer Fun League at Lexden RFC where players from across different Essex clubs have been asked to take part and compete.

#### **2025/26 Objectives and Strategy**

##### **Essex SRA 2025/26 Marketing Objectives**

1. Boost Brand Awareness Across Essex
2. Increase Engagement Across Digital Channels
3. Promote Essex Events, Leagues & Achievements
4. Support Club-Level Marketing
5. Drive Targeted Campaigns to Attract New Audiences
6. Elevate the Profile and Participation of Squash57

##### **1. Boost Brand Awareness Across Essex**

- Celebrate the Essex SRA visual identity, including a modern logo, consistent social media templates, and branded materials.
- Launch a “We Are Essex” campaign to showcase the diversity of players, clubs, and volunteers across the county.

##### **2. Increase Engagement Across Digital Channels**

- Use Instagram and Facebook to post weekly content, including player features, match highlights, polls, and behind-the-scenes updates.
- Improve the website’s user experience, especially for event listings and news updates.
- Send monthly newsletters with updates, features, and calls to action such as sign-ups or event registrations.



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- Develop short-form video content (e.g., interviews, highlights, player stories) to reach wider audiences.

### 3. Promote Essex Events, Leagues & Achievements

- Provide event organisers with marketing toolkits including graphics, press templates, and social assets.
- Maintain a county-wide digital events calendar for league matches, tournaments, and open days.
- Regularly feature match results, league tables, and player achievements through a weekly roundup post.

### 4. Support Club-Level Marketing

- Offer clubs access to editable marketing templates for events, beginner sessions, and open days.
- Highlight one “Club of the Month” each cycle, sharing their story across Essex SRA channels.

### 5. Drive Targeted Campaigns to Attract New Audiences

- Launch inclusive campaigns such as “Squash for All” aimed at women, older adults, beginners, and underserved communities.
- Promote beginner-friendly sessions and social leagues with accessible messaging and visuals.
- Partner with England Squash to amplify national campaigns within Essex.

### 6. Elevate the Profile and Participation of Squash57

- Create a dedicated Squash57 page on the Essex SRA website with information, events, and clubs offering it.
- Promote Squash57 events and sessions equally across all digital platforms.
- Feature stories from Squash57 players and clubs to illustrate the benefits and accessibility of the game.
- Provide clubs with Squash57-specific promotional materials and session guides.
- Work with England Squash to align local activity with national Squash57 initiatives.

### Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

- 25% increase in overall social media engagement
- 20% growth in website traffic, especially to Events and Squash57 pages
- 15% increase in Squash57 participation across Essex
- At least 5 clubs actively promoting Squash57 using Essex SRA materials
- Consistent digital content output (e.g., 2+ Squash57 features per quarter)

## **Essex Closed 2025 – Lexden Rackets and Fitness Club**

The Essex Closed 2025 was held on 25-26<sup>th</sup> January at Lexden Rackets and Fitness Club and was kindly sponsored by Millane Contracts.

This year had 55 individuals with 73 entries, which was down slightly on the previous year. The plans are to start to promote the closed date for 2026 much sooner, so that it is on people’s radars.

We made the change to run all categories in the Monrad scoring system, which resulted in lots of matches for all, whilst the overall feedback on this was positive, next year we will limit categories to 8 players, which will cap the matches at 3 per categories.

There was only a main ladies draw, but 4 of the 8 did also play in the main grades.

A focus for Jan 2026 is to grow the beginner participation, however, this will need the clubs to buy into promoting this internally.

Having the matches on Sat / Sun only had positive feedback and was a great opportunity for players to mingle with each other and created a great atmosphere.



## Final Full results

Open A - 1: Michael Tallentire. 3: Gareth Naidoo. 3: Dylan Smithson. 4: Elliot Selby  
 Open A Plate - 1: Dan Caton. 2: Paul Wallace  
 Ladies A – 1: Lara Newton. 2: Hannah Lain 3: Jennifer Wrigh 4: Gemma Walton  
 Ladies A Plate – 1: Jackie Gregory. 2: Carley Barton  
 Open B – 1: Rich Horswill. 2: Chris Purkiss  
 Open B Plate – 1: Max Newton. 2: Chris Wallis  
 Open C – 1: Mike Booth. 2: Rob Keogh  
 Open C Plate – 1: Stephen Burnett. 2: Andrew Harvey  
 Mens Over 35 – 1. Neil Cross 2. Mike Aley  
 Mens Over 40 – 1. Mohammad Adnan-Khan 2. Mike Booth  
 Mens Over 45 – 1. Martin Watts. 2. Nigel Bacon  
 Mens Over 50 – 1. Dave Smith. 2. Chris Purkiss  
 Mens Over 55 – 1. Nigel Bacon. 2. Steve Smith  
 Mens Over 65 – 1. Brian Clay 2. Paul Clarke.  
 Mens Over 70 – 1. Wyn Edwards. 2. Simon Rippingdale

## Essex Junior Squash 2024/25 – Jenny Wright

### September 2024

The new season got under way in earnest in September with a full complement of committee members and a reasonably healthy bank balance.

Membership renewals were slightly down on the 2023/24 season with 60 players renewing, paying a subscription of £60 - a £20 reduction on the previous season due to there being only being 3 scheduled county training days.

The County Closed took place on 22<sup>nd</sup> September at Lexden Rackets and Fitness Club and each age group was contested. We had 42 entries, but aiming for 60 with 7 entering 2 categories. Winners and runners up are listed below.

The first county training session was held on 28<sup>th</sup> September.

<b>Boys U9 WINNER</b>	<b>Ronnie Devitt</b>
Boys U9 RUNNER-UP	Fred Haynes
<b>Boys U11 WINNER</b>	<b>Harrison Selby</b>
Boys U11 RUNNER-UP	Fintan Gallagher
<b>Boys U13 WINNER</b>	<b>Tobey Edwards</b>
Boys U13 RUNNER-UP	Oscar Grimwood
<b>Boys U15 WINNER</b>	<b>Tristan Sutton</b>
Boys U15 RUNNER-UP	Kylen Calder
<b>Boys U15 PLATE WINNER</b>	<b>Harri Wood</b>
Boys U15 PLATE RUNNER-UP	Harry Haynes
<b>Boys U17 WINNER</b>	<b>Dylan Smithson</b>
Boys U17 RUNNER-UP	Jonny Godfrey
<b>Boys U17 PLATE WINNER</b>	<b>Tristan Sutton</b>
Boys U17 PLATE RUNNER-UP	William Barringer-Allen
<b>Boys U19 WINNER</b>	<b>Dylan Smithson</b>
Boys U19 RUNNER-UP	Jonny Godfrey
<b>Girls U9 WINNER</b>	<b>Aphelia Burns</b>
Girls U9 RUNNER-UP	Sophie Lovegrove
<b>Girls U11 WINNER</b>	<b>Francesca Sutton</b>
Girls U11 RUNNER-UP	Amira Thompson
<b>Girls U13 WINNER</b>	Jess Billings
<b>Girls U15 WINNER</b>	Grace Woodhead
<b>Girls U19 WINNER</b>	Renitha Srindran
Girls U19 RUNNER-UP	Imogen Finken



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## October 2024

The second County training session took place on 27<sup>th</sup> October and squads were broadly organised by age group and gender of players.

We also held a separate development squad which ensured we could more easily bring in players who were new to squash but were not ready to join an age group squad.

Feeding into this development squad were new EJS players who we recruited via a taster session held on the same day as county training.

## November 2024

Stage one of the Inter Counties took place over the weekend of November.

Teams were entered for ALL boys age groups and the u11 and u19 girls.

For the first time parents were asked to make a £30 coaching contribution. This ensured that only those selected to compete for Essex would have to pay extra which seemed a fairer way to manage our finances and is very much in line with how regional Aspire training operates.

Four teams made it through to the Finals weekend which were held in

- U11 Boys
- U15 Boys
- U17 Boys
- U19 Girls

## December 2024 / January 2025

Was a quite time.

## February 2025

The final county training session took place on 16<sup>th</sup> February and was well attended.

The committee noted it was very early in the season to end county training given the season does not end until June/July.

## March 2025

The National Inter Counties finals took place 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> March in Sheffield.

The results were:

- U11 Boys – Won the Plate
- U15 Boys – 4<sup>th</sup>
- U17 Boys – 3<sup>rd</sup>
- U19 Girls – 4<sup>th</sup>

### In conclusion

This was the first year as a new team and the general feeling is that everyone worked well together and are all happy to continue next year. We managed to break even this year, which is a positive place to be as we still have some money in the bank.

There has been increased conversations about trying to get more clubs and coaches to engage and that Essex Junior Squash isn't just to promote the elite players, but to support the developing players through providing a sense of community.

Looking to develop ladies and girls playing has been helped by getting the grant, where a series of training events will be held across Essex Sept – March.

A reminder about renewals being due in Sept has already been sent out and this has had positive feedback. planning for the Essex Junior Closed is well underway, so aiming to grow the event from last year.



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## Racketball/Squash 57 - Patrick Osbourne

### Essex Open Doubles

The Essex Open Racketball/Squash57 Doubles Championships 2025 were held at The Woodford Wells Club on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March. The quality of entry was exceptionally high, with competitors travelling from as far away as Dover to participate. The entries were consolidated into OPEN 'A' & 'B' draws which meant that there was minimal 'downtime' for the players.

#### Results:

- Open B: as with the UKRB series events, the OPEN 'B' is an extremely popular and closely fought event. The opening match on the show court between the Dover travellers set a very high bar for crowd entertainment for the rest of the day. The winners were Tommy Meadows (Dover) and Nick Moore (Dover) who nudged ahead of locals Akhtar Khokhar (Woodford Wells) and Elliott Fowell (Connaught).
- Open A: was of an exceptionally high standard with many matches going the distance. Winners were Billy Jones (Bromley) and Gareth Naidoo (Woodford Wells), Gareth retaining his title, with Amber Marshall (Broxbourne) and Luke Bishop (Broxbourne) runners up by the narrowest of margins.



Action videos from the day can be found in the YouTube playlist here:  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQqNxkx4Ojiu1OkDkPHmend6tArA8aNab>

### Essex Open Singles

On Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2025, Essex Squash held their annual Open Racketball / Squash57 Singles Championships. It was another hugely successful day at The Woodford Wells Club (WW) with players travelling from as far afield as Manchester and Woking.



With four titles on the line and over eight competitors in each category, it promised to be a marathon day of intense pool matches, leading to high-stakes semi-finals and thrilling finals.

#### Over 60s: Dibattista Dominates

In the Over 60s, experience ruled the day. Pascual Dibattista (Kingswood) cruised through his pool without dropping a single game, while Alan Burrows (Park Drive Maldon) topped his own pool with equal authority. In the semi-finals, Dibattista dispatched Akhtar Khokhar (WW) and Burrows edged out Andy Bridges (Lexden), setting up a clash of the titans. In the final, Dibattista was unstoppable, maintaining his unbeaten streak and looking sharp ahead of the upcoming Inter-Counties competition.

#### Over 50s: A Battlefield of Titans

The Over 50s draw was stacked — featuring two recent national finalists and a former PSA pro. The competition was fierce, but Marc Thornley (WW) and Adam Beedie (Woking) battled through as pool runners-up, while Craig Wapnick (Marple Squash Club) and Patrick Osborn (WW) topped their groups. As expected, it was Wapnick and Osborn who met in the final, where Wapnick's class and composure shone through. He clinched the title without losing a single game all day.



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## Open B: Dewis Claims the Crown

The biggest draw of the event was the Open B, packed with hungry competitors. In the semi-finals, Dan Carvosso (Kingswood) faced off against Adam Beedie, while John Dewis (St Ivo Racquets Club) took on Harry Best (WW). Both pool winners, Carvosso and Dewis, advanced to a gripping final — where Dewis proved too strong, capturing the Open B title in fine style.

## Open A: Youth Triumphs

The Open A division was fiercely competitive, with several pool matches going the distance in tight 2-1 battles. Early drama came when Amber Marshall (Broxbourne) stunned Craig Wapnick with a commanding 2-0 win. That pool ended in a dramatic three-way tie, with Wapnick and Paul Wallace (Kingswood) advancing on a narrow margin after injury ruled Marshall out. In the other pool, familiar face Luke Bishop (Broxbourne) and John Dewis punched their tickets to the semis. The final between Wapnick and Bishop was a crowd-pleaser. In the end, it was Bishop's youth and fresher legs that carried him to victory, capping off an unforgettable day.



Videos of some of the matches can be found in the YouTube video playlist here: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQqNxkx4Ojiv1CinI9BsQtRIILtMVHWGj>

## ***Inter-County Masters***

Flying the flag in two age categories—Over 50s and Over 60s—Essex fielded a crack squad assembled from four of the county's top Squash57 strongholds: Clements, Kingswood, Lexden, and Woodford Wells. Cue roll call: O60's Paul Fennell (captain), Andy Bridges, David Kitchens, Matt Hibberd, Pascual Dibattista, Richard Jones; O50's Stacy Thickbroom (captain), Dan Carvosso, Marc Thornley, Patrick Osborn, Paul Chaplin, Zoe Fennell.

Each tie featured three singles and a doubles match, with game and point count-backs if required. No pressure!

The O60s crew battled bravely on Saturday, with Dibattista a human wall at No. 1, refusing to drop a match. But the team couldn't quite convert plucky performances into victories, and they were nudged into the 5th/6th place playoff.

Meanwhile, the O50s were excelling. After dispatching a powerful Buckinghamshire side 3–1, Essex rolled on to topple Cornwall—who had earlier done the same to Bucks. Finals Day beckoned!

Come Sunday, Essex found themselves up against the mighty Shropshire, boasting three national champs. Osborn came out guns blazing to take the first game of the tie, and Thickbroom pushed his opponent to the wire, but Shropshire proved just a bit too hot to handle. Essex were left to 'mop up' the consolation doubles, ending the weekend with heads held high.



Overall, it was an excellent weekend at a great venue. Well done to all those who took part and a big thank you to Essex's team captains, Stacy Thickbroom and Paul Fennell for leading the charge. Bring on 2026!

***UK-Racketball (England Squash) Regionals, Nationals & British Open***



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Many of our players have also participated beyond the Essex border, competing at the UK-Racketball regional events, the Nationals and the British Open.

There were many wins and huge congratulations to Patrick Osborn, who having won the O60 Nationals (Singles & Doubles) and was RU in the BO Singles, has now been selected to represent England in the September Internationals to be held in Cardiff.



## Men's League Results for 2024/25

For this last season 2024/25 again as last year we had, one for Autumn and Spring to one combined season running from October to March/April. Again, the summer was back down to 24 which is not unusual as some of the Premier teams withdraw for the summer. However, Ongar after a few years decided not to enter the Essex league but all was not lost as we welcomed a new Team from Witham

This year we ran the Essex Cups using the Monad system and for the first time we combined the EAST and West divisions which gave the teams more matches and variety of play, rather than a knockout. This was received very positively and as a lesson learnt we will next year, after the first round, make more the next matches more regional as the lower level matches due to distance to travel were not played. The Final was again was hosted by Woodford wells 11th April 2025 and was very well received. Also, as last year the Division Winner trophies were presented at the Cup Final.

Unfortunately, due circumstance beyond our control The Resultsandnews web site is due to close at the end of the summer session. The new Essex league will use the "League master" system which is different to the old system but needs must and is used by many counties. However unlike the old system there will be a yearly charge for the system.

If any clubs have less able people who want to play team squash, then let the league secretary know as soon as possible.

### **Essex S.R.A. Autumn- Spring 2024-25**

Premier Champions - **Woodford Wells (1)**  
Division East Champions – **Hamptons (2)**  
Division West Champions - **David Lloyd (3)**

### **Essex S.R.A Summer 2024**

Premier Barker Champions – **Kingswood**  
Premier Selby Champions– **Old Brentwood**  
Division East Champions – **Kingswood 3**  
Division West Champions – **Woodford Wells [4]**

## Intercounty – Mark Kirkman

### Inter County Activity 2025

#### Men's

- O35's won and are Inter County Champions, beating Avon 3-2 in the final – due to a last-minute drop out, Cliff Bennett played for both 35's and 45's.
- O45's got to finals, finished 6<sup>th</sup>
- O55's – got to the finals. Odd, as Nigel was struck in the eye, taken to hospital and should have been awarded his match, meaning we would have finished 3<sup>rd</sup> not 6<sup>th</sup>



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- O65's – got to the finals. Finished 4<sup>th</sup>

## Women's

- O40's got to the finals, finished 4<sup>th</sup>. Debut for Hampton's Laura Klinker
- O50's got to the finals, finished 5<sup>th</sup>. Jackie Gregory played for both teams!

Best Masters performance by the collective age groups in Essex that I can remember. At last, the stigma of Essex not winning a Masters Inter County since the O55's about 20 years ago has been broken.

## Mentioned in despatches

Maldon finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the National Club Championships, despite fielding a strong team featuring former world ranked No.50 Ben Coleman. Their match against Leamington had Declan James Former world NO.15 at first string.

Both Nigel Bacon and Mark McEwan played again for England in the Home Internationals.

## Referee & Marking – Paul Clarke

It has been a quiet year in Essex from a referee perspective. I have not been made aware of any Club requesting a presentation from England squash on basic refereeing.

However, if your club wishes to run an introduction to refereeing, please contact England Squash at <https://www.englishsquash.com/callingtheshots>

Or they can start their learning path by registering with <https://worldsquashofficiating.com/>.

I am concerned that Vickie Prow's departure from England Squash, may influence the refereeing structure and organisation within England squash. Vickie, in my opinion was a breath of fresh air and helped current referees and brought on new referees. I shall miss her.

The rules will be amended as from the 1<sup>st</sup> September. I believe the new rules will encompass some of the rules introduced by the PSA. I will keep clubs/players informed and draw their attention to the appropriate changes.

Both Andrew Sweeney and I have represented England squash abroad this year. Andrew has done very well and refereed at PSA events including the Irish event in Dublin, the British Open qualifiers, and the Optasia Championship at Wimbledon. Congratulations to Andrew.

## Contributions

**All Elected Committee Members, Lara Newton and Patrick Osborne**

### Prepared & Edited

David Neller

County Chair

Geoff Went

County Secretary & Men's League System Secretary

### Useful information

Tony Bickley

Essex SRA Website

[www.essexsra.com](http://www.essexsra.com)

Tony Bickley

Facebook

Essex SRA