

From the Chair

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

A fantastic start to the season with four club tournaments held, all over subscribed as well. A great sign of what's to come this year.

We also celebrated International Women's Day on the 8th of March and as per the past three years Tawa Squash hosted their annual Women's Open to coincide with this. A tournament that grows from strength-to-strength year on year with 2021 being the biggest yet with nine draws, first ever! Seventy-two (72) competitors from across all our clubs and some as far as Waitara in the New Plymouth.

Congratulations to all the competitors, winners, and the Tawa team for another well-run tournament. A special mention to Louise Sinclair for organising the amazing event and all your helpers that made it a huge success. And let's not forget the new Open Champion Emma Brown from Hutt City.

During March we also welcomed Dame Susan Devoy to Wellington, temporarily. Dame Susan had spent many months commuting between her home in Tauranga to Wellington, overseeing the rejuvenation of Club K including working very closely with Wellington City Council.

Welcome to Wellington Dame Susan and thank you for your dedication in driving media, local and central government to get on board with the army of volunteers from the "Save Club K" group.

Have a fantastic April and travel safe if you are heading away over the long weekend.

I'm heading away with a group of 21 to the Hawkes Bay Easter Open so if you are in the area pop in. Send us some pics.

Ann Smith

In the SWing

Issue two: March 2021

HEAD Women's 800 series underway

We had a fabulous turnout with 28 women attending the first Women's HEAD 800 tournament of 2021 at Thorndon Tennis & Squash Club. Great fun was had along with amazing squash!

If you are new to tournament play and want to give it a go in a low-key and supportive environment, check out the next one in Martinborough on 18 April (find it on iSquash soon or speak with your club captain).



Big shout out to Shanti Spendiff for her great coordination.

HEAD 9hundy and below Junior series

First Head 900 tourney for the year done and dusted! 30 kids from all over Wellington participated, including many new faces. ☺Thanks to Stu Demler and Mana Squash club for hosting and all the parents that helped. Here are a few snaps of the activities.



Mana Summer Series

Another successful Mana Mischief Summer League recently concluded. Here's an example of a typical night's action. Well done to all the players who braved the humidity of those sticky summer nights keeping themselves sharp and ready to hit the tournament season hard.



By the numbers

5	Seasons running
84	Participants (from across the district)
9	Rounds
185	Matches
\$1,850	Funds raised from entry fees

The funds raised will help our juniors representing Wellington & Mana travel to National events around the country. Thanks to Nick Attree and his crew for doing the draws and being great hosts. The good news is that next edition is only 9 months away – stay out of mischief until December!

FIRST 2021 REFEREE EVENING HELD AT MANA SQUASH CLUB



The second limb of our Annual plan is on-court skill development and that includes supporting referee development. While we mentioned in the last edition that SW is keen to develop district referees, we also want at least 60% of grading list players achieving their club referee status. With new players coming onto the grading list all the time, we need to keep on top of club referee training. Mana was the first club to put its hand up this year for a Refereeing Night on 24 February, open to all district players. Fantastic discussions took place on the old chestnuts: distinguishing between lets, strokes and no lets and digressed into demystifying the rules on turning on the ball, right terminology (not up v down) and much more.

Thanks to Mana Squash Club for hosting and Brett Simon, District Referee for facilitating the evening. It's our goal that no new player is put off by the rules, so if your club can host one of these, please get in touch by contacting william@squashwellington.org.nz or brett.squash@outlook.co.nz

Masters Update

TOTALFLOW Plumbing Masters of Masters (MoM) Series

All Masters players should have received the communications around the MoM series by now via club Masters representative, and judging by the responses I have had it has certainly got a lot of people interested.

The latest big news around the MoM series is the announcement (BOOM BOOM!) of our major sponsor: TOTALFLOW Plumbing of Tawa. A huge thanks to TOTALFLOW's owner Richie Hoare for his massive support for the series which is greatly appreciated. I am sure you will all give him a pat on the back as thanks for his support..."you know" 😊 Richie's usually very shy but he seems confident he'll win all the sponsorship back so please step up, enter the events and force him part with his cash :)



Progress on bespoke MoM men's and women's trophies is underway. A big thank you to Chris and Louise Sinclair for their generous donation of these trophies. We will showcase these one-off, hand-made artisanal trophies when completed. Having seen their craftsmanship before, they are sure to be stunning!

You can purchase the official Masters of Masters Series range of merch via clubcapt.printmighty.co.nz. Prices range from \$35 - \$65.

Masters Representative Selection Policy – Click [Here](#)

Masters players should also have seen the 2021 Masters Selection Policy sent out recently; it is great to have got this refreshed and finalised. Our apologies for the delay. Feedback on its content thus far seems to be incredibly positive, with 5 people having already expressed their interest. A reminder to email me, your masters convenor, by 15th April 2021 to express your interest.

Masters Interclub

Masters interclub kicked off with passion and gusto a couple of weeks ago. It is great to see both camaraderie and competitive spirit at the clubs hosting each round. Thus far the C grade lead is being held by Island Bay and the D grade lead is shared between Hutt City and Tawa. Another big thanks to Chris and Louise Sinclair who are donating Masters Interclub shields to the winning club teams.

Masters Tournaments

Ewes are all welcome to our first Masters tournament of 2021 (and first one of the MoM series), the Golden Beers held where else but the Masterton Squash Club on 9-10 April. Make sure you register for it on iSquash early, as it'll be rammed. (*Sigh. We're known for our boutique wineries too, you know – Ed*). If you need another incentive to spend a night or two in good squash company in the beautiful Wairarapa, remember that this round is double points for playing (i.e. 10 instead of the normal 5). I look forward to seeing you there!

Keep on squashing!

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

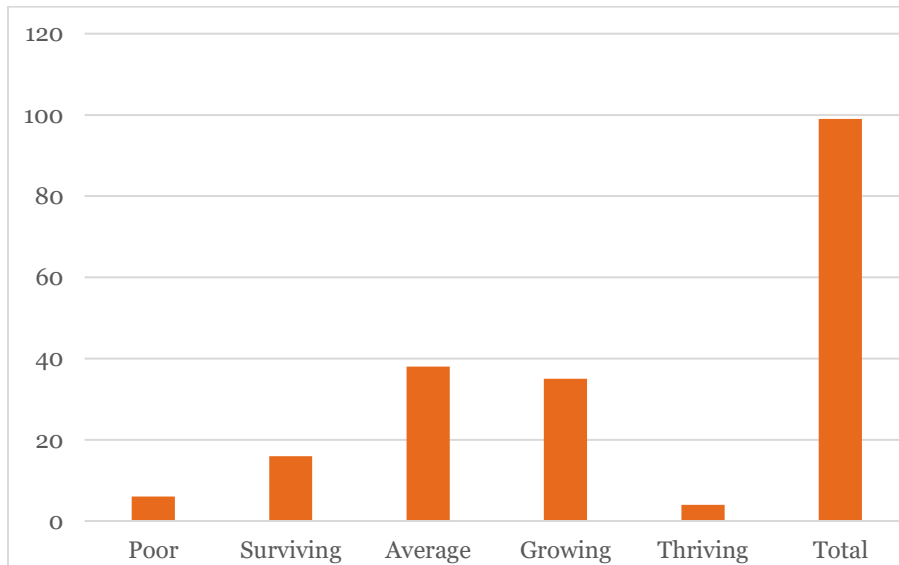
www.squashwellington.org.nz

Player Survey 2020

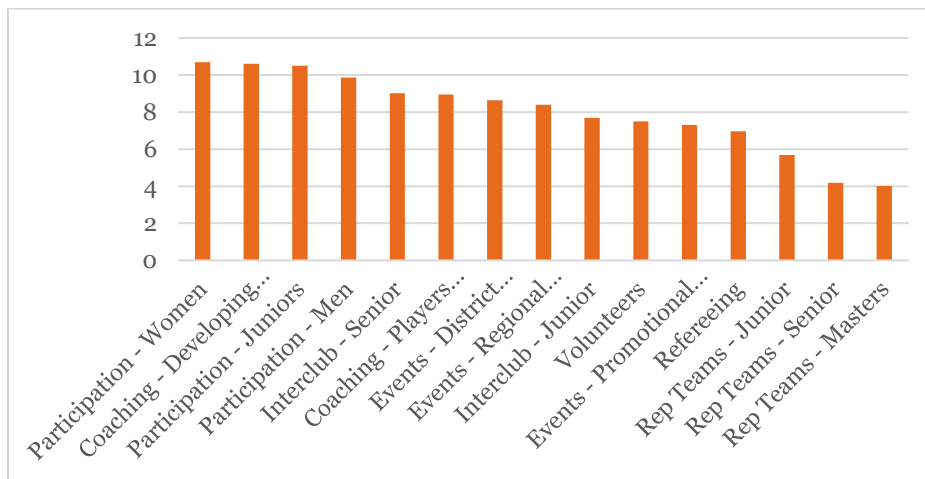
Late 2020, SW conducted a survey of our Wellington squash community as a follow-up to the 2016 survey seeking feedback on all things squash. We received 99 responses, which provided invaluable insights that we've used to guide our planning. Thanks to all of you who completed it.

The survey responses, along with Club Hui feedback have helped the SW Board formulate its annual plan for the 2021 season. Below is a snapshot of some of the survey results.

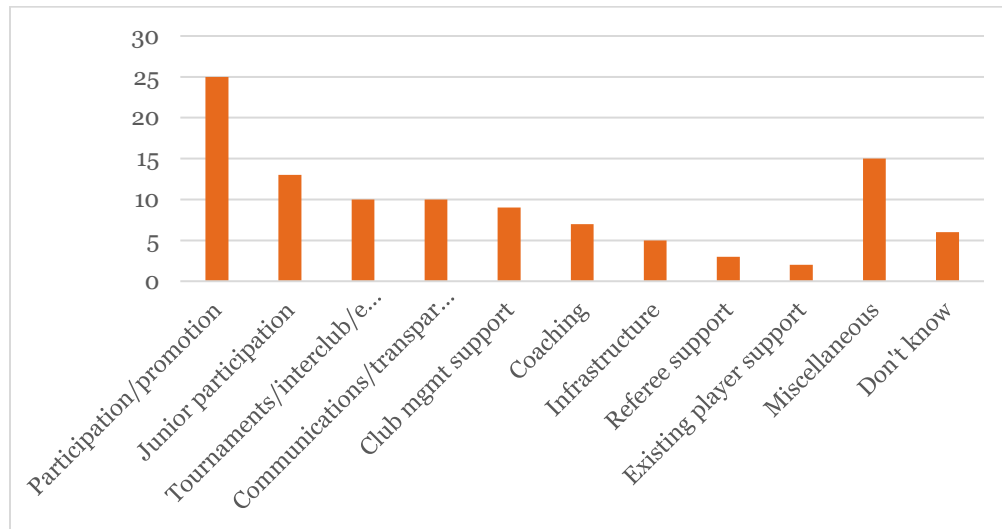
We asked **how you rate the health of Squash in the Wellington region**



We asked what you think the top priorities for Squash Wellington should be



We asked what you like SW to do for you/your club



The full results and comments of the survey can be found on our website [Here](#)

We heard that we need to focus on participation and growing numbers at all levels and we need to help/lead the promotion of Squash in Wellington. You also want Squash Wellington to be a conduit between clubs to share ideas, trade services and collaborate with one another to help grow our sport and helps clubs/volunteers share the load.

Below is an overview of areas we are actioning your feedback:

Theme	Summary	Action / Strategic Area
Club Management	Help manage clubs more efficiently through support resources such as templates, sharing what works, funding options, membership drive.	Sustainability We'll be revising our website to ensure we have a 'shop window' to promote squash and have easily accessible web resources that meet club needs.
Tournaments/ Interclub/Events	Mix up interclub, encourage more tournaments, run more competitions	Participation & Promotion Running more tournaments may be a challenge given our calendar is already at full capacity however we will continue to look at ways to refine what we already offer. One example of doing this is through the Masters Interclub and Masters of Masters series. The latter has resulted in more Masters tournaments being added to the calendar.
Participation/ Promotion	Overwhelming response in this space. What was especially evident were people want to see squash promoted more at a district and club level. Assist with growing members and assisting by providing participation initiatives.	Participation & Promotion We recently launched a 3-month Squash Promotional campaign, Squash Your Way aimed at attracting new people to squash. We have had engagement with over 13,000 people and 95 potential players signing up across our district. Information on the details of promotion and the ads can be found on our website https://squashwellington.org.nz/squash-your-way/ We've also increased our Social media presence by over 220 Followers in less than 9 months. This is a result of increasing our activity via social media through sharing information and events happening within our district.

TRADES AND SERVICES PANEL

At our hui last year, several clubs told us they were having trouble getting hold of tradies for work around their clubs, meaning that planned upgrades were delayed. The suggestion was raised that Squash Wellington keeps a reference list of tradies and service providers drawn from our own membership. So here goes!



What's in it for you?

Clubs will get quicker access to trade and service providers and have greater confidence that the provider understands the nature of the premises.

Squash operations and businesses get free exposure to the squash community.

If the businesses on the panel find that being on it is worth their while, they're encouraged to give back to Squash Wellington by talking to us about sponsorship opportunities!

Eligibility

To be eligible for entry onto the panel, you or your business must-

- carry out a trade or service used by squash clubs (not simply used by individual members in their personal or work life);
- have at least one owner or worker who is a Wellington squash club member; and
- be prepared to give scheduling priority to our member clubs.

You do not need to offer a discount.

What you need to do

Drop our District Manager (William@squashwellington.org.nz) details of the following:

- Business name
- Business logo (optional)
- Type of trade or service offered
- Name and club of the owner or worker with a squash connection
- Brief reference from a named officer of a squash club you have carried out some work for before (preferable but not essential)
- Contact details for the business
- Areas you are prepared to cover:
 - Wairarapa
 - Kapiti

- Hutt Valley and Wainuiomata
- Wellington CBD and suburbs
- All

What we will do

We will set up a table on the website, make sure it is easily found and put links to it on social media and in this newsletter when it is available. We only need one entry to get it started and will add entries as they come in. Note that we reserve the right to remove entries at our discretion.

The legal stuff

You must be comfortable in all information you supply being published on the SW website.

By including the name of a person or business on its trade and skills panel, Squash Wellington makes no express or implied warranty that the person or business holds statutory qualifications for the services offered nor any express or implied warranties about the quality of the services. Published references from squash clubs are a guide to the scope and skill of the provider only.

Clubs are advised to discuss the qualifications required for the job with the person or business in question and if in doubt, check the online registers of the relevant trade registration bodies.

Sponsorship

Gary Bedford (Kapiti Squash Club) has bought Speedy Signs and offers 20% discount to SW squash clubs for all tins, club signage and sponsor boards. He also own EmbroidMe Kapiti and can source, print and embroider team uniforms from t shirts and shorts to hoodies and sports bags. Gary can be contacted on gary.kp@speedysigns.co.nz or call 027 303 6466.

As you will have seen TOTALFLOW Plumbing is our sponsor for our Masters series. We have several sponsorship opportunities available to any businesses. This could be in the form of sponsoring events, SW initiatives (such as the squads), media channels 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

April

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

AGM

Tawa Squash Club hosted the 2021 SW AGM on Monday 22 March; many thanks Tawa. There was a great turnout of members from across the district, who heard a review of 2020, learnt of plans for 2021 and had an opportunity to comment on and question district activities in a constructive way. Ann Smith (Hutt City) and Brad Watts (Thorndon) were re-elected to the Board after completing their terms. There remains a vacancy on the board so please get in contact with the district manager on William@squashwellington.org.nz if you are interested in governing our sport in the world's coolest squash capital.

Squash Wellington

Next Edition

News item deadline: Monday 26th April

Publish date: Friday 30th April



#justsaying 😊