



1. Sedgefield Squash Club Strategy

To grow and nourish the Sedgefield Squash Club Junior Section. Objective number 3 in our Business Plan states that “as a result of continuous investment in coaches and coaching, realise our ambition to be recognised as a Centre for Excellence for squash in County Durham”. The club’s intention is also to engage with ‘Go Well’, the Schools Sports Partnership (SSP) to forge links with schools in the area. This SSP aims to increase the range of sports pupils currently experience and engage pupils in regular physical activity.

2. Situation up to 2022/23 season

- Saturday coaching sessions for beginners/intermediates/advanced groups
- Participation in Junior Leagues
- Individual coaching sessions with our England Squash coaches
- Participation in the club’s and the Durham & Cleveland leagues for our more advanced players
- Provision for Juniors aged 16 and over to achieve coaching qualifications with England Squash (funded by the club) and undertake some coaching activities themselves.
- Juniors did not have to have a membership.

In addition to the above, the club hosted two Squash Stars tranches, an England Squash initiative to get young people playing squash.

3. Why are we changing? The Junior Committee was disbanded in the last season. This has presented the main committee with an opportunity to

- Review/streamline our processes, finances and coaching offering
- Address the issues that we were experiencing with availability of coaches
- Address the issues with the operational running of this section (e.g. collection of monies, reimbursing coaches, communication with Juniors and parents)
- Address the issues with young people having ‘diary clashes’ on Saturdays
- Assess how we ‘grow’ our young people to progress into playing competitive and regular squash as adults and provide the club with a pool of players for our Club Captain to select for Durham & County Leagues.
- Fulfil the objectives of our Business Plan in terms of becoming a Centre of Excellence and involve schools in the area.

4. Our plan

- Introduce a mandatory membership for all our Juniors. This will cost £25 for the age group up to and including Year 11 pupils, and £45 for Year 12 onwards, including those in Further Education (e.g. University Students). It will cover the whole year from September to August and will include keys to the building and access to the booking system to enable people to play at any time of the day.
- For those who are wanting to participate in group coaching, we are introducing packages for those up to and including age 18 (Year 13) to include
 - Supervised Game Play on a Saturday morning (2 hours). This will consist of matches and conditioned games set by the coach in a round robin format
 - Coaching for intermediate juniors on Tuesdays (to be confirmed) after school

- Coaching for advanced juniors on Thursday after school.
- For those purchasing a package, this will give you a maximum of two sessions a week (one coaching and one game play) for two terms, or 20+ weeks (Autumn and Spring). The cost of that package is £75 for ages up to Year 11, and £95 for Year 12 & Year 13 students, to include the membership cost. If participating in two supervised sessions per week, and taking off the cost of a membership, this works out at less than £2 per session. Individual sessions were charged at £3 last season, so these charges will represent a saving overall.
- Active encouragement for individuals to enter the Junior Leagues to develop an element of competition and provide match practice.
- Run at least one Squash Stars tranche.
- Provide regular 'heartbeat' communications to parents on what is happening within the Junior section, and the Club as a whole. This should negate the need for our team of volunteers having to manage multiple ad hoc queries, although we will always respond to individual queries as and when required.

5. Q&A

Q1. How do I go about purchasing my membership?

A1. Our Membership Secretary Chris Rowsby chrisrowsby@gmail.com manages the joining process in terms of payment, capturing any relevant information, setting you up on the booking system and issuing keys to the premises.

Q2. What if my child hasn't paid for a package or membership but would like to give squash a go?

A2. There are a number of ways. Firstly, they could join a Squash Stars tranche, whereby you pay England Squash a fee, and in return will receive kit and racket, and our club will provide a six week coaching programme. Secondly, if this isn't what you want, or there isn't a tranche running, you can have a trial session with one of our England Squash qualified coaches. This can be arranged by contacting Chris Rowsby, or via our mailbox info@sedgefieldsquashclub.co.uk. Finally, they could join in on the Saturday game play, costing £10 for this ad hoc session.

Q3. What if I want to purchase a package mid-season?

A3. The cost of the package is so competitive, that we will charge the full cost (£50) if you join at any time in the Autumn Term, but there will be a reduced cost (£35) if you join in the Spring Term.

Q4. Do I need to pay the joining fee of £10 if I am buying a coaching package, and my child has not been a member previously?

A4. No, if purchasing a package, a joining fee does not need to be paid.

Q5. What are the dates for the packages starting, and what time do the sessions start after school?

A5. At the time of writing, we are unsure of the exact weekday coaching sessions, as one of our coaches is a University Student, and doesn't have his timetable as yet. We will communicate via the emails collected by our Membership Secretary as soon as we know.

Q6. Do I have to purchase a racket or kit ahead of the sessions starting?

A6. We have plenty of spare rackets to get you started, plus goggles which need to be worn at all times on court. We ask that your child changes from outdoor footwear into clean shoes before playing. Information is available on the noticeboard and in our regular communications on the Sedgefield Squash Club kit that can be purchased directly from the 305Squash website.