
In the **SW**ing

From the Chair

Welcome to the first edition of the Squash Wellington Monthly Newsletter.

Feedback from our Club Hui and player survey held last year told us that people wanted to receive regular communication on what's happening in our District and not just through social media, so here we are kicking off with the February Newsletter.

On the last Friday of each month, we'll share news from across our region including the Board Room and more. We also welcome any news from clubs, so if you have anything, you'd like to include make sure you send it in to us by the 3rd Monday of each month.

A quick word about the terminology: references to Squash Wellington either mean the Board of Squash Wellington, our District Manager, Willie Bicknell (an employee) or both. We'll differentiate when it really matters and when it doesn't matter, we'll just refer to "Squash Wellington" or "SW". We'll make sure our District Manager and the Board members are properly introduced in another edition.

Also, if you're chatting to fellow squashies and they mention they've not received this newsletter, please tell them to make sure they've allowed District communication in their iSquash profile.

And finally, 'In the **SW**ing' is just a working title, so any smart ideas for a name, let us know!

Ann Smith

Issue One: February 2021

RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

New Zealand Masters Games

Congratulations to Sue Fisher and Patricia Campbell, from Mana Squash Club as well as Julie Geange and Sean Mahoney from Island Bay Squash Club on their recent placings at the 2021 New Zealand Masters Games in Whanganui.



Results:

Julie Geange: Gold Medal for the 2nd consecutive year. Back-to-Back Champion in her Division.

Sean Mahoney: Gold Medal for his Division plus Best Dressed.

Sue Fisher: Gold Medal for

winning her Division.

Patricia Campbell: Silver Medal after a great game with her club buddy Sue Fisher.

These guys are regulars at this event so if you are keen to join them next time, or even just hear their on-and off-court battle stories, be sure to reach out to them.



2021 Rochelle Hobbs Memorial PSA Tournament

Congratulations to Evan Williams of Hutt City for fending off the best that Auckland and the Waikato could throw at him in lifting the Rochelle Gibbs Henderson Open - a PSA Challenger tournament for which valuable world ranking points were at stake.

Despite turning out in Mooloo colours these days, SW is also cheekily claiming another win for Wellington through Emma Millar's title in the Women's comp, her being a good Kapiti lass and all...Well done Emma.

Pictured with Emma and Evan is Diane Tregidga, mother of Rochelle Hobbs.

Photo credit: Henderson Squash Club.



Wellington Development Squads

We recently announced the 2021 Junior and Senior Squads. Wasting no time, the squads went into camp on 31 January, the first of 10 for the 2021 season.

This year there is a great mix of new and familiar names across all age groups representing 12 Wellington clubs.

Congratulations to the following players:

Junior Girls

Claudia Hawkes – Red Star
Georgie Gibbs – Kāpiti
Hannah du Toit – Thorndon
Holly Thomas – Hutt City
Kyra Wyeth – Red Star
Mackenzie Tait – Masterton
Maiden-Lee Coe – Mana
Molly Hawkins – Hutt City
Sophia DeNardi-Gonzales – Hutt City

Junior Boys

Bobby Stannard – Island Bay
Cass Attree – Mana
Declan Prentice – Ōtaki
Eamonn Gannon – Mana
Istvan Mills Szabo – Island Bay
Jack Yeo – Island Bay
Mark Steventon – Martinborough
Oliver Dunbar – Tawa
Otis Brown – Island Bay
Riley Priest – Upper Hutt
Shay Gannon – Mana
Theo Gannon - Mana

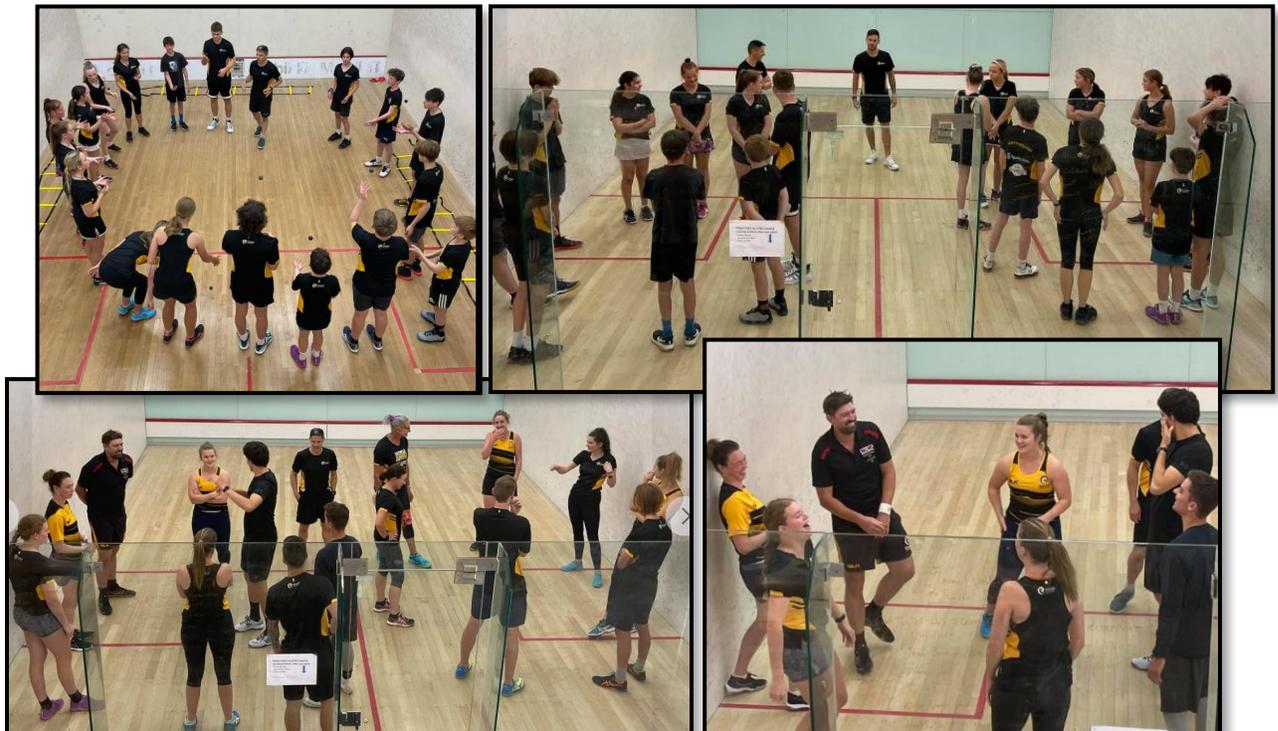
Senior Ladies

Abby Wotten - Tawa
Debbie Dunbar – Tawa
Ellen Verry – Tawa
Emma Brown – Hutt City
Emma Conaghan – Upper Hutt
Gemma Gee – Hutt City
Hannah Grimmett – Ōtaki
Jessie-Rose Ward-Thomas – Tawa
Samantha Douglas – Hutt City

Senior Males

Campbell Webster – Hutt City
Duncan Smeaton – Tawa
Evan Williams – Hutt City
James Thompson – Khandallah
Jason Canning – Hutt City
Jonathan Barnett – Hutt City
Kayne Espinosa – Hutt City
Sam Atkins – Thorndon
Sam George – Island Bay
Scott Galloway – Hutt City

Here are a few shots of them working on developing a positive squad culture to set the scene for a successful year.



GENERAL NEWS AND UPDATES

Pathway to District Referee Programme

Did you catch the 'Did you know' referee series shared by Squash New Zealand over the holiday season? It was great to see clarification on some of the most contentious calls we're faced with when refereeing squash matches.

Squash Wellington has also launched a District programme that aims to uplift our District capability and capacity in the referee space. Did you know we only have one current District referee and one National referee in Wellington?

You could be next!

The programme provides those budding referees an opportunity to lift their capability and confidence in preparation for tournaments and interclub by working with like-minded players under the guidance of our District Referee Brett Simon.

While the objective is to see more players gain District Referee accreditation, it is also a great opportunity for anyone wanting to learn more about the game through the referee lens.

To sign up email me at brett.squash@outlook.co.nz in the first instance.

Brett Simôn

Masters Update

Late last year a call went out from SW to bring together a Masters Representative group to explore opportunities to grow our Masters offerings in Wellington as well as review the Masters Representative team selection criteria, aiming to;

- provide more competition for our master's population – to encourage participation.
- ensure a consistent, fair and transparent criteria and process was put in place to ensure all eligible players had an opportunity to participate in inter-district events.

A group was formed – thanks all! - which worked quickly and thoroughly to generate and evaluate various options. It put up a report to the Squash Wellington Board with the following recommendations:

SW Masters Working Group

Form a volunteer group to drive our masters' participation programme, act as the conduit between the Masters population and SW and share club feedback on master's issues with the SW Board.

A working group of volunteers was endorsed by the Board in its January 2021 Board meeting as follows:

- Bryan Smith – Chair / SW Masters Convenor
- Louise Sinclair – Secretary
- Darin Galliers – Working Group Member

These members are often spotted at tournaments so don't be shy in introducing yourself and having a yarn.

Masters Club Representative

Each club should provide a rep on Masters issues to be a contact for the District Manager on day-to-day issues

A call has gone out via email from the District Manager to all clubs. We're still looking for more people so if you are interested, please contact your Club Captain/Manager.

From this group, additional SW Masters Working Group members will be sought, so if you're interested in joining that Group, please put your hand up to be your club representative.

Masters Interclub – New format

Re-format Masters Interclub to make it more attractive.

Late last year SW had over 50 Masters from across Wellington trial a new interclub format and it was a huge success! We'll now incorporate this format into the 2021 Interclub.

Masters Interclub has traditionally been held on a Wednesday with dwindling participation numbers in recent years. This year we'll hold Masters on a Monday night in response to customer feedback! The rules are the same as normal Interclub with the following exceptions:

- Teams will be of mixed gender (i.e., male and Female) - where possible.
- B&C grades MAY be merged depending on numbers.
- There will be NO supper except for the final round to which every player will make a small cash contribution.
- Subs cannot be more than 200 points higher than the player he/she is replacing.
- Each grade is played together in the same club every week, with a different club each week (where possible, some clubs may host more than 1 round)



Huge shout to Darin (Radar) Galliers who led this initiative and all the Masters that took part in the trial run last year. Here they are socialising after the finals night.

Wrapping up the Masters update we have a couple more participation initiatives that will be launched soon, one being a Masters of Masters series so watch this space!

If you have any questions relating to the master's programme feel free to contact me, your SW Masters Convenor, at bryan.smith@dragonfiremgmt.co.nz

Bryan Smith

Player Survey 2020

Late last year we sent a survey seeking feedback from our community and we had a fantastic response rate, thank you.

The survey responses have helped us formulate our annual plan for the coming year and we are working on summarising the feedback and sharing key themes with you next time.



COMING SOON

Squash Your Way

A squash promotional drive aimed at attracting new people to Squash.

Clubs should have received the information pack on how to get involved. Look out for ways you can help your Club welcome newbies within your communities.



Squash Your Way

Squash Wellington Annual General Meeting

Squash Wellington invites all squash clubs and members to attend its Annual General Meeting on Monday 22 March at Tawa Squash Club, 67 Main Road, Tawa.

Please contact Willie Bicknell, District Manager if you have any questions (william@squashwellington.org.nz)

Sponsorship Opportunities

With several new events hitting our calendar this year SW will have several sponsorship opportunities available to any businesses. This could be in the form of sponsoring events, SW initiatives (such as the squads) or merchandise.

More information on how you can get involved will be coming, but don't wait for that if you already have a thought on how you can tie your interests in with SW's activities: please contact Willie Bicknell to discuss at william@squashwellington.org.nz.

Tournaments

March

- 05-07 March Women's Squash Open at Tawa
- 11-13 March Island Bay B & Below
- 14 March HEAD 9HUNDY and Below at Mana Squash Club
- 19-20 March Tawa B & Below
- 21 March HEAD Womens 800 series at Thorndon Squash Club
- 26-28 March Wainuiomata Open

April

- 03 April Island Bay Easter One Dayer
- 09 -10 April Upper Hutt B & Below
- 09 -10 April Wairarapa Masters
- 11 April HEAD 9HUNDY and Below at Red Star
- 16 -17 April Thorndon Open
- 18 April HEAD Womens 800 series at Martinborough
- 23-24 April Masterton Open
- 30-01 Apr/May Kapiti Open

The Wrap

We have a full calendar with lots of events coming to Wellington this year, so 2021 is set to be one of our best yet. Our events cannot be possible without our amazing volunteer base spread across all our clubs.

The final shout out to all our volunteers who do so much across our District to welcome new players and keep the lights on.

Thanks for tuning in and we look forward to bringing you more on what's happening in the Best Little Capital in the World.

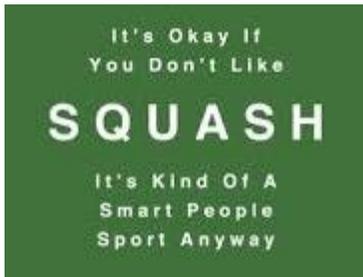
- Squash Wellington



Next Edition

News item deadline: Monday 22nd March

Publish date: Friday 26th March



#justsaying 😊