

IN THE SWING

Squash Wellington Newsletter



WHAT A MONTH

From the Chair

As we go to print, we find ourselves back in lockdown. The silver lining is we have been here before, so it's been great to see everyone quickly take the appropriate actions to keep themselves and others safe. As expected, we've seen a few events postponed over the past week and with the announcement today we may see more to come.

Another silver lining is this break can also serve as a good time to give some of those niggles a proper rest.

Earlier this month we said farewell to Willie Bicknell. Willie joined SW over 10 years ago and has been the face of our district over that time.

We'd like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Willie's commitment to squash and our community, clubs and members. At the final HEAD 800 Series tournament at Khandallah earlier this month, we did manage to sneak in a small public acknowledgement despite him wanting to slip away quietly.

Thank you Willie for your years of service to our sport and community. We wish you success and happiness in your next adventure.

Ann Smith



CAPTION THIS!

SEND YOUR CAPTIONS TO
ADMIN@SQUASHWELLINGTON.ORG.NZ
WINNING CAPTION TO BE ANNOUNCED
IN THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE.

HEAD SERIES

The final rounds of the HEAD 800 Womens and HEAD 9HUNDY series took place this month. This year we achieved some of the highest registrations across both series - fantastic work from all the players and host clubs. Well done to all the players who turned up, even during some stormy cold wet days when getting out of the house was challenging. SW thanks the host clubs for their great hospitality. Massive congrats to our series winners:

HEAD 800 Womens series - Rebekah Anderson, Mana Squash Club

HEAD 9HUNDY Junior series – Eamon Gannon, Mana Squash Club.

A big shout out to our long-time sponsors of this series, HEAD NZ. Your support is invaluable, and prizes are always well received and appreciated. Thank you very much!



SW SQUAD CAMP HITS CLUB K

It's hard to believe how quickly the year has flown by. Our Junior and Senior squads went into their 8th Camp of the year in August and this month they had a change of scenery.

For many of our young bloods it was the first time they had stepped foot into Club K so a bit of a novelty to be in such a large complex. We may have even lost a couple at some point.

For the coach it was also a treat to be back at the place where he debuted in his very first competitive tournament on his 7th birthday.

"It has been a few years since I have been up there and it was really cool to see the place humming again. New additions and a bit of TLC have gone a long way - so many thanks to Susan, Travis and the team for having us". says Evan.

"The team spirit and culture continues to grow with each camp. Greater engagement and contributions in discussions, active participation and encouragement of each other and a real sense of belonging were all on show. It's been great to see our players grow in confidence, particularly our Juniors."

You can expect to hear more about the journey of this programme as we prepare a fuller report on it, including hearing directly from the players themselves.



MASTERS UPDATE

Masters Winter Interclub

After a challenging start to the season, all teams bought into the new mixed-club team concept. Our of the concept grew many new friendships and some great competition. We got a healthy mix of intense hard-out matches and some laugh-a-point fun games, just the sort of thing to ease the winter blues away :)

Congratulations to team Toru (Mike D, MJ, Conrad, Bryan) who pipped Rima (Sean Mulholland, Rex, Wayne, Sean) to get 1st place, very closely followed by Ono, Rua, Tahi and Wha.

Masters Interclub Survey

Thank you to all of you who participated in the survey. The results and consequences are summarised below:

- Masters Interclub will continue to be competitive i.e. grading points allocated
- Autumn, Winter and the new Summer season are the most preferred times of year for Masters Interclub; there's very little interest in a Spring Masters
- There will be a new Summer Interclub for Masters only. Given Covid-19 restriction levels at the moment, we may be able to start this a fraction earlier than planned if Spring does not go ahead
- Wednesday is the most preferred night for Autumn and Winter, with Tuesday the most favoured for Summer
- There's a strong preference for mixed gender teams (where fair)
- Most prefer club-specific teams, but also a high proportion who do not mind either way
- Scoring should (and will) stay at PAR15 (subject to any national/district level changes)
- There will be no supper for Masters interclub, but teams will be encouraged to stay as a team and have a social drink after ties have finished
- There is good interest for a doubles concept interclub for 2022, perhaps worth exploring for Spring.

Master of Masters Series

Due to Covid-19 you're likely to be aware of the date changes for the Kapiti Masters (now Nov 5-6th) and Wellington Masters (now Oct 1st-2nd). Their results will still count towards the series standings so if you couldn't originally play but now can, good news!



CLUB K - REGAN DAY - RAY WHITE REAL ESTATE TOURNAMENT

Congratulations to the team at Club K on running their first tournament at the centre for some years. The two days were packed with great games between beginners to seasoned players.

The theme of the weekend was fun with the tournament aimed at introducing newbies to a standard tournament format (and much more).

For some, refereeing and marking was completely new, so it was great to see the more experienced players pitching in to help and share tips as they learned the ropes.

Special thanks to Travis, Courtney, and Susan for all the hard work getting this up and running. Long may the tournaments continue!



SHE DOES IT AGAIN - MACKENZIE TAIT

For the second consecutive year Mackenzie Tait from Masterton Squash Club was selected in the NZ Secondary School Squash Team. Unfortunately for the second consecutive year, the planned trans-Tasman series with Australia is cancelled due to Covid travel restrictions.

This selection follows an outstanding few months for Mackenzie backing up her North and South Island U15 Runner Up and Champion placings, respectively. Not long after touching down from the South Island trip, Mackenzie was back on the road, leading her Wairarapa College team at the NZSS Championships. She even got the back page of the Wairarapa Times-Age for her efforts!

The picture below shows Mackenzie, front row extreme right, with all the Junior and Senior NZ Team members. Congratulations!



WORLD SQUASH DAY

This year we celebrate the 20th anniversary of WSD, an event that was formed in memory of squash players killed in the 9/11 attacks.

This year SNZ, Districts and Clubs will partner on WSD with Mental Health Foundation to raise awareness and funds for that worthy cause. Poor mental health impacts 1 in 5 Kiwis so here's another reason to get involved and help people in our squash community and communities we live in.

Has your club signed up?

It's easy to do and every club that signs up will get access to some great resources such as comms to club members, sponsors, activity ideas and images, so all you need to do is copy and paste. It's easy as.

It's not too late to sign up. Join other clubs across Wellington and the country to celebrate our sport and promote the Mental Health Foundation's 5 Ways to Wellbeing.



FIVE WAYS TO WELLBEING



INTRODUCE THESE FIVE SIMPLE STRATEGIES INTO YOUR LIFE AND YOU WILL FEEL THE BENEFITS.

Mental Health Foundation OF NEW ZEALAND
mauri tū, mauri ora
www.mentalhealth.org.nz



HE'S DONE IT! SUPERMAN WINS THE BRITISH OPEN

I think it's safe to say the community is still buzzing after that spectacular win earlier this week. Paul has been the hot topic all week and hopefully many more. Rightfully so: his extraordinary work ethic, commitment to his goals and sheer determination is nothing short of amazing.

Kiwi pride is an understatement and I'm sure we will see many more successful campaigns coming from Paul in the future. Is he inspiring any of our Wellington Juniors?



KEY CHANGES

As expected, some key events have been postponed to later dates due to the current covid restrictions.

Spring Interclub - this series has been cancelled

Senior Teams – 26-27 November

Oliver Sports: 29th – 31st October (3rd time lucky)

District event changes

Wellington Junior Open: 5-7 November

Wellington Masters: 01-03 October

District Club Captain Meeting - Tuesday 19 October

Venue & agenda to be confirmed



10 YEARS REPRESENTING NEW ZEALAND - EVAN WILLIAMS

Five time NZ world men's team representative Evan Williams was named for the 6th time in the New Zealand Men's team earlier this morning.

To represent your country once is a pretty awesome achievement but 6, that's magnificent!

His first appearance was in 2011 in Germany followed by 2013 in France, 2015 Kuwait/Egypt, 2017 back to France, 2019 USA and then this December he'll be heading away to Malaysia.

A constant figure in our team over this past decade is a testament to his exceptional work ethic and standards he holds of himself.

He's continuing to inspire the next generation and more, so warm congratulations Evan from Squash Wellington.

COMING SOON

Due to the current covid situation, September tournaments may change.

October

- Skillsoft Wellington Masters 01-03 October
- Sin City Open (Thorndon) 01-03 October
- New Zealand Masters (Tawa/Mana) 15 October
- Oliver Sport NZ Squash Championship 29-30 October

Save the date!



CLUB CAPTAINS' MEETING

To include:

- Interclub review
- 2022 Calendar
- Board update

Time and venue
to be confirmed

TUESDAY
19
OCTOBER