

District Managers Report 2018

Following on from our work with governance mark lead by Sport Wellington, we developed an Annual Plan and budget. This was well overdue, to give the Board and the operating arm a clear direction of what projects/programs needed to be achieved, and by when. We were also able to send this out to our member clubs for their comment and buy in.

Below is an overview of how we achieved. **Green** success – **Orange** work in progress – **Red** not achieved.



2018 ANNUAL PLAN – FINAL

Participation	National Success	Facilities	Finances	Unified Delivery
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commonwealth Games Programme - Supported and used as marketing tool. • NIJAG/Wgtn Open - Mana/Tawa success • Superchamps – 42 teams • J Grade series - 110 kids • Women's series - 37 women • Referees – Club rules sessions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals – Juniors?, Evan • Teams 4th senior men, 5th senior women, 3rd junior boys, 5th junior girls, 8th Masters • Performance/development - Development squads • Superchamps - Mitchell Park B men won 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HV Sportville - Opens Dec 18, SW donation of \$20k made • SW Website - ongoing • Club support – maintenance plans - ongoing • H&S plans - not done • Facilities benchmarking – needs updating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funder relationships - ongoing • Sustainable funding - not done • Club support – financial planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club dialogue – SGM, Club captains forum • Governance - Constitution Updated



Following the AGM in March, Squash Wellington (and the clubs) were asked to review the constitution, led by John Kirkup, Chair of Squash Wellington. There were two workshops held so member clubs could have input into the purpose and role of Squash Wellington. These sessions were valuable and should enable all parties to understand the purpose of the different organisations.

The final version of the 2018 constitution was passed at the Special General Meeting in July.

Thanks to all clubs, their spokespeople, The Board of Squash Wellington and John Kirkup for leading us through the process.

Driving Participation

Most clubs by the end of 2018 have some form of Junior programs and adult starters/club nights for new participants to attend. This is an outstanding result and clubs have done well establishing or continuing running these programs. Also it is encouraging to see the crossover between clubs and the way they are sharing ideas.

HEAD 9hundy & below series. Yet another successful year of 7 tournaments spread around the District. We had 110 participants over the entire series. The children (and parents) love the format of 3 matches within

the space of 4 or 5 hours. The average participation level at the events was 40 players per round. Thanks again to clubs, Junior convenors and parents for making these events such a success.

Junior interclub using a similar format from the previous 3 years. Numbers have dropped slightly with around 30 juniors playing each round. Tawa Squash club took away the 2018 Junior interclub trophy. A great reward to Tawa and their families for the work they have put into their junior program over the past 2 or 3 years. One learning was that many kids and parents would prefer more than one game on the day (positive from 9hundy series). We may look to run double headers on 4 chosen Sundays in 2019.

We also launched the **HEAD Women’s 800 (points and below) series**. I used the model of junior 9hundy series as the base. 5 points for entering each tournament, 3 points each win and 1 point each loss. All participants needed to be over 18. Hosts were, Tawa, Martinborough, Upper Hutt and Mitchell Park. I would like thank you all for getting behind this new initiative and providing a warm, welcome and friendly atmosphere for all participants. Lastly thanks to Ann Smith who drove and lead the series. Fantastic effort!

We will look to expand the women’s series in 2019.

Thanks once again to the team at **HEAD** for sponsoring our Junior program for 2018. Your relationship is valued, and we are excited about continuing to work together.

Competitive Squash

Interclub

Autumn, Winter, and Spring competitions were run again this year. The number of players remains constant although there is a slight increase for those playing Spring.

We are currently looking at ways to not only minimise the impact Superchamps, eliminations and finals, has on Interclub, and to facilitate those clubs who are successful, and attend the National Final, but to promote women’s squash with new initiatives based around the number of teams in the divisions, and an extra round in the winter competition.

Tony Nelson and I would like to thank all Club Administrators, for their forbearance, feedback, and assistance throughout the year

The following is a comparison of the teams entered in each of the three competitions over the past three seasons and would show a trend for squash to become a year-round sport as the Spring and Autumn competitions expand, whilst Winter contracts.

	Autum			Winter			Spring		
YEAR	16	17	18	16	17	18	16	17	18
Men’s Open	46	36	48	57	52	56	35	39	41
Women’s Open	22	17	16	21	19	21	19	18	21
Masters			6	6	12	6	7	6	5
TOTALS	68	63	70	84	83	83	61	63	67



Trophy Winner:

Fraser Park Squash club

I would sincerely like to thank Tony for all his work in administrating interclub. We couldn't do it without you.

Superchamps

Superchamps once again proved to be the #1 competition in the land. We had 42 teams overall, which is by far our highest number to compete since the removal of Top of the South Island clubs.

Breakdown of numbers:

	Men	Women
B	5	2
C	9	4
D	9	5
E	6	2

All teams competed in the National finals. With Mana D men, Mitchell Park D women and Kapiti C men all making semi-finals. Congratulations to the Mitchell Park B grade men's team who won the National title. Fantastic effort by these lads, as they only dropped one match during the national finals.

National Competition

Senior nationals

The event started on Friday and finished on Saturday evening. There were 8 Men's and 9 Women's Districts teams entered.

Women

It was a tough draw with some impressive line ups, notably Bay of Plenty who won the event sporting 3 A1 ladies. Seeded 4th it was always going to be hard. The goal was to beat our seeding by beating Auckland in pool play to make the top finals pool. With some tight matches we didn't quite get there.

In our 4,5,6 playoff pool we first beat Eastern in a tight tie. Final placing 5th

Men

Wellington were seeded 5th and played 4th seed Canterbury first up. Winning an extremely tight tie 3/1.

Semi-final against Waikato. Wellington men were up against a young and skilled Waikato team. Losing the tie convincingly 4/0. We played off against Auckland for 3rd place, losing 3/1 to finish 4th.

This was the second year of the new format. The feedback from our players (and others) the event lacked atmosphere, colour and hype. Part of the issue which didn't help was the event being played between two clubs in central Auckland. Not the easiest to go between the clubs, especially on the Friday. Some Districts never got to play at the 'Host Club' Panmure, which was a shame. We (SNZ, Districts, hosts and players) all need to lift this event, if not I feel everyone will lose interest.

Junior Teams

The girls were seeded 8 (out of 9 teams). The event was tough as those who played into the deeper rounds of the individuals had to back up again in the Teams. Overall a great effort from Team Wellington, with the girls finishing 5th.

The boys were seeded 3 (out of 9 teams) and finished 3rd with some great efforts from all the boys after a long week.

The team's event (3 days) follows on straight after the individuals which is a 4 day event. Some players played 10 matches!

The team itself had great chemistry and were very well behaved on and off court. With most of these players still in juniors for next 2 or 3 years. Higher honours are not far away.

Personal achievements;

Well done Theo Gannon for winning the under 11 boys national title.

NZ Junior squad members for 2019 were Charlotte Galloway, Kobe Fleming, Dora Galloway, Oliver Dunbar and Hannah Dunbar. Evan Williams and Scott Galloway were included in the NZ elite squad, which is a great achievement. Evan was also selected in the 2018 NZ Commonwealth Games team. Fantastic to have one our own compete at the highest level for our sport.



Masters team

For various reasons we couldn't field as strong a team as we would've liked. The upside of this is that it gave some players who ordinarily wouldn't have made the team the chance to represent their district. Thanks very much you did us proud.

We were bottom seeds in the tournament, so we had nothing to lose and everything to gain. Finishing 8th.

Congratulations to Debbie Dunbar winning the 40-44 and Mark Millar winning the 55-59 national age group titles.

Sportsville – The birth of HUTT CITY SQUASH

As the year comes to an end, the new Fraser Park Sportsville complex (Hutt City Squash) including 6 squash courts is very near to completion. This will be a wonderful asset for the club, Hutt valley region, Squash Wellington and beyond. Opening will be early 2019.

The squash fraternity were asked to pledge funds toward the construction. The Squash Wellington Board committed to a \$20,000 pledge in 2017, this was paid in December 2018, and enabled us to apply to Pelorus Trust for a grant of 300k.

Sport Wellington awards

It was extremely pleasing to see Tawa Squash club taking out club of the year award at the Sport Wellington awards in June. After many outstanding nominations, it is pleasing for squash to be a winner!

Congratulations also to Stuart Davenport who was recognised for his contribution to Squash and inducted into the Sport Wellington Hall of Fame.

Thanks to Sport Wellington for hosting such a magnificent evening. It was a truly world class evening.

Finance

Financially it has been a satisfactory year. With a budgeted net loss of \$10,000, considering the \$20,000 Sportsville pledge. I hope our investment will be paid back with increased participation, membership and affiliation fees. I am always grateful to the funding organisations who are generous supporters of what we do. Income from these grants are similar to previous years, though the process can take a little longer to confirm (some might take multiple applications).

My thanks go to NZCT, Lion Foundation, Pelorus trust, Infinity Foundation, Pub Charity and First Sovereign. Without your support we would struggle to exist.

Sponsorship is again difficult to attract, though we are very fortunate to have HEAD (Racquets and apparel) and Crombie Lockwood (BounceBack insurance scheme) continue our long-standing relationship. Thanks to Craig & Juls (HEAD) and Gary (Crombie) for your support. These sponsors provide us with tangible benefits



to squash in our district, so we do encourage you to support these sponsors by at least investigating what they could provide to you.

Sport – Looking ahead

I would like to touch on the culture of our sport, and probably all sport across the board. It is an ever-changing environment, with money tight, opportunities a plenty (and often cheaper than before) and people busier than ever before. Sport is becoming more difficult to run. Ultimately sport is being driven by the participants, and if we don't meet the needs then sport will fall away. It is becoming more and more common that clubs (or clusters) are running inhouse, business house or summer leagues to meet the demands of participants. I applaud you for running such programs, and maybe these type of small block 'events' will become more common. Underpinning this, is the squash community working together. Be it club or player level.

This model is certainly a change to how it was done in the 'good ol'days' but, with the way sport in general is going, maybe it is a more sustainable one?

SW Board

To the Squash Wellington Board, thanks for your time and commitment to our District. It often goes unrewarded, especially with the challenging year we have had. I would like to thank John Kirkup and Dayne Far who are standing down at the AGM, for their time (5+ years) on the Squash Wellington Board. Also, to Hayley Wilton (2 years), Dennis Siefe (10 months) and Ann Smith & Brett Simon (5 months) for their contributions and time on the Board.

Lastly, thanks to all the volunteers that help RUN and DELIVER our sport, day in, day out. You are all fantastic, and our sport of Squash is nowhere without you.

Swing smooth

Willie Bicknell