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Archived News from 2013

Cricket

[Cheltenham CS win Curtis Bennett Shield for first time since 1973](#)

[Convincing 8 wicket win over DSRA with 20.1 overs to spare](#)



Back Row L to R: Will Fell, Steve Bridge, Matt Barrett, Mumtaz Habib, Adie Mayes, Rich Robinson, Eddie Baker (Scorer);
Front Row L to R: Steve Witcomb, Robbie Baker, Mark Febery, Craig Baker, Chandu Patel, John Garrett

Eligibility for this competition has changed in the past two years and we are now able to play 'linked' members who have taken out CSSC membership.

This allowed us to be competitive against larger National Departments / Regions. We started our Curtis Bennett campaign with an easy win over HASSRA NW, and then in the last 16 beat 2005 and 2006 winners HMRC in an exciting match which saw us reduce HMRC from 134-1 to 168 all out to see us home by 9 runs. In the quarter finals we beat 2012 winners Bolton CS by 5 wickets, and in the semi final we beat HASSRA SW in Cornwall by 8 wickets having dismissed their double centurion from their previous match first ball. In the final we faced 2011 winners DSRA MOD. DSRA had lost the 2012

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final to Bolton and having beaten us comfortably in the 2011 quarter final I think they fancied their chances.

Cheltenham CS won the Curtis Bennett Shield for the 2nd time in beating DSRA MOD by 8 wickets at Hinckley Town CCA. It was a good all round team performance and helped make up for the disappointing County Cup Final defeat

9 days earlier v Old Down and was ample revenge for our defeat against DSRA in this competition in 2011. DSRA won the toss and batted but the tone for the day was set on only the 4th ball of the match as their opener took on a bouncer from Mumtaz Habib and fell to an excellent running catch by John Garrett at fine leg for a duck. DSRA put on 56 for the 2nd wicket but took

17 overs to do so thanks largely to some economical bowling by Steve Bridge who only conceded 20 runs from his 10 overs. Matt Barrett took over the bowling from Mumtaz at the pavillion end and, although he conceded many wides due to the amount of swing he was getting, he picked up 2 wickets to reduce DSRA to 58-3 from 17.2 overs. A further 21 runs were added before Rich Robinson took the 4th wicket , but once Matt Barrett took 2 further wickets to reduce DSRA to 85-6 Chelt CS were well on top and a modest total looked the best DSRA could hope to post and in the end they were all out for 116. Extras had top scored with 30 such was Cheltenham CS dominance over the DSRA batsmen, and with a quick outfield we were optimistic at the break although cautious after recent batting failures in the last two weeks. Adie Mayes scored an early boundary as 11 runs came from the 2nd over, but then fell caught behind for 7 with the score on 12. Robbie Baker joined elder brother Craig and they combined well together in adding 69 for the second wicket. Robbie dominated the strike and scoring whilst Craig was more than happy to secure the other end with runs coming at nearly 7 an over. Robbie fell one short of a deserved 50 when bowled for 49, having faced only 36 balls and hitting 8 boundaries. Mumtaz joined Craig at the wicket and he continued to score freely. He scored an effortless 33 off only 28 balls, to see us home with more than 20 overs spare. Craig had anchored the innings and finished unbeaten on 14, but he had played a useful role and had only faced

47 of the 119 balls bowled. A convincing win in the end, and one that meant a lot to the team. We have had some good runs in the Curtis Bennett over the years, but this was our first win of the competition since 1973. We had lost previously in the final to NESLC in 2008 but it was nice for Steve Bridge to finally get a winners medal after over 50 Curtis Bennett matches for us over the years. Mumtaz Habib has made a big difference to the side with bat and ball and was very instrumental in us winning our closest game in the competition this year against HMRC. However, several of our squad have made big contributions - Mark Febery has captained the side very well, John Garrett had bowled very well in the semi final, Adie Mayes, Craig Baker and Matt Barrett had each scored a fifty in the competition this year, and we had been impressive in the field throughout.

We had our 60th Anniversary Dinner on October 25th this year and the Shield took pride of place at the Dinner.

Eddie Baker

Squash

Handicap Cup Champion 2013

The handicap cup final was played on Thursday 31st October 2013 between Neil Howitt (-12) and Mike Croskell (+7).

It looked like Mike was going to win 3-0 when Neil was 2-0 down and -2, +13 down in the 3rd game but a monumental effort saw Neil win 16 straight points and take the 3rd game 15-13.

Neil continued his dominance into the 4th game which he won playing some excellent squash.

However, Mike was not to be outdone and in the 5th set, despite a relentless challenge from Neil, Mike showed great resolve and determination to win the match 3-2.



Congratulations to Mike.

The next tournament will be the doubles tournament to be played over Christmas and the New Year.

Dave Bott

Squash

SQUASH FINALS NIGHT Thursday 2nd May 2013

Squash Club Championship 2013, Marker Alex Milne

Neil Miles 3 v Simon Critchley 1



Simon Critchley and Neil Miles before the final

Neil Miles beat Simon Critchley 3-1 to win the squash club championship for the first time. In a highly competitive final Simon started the stronger and took the first game 9-6. Neil, competing in his fourth consecutive final had to work extremely hard to stay in touch with Simon who was playing in his first final. The pair produced some excellent squash with many long and enthralling rallies. After Neil came through a very tightly contested second game he didn't look back and went on to win 3-1.

Many congratulations to Neil.



SQUASH CLUB CHAMPION - Neil Miles
receiving the winner's trophy from Dave Bott

Vets final 2013 Marker Dave Bott
Ashley Mayall 3 v Dave Crisp 2

A closely fought contest which at 7-7 in the fifth could have gone either way. Congratulations to Ashley who managed to win the last 2 points to take the match 3-2.



SQUASH VETS WINNER - Ashley Mayall
receiving the trophy from Dave Bott

Plate final 2013 Marker Alex Milne
Darren Stanton 3 v Steve Colwill 1

Another competitive game, at 2 sets to nil up, Darren looked like he would run away with it but Steve battled back to take a game.



SQUASH PLATE WINNER - Darren Stanton
receiving the plate trophy from Dave Bott

The next tournament will be the handicap cup in September.

Dave Bott, Tournament Organiser

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