

Bedfordshire Squash June 2023

Hello again!

Another season has come and gone and this year there is a new Div 1 champion team in Flitwick 1, well done on winning the Div 1 league! Div 2 was won by Biggleswade 2, congratulations to them also.

The summer season is just about to kick off with an even number of teams in both Div 1 AND Div 2, should be some great summer squash coming up.

The Beds Closed was again held at Club Towers with a great many players turning out, both playing and supporting.

Beds Squash AGM 6th July 7:30pm @Club Towers – There is availability to play squash beforehand. Each club needs to have a representative present as there are items to vote on and decide.

[Beds Squash Summer Season](#)

Date for the start of the Summer season is 19th June 2023.

There are 2 Divisions this year, both with 6 teams.

Good luck everyone who is playing, it might be a hot summer, so remember to rehydrate yourselves.

[Beds Squash Closed Jan 2022](#)

What a great event, with over 50 entrants for the competition with the first weekend in the new year cemented into the Beds Calendar now. Well done to all of the players:

Ladies Winner: Rachel Kirkby, runner up Sophie Cable

Mens B Winner: Toby Aylett runner up Alex Buckhurst

O55 Winner: Matt Towers, runner up Ian Thomas

The Mens A final was a terrific match and well worth a watch [Beds Closed Finals](#)

Mens A Winner: Gbenga Adeyi, runner up Steven Davies.

[O55s – narrowly lost in final to Herts O55](#)

After qualifying strongly from the regional competition back in February, the weekend of 15/16 April saw the Bedfordshire Men's County O55s Team play in the national finals at Peterborough. The team consisted of Steve Evans, Bruce St Leger, Richard Carr, Ian Thomas, Steve Barlow and Matthew Towers (Dave Gibson also played in the qualifying match in February) was disappointed to be seeded only 7th, but faced strong competition from the bigger squash counties such as Herts, Surrey, Berkshire, Cheshire and Essex.

The first match was against No 2 seeds Surrey. A tense start saw the match tied at 1-1 after the first two rubbers with Ian Thomas losing narrowly 3-1 but Richard Carr winning by the same scoreline. Matt Towers won 3-0 to put Beds 2-1 ahead, before Steve Evans won a titanic duel with fancied Mark Aldridge 3-1 and Bruce St Leger closed out the tie with a 3-2 win, so that Beds progressed to the semis 4-1. In the Saturday afternoon semis, Essex were the opponents but did not get a look in, with Bedfordshire taking the match by an impressive 5-0 scoreline.

The national final was scheduled for Sunday 9am (never a popular time!) and turned into an epic battle with local rivals Hertfordshire. First on court was Ian Thomas, and he wrapped up a 3-0 victory with impressive ease. Meanwhile, on the other court, Bruce St Leger went down 3-1, despite a valiant effort in the second game, and Matt Towers lost by the same scoreline after winning the first game comfortably. Richard Carr produced a magnificent fighting performance to win 3-2, taking the 5th game by the narrowest 12-10 margin, so that it all came down to the No 1s with the match tied at 2-2. Steve Evans was taking on Eamon Price and it was an epic

battle, flowing one way and then the other. Steve Evans built a 2-1 lead and looked set for the win, but a brilliant fightback in the 4th and 5th saw Eamon Price take the match 3-2 and Herts took the title.

Bedfordshire have never before reached a national final at any age group, so it was a great effort by all of the team. They will be looking to go one better next time!

Beds County Side

The senior Beds County side were drawn against Bucks, Cambs and the hosts Berks this year in the inter county championship. It looked a tough ask on paper with only the top side progressing to the finals weekend. However, a side of: Gbenga Adeyi, Steve Davies, Nathan Derrick, Ben Shakespeare, Will Montgomery and Ryan Pescod had a good weekend and so very nearly pulled off a shock result! The side beat a strong Cambs team 3-2 with wins coming from Steve, Nathan and Ben and then lost by the finest of margins 3-2 against both Berks and Bucks. Gbenga and Ben the victors against Bucks and Steve and Nathan vs Berks.

The two defeats could so easily have been different with Nathan having match balls vs Bucks and Will only just losing out 3-2 at number 5 vs Berks.

Comments from the Beds Committee

After several years of great Chairmanship we need to announce the resignation of our Chairman Garry Milner, Garry is moving outside of the Bedfordshire area with his family. We wish him every happiness for the future and to enjoy the beach.

Based on the fact that we need a new Chairman we have had a proposal from Ryan Pescod to be nominated for the position, if there are any other Beds Squash members out there who wish to also be considered for the role they are welcome to get in touch with the committee.

The Chairman nomination and decision will be taken at the AGM (7:30pm 6th July 2023 Club Towers). If anyone is interested in doing their Level 1 coaching qualification and wants some assistance, please do get in touch with the committee, we are always will to assist in some way.

A player comment. Andrew Shirley – a new player to team squash

It is my pleasure to introduce Andrew and grateful to him for writing a few words about his introduction to team squash.

“One of the joys of playing squash is testing yourself against new opponents, so it was great to be asked by Babs Rai to join the Towers team 3 squad last season. We came up against some pretty tough opponents which meant, for me at least, it was more about the taking part than winning, but there were a few victories to savour and plenty of useful tips from the more experienced members of the team. Another of the great things about team squash is the mix of people that you’ll get to meet and chat to over the post-match refreshments – who knew at the beginning of the season I’d become an expert on one of Saturn’s icy moons thanks to one of our OU opponents! If you’d like to improve your squash, make new comrades and friends, and enjoy a few beers and tasty food then Team Squash is definitely the way forward. Thanks Babs!”



Division Standings Season 2022/3

DIVISION 1

Division 1: Winter 2022/23

[Home](#) | [Division List](#)

	Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pen	Total	
1	Flitwick 1	★	16	13	3	0	255	109	0	255
2	Open University 1	★	16	12	4	0	241	124	0	241
3	Club Towers 2	★	16	10	6	0	224	157	0	224
4	Bunyan Bulls 1	★	16	10	6	0	214	148	0	214
5	David Lloyd 1	★	16	8	8	0	198	179	0	198
6	Biggleswade 1	★	16	7	9	0	183	199	0	183
7	Club Towers 1	★	16	8	8	0	172	194	0	172
8	Shenley Leisure 1	★	16	2	14	0	85	266	0	85
9	Flitwick 2	★	16	2	14	0	82	278	0	82



A message from Garry Milner:

At last a season without Towers winning the league! We had a great season and things did not look good after heavy away defeats at Bunyan and OU, but luckily with home advantage we turned both those around. We picked up a new player in Andy Shaw and he helped massively being our player of the season, and now are new captain as well!! I've enjoyed my time at Flitwick but apart from the odd guest appearance that's it for me!

DIVISION 2

A hard fought Division with a close finish between Biggleswade and Bunyan, well done to all the teams that entered. Moving into team squash can be tough, so credit to everyone who stepped up.

Division 2: Winter 2022/23

[Home](#) | [Division List](#)

	Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pen	Total	
1	Biggleswade 2	★	16	15	1	0	288	94	0	288
2	Bunyan Bulls 2	★	16	12	4	0	256	116	0	256
3	Club Towers 3	★	16	5	11	0	159	215	0	159
4	Open University 2	★	16	6	10	0	133	231	0	133
5	Club Towers 4	★	16	2	14	0	96	276	0	96