
In the **SW**ing

From the Chair

Welcome to the third edition of the SW monthly newsletter.

This month Squash Wellington welcomed Greg Grant from Khandallah Tennis and Squash and Malcolm Thomas from Tawa Squash onto the SW Board. Both Greg and Malcolm have jumped straight in and attended their first Board meeting recently. Welcome to the team Greg and Malcolm!

I would also like to acknowledge out outgoing Board members, Brett Simon whose 3-year tenure ended at our AGM and Darin Galliers and Bradley Watts who recently made the decision to step down as Board members. All three continue to play active roles within their clubs so you will continue to see them around the circuit. Thank you for your service to SW.

You may have seen the media spotlight on Club Kelburn recently thanks to the great work by the dedicated team of volunteers lead by Dame Susan Devoy. A couple of weeks ago Club Kelburn held a relaunch event with local and central government representatives in attendance including the Dept Prime Minister Grant Robertson.

It's great to see squash in Wellington on a local and national scale. Club Kelburn is open for business!

Bring on May!

Ann Smith

Issue Three: April 2021

RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

New Zealand Doubles Championships

Congratulations to all the Wellington players who competed at the NZ Doubles Championship earlier in April and the NZ Junior Open this past weekend.

Special mentions to Evan Williams and his partner Kaitlyn Watts who became our NZ Mixed Doubles Champions as well as two-time Age Group (50+) NZ Double Champions Richie Hoare and Nita Mita.



Evan and Kaitlyn with RU's Abbie and Zac



Nick Mita and Richie Hoare

HEAD SERIES: Womens 800

Another fantastic turnout of 28 women attending the second Women's HEAD 800 tournament of 2021 at Martinborough Squash Club. Great fun was had along with amazing squash!



A great tournament to play for ladies new to squash or who want to give it a go in a low-key and supportive environment.

Next round is at **Kapiti 9th May** followed by 20 June at Mana and 8th August at Khandallah.

HEAD SERIES: 9Hundy Junior

Red Star had 36 juniors participate on Sunday 11th April. We're now up to 48 participating juniors after 2 rounds.

Khandallah play host on Sunday and have 44 registrations – outstanding!



Full list of participants and points table can be viewed [here](#).

Next rounds:

- 11th May, Khandallah
- 27th June, Island Bay
- 18th July, Kapiti
- 15th August, Hutt City



CLUB NEWS

Squash 101 @ Island Bay

It is a truth, universally acknowledged, that a single squash coach, having squandered his good fortune, must be in want of some buzzing new recruits.

And so, in Autumn 2019, Squash 101 was born at Island Bay.

Conceived by Jared Sullivan, Merv Mitchell, Mark Unwin and Myles Sayer and delivered by Jared, Merv and Mark, the programme involved weekly sessions over 5 weeks going through the basics in a semi-structured way with an emphasis on fun. Its buzzing new recruits fell into three main camps:

First, the uncoached recreational members who claimed to enjoy a regular “friendly” but really wanted to consistently get one over on their mates.

Second, a fair sprinkling of members’ partners with debilitating cases of FOMO.

Third, the local walk-ins whose cover story for wishing to emulate the athleticism, good looks and charm of Island Bay squashes was that they “needed a new challenge”. Curiously, most of this group were existing tennis members.

Needless to say, the infant was so bonny and bouncing that to Mark’s delight, old ladies were constantly trying to embrace it.

Not only were we shocked to see our baby thrive under this unusual parenting arrangement (*Ed – C’mon, it’s the 21st century!*), but 3 younger siblings rapidly followed. The club is presently in the midst of the fourth edition which was so

A poster for the 'Squash 101' program. It features a large squash racket leaning against a wall and a black squash ball on the floor. The text on the poster includes: 'Light-hearted and sociable, Squash 101 is ideal for casual players and newbies, regardless of age, gender or skill level. Enjoyable and challenging progressive sessions for a max of 8 players in total (first in first served)'. The title 'squash 101' is in large orange and black letters. Below it, a black box contains the text '5 week coaching programme for the adult beginner & non competitive player'. At the bottom, it says 'Starts 25th March' and 'Thursdays 7pm - 8.30pm'.

\$15 upfront for 5 weeks
for members

\$30 upfront for 5 weeks
for pay-to-play/
non members

To sign up or for more info
please email your name,
contact details and squash
experience/skill level to:
squash@islandbaytsc.org.nz



Coaches have 100 years of squash playing experience between them

over-subscribed that it's being run on both Thursdays and Sundays and has involved roping in Myles, Jason Farr and former Collegians legend Rosie Walsh as additional coaches.

Whatever the participants' motivations, the course caters for two skills levels: the casual hitters almost ready for in-house competition such as in our leagues (squash 201), hugely popular intra-club (squash 301) or even inter-club (squash 302) versus the absolute beginners who could do with some basics before venturing along to the also popular Club Night (squash 102). Needless to say, the coaches are willing to travel and negotiate franchise deals elsewhere, preferably in the sunny far north.

It's a brilliant entry pathway for new members, which we attribute to its low price point, racquet loan and use of social media, which draws in community members with no prior squash connection.

Reports of Rosie using a date with Jason as the carrot for landing the ball on the target are absolutely substantiated and owing to her coaching skills, Jason is booked up for several weeks now. Weeknights only, mind: tournaments are his priority at weekends, obviously.

Here are a few shots of the action. Sadly, video is unavailable of the newbies innocently replicating Mark's arthritic hip jerks on his side-shuffle warm-up routine: the footage is just a hot mess from the witness laughing so hard.



Merv 'The Swerve' Mitchell banishing all notions of Egyptian creativity, line and length being the order of the day



I've got one hand in my pocket and the other one is ghosting a straight drive



One of the groups with coaches Mark Unwin back row, 3rd from left, Jared Sullivan, front row 3rd from right and Merv Mitchell, front row extreme right

Thorndon ARDEX Open Update



The Thorndon Club was a great showcase of the club's hospitality and character. With a jam packed draw on the 3rd weekend in April, with 116 players competing for \$6,000 in prizes, sponsored by ARDEX New Zealand (<https://ardex.co.nz>).

There were plenty of spectators watching the tough matches (<https://thorndonclub.co.nz/tc/>). One of the biggest upsets of the tournament was Thorndon local Sam Atkins win over Matt Nation in the second round leading Sam to a spot in the finals.

Congratulations to Grace Hymers (ex-Red Star player now based in Canterbury), Women's Open Champion beating Gemma Gee from Upper Hutt. Luke Jones from Tararua took out the Men's Open beating Sam Atkins from Thorndon.

This was truly a showcase of squash players from both in and around the district getting out for one of the district's larger events of the season. Due to numbers and scheduling, some of the matches had to be played at Island Bay and Thorndon is extremely thankful for our neighbor's ongoing support. Special thanks to those that travelled from Ohakea & Whanganui for the event.



GENERAL NEWS AND UPDATES

Free Defibrillator Training

Do you have a defibrillator in your club (or workplace)? Do you know how to use it? Chances are you answered yes and no.

Did you know that Wellington Free Ambulance offer free CPR/Defib training? Well they do and they run free training and can do evenings throughout Wellington and Wairarapa. If this is something your club might be interested in making an evening out of make sure you sign up following the link below. Individuals can book also so get in there.

Thank you to Matt Green from Tawa Squash who found this gem for us to share.

Follow the [link](#) to find out more!



SW Inter-District Team Selectors

We are excited to announce this season's SW Inter-District Team Selectors. They will be busy over the next few months attending tournaments and training camps in preparation for team selection for the National events later in the year.

Please join us in congratulating the 2021 Squash Wellington Team Selectors.

Juniors

Gemma Gee
Jannah Wyeth
Johnno Tait
Ann Smith – SW Representative

Seniors

Jeanne Yells
Mark Millar
Paras Khanna
Ann Smith – SW Representative

Masters

Bryan Smith – Masters Convenor
Team Coach – To be confirmed
Team Manager – To be confirmed
Catharine Sayer – SW Representative

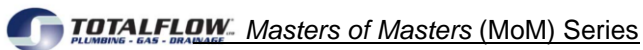


SW Squad Camp at Hutt City

We're also looking for expressions of interest for adult managers (one women & one man) to lead the off-court parts of the team logistics at the Junior nationals 8th-13th October. For more details please contact Willie Bicknell

william@squashwellington.org.nz

Masters Update



The first round of the series held at the Masterton Squash club between the 9-10th April was a resounding success. Thank you to Masterton Squash club for being amazing hosts (the food was delicious). There were heaps of extremely close games and solid results. I believe the Karaoke on the Saturday was also a lot of fun!

The leader board for the series is tight after the first round (as you would expect). All masters players will have seen the results published via their club reps already but for those interested the leader board is as follows:

Men 1st Equal:

Eamonn "Easy" Kelly
James Poskitt
Cory Spooner

Women 1st Equal:

Geri Brooking
Helen Gibbs
Rianna Rossouw
Amanda Woodmass



You can purchase the official Masters of Masters Series range of merch via the [link](#) - Prices range from \$35 - \$65.

www.squashwellington.org.nz

Wellington Masters Team for 2021:

We received 23 expressions of interest for the team, which is fantastic, thank you to all those players who responded. We now have a squad that we can select the team from later in the year.

Also, the EOI for the Team coach was sent out to all coaches and clubs in the region, the cut-off date for responses being today, 30th April. Once a coach is selected, we shall start planning some camps.

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

Masters Interclub

Autumn is nearly over and there have been some great results in both the C and D teams. Very competitive and fun games have been had.

For the finals on the 3rd May at Hutt City Squash Club, the teams are:

C Grade playing for,

1st & 2nd place - Island Bay Wrecks vs Hutt City 1
3rd & 4th place - Hutt City 2 vs Red Star
5th & 6th place - Khandallah vs Tawa

D Grade playing for,

1st & 2nd place - Hutt City vs Tawa 3
3rd and 4th place - Tawa 2 vs Red Star

All the best to all teams!

We will be running a survey to all Masters players on options for Masters Interclub after Winter, please give us your feedback when it arrives in your inbox (June-ish).

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

Like to party?

If you're a regular at the annual awards nights, good on you; you must have a very full pool room :). You'll also have noticed a few innovations at the Upper Hutt edition last year. SW is keen to give the end-to-end process a refresh. So for those of you who normally head straight back to the bar at the mention of the word "committee", here's one for you – a party planning group! SW is looking for volunteers to carry out a review of the annual rewards process including awards criteria and event and make recommendations for change.

Term of reference can be viewed [here](#)

If this is your thing, please contact Willie Bicknell william@squashwellington.org.nz by Monday 10th May. It also goes without saying that we'd love a sponsor for the event, so if this is one for your business, also let us know!



Roadie anyone?

Not only have our clubs been busy hosting tournaments, but we've also had loads of Welly players out and about across other districts in NZ.

Celebrating milestone birthdays in Nelson (Happy Birthday Gile), munching on Easter treats in Napier, cutting up shapes in the Taranaki and battling Surf City in Gisborne – our people have been busy. Check out some of our people on the road (and sea).



COMING SOON

Tournaments

May

- 2nd May HEAD 9HUNDY @ Khandallah
- 7th-9th May Tawa Open
- 7th-9th May Wainuiomata masters
- 9th May HEAD Women's 800 series @ Kapiti
- 14th -15th May Red Star Open
- 21st – 22nd May Mana Open
- 28th -29th May Hutt Valley Junior Open @ Hutt City Squash
- 28th-29th May Martinborough Open

Next Edition

News item deadline: Monday 24th May

Publish date: Friday 29th May.