



Essex Squash League Report July 2026 AGM

Winter League 2025/26

The Winter League began on Monday 1 September 2025, with the final match being played on Monday 25 May 2026. As a trial, to give clubs more competitive matches, the Premier and West Division split into a "Super Four" and "Survival Four". The top four teams entered the "Super Four" and the bottom four into the "Survival Four", playing a further six matches. These proved highly competitive, and the trial will likely continue subject to number of teams in the division.

Overall League Stats

Scheduled Fixtures: 250

Matches Completed: 226 (90.4%)

Walkovers: 24 (9.6%)

Winter League: Premier Division

Division Stats

Scheduled Fixtures: 80

Matches Completed: 70

Walkovers: 10 (12.5%)

Best Performer: William Burton (Lexden) 16/17 wins

Premier Division - Winter League 2025/26							
Pos	Team	P	W	L	F	A	Total
1	Lexden 1	6	3	3	73	68	331
2	Hamptons 1	6	4	2	74	65	303
3	Kingswood 1	6	4	2	83	61	252
4	Maldon 1	6	1	5	53	89	242
5	Woodford Wells 1	6	4	2	83	43	217
6	Hamptons 2	6	4	2	87	46	175
7	David Lloyd 1	6	3	3	62	71	171
8	Old Brentwoods	6	1	5	28	100	119

Division Summary

Lexden 1 emerged as Premier champions after an excellent regular season followed by a competitive Super Four. The division began with eight teams playing 14 fixtures before splitting into two groups of four, with points carried forward into the second phase.

Lexden established a commanding advantage by winning 13 of their 14 opening-stage matches and scoring 258 points while conceding only 56. **William Burton** was their standout performer, winning 13 of 14 matches, while **Dan Wheeler** finished 12-2 and **Oscar Birch** 12-1. Strong contributions from **Neil Cross** and **Travis Tatum** helped build a lead that ultimately proved decisive.

Hamptons 1 finished second in the regular table and then produced the strongest Super Four record, winning four of six matches. **Richard Horswill** and **Rory Pennell** led their challenge, with valuable support from **Dan Burns**, **Dave Smith** and **Adnan Khan**. During the split, **Ed Henley** was exceptional, winning all five of his matches. Hamptons reduced Lexden's advantage but finished 28 points behind on 303.

Kingswood 1 also enjoyed a strong second phase. After qualifying fourth with a 7-7 record, they won four of six in the Super Four to overtake Maldon and claim third place. **Dylan Smithson** completed an



unbeaten 8-0 regular season, while **James Thomson**, **Cliff Bennett** and **Chris Wallis** supplied important victories. **Antony Savage** was perfect at 4-0 during the split, with **Adrian Dibattista Webb** adding three wins.

Maldon 1 entered the Super Four in third but slipped to fourth after winning only one of six fixtures. **Paul Hodge**, **Paul Wallace** and **Mark McEwen** had been central to their successful opening phase, while **Pat Kielty** was their strongest performer during the split.

The **Premier Survival Four** carried extra significance, with the **bottom two teams facing relegation**. Woodford Wells responded superbly after narrowly missing the Super Four, winning four of their six matches to top the group on **217 points**. **Gareth Naidoo** and **Stuart Cowie** were unbeaten during the split, while **Laura Neill**, **Daniel Caton**, **Chris Blackham** and **Daniel Neill** all made valuable contributions.

Hamptons 2 completed one of the turnarounds of the season, climbing from bottom of the regular-season table to second after another 4-2 record. **Louis Brown** starred with a flawless **6-0** record without dropping a game, while **Mark Shildrake** also finished unbeaten at **4-0**. **Kwex Nwachukwu** also played a key role in the late-season revival.

Although Woodford Wells and Hamptons 2 secured their Premier status, **David Lloyd 1** and **Old Brentwoods** occupied the **bottom two places** and now face the prospect of relegation, with the league's promotion and relegation process determining the final make-up of next season's Premier Division.

Lexden were worthy champions, but the split format also created strong finishes for Hamptons 1, Kingswood, Woodford Wells and Hamptons 2, ensuring both the title race and the battle to avoid relegation remained alive until the closing stages of the season.

Congratulations to Lexden.

Winter League: East Division

Stats

Scheduled Fixtures: 90

Matches Completed: 85

Walkovers: 5 (5.6%)

Best Performer: Steve Cunnew (David Lloyd 3) 14/15 wins

East Division - Winter League 2025/26							
Pos	Team	P	W	L	F	A	Total
1	Woodford Wells 2	18	16	2	307	97	307
2	David Lloyd 3	18	14	4	303	111	303
3	Maldon 2	18	12	6	249	179	249
4	Lexden 2	18	11	7	240	178	240
5	Kingswood 3	18	10	8	235	183	235
6	Clements	18	8	10	192	228	192
7	Kingswood 2	18	9	9	187	234	187
8	Thurrock	18	7	11	172	223	172
9	Witham	18	3	15	113	290	113
10	Hamptons 3	18	0	18	64	339	64

Woodford Wells 2 were crowned East Division champions after an outstanding season, winning **16 of their 18 fixtures** and finishing on **307 points**. Their success was built around several exceptional individual campaigns. **Ben Prokop** won 11 of 13 matches, **Harry Best** completed a perfect 10-0 season



and **Matthew Hibberd** recorded eight wins from nine. **Chris Blackham, Jonathon Caton, Andy Samuel** and **Daniel Sesu** also made major contributions to a deep and consistent squad.

David Lloyd 3 pushed the champions all the way, finishing only four points behind after a 14-4 campaign. **Steve Cunnew** led the division's individual standings with 14 wins from 15 matches, while **Michael Coare** produced an excellent 12-2 record. **Mark Robertson** won 10 of 12, with strong support from **Dean Starr, Bradley Carlyon, Nick Jones, Michelle Higgins** and **Colin Benjafield**.

Maldon 2 secured third place with 12 victories and 249 points. **Mo Mahar** was their standout performer, winning 13 of 18 matches, while **Carl Saunders** finished 9-6 and **Harrison Nott** 7-3. **Toby Newman, Chris Rolison, Carl Gable** and **Arron Gymer** also contributed important wins during a strong campaign.

Lexden 2 claimed fourth place, led by **Keanan Wood**, who won 11 of 16 matches. **Max Newton** recorded ten victories, while **Matt Deane** and **Shaun Lamont** each lost only once. **Andy Bridges, Brian Clay, Alex Iveson** and **Simon Bourne** provided further depth.

Kingswood 3 completed the top five. **Paul Griffith** was superb with an 8-1 record, while **Matt Perham** won ten of 14. **Chris Wallis, Wyn Edwards, James Ware, Jason Devitt, Dacho Dachev** and **Stuart Nash** all made valuable contributions.

Clements finished sixth, with **Matt Gilmore, Andrew Harvey, Bradley Foster, Mike Larkin** and **Tom Wells** leading their challenge. Kingswood 2 followed in seventh, while Thurrock finished eighth despite strong seasons from **Charlie Broad, Matt Cosby, Andrew Pell** and **Joe Isherwood**.

Witham ended ninth, led by **Roy Galley, Matt Brind, Craig Shand** and **Alex Hewitt-Clay**. Hamptons 3 endured a difficult winless season, although **Dawn Robinson** collected two individual victories and the team continued to compete throughout.

The title race remained close until the end, but Woodford Wells' combination of outstanding top-end results and squad depth ultimately carried them past a strong David Lloyd side.

Well done to Woodford Wells 2.

Winter League: West Division

Stats

Scheduled Fixtures: 80

Matches Completed: 71

Walkovers: 9 (11.3%)

Best Performer: Ben Fairclough (Walthamstow Blue) 16/16 wins

West Division - Winter League 2025/26							
Pos	Team	P	W	L	F	A	Total
1	Walthamstow Blue	6	6	0	118	18	364
2	Redbridge	6	2	4	51	87	273
3	David Lloyd 2	6	3	3	70	65	272
4	Connaught Cobalt	6	1	5	33	102	225
5	Walthamstow Red	6	5	1	98	38	222
6	Woodford Wells 3	6	5	1	96	45	203
7	Connaught Chrome	6	2	4	55	76	146
8	Ongar 1	6	0	6	21	111	83



Walthamstow Blue completed a dominant West Division campaign, winning **13 of their 14 regular-season fixtures** before sweeping the Super Four with a perfect **6-0 record**. They finished on **364 points**, an emphatic 91 clear of second-placed Redbridge, having scored 118 points and conceded only 18 during the split.

Their success was driven by several outstanding individual performances. **Ben Fairclough** won all 16 of his matches across the two phases, while **George Smith** added a perfect 9-0 combined record. **Luke McLaughlin** won 14 of 17, **Tom Platteuw** finished 9-0 and **Paul Snape** went unbeaten in his three Super Four appearances. **David Beck**, **Huw Corcoran** and **Kevin Talbot** also made important contributions to an exceptionally strong squad.

Redbridge finished second after an excellent regular season and held on to the runners-up position despite a 2-4 record in the Super Four. **Zain Tanweer** was outstanding in the opening phase, winning all 11 of his matches, while **Fahim Dilbar** went 11-1 and **Mehul Shewakramani** 9-0. Mehul then added four wins from five in the split, with useful support from **Saqib Mughal**, **Awni Dajani**, **Qamar Jillani** and **Vishay Dodia**.

David Lloyd 2 climbed to third after a solid 3-3 Super Four campaign, finishing just one point behind Redbridge on **272**. **Brandon Higgins-Pearce** led the team with 14 wins from 18 appearances across the season, while **Kenny Trim** added 12 victories and **Steve Burnett** ten. **Michelle Higgins** was also excellent, winning 11 of 14, with further contributions from **Colin Benjafield**, **Nathan Kidley**, **John Smith** and **Simon Witton**.

Connaught Cobalt entered the split in fourth and remained there after winning one of six. Their challenge had been led by **Leo Czarnowski**, who produced a perfect 14-0 regular season, alongside **Mark Barlow**, **Caleb Belcher**, **Sam Muna** and **Lewis Parratt**.

The Survival Four saw Walthamstow Red transform their season. After winning only four regular-season fixtures, they went **5-1** in the split to top the group on **222 points**. **Rhys Evans** was perfect at 3-0, while **Som Saran**, **Damian Pukaluk**, **Sam Kightley** and several one-match contributors helped secure the turnaround.

Woodford Wells 3 matched that 5-1 record and finished second on **203 points**. **Daniel Neill** won all four of his split matches, with unbeaten contributions from **Roy France**, **Dean Spencer**, **Sam Weatherhead**, **Chris Blackham** and **Nicola Thorn**.

Connaught Chrome finished seventh on **146**, while Ongar 1 ended eighth after losing all six Survival Four fixtures. **Jacob Parnell**, **Wayne Woodcraft**, **Adrian Atkinson** and **Joshua Hambling** continued to compete during a difficult campaign.

Walthamstow Blue were deserved champions, combining elite individual records with remarkable depth, while Walthamstow Red and Woodford Wells 3 produced the strongest late-season recoveries.

Well done, Walthamstow Blue.

Essex Cup: Overview and Finals Night

The Essex Cup began on Thursday 29 January 2026 and finished on Friday 27 March 2026. The finals night was hosted at The Woodford Wells Club, with special thanks to Chris Blackstone and Jon Caton for their continued support of the event.

The 2026 Essex Cup was split into three cup competitions. Each began as a group stage before going into knockout stages with quarterfinals, semi-finals and a final. The format of the group stages and early knockout rounds was games-to-11 within a 35-minute match time. Every game won counted as a point to the teams overall total. The final scoring was different, with each string playing one game to 30 points (hand-in, hand-out) or 20-minutes, whichever came first.

Overall Cup Stats

Scheduled Fixtures: 65

Matches Completed: 54

Walkovers: 11



Total Games Played: 1,573

Sanderson Cup

Cup Stats (excluding final)

Scheduled Fixtures: 18

Matches Completed: 14

Walkovers: 4

Total Games Played: 484

Best Performer: Amber Marshall (David Lloyd 1) 5/5 wins

FINAL: Gidea Park 86 – 63 Maldon

The Sanderson Cup, our Premier Division cup, saw Gidea Park face Maldon in what promised to be a great battle. First up was the third string, with Maldon captain Paul Wallace facing Paul Cousins. Cousins started the stronger, leading 7–1 before being pegged back to 7–7 at the ten-minute mark. A tight few points saw Wallace establish a 15–10 lead before running out the winner, 16–11.

Second up was the fifth string, with Pat Kielty facing Amber Marshall. Marshall's early dominance proved decisive, establishing a 9–0 lead before Kielty could get going. The left-handed Kielty fought back, but it wasn't enough as Marshall's movement and shot-making proved too strong, finishing with an 18–11 win.

Next was the fourth string battle, which saw Paul Hodge of Maldon take on Sam Jeal. Jeal, an exuberant player with an excellent work rate and precise shot-making, proved too much for the wily Hodge, winning 22–8.

With Gidea Park now firmly in front, Maldon's hopes turned to string one and England Over-35 international Mark McEwen. In an early exchange with Ted Jeal, the game was evenly matched at 7–6 at the ten-minute mark. Jeal then turned up the heat, pushing McEwen into all four corners before driving forward to win the game and the match for Gidea Park.

With the string two match now a dead rubber, Ahmed Mossad and Adam Safwat did their best to entertain the crowd, with Safwat winning 20–15.

Well done to Gidea Park, the 2026 Sanderson Cup champions.

Webster Trophy

Cup Stats (excluding final)

Scheduled Fixtures: 26

Matches Completed: 22

Walkovers: 4

Total Games Played: 788

Best Performer: Mark Robertson (Gidea Park 3) 6/6 wins

FINAL: Woodford Wells 2 121 – 69 Gidea Park 3

The final of the Webster Trophy saw Gidea Park 3 face the hosts of finals night, Woodford Wells 2. First up was GP's Bradley Carlyon, an entertainer on and off the court, facing WW's Tomaz Noetzel. Carlyon led early before being pegged back to 7–7, but was able to establish a 13–9 lead at the halfway stage. A huge comeback from Noetzel saw him win ten points in a row to take the game 19–13.

Wins for Woodford Wells were the order of the evening, with convincing victories for captain Chris Blackham and Andy Samuel, both reaching the elusive 30-point target before the twenty-minute time limit had elapsed. A 23–14 win for Matt Hibberd against Dean Starr was enough to secure the victory before the final match.

The final match, unfortunately now a dead rubber, saw the ever-entertaining Mark Robertson face home talent Harry Best. With no shots off-limit, the game was naturally very tight, tied at 10–10 at the halfway mark. Robertson found momentum to lead 18–12, before a late comeback saw the game finish all square at 19–19.



Well done to Woodford Wells 2, the 2026 Webster Trophy champions.

Woodhouse Trophy

Cup Stats (excluding final)

Scheduled Fixtures: 18

Matches Completed: 15

Walkovers: 3

Total Games Played: 446

Best Performer: Steve Burnett (David Lloyd) 4/5 wins

FINAL: Walthamstow Blue 125 – 49 Connaught Cobalt

The Woodhouse Trophy was contested between West Division league leaders Walthamstow Blue and Connaught Cobalt. Walthamstow flew out of the blocks with Tom Platteuw racing into a 20–0 lead before Connaught's Kunle Adeboye got off the mark. Kunle fought back with a few points of his own, but Platteuw was too strong, winning 30–9.

The opening match set the tone for the night, with Walthamstow winning all five matches in impressive style. Ben Fairclough and Alistair Poole also reached the 30-point mark, beating Connaught's Leo Czarnowski and George Hebditch respectively.

Well done to Walthamstow Blue, who lift the Woodhouse Trophy as they aim to complete a league and cup double in 2026.

Summer League 2026: Overview

The Summer League began on Thursday 21 May and is due to finish on Monday 3 August. We had 24 teams enter at the start of season, with Lexden 1 and Old Brentwoods not competing this season.

A full report with player stats and league table will follow at the end of the season.

League Administration

League administration was managed throughout the season using *LeagueMaster* as the primary competition management system. All fixtures, results, player registrations and league tables were maintained centrally, ensuring clubs had access to up-to-date information throughout the season. *LeagueMaster* was used to:

- Schedule fixtures, record match results and individual player performances across all divisions and cup competitions.
- Produce live league tables, player statistics and rankings.
- Manage promotion, relegation and split-stage competitions.
- Register players and nominate club/team playing order.
- Provide England Squash membership registration checks on all players

Overall, *LeagueMaster* proved to be an effective and reliable platform for administering the Winter League, significantly reducing the administrative workload while improving the accuracy, consistency and accessibility of league information for players and clubs.