



June/July Newsletter

Here is our June/July newsletter and we have taken on board that we got a little carried away with the length of the last newsletter!

So, here is the new, streamlined version and we're looking at a bit of a revamp so watch this space.

The season is really in full swing and with plenty of events to look forward to.

Regards from the team: Mike, Vivienne, Kerry Jan L, Richard and Jan.

- **Superchamps** are on soon with the four-man team trial. Squash NZ will be canvassing teams/clubs and districts as to their preferences – four or five man teams - and reporting back to the Board at the AGM in November. These surveys will be distributed to clubs prior to the event to be filled in after the weekend.
- **Mount Maunganui** will be the scene of an innovative first for squash in New Zealand, with an international invitation tournament to be staged inside a shopping centre in August. Mt Maunganui Sports Club has announced the Mt Maunganui Festival of Squash, which will feature some of the world's best players competing on a glass court at the Bayfair Shopping Centre. Malaysians Ong Beng Hee (world #11) and Mohd Azlan Iskander (#13) have been confirmed in the men's event, along with New Zealand's Kashif Shuja (#42), while Ireland's Madeline Perry (#16) joins Shelley Kitchen (#7) and New Zealand's other top female stars in the women's draw. Another top 10 player will also be confirmed next week. The event will be held on August 8-10 and has been made possible through sponsorship and support from the Bayfair Shopping Centre, Delta Corporation and Squash New Zealand.
- **North and South Island Junior Champs** will be held during the school holidays – in Christchurch and in Auckland so no doubt there will be plenty of good games coupled with tired bodies and poor parents!
- **Our World Junior Men's team**, under the guidance of Anthony Ricketts and Julie Hawkes descend on Switzerland in late July and we wish them well.

WISPA/PSA Events:

The **Central Open** was held in conjunction with a Tour 8 WISPA event at Kawaroa Park in New Plymouth from June 6 to June 8. Although the field was slightly disappointing considering the level of money and ranking points up for grabs, the squash was great and those who played had a fantastic weekend and are keen to support it next year.

For the record the tournament was won by Australia's Lisa Camilleri. She beat the top seed Christina Mak from Hong Kong 9/7 3/9 9/3 9/5 in the final. Camilleri had toppled the second seed in a marathon match in the semi-final.

Check out <http://www.wispa.net/http://www.wispa.net/> for full results.

Thanks to Mike Jack and his team for their continued support and hard work of this tournament.

PSA players were on show the following weekend in Christchurch for the **South Island Champs** and Vaughan and his merry band of hard workers put on a great time for the visitors. Again, numbers and defections were disappointing but those who came had some great squash games as well as having some great times of the court.

For the record top seed Kiwi Martin Knight took out the title at the Christchurch Casino Canterbury and South Island Open on the PSA men's world squash tour. He beat second seeded fellow New Zealander Graeme Wilson in straight games in the final, winning 9/0 9/6 9/6. Check out <http://www.psa-squash.com/?pg=PSA%20membership> for full details.

Although the WISPA Challenger Event was canned due to lack of WISPA entries it didn't affect the standard of the women's top division final with top seed Canterbury's Shayle Higginson holding off a spirited challenge from 15-year-old rising star Blenheim's Megan Craig who pushed Higginson to a deciding fifth game, before going down 9/5 9/6 6/9 8/10 9/7 in one of the most thrilling finals in recent memory.

Top seeds Campbell Grayson and Joelle King have swept to their respective titles at the **ASB Bank North Island Squash Championships** in Hamilton yesterday. Grayson proved too sharp for second seeded fellow kiwi Graeme Wilson in the PSA men's final, romping to an 11/3 11/7 11/9 victory. It is Grayson's first PSA Tour title, capping off a superb six weeks that has seen him climb to a career high number 94 in the world rankings.

Joelle King was even more convincing in claiming her first title on the WISPA women's world tour, crushing third seed Jackie Laurenson 9/0 9/0 9/2. Like Grayson, King attained a career high ranking on the June list, climbing to number 61 in the world.

Thanks to Barry, Kay, Kylie and their team for staging a great tournament. Our overseas guests had a great time as well as playing some great squash.

Cousin Shield and Mitchell Cup

Remuera lost both coveted trophies in this year's event held at North Shore over Queen's Birthday weekend. The Auckland club was top seed in both the men's Cousins Shield competition and the women's Mitchell Cup, but both teams finished second.

The Remuera women were the first to fall short in their title bid, losing 3/0 to North Shore in the final. Red Beach finished third and Hamilton fourth.

In the Cousins Shield, second seed Herne Bay spoiled Remuera's day, winning the final 3/1. Palmerston North was third with defending champions North Shore fourth.

Juniors to Malaysia

Many of **the EDS and NDS** squad members have recently been in Malaysia playing the **Milo All Stars and the Penang Tournaments**.

In the Penang International Junior Squash Championships, Amanda Cranston (Waikato) and Abbie Palmer (Auckland) won titles at their respective age groups.

Second seeded Cranston has won an all kiwi final in the under 19 girls' section, edging past fourth seed Lana Harrison (Auckland) in four. Cranston dropped the first game, but bounced back to win 9/10 10/8 9/5 9/7.

Palmer was more convincing in the under 11 girls' event, justifying her top seeding with a 9/6 9/2 9/5 victory over second seeded Australian Lakeesha Rarere.

Meanwhile, Emma Millar (Waikato) has finished third in the under 17 girls' event, after a 9/7 9/2 5/9 10/8 victory over South African Robyn Baptiste.

There were also two third placings in the boys' events. Alex Grayson (Auckland) grabbed third in the under 19 draw, with a 4/9 9/4 9/0 9/7 victory over fellow kiwi Keegan Burkhart (Wellington). Grayson has earlier beaten top seeded New Zealander Evan Williams (Wellington) in the quarterfinals.

The other third went to Bryce Redman (Eastern), who bounced back from a game down to beat Australian Wesley Cusick 5/9 9/3 9/2 9/6.

Open Weekend

Results are in from Dave, Rob and their workers as to the success of the National Squash Club Weekend.

Attached as a PDF is the overall national results broken down by district and it showed a hugely positive response to the weekend. Revenue generation was put at \$56,000 with over 2000 people through clubs throughout New Zealand and nearly 480 of those joining. Comments included: yes love to participate in another one and let's have it earlier in March.

Rob and Dave were also very positive as to the results and future of the event.

See attached PDF for overall results.

Have a great month and next newsletter we'll be able to report on how the National Review is going.