



## MIDDLESEX SQUASH

A joint production of the Middlesex SRA and League

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Cover: Abbas Kaoud and Adrian Jaski pictured before the final of this year's ALLWEATHER Middlesex Closed Championships. Abbas wrestled the title away from Adrian who had held it for 3 years.  
More on this in the next issue.

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MIDDLESEX

# SQUASH

## EDITORIAL

# Crisis! What Crisis?

MIDDLESEX  
JUNIOR  
CLOSED  
CHAMPIONSHIP  
1986

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**Y**ou may not be aware of it but we are approaching a crisis in organised squash. The National Squash Federation, which represents the owners of many commercial clubs are up in arms with the SRA over the latter's recent decision to change the way club affiliation fees are calculated.

Why a crisis?

Several clubs, including a dozen in Middlesex, feel so strongly about the changes that they have refused to re-affiliate and insist the SRA must reverse their decision before they will do so. As most leagues in England (including ours) require clubs with teams in the county league to affiliate to the SRA, the refusal of these clubs to do so means that, soon, a large number of teams could find themselves expelled from the league. Middlesex have temporarily suspended their rule to enable the NSF to try and come to an agreement with the SRA but having spoken to NSF members and Bob Morris at the SRA, I'm not optimistic!

This is not the place to analyse the two sides' points of view, suffice to say that SRA proposals to increase the subscriptions over the last few years had been opposed by the commercial clubs who until the last AGM had a majority voice. The SRA was becoming short of funds and considered that a change regarding the collection of fees to a per-capita basis was the answer.

Although many players will sympathise with the SRA's plight, we have to recognise that the NSF have come up with some very valid questions. In particular, why should an individual SRA member have to affiliate through his club(s) at all if he is already a member, how will the SRA ensure clubs don't cheat with membership numbers, why should clubs reveal private data regarding membership and what about mixed health and leisure clubs in which a minority play squash.

The SRA must come forward *now* with the answers and the two parties sort this out once and for all — if needs be, the changes should be postponed a year to allow further discussion. Give sensible negotiations, a comprehensive solution to please all parties must be possible. We might even see one that makes it *really* worthwhile for squash players to become full SRA members in their own right — thereby bypassing the club affiliation problem altogether!

*We must avoid a split in squash that results in county leagues being expected to expell half their members!*



This season, *Middlesex SQUASH* obtained from Dunlop a supply of their new XX ball for use as the Official Middlesex League Ball. There has been a great demand for these which, given the price is not surprising. We still have a few dozen left however so if your team hasn't yet got balls, ring Jeff on 01 402 9353! Every box sold helps ensure the future of this magazine.

PETER ELSEY  
Editor

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