

MEDIA RELEASE



Friday 18th February 2022

HARPENDEN SPORTING FACILITY THREATENED WITH CLOSURE AND LOSS TO COMMUNITY

Harpenden Rugby Football Club (HRFC) has purported to serve a notice to quit on Harpenden Rugby Football Club Squash Club (the Squash Club) requiring it to vacate the Squash Club Premises in April this year.

The Squash Club intends to challenge HRFC's attempts to evict it. However, in the meantime, the Squash Club's 250 individual, family and junior members are being threatened with an eviction, which could destroy its 53 years' legacy.

The Squash Club, which is entirely run by volunteers, is a thriving concern with a wide range of players and ages playing both Squash and Racketball. It is one of the largest and most influential clubs in Hertfordshire and is renowned country-wide for grass root and top-level squash. It has several England Masters International players as members and a number of current Junior County Champions.

'We were completely shocked and surprised by HRFC's action', commented current Club Chair Eamonn Price. 'It leaves the Squash Club with few options to offer continuing activity'.

At its founding in 1968, the Squash Club was intended to operate as part of one sporting entity alongside HRFC, working together to improve the provision of sports for the local community. The Squash Club is trying to continue discussions with HRFC in order to try to find an amicable solution, but these attempts have so far been rebuffed.

HRFC claims that it intends to convert all three of the current Squash Club's courts into additional rugby changing rooms and catering facilities for functions and events in its new marquee. HRFC is currently seeking planning permission for this marquee, which would provide function space for up to 250 people.

'We can understand that rugby is a growing sport and that HRFC may need to expand its changing facilities for juniors, ladies and disabled participants' added Mr Price. 'But the sacrifice of another sport seems harsh and unnecessary, when other onsite options are possible and which make greater financial sense'.

The Squash Club today launches its Save Our Squash (SOS) campaign with the aims of gaining support and raising funds to halt the eviction and to look at other opportunities to save the sport in Harpenden and the surrounding communities.

In addition, one of our junior members, Henley Ingall, has started a petition to save the Squash Club and it is available for support and signature [here](#) .

Contacts;

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