

**EBBISHAM JUNIOR GRADED SQUASH TOURNAMENT
HELD ON SATURDAY, 3RD, 4TH & 10TH NOVEMBER, 2007**

Total Number of Participants	<u>99</u> <i>(80 boys, 19 girls)</i>
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TOURNAMENT REPORT

EBBISHAM SPORTS CLUB in Epsom, Surrey, held its fifth Junior Graded Squash Tournament incorporating 10 separate events/grades on Saturday 3rd, Sunday 4th & Saturday 10th November 2007.

Of the 99 players overall, there were 38 entrants from Ebbisham and the rest were from other Clubs such as Ashtead (4), Cannons West Byfleet (1), Colets (5), Dorking (2), Homefield School (4), LA Fitness Gatwick (2), Lakeside (1), New Malden (8), PGS/Petersfield (Hampshire) (2), Purley (1), Reigate (12), Sandown Park, Surbiton (2), Surrey Health & Racquets (Esporta) Croydon (6), Varsity (2), Wimbledon R&FC (1) & Woking (2), plus others from Hertfordshire and West Sussex.

JUNIOR GRADED, GRADES C, D1 & D2 - 3rd November 2007:

31 children (all boys) aged between 10 - 15 years old

JUNIOR GRADED, GRADES E1, E2, F1, F2 - 4th November 2007:

42 children (35 boys and 7 girls) aged between 10 - 15 years old

MINI SQUASH FOUNDATION, IMPROVER & PRO GRADES - 10th November 2007:

26 children (14 boys and 12 girls) aged between 7-11 years old

Everyone had 4-6 round-robin games (American scoring or PAR point per rally to 11 or 15) with the highest overall points scorers going through to the Semi-Finals and then the Finals (best of 3) in each Grade, followed immediately by Presentation of Trophies and squash bags to all finalists.

This was the first year we had introduced a FUNdation Grade for beginners aged 11 & under who were new to squash or competition squash.

The standard of squash gets better and better each year with 38 of the 99 participants being County Junior Squad players this year - a good opportunity for them to play round-robin short games against players of similar ability within a half-day competition and usually only 10-20 minutes wait between games.

This Ebbisham Junior Graded Tournament has grown over the past few years from a 1-day event in 2003 with 58 entrants to a 3-day event with around 100 entrants. With only 3 courts at Ebbisham, advance-planned match scheduling, getting the children to play and go in 2-4 hour 'waves' and lots of volunteer helpers is the key to handling this number of entrants and supporters.

Perhaps some of the larger Clubs with more squash courts might think about organising these friendly and sociable Graded Tournaments which are great fun for both the children and their supportive parents,

and generate a good source of income through entry fees and refreshment/food sales to plough back into their junior squash sections.

Finally, just a few words of thanks:-

- to **SPORTDISCOUNT.COM** (www.sportdiscount.com) who supplied 20 fantastic value squash bag prizes for Winners & Runners-up
- to **CHALLENGE TROPHIES** (www.challengetrophies.co.uk) who supplied the engraved trophies for Winners and Runners-up
- and, last but by no means least, to the **EBBISHAM BAR/OFFICE STAFF, SUPPORTIVE PARENTS, ENTHUSIASTIC VOLUNTEER HELPERS AND THE WELL-BEHAVED CHILDREN** themselves who helped to make the event run so smoothly!

JO ROBINSON

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