

In the **SW**ing

Squash Wellington Newsletter

THIS ONE'S FOR THE LADIES

Women's squash is alive and well in the Wellington District, as you will see in the following pages. From the return of the HEAD 800 series, to the inaugural Hutt City Women's Open. Three of our district's young sportswomen make waves at a national level, and one in particular receives recognition beyond the four walls of the squash court.

We have exciting news on the Masters front, and a fab feature article courtesy of SW chair Ann Smith, reporting on the hugely popular Wainuiomata Business House, where the welcoming warmth radiates from the words.

As the weather begins to cool, and the nights get darker, we find ourselves in open season; you just can't move for squash tournaments right now. Thank you for all of your participation and making our district its active and vibrant self.

Russell Henderson



Sponsors & Supporters



HOT OFF THE PRESS

THE DOMINION POST SPORT AND RECREATION AWARDS 2022

Presented by **Nuku Ora**

ANNOUNCING FINALISTS FOR THE SARA 2022

Earlier today the finalists for the SARA 2022 Awards were announced and we're thrilled to see two of our own named this year.

Congratulations to Maiden-Lee Coe and Matt Green!

Formerly known as the Sportsperson of the Year Awards, this prestigious event has been running for over 40 years, serving to acknowledge, promote, and celebrate the contribution that sport and recreation makes to the wider Wellington community.

The event is a formal dinner and night of celebration attended by Wellington's top sporting and physical activity achievers and local community heroes.

Maiden-Lee Coe - Emerging Sportswomen of the Year Award Finalist

Open to any female athlete who has excelled as an individual or in a team in one or more sports within the qualifying period, who has the greatest potential to be a future Supreme Award winner.

On hearing the news of her nomination Maiden-Lee said, *"I feel happy and surprised, it's not just me getting recognised it's the game as well"*.

Matt Green - Coach of the Year Finalist

A performance based award, this award recognises the achievements of a sports coach, who may have coached an individual athlete, sports team, club or organisation.

So dust off those frocks and suits and come join us to support our fellow squashies. [Tickets](#) are selling fast so get in quick!

Date: Tuesday 5th July 2022

Venue: TSB Bank Arena – 4 Queens Wharf

Time: 6.30pm – Pre dinner drinks

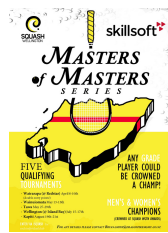
7.00pm – Awards ceremony and dinner begins

Dress: Formal



PARTICIPATION

SKILLSOFT MASTERS OF MASTERS SERIES



Squash Wellington is very proud to introduce Skillsoft as the title sponsor of the series for 2022, a huge thanks and shoutout to Kath and her team for the amazing support.

The series kicked off in earnest on the 8th April at the Wairarapa Masters held at Red Star. Although attendance was a low compared to last year (likely due to Covid) there were some epic games...and a few sore bodies afterwards!

Congratulations to Gary Aukett and Jeanne Yells for winning their respective Open finals.

The scoreboard after the first round are:

Women

1st place - 3 way tie between Margaret Anderson, Alissha Canning and Jeanne Yells

2nd= Following closely behind we have Michelle Burns, Diane Cardwell, Sam Hargreaves and Hinerau Morete

Men

1st place - a 2 way tie between Gary Aukett and Eugene Gibb

2nd= Matt Bunny, Grieg McLeod, Brendon Seville, James Smith, Conrad Wildig and Tim Wilson.

Good luck for all players in the next round to be held at the Abode Air Conditioning Wainuiomata Masters on the 13th May. Entries are still open so jump in register. While you're at it check out the other Masters tournaments and register for those too.

skillsoft

WINTER INTERCLUB BEGINS

SLAZENGER TROPHY

And so it begins, the road to find our next Slazenger Cup winner, the overall Winter Interclub team champion.

We have 69 teams registered across Tuesday and Wednesday night and almost 400 registered players, 399 to be exact playing across 11 divisions!

Great to see a healthy pool of reserves ready to tag in over the 10 week + finals. Here a couple of reminders.

Order of play: All games must be played in order of grading points, there is only one way a person can play out of order and that is if they are within half a grade of their team mate then they can switch places and only in agreement with the other team captain. The team captain will need to check ISquash on everyone's points just prior to each match.

Substitute players: From time to time teams cannot field a full team and need to ring in a new player. While this is accepted the substitute player **must not be more than 300pts points higher than the person they are replacing** (for Mens and Womens) and no higher than 100pts for Masters. But must still play in grading order.

ALL GAMES MUST BE AGREED TO BEFORE GAMES COMMENCE. IF A GAME IS PLAYED, GAMES RESULTS WILL STAND.

PARTICIPATION

WOMENS HEAD800 @ MANA SQUASH



Mana Squash Club hosted the first of 6 tournaments for the Women's HEAD800 series recently with 30 players participating in the one-day tournament.

This series is aimed at introducing beginners and returning players to the game. The format is best of 3, PAR 15 with everyone playing 3 games in the one-day tournament. Players find these tournaments a great way to learn the rules of the game, including by marking and refereeing before transitioning into interclub and/or multi-day tournaments.

This is the fourth consecutive year running this series and each year it gets better and bigger. What also gets better is the wider support group that make these tournaments possible.

Squash Wellington is lucky to have a engaged group of club members that step up and run these tournaments. Newbies on the scene start their journey towards tournament control by being assistants to their more experienced friends.

A big thank you to Beth George and Rebekah Anderson for running the latest event. It was only one year ago that they both played in this series and while they have both progressed into D grade, it has been fantastic to see them step up and help ensure players have a great experience by making them feel welcome.



Tournament Controllers Beth George (L) and Rebekah Anderson (R)



Travis Steenekamp and Courtney Jones from Club Kelburn. The moment Courtney realised that the winner buys the post match drink, not the loser as she has done since she started playing. Courtney apologies to all the people she's played where she won...and waited for you to buy her a drink! ;)

Another person who, despite moving beyond 800, is a great mentor to new ladies is Isabelle (Isy) Bekker from Tawa, a familiar face at the club in the early hours of the morning having hits with new ladies. She's also no stranger at these one day tournaments. always lending a hand and providing moral support to all the players.

It's people like Isy, Beth and Rebekah who make the game and tournament scene less scary and more about fun with lots of laughs. All of our clubs have people just like this. You just don't get much better than that!

Well done to everyone that played, Mana Squash Club for hosting and HEAD at SportsColtd for their continued support of the series.

Look forward to seeing you at the next one at Club Kelburn on 22 May.

Registrations are still open as well as the remaining tournaments over the next few months.

Ann Smith

Results from the first round

- D1: W, Hinerau Morete- RU, Jemma Stark
- D2: W, Natasha Dowse, RU-Courtney Jones
- D3: W-Kerianna Stirling, RU-Jacqui Reading
- D4: W-Jax Mitchell, RU-Nada Walsh
- D5: W-Toni Orviss, RU-Belinda Taylor
- D6: W-Abby Shugg, RU-Maree Teasdale

PARTICIPATION - FEATURE ARTICLE

KEEPING THE WHĀNAU ACTIVE

This month Ann Smith takes a trip over the hill to Wainuiomata where she takes a closer look at its Business House membership initiative and how this doubles as a fun, social event for existing members.

Sure, the Wainui crew are renowned for manaakitanga and their fun and friendly whānau vibe, but...

As I approach the lounge area at the top of the stairs I soon come to a halt. I literally can't go any further. What sort of a welcome is this? Happily, the lounge area is packed with people. As I peek through I realise I don't recognise half the crowd, so when I finally reach Radar to check in for my game, all I can say is "WOW"!

Little do I know, but this is apparently the norm for a Friday night. In fact, some clubbies are missing as they're playing in the Upper Hutt tournament so it's quieter than normal, not a bad thing given the heaving gallery.

As I wait for my game I get to see the Wainui crew in action. This is a well-oiled machine with seasoned members posted around the club ready to do their thing.



The infamous 5 buck burger, lovingly prepared by Club Chef Harold W, aka King Cabbage, aka Mr Presidento.

They have everything ready, rackets for anyone to use, people on hand to explain the basic rules of the game and members on the ready to provide coaching tips for beginners.

There's Shelby, at her station set up by the board ready to explain membership options and what to expect at the club. Oh, and sign-up forms. In 10 minutes four newbies are on the books, two of whom also sign up for interclub. *Is that girl in sales?*, I wonder.

Kaleb is running around ringing the bell, hustling players to their courts, getting in Shelby's way and running around some more.

After sorting the draw, Radar floats between the courts watching the players needing a grading. The man is constantly on the go, only to stop when he's forced to breathe and refuel.

And then there's the kitchen, the heart of the club, ok maybe second to the bar (which is in the capable hands of Kazz and Kim), but the kai that it supplies is definitely what players and supporters crave after chasing that black ball.

Kai orders flow in as quickly as they go out, the tickets lined up waiting for Chef Harold to work his magic. The only thing Harold needs now is a bigger kitchen and perhaps a side window for a drive-through service.

PARTICIPATION - FEATURE ARTICLE

The entire team is constantly scanning the lounge and viewing area, looking out for people who might need assistance, making introductions and helping players mark and referee where needed.

The night runs like clockwork. Every stalwart has a role and they move like a synchronized swimming team, but luckily aren't dressed like one. No words are required, a simple nod or head lift doing the job. Shelby proudly reveals that the women's membership continues to grow and they now have 39 wāhine actively playing. Asked why she volunteered to join their committee, the answer's simple: "I volunteer for the ladies!"

There is a great buzz in the air and speaking with member Wayne, he sums up the night nicely. "It's a great way to introduce people to the sport, social and fun. You just don't see a group of new people in one place at the same time much these days. When you're new it's not always easy to find people to play but with nights like this it provides a great place for people to meet others at the same level, learn from each other as well as existing members helping out by giving the new people tips, in a fun and relaxed way".

Over the past 3 weeks the Friday night has seen no fewer than 50 people through the door and there are no signs of that slowing. Almost all end up



picking up a racket and coming back the following week, often with an even bigger support crew.

Kaha pai te mahi to our Wainui whānau for the awesome mahi. You continue to do your whānau and community proud by creating a place where people can come together to have some fun, get active and connect with whānau and friends old and new.

I leave looking forward to spotting the new faces amongst the Wainui crew that travels around tournaments playing and supporting their clubbies. Not only do they look sharp in their black & green kit but they bring a whole lotta laughs to our scene.



Class photo with the delinquents of Wainuiomata Squash Club.

L-R, Shelby Burns, Kaleb Allardyce, Harold Walbækken (what is he looking at?), Radar Galliers and Kazz Galliers.

PARTICIPATION

INAUGURAL HUTT CITY WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT

Late April brought the debut edition of the Yellowhammer Hutt City Women's tournament, won by the host club's Gemma Gee in a hard-fought final over club and district squad-mate Samantha Douglas. The competitiveness of the play, in which Douglas pushed Gee strongly in all the games, was a fitting end to this new event. Still in the opening term of the season, the quality on display augurs well for district rep team strength in the months to come.

In playing through numerous niggles and minor injuries – including a troubling blood blister – which would typically see the withdrawal of players of her calibre – Gee's persistence not only endeared herself to the sponsors but to the emerging market of new women players to whom this tournament was angled.

A-grader Gee's decision to participate rather than protect her body for bigger Opens gave a touch of prestige to this new event, designed to provide a



Inaugural Champion Gemma Gee (Hutt City)

A little light brainfood for the lunchtime quiz



Hutt City Club Captain and owner-operator of lead sponsor, Yellowhammer Building, Emma Sanchez-Brown

consumer experience beyond mere matchplay. The organisers could nevertheless have been forgiven for putting on a lacklustre affair, this event coming straight on the back of the club's B & Below. The previous week was also club captain Emma Sanchez-Brown's first foray into tournament control, no easy gig given the lasting impact of the pandemic.

"Of course we didn't seek back to back tournaments; that was purely down to a congested calendar. I've been forced to join the Board now to ensure it isn't repeated," she jokes.

However, with a nod to the breaks in play and lunchtime spectator entertainment featuring in One Day and T20 cricket, the organisers threw in a scheduled lunch break on the Saturday, at which punters were provided with platters of canapés

PARTICIPATION



Post-tourney evening meal

washed down with mini bottles of fizz and a quiz.

The end of play saw almost all participants (drawn from Mt Maunganui, Napier, Palmerston North and Dunedin as well as locally) stay on for prizegiving and, thanks to an anonymous sponsor, a catered hot supper.

Hutt City's commitment to encouraging diversity in its competition offerings and player base and equal prizemoney, despite the stress of consecutive tournaments, is commendable, aided in no small part by Yellowhammer's backing.

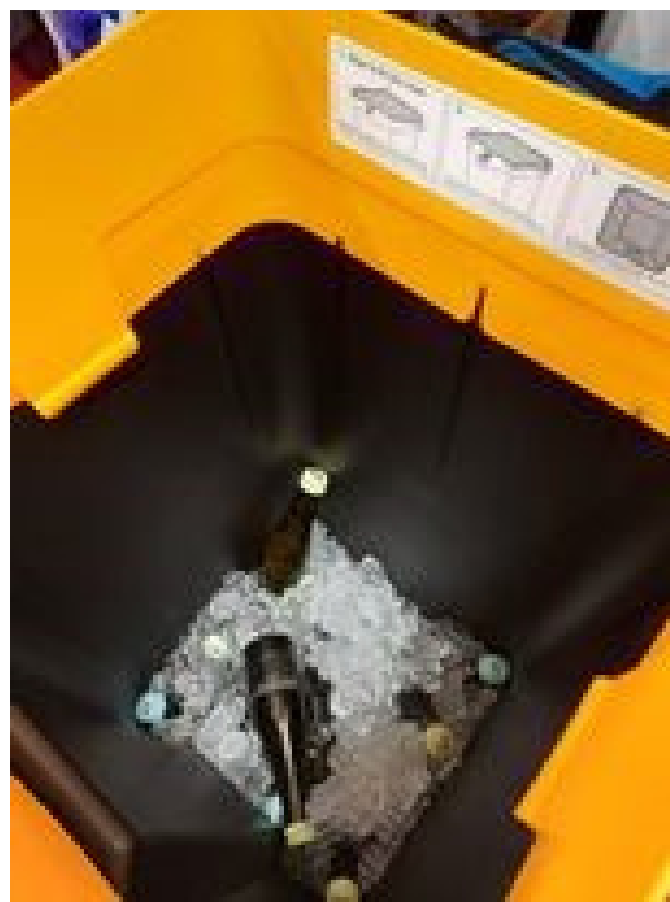
The residential building company owned and operated by Ms Sanchez-Brown similarly aims to expand construction work opportunities to women, by supporting numerous apprenticeships and giving a preference to women hires, all other things being equal.

"We're desperately busy at the moment and most of our projects are booked by women; they have much more confidence in our way of communicating job needs and progress", reflects Sanchez-Brown.

Unafraid to acknowledge that women's ways of working are different and marketing to that wearing her Yellowhammer hardhat, Sanchez-Brown sees the parallels in offering a women's only squash tournament, where the women's expectations and participation take centre stage.

"It's great to be able to have a woman as the champion" chips in her wife Sandra, "not as a support act to the men's champ or even the co-champion. Just the champion, end of story".

Catharine Sayer



Ingenious use of the Fraser Park Sportsville recycling facilities

DEVELOPMENT

WELLINGTON MASTERS SQUADS – They're here!

The Masters Squad got together for its first camp at Khandallah recently – thanks team! It was great to see some familiar faces return for another season as well as some new members. This year the squad consists of 27 players from Kāpiti, Mana, Tawa, Khandallah, Island Bay, Thorndon, Wainuiomata and Hutt City.

Unfortunately our coach Matt Green was unable to make the first camp due to illness but he sent an awesome video message to the squad plus arranged for Evan Williams (no slouch himself) to coach the squad in his place, thanks Evan.

The team received their training kit of shirts and hoodies. Great to see a sea of black and yellow. Big thanks to A-Z Flooring for their sponsorship for all the squads this season.

It was great to see the whole squad having fun at the training (after all, training is not fun without fun!) but putting in the mahi that will only serve them well in upcoming tournaments and interclub, and of course at the NZ Masters when selected.

The next training is on the 4th June at Hutt City.

– Bryan Smith, Masters Convenor



Check out our Facebook page for more pictures from the camp



DEVELOPMENT

JUNIOR & SENIOR SQUAD

Our Junior and Senior squads put the hard yards in for their second camp of the season on 24th April, minus a few of our junior stars, competing in the rescheduled AON NZ Junior Open (see right).



Junior Squad members: Focused, business-like, committed to the task at hand. Absorbing every word of wisdom from their sensei in quiet contemplation.



Senior Squad members: Focused, business-like, committed to the task at hand. That is, when the task is "have a right old silly muckarround".

NEW ZEALAND JUNIOR OPEN

The 2022 AON New Zealand Junior Open took place at Henderson Squash Club in Auckland on 22 - 24 April. Some of our superstar Wellington juniors travelled up to take on the country's finest, with lots of them finishing above their seeding - amazing effort, ka pai!

Squash NZ allowed us to tune into the action remotely on their new livestreaming platform, watch out for more remote viewing possibilities in future.

Results:

Girls Open

Diana Galloway(3) finishing 4th
Maiden-Lee Coe(4) finishing 6th
Mackenzie Tait(16) finishing 12th

Boys Open

Oliver Dunbar(10) finishing 4th
Otis Brown(24) finishing 21st



CLUB CAPABILITY

SquashSmart

If you haven't already, be sure to check out this new learning platform from Squash NZ. SquashSmart is free to use, with new courses being added regularly. As well as courses such as coaching and refereeing, there are learning modules aimed at club committee members, on subjects such as grant funding and tournament control.

The key requirements the project has been based around are more in-depth data insights, seamless user experiences, powerful competition management with player grading and an integrated club and member management offering for clubs.

Development of the new IT platform, due to arrive next year, is going well, with clubs now being consulted on what they would like to be included in the successor to our beloved, but outdated iSquash.

What's in a name?

Watch this space for an opportunity to put forward name suggestions for the new platform. Friendly Manager is just a placeholder.



COMING UP

Mens/Mixed Interclub- 1st round 3 May

Womens Interclub- 1st round 4 May

Tawa Open: 5 May

HEAD9HUNDY @ Martinborough: 8 May

Abode Air Conditioning Wainui Masters: 12 May

Red Star Open: 13 May

Mana Open: 19 May - waitlist available

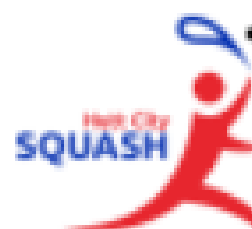
Womens HEAD800 @ Club Kelburn: 22 May

Martinborough Open: 26 May

Tawa Masters: 26 May



SQUASH
WELLINGTON

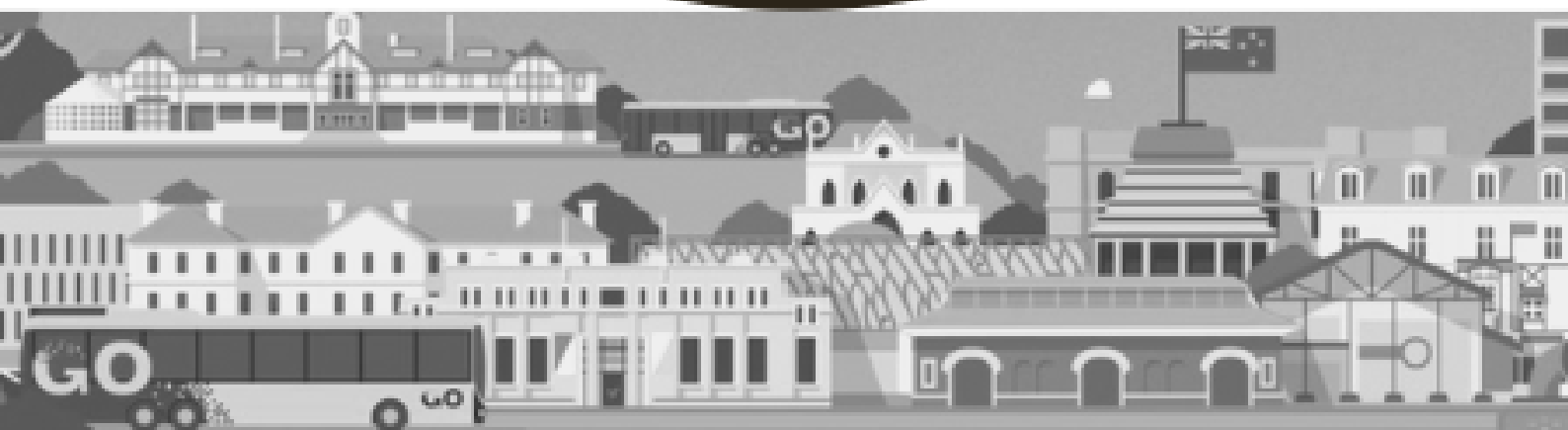


WELLINGTON

OPEN 2022

09-12 JUNE

Enter via iSquash



host club **HUTT CITY SQUASH**