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INAUGURAL ANNUAL FRIENDLY SQUASH TOURNAMENT Newport Squash Rackets Club V St Mellons Squash Club

The Inaugural **FRIENDLY** between these two competitive clubs was kindly hosted by Greg Tippings at Newport Squash Club.

On a warm sunny summer's evening, a golden sun dipping in the sky, the silhouette of Newport looking like an Egyptian Pyramid, the steel wave imitating an Egyptian ship, all we needed were a few camels and an Arab wielding a cutlass, but no, there were only a few sweaty squash players wielding their rackets.

An evening of singles and doubles squash, ending in a curry and a few beers, what could be better!!!!

A varied bunch from both sides, no females from St Mellons, if you'd seen the men you would realise why they're on their own. Lots of good competitive matches.

In the doubles there was some bullying from Mark (If Only) Jones and Alan (Whooh) Thomas playing Abby Hicks and Martha Brown. Alan tried to keep the theme going by doing a sand dance, all Mark could do was to think of his last holiday in Sharm el Sheik but the girls showed good qualities keeping them honest losing only 1-2. It was written in the scrolls for Macario Yung and Terrance Turner and they found Dan Burgen and Jenny Haley a good challenge and scraped through 2-1.

Kyle Price and Chris (Blobby) Robinson got the hump and lost to Keith Smithson and Dave Haley 1-2. Dane Price and Ross Cassley threw sand in the eyes of Greg Tippings and Chris (Bonkers) Neye winning 2-1. Mike (Don't Do That) North and Martin (It's Still Summer) Weston walked like Egyptians consequently losing 0-3 to Mark Johnson and Kim Dowsell. Phil (Bilko) Brailey and Darren (Dash) Price sphinxed Chris Lovett and Dave Morris using their not undeniable anatomical width being as wide as pyramids, to win through 3-0.

Swapping partners, Mike North and Phil Brailey beat Kim Dowsell and Dave Morris 3-0, Martin Weston and Chris Robinson lost to Jenny Haley and Keith Smithson 1-2. Kyle and Dane Price lost 1-2 to Dave Haley and Abby Hicks. Mark Jones and Alan Thomas (still together, must be a love thing) lost to Martha Brown and Chris Neye 1-2. In the singles Ross Cassley lost 1-2 to David Haley, Macario Yung beat Dan Bergin 2-1 and Terry Turner beat Chris Lovett 2-1.

All matches were played in great spirit and ended in an honourable draw. The beer and curry round was definitely won by St Mellons with Big Al taking the first prize with at least 3 and a half curries to everyone else's one. A good night - looking forward to the next one.



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