



SQUASH
WELLINGTON

TRY IT.

PLAY IT.

LOVE IT.

**ANNUAL CHAIR
& DM REPORT
2019**

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CHAIRS REPORT

2019 In Review

On behalf of the Squash Wellington Board it is a privilege to present the Chairs Annual report. The board developed a clear plan for the 2019 season by way of the Annual Plan with a supporting budget to give clear objectives and key actions for strategic outcomes including:

- Increasing participation
- Improving the coaching resources
- Improving the overall standard of district events
- Improving communications & organisational capability

There have been many highlights over the last 12 months including:

Superchamps - Our Premier Competition for the season had a good showing of participants as always with clubs around the district battling it out for the top spots in each grade. A special thanks to the host clubs that take charge and continue to lift the standard of our district events

Representative Squads - Our squads continue with strength in the Juniors & Seniors, we have to give thanks to our coaching & management staff that assist in the buildup and during the events. It is great to see the capability of the younger players improving week to week and the Wellington spirit is strong and positive

Women's 800 Series - This series continues to show strength in numbers and enhance the attractiveness of the sport to our female players, this has been a real weakness in the past and it is great to see key individuals driving the participation and engagement in our game at this level.

Hutt City Squash - A real highlight of 2019 was welcoming Hutt City Squash into the Squash Wellington family; it is always very fortunate to have a new facility built which provides the capability to host national events with ease and grow the squash numbers in the Hutt region. I expect the growth in the Hutt to continue.

There are a few learnings to take from this year and we can certainly continue to build on areas we have been unable to fully achieve. However, I am proud to say that the work carried out to date continues to grow the sport for participants and those newly welcomed to a squash court in our district.

Squash NZ Collaboration

Squash Wellington has continued to align with Squash NZ by way of Chair Forums and Operationally through the District Manager. There is still some work required to ensure that outcomes between the two bodies align however the two Chairs having been working closely to ensure that we meet the needs of our stakeholders moving forward.

Squash Wellington Looking Forward

Squash Wellington have taken a more direct customer approach this year and identify two key objectives to target growth & participation and to look at ways we can be more sustainable with volunteers & clubs

Our Annual Plan sets in place the key actions we will look to deliver in the coming year:

- Participation Initiatives for new members
- Sustainable funding (Grant Contractor)
- District wide referee development (Funded rules)
- World Squash Day District Wide Promotion

As you can see there are several changes that have been proposed this year, but our core focus will be to encourage participation & growth from outside the current catchment of players and lift the capability of our current players to continue to strive

With additional investment comes a cost of delivery for our new initiatives and offerings which does also require an increase in SEMs to fund delivery without dipping into cash reserves which due to the uncertainty of grant funding may still have to happen at some stage

2020 SEM Prices

- Senior \$50.85 excl GST
- Junior \$25.42 excl GST

The reasons why we are here is something I reiterate within volunteer sporting organisations whether it be a club or a board. We are here for the good of our sport and looking at positive ways we can continue to grow the squash bug as it were. One of the key points that I can see quite clearly is that as squash players we are all vocal and passionate about where we should be heading and I am keen to see that passion channeled into how you can help assist without being a member of a board or committee. We need to look at roles that sit outside and can be utilised in a better way here at Squash Wellington.

WRAPPING UP

The 2019 season has welcomed several new boards members & have seen the departing of existing. Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the contributions from both Matey Galloway & Barry Ryan for their passion and dedication to the sport in their respective areas during their board tenures. My next acknowledgment must go out to all the squash volunteers who work tirelessly within their clubs not only to better their processes or outcomes to provide a better offering to their fellow club players.

A special thanks to the Squash Wellington board for their assistance throughout the past year, hard decisions are often the difficult ones to make a call on and I think this year we have had a few of those. We continue to work together as a team and build on one another's strengths to project the game of squash forward because we are passionate and care about the future of our sport.

A special thanks to our District Manager, Willie Bicknell, you go above and beyond your role because of your passion for the sport to grow and excel. You are never scared to provide controversial advice or identify solutions may upset the applecart. My hope is that our board and future boards continue to leverage off your experience and assist in growing your capability for the betterment of the sport in the region.

Looking forward I know times are becoming increasingly uncertain with regards to funding however I know that squash players are resilient and will continue to do that best they can. Continue to play squash and enjoy it and hopefully we will all meet at a tournament sometime soon.

Brad Watts
Chair
Squash Wellington

DISTRICT MANAGERS REPORT

The year started with a new club being opened, Hutt City Squash. The merger of Fraser Park and Mitchell Park Squash club, into one new 6 court complex within the Ricoh Fraser Park Sportville facility. The club opened in late February with 201 members between the 2 clubs and by year end had growth of 47 new members. This was an outstanding first year and I look forward to working with the club on broadening the events and exposure of our sport in 2020.

The Board and I developed an Annual Plan and budget, to give Squash Wellington Board a clear direction of what is needed to be achieved and by when.

Below is an overview of how we achieved in 2019:

Green success - Orange work in progress - Red not achieved.



2019 ANNUAL PLAN UPDATE

Participation	National Success	Facilities	Finances	Unified Delivery
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interclub – Survey sent to all members, 206 completed. Structure in place for 2020 • Superchamps – 40 teams. Hutt City B women runner-up • J Grade series - 51 players • Women's series - 36 women • Referees – Club rules sessions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals – Evan Williams NZ Mens team • Junior Squad - Split between Wairarapa and City Squads. With both squads getting together 4 times through the year. • Teams 5th senior men, 8th senior women, 3rd junior boys, 7th junior girls, 8th Masters team • Superchamps - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HV Sportville - Opened February 2019. End of year growth of 47 members • SW Website - Ongoing • Facilities review – Focus on City clubs (Clubk and Thorndon) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funder relationships - ongoing • Investigate other funding options – Appointed Matter of Sport • Club support – financial planning - ongoing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club dialogue – SGM, Club captains forum, interclub survey • Governance - policies to be updated

Governance

At the last AGM in March 2019, our clubs adopted the final version of the 2019 constitution. Thanks again to all our clubs, the Board of Squash Wellington and John Kirkup for leading us through the process.

Driving Participation

Most clubs by the end of 2019 had some form of Junior programme 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 programmes. 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. There were only 4 Sundays put aside with double headers planned for each day. However, 2 rounds were cancelled. Numbers were significantly down, however the 20 kids that participated enjoyed their experience. Island Bay took away the 2019 Junior interclub trophy. A great reward to Island Bay and their families for the work they have put into their junior programme over the past 3 years. One learning was that many kids and parents would prefer more than one game (positive from 9hundy series) on the day. We will look to extend the 9hundy series in 2020 and allow a smaller window for Junior interclub.

HEAD Women's 800 (points and below) series - We continued the adult womens progame launched in 2018. Hosts were, Kapiti, Martinborough, Upper Hutt, Khandallah, Thorndon and Wainuiomata. Special thanks to all those clubs that have driven the initiative and providing a warm, welcome and friendly atmosphere for all participants. Lastly thanks to Ann Smith who drove and led the series. Fantastic effort across the district.

The next step is to look at how we can transition beginner players into current competition formats including interclub, superchamps & tournaments.

Thanks once again to the team at HEAD for sponsoring our Junior and Women's programmes. Your relationship is valued, and we are excited to continue working together.

Competitive Squash

Interclub - Autumn, Winter, and Spring competitions were run again this year. There was a general drop in numbers playing interclub throughout the year, mainly in the Men's and Mixed Divisions, although Spring Interclub continues to buck the trend, with an overall increase across the board on last year.

We are currently looking at ways to minimise the impact of Superchamps on Interclub, as it impacts both the Winter (for district) and Spring (for National) competitions.

Our experiment of only having four teams in a division for Women's Winter Interclub last year had mixed results. While we had marginally more teams entered, we had to have a six-team division, not

only because the teams were seeded so close, but also to avoid two divisions with byes (only three teams per division). It is hoped that 2020 will see an increase in women's participation.

Following several adverse comments about the state of Interclub, we held a survey of all Full financial members, apart from one or two minor gripes, the majority endorsed the package we provide to the clubs. The three main complaints were travel, length of the evening and suppers, they were outweighed by positive feedback especially commending the social benefits.

A club captains' meeting was held 8 October at Upper Hutt to discuss and perhaps solve those and any other issues. The highlight being encourage communication and collaboration between clubs and players.

I would like to thank Tony Nelson for his time and commitment on administering interclub over the past 6 years. You really have made a difference! I look forward to working with Nicola Ward Thomas in 2020

The following is a comparison of the teams entered in each of the three competitions over the past three seasons and would shows trend for squash becoming a year round sport as the Spring and Autumn competitions expand whilst Winter contracts

YEAR	Autumn			Winter			Spring		
	17	18	19	17	18	19	17	18	19
Men's Open	36	48	39	52	56	48	39	41	44
Women's Open	17	16	19	19	21	22	18	21	21
Masters			3	6	12	4	7	6	4
TOTALS	63	70	61	83	83	74	63	67	69



Trophy Winner:

Kapiti Squash club (by way of winning three divisions
with fewer teams than Hutt City)

Superchamps - Once again proved to be the #1 competition in the land. We had 40 teams overall.

Breakdown of the numbers:

	Men	Women
B	4	3
C	7	6
D	6	5
E	8	1

We had teams compete in all the National finals. On top of the Crombie Lockwood travel sponsorship, Squash Wellington also provided \$2400 worth of coaching to all 8 teams heading to the national finals. Our best finishing team was Hutt City B grade ladies team.

National Competition

Senior nationals at Christchurch Squash Club (Opened July 2019)

There were 9 Men's districts and 9 Women's Districts.

For the women It was a tough draw with both teams coming up against some impressive line-ups.

Our Women's team finished 8th and the Men 4th.

This year's event didn't have much hype or interest around it. The 2020 event is being held at Hutt City Squash next year and we are wanting to raise the bar.

Junior Team at National Squash Centre

Overall - This year things ran smoothly with the team arriving on the Wednesday evening and staying a full week to play the individuals, followed by the inter-District teams event.

Results in the teams - Boys seeded 4th came 3rd and Girls seeded 8th came 7th. Always pleasing to see the kids come home having made friendships which drives them to make plans for their squash in 2020.

Masters at Timaru Squash Club

Unfortunately, the team had a stressful start with disrupted travel due to flight cancellations.

The individual tournament was played over 4 different clubs due to the high number of entries - Geraldine, Temuka, Pleasant Point and Timaru. Unfortunately, this meant that players were not able to support their team mates. However, the tournament controllers did an amazing job running the tournament which included the Australians.

Our stand out player was Paul Railton who had a couple of epic battles. He was seeded 5th in a 16 draw and played in the final losing in 4. Debbie Dunbar also had another good year which included representing NZ in the Trans-Tasman series, a wonderful accolade.

Finance

Financially it has been a satisfactory year, with a surplus of \$11,726. We had a deficit of \$10,000 due to the \$20,000 Sportsville pledge in 2018. This year's surplus, has effectively returned our financial position back to 2017 position. Income from 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, NZ Racing Board 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 Great

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 aplenty (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 programmes, 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 in the challenging times for sport. I would like to thank Ann Smith, Brett Simon, Catharine Sayer, Barry Ryan and Brad Watts 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

William Bicknell
District Manager
Squash Wellington