



CORONAVIRUS

Update from the Club

7 September 2020 - a statement has been issued by the Welsh League Panel to declare the 2019-20 Season null and void, due to the passage of time since the scheduled end of that Season and the less viable and relevant it has become.

This means there is no promotion, relegation or otherwise being applied.

26 August 2020 - as part of the Welsh Govt. / Squash Wales requirements for a return to play at Clubs & Centres, all have to appoint a **Covid-19 officer**; this individual is the key implementor and central point of contact for all Covid-19 matters at the Club.

To ensure compliance, the Covid-19 officers must all complete modules as part of an online Awareness Course, run through the Welsh Sports Association. At our Club this falls to Club Secretary, Jim Tunley.

24 August 2020 - revised guidance for Clubs was issued by Squash Wales. All Clubs and Centres **MUST** adhere to these regulations and procedures for a safe return to play. It is a very fluid situation and such guidance will change again over the coming weeks and months.

3 August 2020 - Squash Wales circulate their "**Protocol and guidance for the Return to Play and the re-opening of Squash Clubs/Courts**" document, which includes key principles for a return to play, safety in the Club environment, hygiene regulations, strict rules when playing / practicing with suggested game formats / routines, some thoughts on the legal position as Clubs and Centres re-open, as well as an initial risk assessment matrix for Clubs.

25 July 2020 - Squash Clubs across England were today allowed to re-open for play, providing they had appropriate arrangements in place for a safe return. Meanwhile we still await advice from Squash Wales and the Welsh Government on the position of indoor centres and Clubs re-opening.

15 July 2020 - Ahead of the next Welsh Government review of the regulations on 30 July, the Welsh Sports Association will have detailed discussions with local authorities, NGBs and other operators to understand how gyms, leisure centres, fitness studios and swimming pools can introduce measures to safely open (possibly, we hope from 3 August).

9 July 2020 - The Government announce that indoor sports facilities in England may reopen from 25 July, with social distancing in place. It's possible that in Wales this may be allowed from 3 August. We now await further details and guidance from the Welsh Government and Squash Wales.

Regarding a return to competitive action, the NWCSL have no further update following their most recent statement. It remains the position that any recommencement of the 2019/20 season is contingent on Government and England Squash guidance. They imposed a cut-off date of 14 December to have completed the 2019/20 season.

7 July 2020 - The North Wales League Committee announce that they have abandoned the current League, with all results null and void. See Teams Page for details.

23 June 2020 - The Government announced some easing of the lockdown today, but advised that facilities listed as "close proximity" venues, including gyms and indoor sports clubs, must remain closed and this includes anyone wishing to engage in solo practice or members of the same household playing on a squash court.

Subject to public health, the aspiration now is to reopen these facilities in mid-July.

22 June 2020 - Squash Wales publish their "Return to Play Roadmap", highlighting the current regulations and guiding principles in moving towards opening up all squash facilities.

20 June 2020 - Irish Squash announce that clubs may reopen on June 29th, with restrictions in place, including but not limited to:

- * Each club to appoint a COVID-19 Officer/committee. This is mandatory for all clubs.
- * Online court booking system is mandatory, with intervals allowed for cleaning.
- * Courts must be booked in advance of play - no turning up to play without a booking.
- * One or two players allowed on court - social distancing maintained with training routines advised by coaches.
- * No match play permitted.

* Standard hygiene and social distancing measures for COVID-19 required off court.

17 June 2020 - England Squash confirm that all squash activity remains suspended following the UK Government's advice to close sports facilities. It confirms - *"As before, the public cannot: exercise in an indoor sports court, gym or leisure centre, or go swimming in a public pool."*

And so, all squash clubs and facilities should remain closed until further notice - this includes anyone wishing to engage in solo practice or members of the same household playing on a squash court.

Everyone is very eager to see squash return as soon as it possibly can, in a safe way that is aligned to Government advice. We will share more information at the appropriate time, so that we can all get back on court.

2 June 2020 - There's a traffic light start for squash in France from today. In some areas of the country, solo practice or 2 player coaching sessions with social distancing but with a strict 2 meter requirement **ONLY** are allowed. There are no traditional matches, or more than 2 players on court at any time, plus strict protocol guidance must be followed. Amber zones are to be reviewed on 22 June.

2 June 2020 - Squash Wales advise they are closely monitoring the Welsh Government advice around the coronavirus situation - *see the SW Newsletter elsewhere on our website*. All squash activity in Wales remains suspended following the Government's advice to close sports facilities. We are very eager to see squash return as soon as it possibly can, in a safe way that is aligned to Welsh Government

advice. We will share more information at the appropriate time, so that we can all get back on court.

11 May 2020 - Advice on community squash is that Clubs and facilities should remain closed until further notice, this following the Prime Minister's address to the nation on 10th May.

As we await further information from the UK Government, we will put together some temporary protocols and start to plan for when it is OK to reopen.

21 April 2020 - COVID-19 Update from the NWCSL on a strategy to be adopted in moving the League forward once the lockdown has been lifted and clubs are open to play squash once again.

It is their intention to recommence the 19/20 season once the Government, together with England Squash, have each advised that it is safe and acceptable to do so. They will, however, introduce a cut-off date of the 14th December to have the season completed.

If and when it becomes clear that the season can't complete by this date, NWCSL will have to reconsider the position and decide if the 2019/20 season is abandoned.

In addition, if 2019-2020 season can't be completed before 14 December, the league might also have to be reduced to one round of matches for 2020-2021 [if home and away matches were played, it would take the next season into July]. They continue to keep the situation under review.

9 April 2020 - Today CourtCare completed the refurbishment of both courts. They have done some warranty work on the front walls, re-painted the other walls and topped up front walls with aggregate. When we return back to play, both courts will be like new!

21 March 2020 - Today the Squash Club **CLOSED** for play with immediate effect and until further notice. This followed strong and clear advice from Government, our Governing Bodies and the Brymbo Sports & Social Complex Directors.

19 March 2020 - The Squash Club remains open. We heard that from Friday, March 20, all schools in the UK will close indefinitely, with A-levels, GCSEs and SATs cancelled.

In the context of this unprecedented and rapidly changing situation, we at the Club made the call to **suspend our Juniors Coaching programme with immediate effect.**

16 March 2020 - The North West Counties Squash League, with guidance from England Squash, announce that all NWCSL play will be suspended with immediate effect. This affects our Thursday night teams.

15 March 2020 - The Junior Coaching programme at the Club will continue tomorrow (16 March), however, this will be reviewed in consultation with all parents concerned, and in consideration of any threat of local schools' closures and Government advice.

15 March 2020 - The North West Counties Squash League set out their position to advise, at this point, they will not be suspending the league but will await further updates from government and England Squash

14 March 2020 - Due to the continued threat from Covid-19 virus, Squash Wales suspended all League programme activity throughout Wales with immediate effect. This suspension will run at least until the end of April when the situation is to be reviewed.

All Tuesday evening courts have now been made available for general use by members.

13 March 2020 - Given the unprecedented situation we're all facing as a result of Covid-19, Squash Wales advised that the 2020 North Wales Masters Open, which was scheduled at Brymbo for the weekend 21-22 March, is to be POSTPONED.

The postponement comes as a result of the increasing number of COVID-19 cases in Wales and in the wake of the World Health Organization's declaration on Wednesday that COVID-19 constitutes a global pandemic.

Subsequently, Squash Wales have also decided to postpone all junior and senior events, including Training Nights, until the end of April 2020. This will affect events such as Junior Squads, the Masters Home Internationals and 5 Nations.

Our League programmes are almost complete for 2019-20 and, as the numbers are relatively small, for now Squash Wales will continue with these, though they remain under daily review and may change in the future. All concerned will be informed of any change.

Our Coaching Team would speak with parents and continue to monitor the situation as it affects schools. If the schools are closed then an urgent decision will need to be made about our Monday evening Coaching Programme.