

**SQUASH**  
WELLINGTON

**ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2024**

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Squash Wellington wish to express our gratitude for the support of the following funders, sponsors and supporters.



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# BOARD MEMBERS

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Ann Smith  
Chairwomen



Vance Kapene  
Secretariat



Bryan Smith  
Treasurer



Daimen Lower  
Board Member

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# CONVENORS - COACHES

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Nicola Ward-Thomas  
Interclub Convenor



Bryan Smith  
Masters Convenor



Gemma Gee  
Junior Convenor



Evan Williams  
District Coach



Matt Green  
District Coach

# CHAIR REPORT

On behalf of the Squash Wellington Board, I am pleased to present the 2024 Annual Report.

## Acknowledgements

I would like to begin by acknowledging the incredible volunteers who continue to work tirelessly within our clubs. Each year, we see club activities growing, whether through refurbishments, new initiatives, or the continuation of well-established traditions. It has also been fantastic to see clubs embracing multi-channel communication platforms to share tournament updates and messages with members and the wider squash community.

I also extend my sincere gratitude to the Squash Wellington Board for their dedication and effort over the past year. Your commitment to our district is invaluable –thank you.

Additionally, we acknowledge and thank our former General Manager, Russell Henderson, for his hard work and dedication during his tenure. His contributions were instrumental in supporting our clubs and shaping our district.



Ann Smith  
Squash Wellington Chair



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# CHAIR REPORT

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## Key Highlights of 2024

### Showcasing Wellington on the National Stage

Wellington had the privilege of hosting several premier national events in 2024, highlighting the dedication of our clubs and the incredible efforts of our volunteers. The NZ Secondary Schools Squash Championship and the NZ Masters Individual and Inter-District Teams Championships were both delivered to a high standard, thanks to the hard work of Hutt City, Wainuiomata, Upper Hutt, Tawa, and Mana Squash Clubs. These events demonstrated the power of collaboration among clubs in delivering exceptional competitions.

### National Inter-District Team Titles

After a long hiatus, Squash Wellington celebrated major success, with two of our five representative teams securing National Inter-District Championship titles. Congratulations to our Senior Men's and Junior Girls' teams on their outstanding achievements.

### New Zealand Representation

A special congratulations to Oliver Dunbar and Maiden-Lee Coe, who were selected to represent New Zealand in Australia earlier this year. Competing in the Trans-Tasman series as part of a strong Kiwi contingent, both players performed exceptionally. Oliver capped off the experience by winning the U19 Championship title at the Australian Junior Open—an incredible accomplishment.

### NZ Secondary Schools Trans-Tasman series

Congratulations to Mackenzie Tait, Ben Jones, Eamon Gannon and Liberty Jones on their selection to represent New Zealand in the secondary school's series. The first part of this series saw the NZ team play state teams Queensland and New South Wales, then Australia. Another fantastic opportunity for our juniors, to represent the silver fern. Congratulations Mackenzie, Ben, Eamon and Liberty.

### Affiliation Fees and National Collaboration

Following two years of consultation and extensive collaboration across all districts, 2024 marked the successful launch of the new national affiliation model. This initiative has been a testament to the ability of districts and clubs to work together to strengthen the future of squash in New Zealand.

### Closing

Now is the perfect moment to reflect, build on our progress, expand the game's reach, and carefully map out our next strategic steps. With thoughtful execution, we can build on our success and drive long-term growth.

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# OPERATIONS REPORT

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## FAREWELL TO RUSSELL

In May, we farewelled Russell Henderson, our General Manager. Russell was a highly valued member of the Squash Wellington team, known for his calm, solution-focused, and pragmatic approach. His dedication and contributions were greatly appreciated by our clubs and members, and we sincerely thank him for his service.



**Russell Henderson,  
General Manager**

Following Russell's departure, the Board made a strategic decision to pause recruitment for a replacement. This decision was influenced by two key factors: the deployment of a new competition platform and the introduction of a national five-year strategic plan.

Both initiatives will shape our own five-year strategy, including determining the necessary resources to support and implement our future direction.

In the coming weeks, clubs will be invited to participate in a hui to finalise our Strategic Direction. This process will help define the most effective role to support our goals and ensure the ongoing success of squash in our region.

## FUNDING

Funding has remained a challenge at the national, district, and club levels, with numerous organisations competing for financial support to implement their strategic plans.

While the year has ended on a positive note, this outcome was largely due to not having to cover the costs of a staff member in the second half of the year.

Looking ahead to 2025, we have a well-structured funding schedule in place, with multiple funding requests already submitted. We will continue to build on established relationships with our current funders while exploring new opportunities, particularly in targeted regional areas where applicable.

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# COMPETITION

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## HEAD SERIES

In 2024, the HEAD series remained a popular choice, providing accessible and supportive entry points into competitive squash for women and junior players. The series maintained a strong focus on participation and upskilling in officiating skills. Prizes continued to be awarded based on overall series performance, with merchandise supplied by SportCo, a long-standing partner.

Due to high demand, we extended the HEAD Junior 9Hundy series for the second consecutive year, adding three extra rounds and bringing the total to 10.

This year also saw a slight increase in participation, with 90 players taking part. To encourage players from more geographically distant areas, we maintained the incentive of double entry points for rounds held in Wainuiomata, Otaki and Red Star.

Congratulations to

**HEAD Junior series winner** - Kalden Newtown of Tawa Squash

**HEAD Womens series winner** - Catherine Mainwaring of Hutt City Squash

We're excited to continue building on this success in 2024!



# SUPERCHAMPS

Our appreciation and thanks to the following clubs–Tawa, Hutt City, Mana, and Kapiti– for hosting the 2024 competition. These events would not be possible without the dedication and hard work of your club members.

We truly appreciate everyone involved, both on and off the court, whose efforts make these competitions a success.

Congratulations to the 2024 District Champions!

Grade	Women's Champs	Men's Champs	Hosts
B	Kāpiti	Thorndon	Kāpiti
C	Mana	Upper Hutt	Mana
D	Thorndon	Wainuiomata	Hutt City
E	Masterton	Hutt City	Tawa

SuperChamps Teams Per Grade	2024	2023	2022	2021
Women's B	2	2	3	3
Women's C	3	6	5	4
Women's D	5	7	8	8
Women's E	4	5	5	6
Men's B	5	4	5	5
Men's C	8	9	10	5
Men's D	8	10	6	7
Men's E	7	8	5	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>43</b>



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# 2025 SuperChamps Hosts



**B Grade**



**C Grade**



**D Grade**



**E/F Grade**

## DISTRICT TOURNAMENTS

The **Wellington Open** moved to the Wairarapa in 2024 and was hosted at Red Star Squash Club, with support from Masterton Squash Club. While attendance was lower than the previous year, the quality of squash remained high and exciting.

The Women's Final was a family affair between sisters Charlotte and Diana Galloway, with Charlotte claiming victory on this occasion. In the Men's Final, two familiar faces battled it out as Evan Williams faced Matt Green. Evan secured yet another Wellington Open title, adding to his impressive tally of 10.

The **Wellington Masters**, hosted by Khandallah in July, also saw slightly lower registrations than the previous year. However, the competition remained fierce, with several closely contested matches across the divisions.

The Open Finals delivered thrilling matchups, with Sam Atkins (Tawa) facing Brian George (Mana) and Nicki Gibbs (Kapiti) taking on Anna Marquis-Skepetaris (Thorndon). In the end, Sam and Anna emerged as the 2024 Masters Champions—a great warm-up for the NZ Masters Individual and Teams event, where both players performed exceptionally well. Congratulations to Anna, Sam, and all division winners and players.

Back to Hutt City where the **Wellington Doubles** tournament was held. On trend, the registrations were not as high as previous years however the competition was just as fierce.

Congratulations to the Mens Open Champions, Scott Galloway & Brian Tapurau, Women's Open Champions, Maiden-Lee Coe & Georgia Fyfe and the Mixed Open Champions, Evan Williams and Diana Galloway.

The **Wellington Junior Open** was hosted by Upper Hutt Squash Club. Although registrations remained low due to scheduling clashes with other events, the competition was still strong. Sophia De Nardi Gonzalez and Oliver Dunbar were crowned the 2024 Champions.

Congratulations, Sophia and Oli!

## Junior Events & recognition

2024 was packed with junior tournaments, including the Wellington vs Central Junior Challenge and the College Sport Wellington Junior Event at Hutt City. Additionally, the New Zealand Secondary Schools (NZSSSC) Trans-Tasman Test was held across Hutt City, Wainuiomata, and Upper Hutt Squash Clubs.

It was fantastic to see the NZSSSC competition return to Wellington after 20 years. The Hutt Valley clubs are set to host this event again in early August 2025, and we hope to see even more schools participate.

## Wellington College Sports Awards

Congratulations to Eamon Gannon and Greer Gibbs, both were recognised at the 2024 WCSA ceremony in November and awarded the Squash Player of the Year. A fantastic recognition for their continued hard work on their craft.

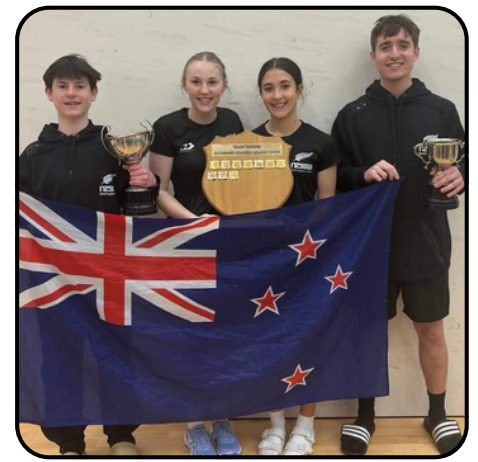
Special mention to finalists Leah Broadbelt, Unie Huang, Alex Walsh and Riley Priest.

## Masters Championship

After a delayed start due to COVID, the NZ Masters Individual and Teams Championship finally made its way to Wellington.

Over the course of a week of intense competition, New Zealand's top Masters players battled for individual titles and district pride. The event was filled with thrilling on-court action, with only one major injury reported, making it a true spectacle of squash. While the athleticism on display was remarkable, the strategic approach to the game was equally admirable. The masterful strokes, precision angles, and agility around the court were just as impressive as the physical endurance.

Congratulations to the organising committee for putting together a fantastic event, supported by the incredible volunteers at both clubs. The warm and friendly atmosphere was greatly appreciated by the players.



# MASTERS CONVENOR REPORT

## A Busy and Successful Year for Masters Squash

2024 has been an incredibly busy and successful year for Masters squash, filled with hard-fought competitions and achievements. Here's a look back at the highlights:

The year kicked off with the second half of the Summer Masters Interclub. While participation numbers were down compared to 2023, the competition remained exciting and intense. Khandallah Squash Club made their mark with a well-deserved Division 1 win, showing exceptional team spirit and performance.

Around the same time, we began the Expressions of Interest (EOI) process for the Masters squad. The response was overwhelming, with an impressive 48 respondents. Given the high number and calibre of participants, the decision was made to split the group into two squads: the "Performance" squad, coached by Matt Green, and the "Development" squad, coached by Gary Aukett (while following the same "Performance" training programme). Training sessions began in April and ran through to October. We extend our thanks to Hutt City Squash Club and Khandallah Squash & Tennis Club for generously providing their courts for these sessions. Special thanks to Matt and Gary for their invaluable coaching expertise.

Our representative team delivered an outstanding performance at the NZ Masters Team Championships, held at Mana and Tawa Clubs. They fought hard and secured a well-earned second place, just behind Auckland. In addition, four team members triumphed in their individual age group categories at the NZ Masters Championships: Evan Williams, Sam Atkins, Matt Green, and Helen Gibbs.

Congratulations to all team members and title winners for their exceptional performances.



# MASTERS CONVENOR REPORT

The Squash Wellington Masters, held in July at Khandallah, was another major event of the year. The tournament saw excellent participation, and the competition was fierce. Congratulations to Sam Atkins and Anna Marquis-Skepetaris for winning the respective Male and Female titles.

In 2024, we continued the Master of Masters series across four rounds, despite two Masters tournaments being cancelled. The series remained as competitive as ever, with the final results reflecting just how closely contested it was. The men's series had an 8-point difference between the first and third-place finishers, while the women's series saw just an 11-point gap. In the end, Riana Rossouw took the women's title, and Bryan Smith claimed the men's series win. Congratulations to all participants and winners for their incredible efforts.

Looking ahead to 2025, we hope to see even more Masters players joining in the fun and competition!

## ***Masters Representative Team were:***

Evan Williams, Sam Atkins, Gary Aukett, Matt Green, Evan Michelson, Mark Millar, Anna Marquis-Skepetaris, Nicki Gibbs, Julie Geange, Emma Brown, Margaret Harlen and Helen Gibbs. An honourable mention to Richie Hoare and Lee-Ann Du Toit who filled in for the team due to injury.

**Titles** (Evan Williams (35), Sam Atkins (40), Matt Green (50) and Helen Gibbs (60+). Congratulations to all team members and those who won their NZ titles.



# REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS

The strength and depth of our representative teams have been steadily growing year after year, with all teams either maintaining or improving their rankings.

Our development programme has expanded our player pool, created a strong and stable core while also fostered a promising pipeline of emerging talent.

## SENIOR TEAM

Georgia Fyfe  
Hannah Grimmett  
Maiden-Lee Coe  
Diana Galloway  
Mackenzie Tait

Matt Green  
Oli Dunbar  
Evan Williams  
James Thompson  
Michael McCarroll



## JUNIOR TEAM

Charlotte Haxton  
Liberty Jones  
Maiden-Lee Coe  
Mackenzie Tait  
Sophia De Nardi

Eamon Gannon  
Alex Fingleton  
Oli Dunbar  
Alex Walsh  
Riley Priest



## MASTERS TEAM

Anna Marquis  
Nicki Gibbs  
Julie Geange  
Emma Brown  
Margaret Harlen  
Helen Gibbs

Evan Williams  
Sam Atkins  
Gary Aukett  
Matt Green  
Evan Michelson  
Mark Millar



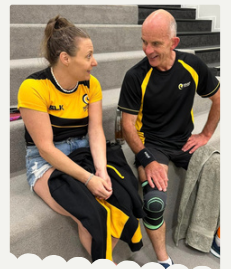
# ANNUAL AWARDS

We celebrated the year a little later than usual, but what a fantastic night it was! The outstanding achievements of so many players, clubs, and coaches made the judging panel's job especially challenging this year.

The contributions of countless volunteers—each deserving of recognition—have undoubtedly played a key role in the progress and success of both clubs and players. However, in the end, there could only be one winner in each category.

Congratulations to the 2024 Annual Award recipients:

Award	Recipient	Award	Recipient
<b><i>Club of the Year</i></b>	Masterton Squash Club	<b><i>Player of the Year</i></b>	Maiden-Lee Coe
<b><i>Team of the Year</i></b>	Senior Mens Rep Team	<b><i>Player of the Year</i></b>	Oli Dunbar
<b><i>Volunteer of the Year</i></b>	Kaleb Allardyce	<b><i>Junior Player of the Year</i></b>	Maiden-Lee Coe
<b><i>Coach of the Year</i></b>	Evan Williams	<b><i>Junior Player of the Year</i></b>	Oliver Dunbar
<b><i>Jade Wilson Memorial</i></b>	Bryan Smith	<b><i>Masters Player of the Year</i></b>	Anna Marquis-Skepetaris
<b><i>Darren Slape Memorial</i></b>	Ben Jansen	<b><i>Masters Player of the Year</i></b>	Sam Atkins
<b><i>Initiative of the Year</i></b>	Hutt City - In House	<b><i>Peoples Choice</i></b>	Georgia Fyfe & Matt Green
<b><i>Best use of social media</i></b>	Wainuiomata Facebook & Instagram	<b><i>Most Improved Seniors</i></b>	Jaimi Stewart & Joseph Snowden
<b><i>Slazenger Cup</i></b>	Upper Hutt	<b><i>Most Improved Juniors</i></b>	Liberty Jones & Ashton Valster
<b><i>Most Competitive Player</i></b>	Alex Walsh	<b><i>Most Competitive Club</i></b>	Mana Squash Club



Squash Wellington



squashwellington.org.nz