

DORSET JUNIOR SQUASH REPORT 2023-24

Junior Squash in Dorset continues to grow in numbers. We have a great coaching team and our Squash in Schools programme continues to feed new players in to our clubs and in to our County Development programme.

1. **Junior County Closed** – 55 juniors competed. Fantastic prizes from **Karakal**. Thanks to all of our sponsors inc. **Slades Estate Agents** and **Clinic@78**, their continued support is of considerable value to the county and so much appreciated.
2. **The End of Season tournament** was held at West Hants with 42 players playing, again numbers up slightly from the previous year (36). A presentation was held at the end of the afternoon and a BBQ held on the patio. The entry fee included the food. Players names were put in to a hat and 5 winners drawn and a squash lesson won with a variety of coaches.

The Lanz Trophy – Logan Macey

The Biles Trophy – Isaac Nicholson

Club Player Award – Ollie Galloway

Boys U11 Player of the Year 2023-24 – Emmett Breen

Boys U13 Player of the Year 2023-24 – Elliot Saunders

Boys U17 Player of the Year 2023-24 – Harry Slade

Girls Player of the Year 2023-24 – Layla Lyon

1. **County Development Squads** - This programme has been very well supported. It is aimed at the grass roots enabling us to encourage and nurture new players in to the system. Coaches; Nyah Williams, Jamie Broomfield, Bev Vatcher, Samara Stewart, Zoe Wallace, Matt Loughran, Nick Macey.
2. **Junior tournaments** were held at 2RM, West Hants and Bournemouth Squash Club. A new format is being introduced next season to try and encourage players to participate in all our tournaments. Players will earn points based on where they finish and we will have a results table so that players can see where they sit and hopefully this will encourage more players to play in the tournaments across the county. We will run 6 tournaments.
3. **Squash in Schools** programme – delivered by Charlie Campbell-Wynter, Samara Stewart and Nyah Williams to Talbot House and Park School. We continue to recruit players from these schools on a regular basis proving its success. Both schools keen to continue next term.
4. **Junior Inter County Competition** – BU11, BU13 and BU15 teams competed in Gloucestershire.
 - 4.a. BU11 finished second but lost out on qualification on points difference to Avon.
 - 4.b. BU13 finished bottom of their group but embraced the experience.
 - 4.c. BU17 qualified to the plate finals. Unfortunately we were unable to field a team for the event which was held in Sheffield.
5. **Squash Festival** – our annual squash festival, which is run in conjunction with Active Dorset, was held at West Hants in February. 3 schools attended.
6. **Squash Stars** – Samara Stewart and Charlie Campbell-Wynter continue to deliver this England Squash initiative at Bournemouth Squash Club, 2 Riversmeet and David Lloyd Ringwood. Both have found this to be a successful programme with numerous children participating and many going on to play weekly. New players pay £42 for 6 coaching sessions and a kit bag which contains a racket, ball, t-shirt and goggles. Clubs were asked to provide the courts for free.
7. **Summer Squash Camps** – 3 camps were held at 2RM at the end of July and 3 pre-training sessions at West Hants at the end of the holidays.
8. **Junior Squash Matches** - were organised against Canford and Bryanston, home and away.
9. **British U11 Champion 2023** - Ben Lamond won the BU11 British Championships. What a fantastic achievement. Many congratulations to Ben. He also finished 13th in the British Junior Open U11's.
10. **South West Regional Championships** - 14 Dorset players competed in this event.
11. **South West Aspire** – 15 juniors attended the Aspire training and 4 were selected to play in the SW Aspire team championships; Congratulations to Ollie Galloway, Kian and Emmett Breen and Tara Low.

12. **National Schools Competition** – Bournemouth School for Girls are going to enter the competition next season. Dorset Squash will provide guide and support the school. If successful we will look to encourage more schools to enter in the seasons to come.

Many thanks to ALL to our fabulous team of coaches who are working tirelessly to encourage juniors, new and old, to play our fantastic game. Junior squash is thriving in Dorset.

The County Coaches are at full stretch with current commitments and we are very keen to recruit more. Please contact me if you are interested in becoming a Dorset Squash Coach.

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