

Top players spin in to Skerries Squash Club for Squash Link

MARATHON OF MATCHES: 40 players, 150km around 20 different clubs

By EMILY DIEBOLD

OCTOBER 10 was World Squash Day and to celebrate, top Irish squash player Derek Ryan arrived in Skerries with Squash Link on a fundraising cycle.

He was there to play Joe Mays Squash Club number 1 player, Cian Mullen. The idea was that Derek and about 40 Irish squash players would cycle 150km around Dublin in a day, stopping off at 20 different squash clubs to raise awareness for Squash Link and to raise money for UNICEF.

COMMITTED

Squash Link is a youth enrichment non-profit organization committed to enhancing the future of underserved children by building life skills through squash, education and extracurricular activities.

At each of the clubs Derek would play against the top player and each of the cyclists would take a shot.

Skerries News met Cian Mullen in Joe Mays Squash Club waiting for the cyclists to arrive.

“The good thing is Derek will have played two matches



SQUASH CYCLISTS: Some of the gang at Stoops; *right*, Derek and Cian

already and cycled for miles so it shouldn't be too one sided,” he said.

At the peak of his career, Derek rose to No. 7 in the world rankings. He was ranked first in Ireland at the age of 19 and retained the position for many years.

Now 27 years later he is

ranked No.2 and has reached 200 caps for his country.

The gang arrived about five minutes later and they all seemed in very good form. They must all be very fit as they had covered so much ground already and would be at it all day.

Luckily for Cian, Derek confided to *Skerries News* that he is



not a cyclist and “can't feel my glutes”. However he was straight into the court and the match began in earnest.

It looked like a lot of fun and all the cyclists/players joined in later before they all set off again to go on to the next club.

Well done folks!