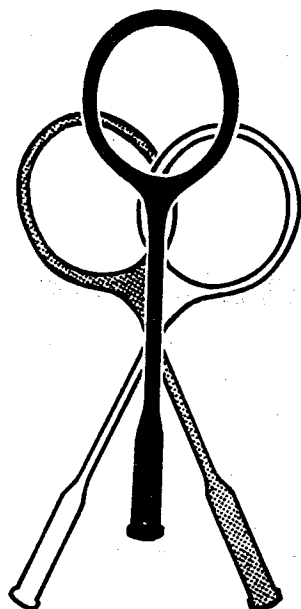


SQUASH RACKETS ASSOCIATION

of

NEW SOUTH WALES

1938 --- 1992



- A HISTORY -

**Written for NSW Squash
by
W J Mudford**

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A chance conversation with Jim O'Brien (CEO NSW Squash) at the 1996 AGM, resulted in the query as to whether I was interested in writing a history of NSW squash. A week or so of thought resulted in my agreeing to write a history of the SRANSW - a subtle distinction. Twenty years of involvement in administration left me with an abiding interest in the Association and its history.

When I first started the project I had no idea how big it would become. The more I read, particularly about the early years, the more fascinated I became. Unfortunately constraints of time and space have resulted in some sections being much shortened or left out. This latter category includes the Women's Association. The NSWWSRA was an extremely well run and successful Association with its own rich history. It is a matter of much regret that, as mentioned, time constraints as well as length of this manuscript, have forced me to omit the NSWWSRA.

The last eighteen months have been spent not just reading Minute books and newspaper articles/cuttings but also talking to people about past events. My thanks must go to Ted Barlow, Graham Corderoy, Tony DeBono for their assistance and especially Christine Sinclair for reading and correcting drafts of the manuscript. Additional thanks go to John Amer, Mrs R A Buckland, Fred Barlow, Dick Carter, Peter Deacon, Dick Best and Sue King, to name a few. Special thanks to Ann Travers from the SRA office for her help and patience (particularly her patience) and Royal Sydney Golf Club for extensive photocopies of pre-war and immediate post-war newspaper articles.

This manuscript is dedicated to the squash players of NSW. In particular it is dedicated to the Administrators - that legion of dedicated men and women who for years unselfishly served not just at the State level but, of equal importance, at District level; who worked for all the affiliated associations such as the Referees Association, the Junior Association, the various country associations and by no means least the NSWWSRA - who worked for a smile and hoped for a thanks. Without such dedicated workers no sporting organisation can survive.

I have tried to make this manuscript not only an accurate history of events, but an **objective** record, no mean feat after twenty years of personal involvement. I hope I have succeeded. I have certainly tried.

CHAPTER ONE

THE EARLY YEARS -- 1938 - 1950

Pre-War Period

Moved: J W Bavin
Seconded: Paymaster Cm^{dr} R Lowe

*Resolved that the representatives of the
 Squash Racquets Players of NSW assembled,
 form themselves into the Squash Racquets
 Association of NSW in accordance with the
 Articles of Association signed by the
 Chairman of the Meeting ¹*

Carried Unanimously Mon 27th of June, 1938

Present at the meeting:

V G Wesche	Royal Sydney Golf Club
R J Conlon	Royal Sydney Golf Club
D R A Murray	Sydney Squash Racquets Club
J W Bavin	University Club
G B Carr	Killara Golf Club
M A G Walker	Killara Golf Club
Pay Cm ^{dr} R Lowe RAN	Garden Island Squash Racquets Club
J P Carrington	Langridges School of Physical Culture

At the subsequent meeting, on 11 July 1938, the following Office Bearers were elected:

President:	V G Wesche
Hon Secretary:	D R A Murray
Hon Treasurer:	J W Bavin ²

Thus started a journey of development lasting to the present day - a journey of many successes and some failures.

The Beginning

As the story goes, the impetus for the formation of an Association came from a group of tennis players who also played squash, particularly when wet weather cancelled the tennis.³ Although this is a good storey, evidence as set out below suggests strongly that this is far too simple a picture.

There is some evidence to suggest that possibly up to three teams played an unofficial "pennant" competition somewhere in the period 1936-37. Such a competition officially started in Victoria on 23 June 1936.⁴ Certainly although no official NSW Association existed, a NSW Amateur Championship was first held in 1935 as were the 1935 Australian Championships (both at Royal Sydney):

The first squash rackets championship of New South Wales commenced at the Royal Sydney Golf Club courts on Saturday, when the first round was played. At the conclusion of the Championship the Australian Championship will be held at the same courts, H Hopman the international lawn tennis player, being the defending champion.

The game of squash rackets, which bears some resemblance to lawn tennis, but is played indoors, is steadily spreading in Sydney and Melbourne, but the main obstacle to its speedy growth is the lack of courts. ... Squash evenings are popular in London, where there are 1050 courts, many being connected with recently-erected flats and clubs.⁵

Evidence from the Minutes of the 1937 AGM of the Squash Rackets Association of Australia (SRAA) points very strongly towards the view that there was a strong push from the SRAA, responding to pressure from Victorian clubs, for State Associations to be formed.⁶ At this time the SRAA had its headquarters in Victoria. Mr N Heath of Royal Sydney Golf Club (1935 Australian Champion, having defeated Mr H (Harry) Hopman in the final) was a Vice-President of the SRAA in both 1936 and 1937 and possibly also in 1935. All these points, combined with a Constitution "ready to roll" and permission from the SRAA to hold the 1938 Australian Championships (permission being refused in 1937:

... in Melbourne last year, and it was decided to hold them here again because, as yet, the popularity of the game is at least ten times greater in Melbourne than either Sydney or Adelaide),⁷

strongly suggests that there was more to the formation than merely a group of players interested in squash, although such a group certainly existed and formed the nucleus of the original Association.

The Squash Rackets Association of NSW (SRANSW) was the fourth State Association to be formed. The first official State Association was either the South Australian SRA or surprisingly, the NSW Women's Squash Rackets Association (NSWWSRA) with the Victorian SRA third.⁸ The term "official" must be emphasised because although an Australian Association was formed in 1934, it was for all practical purposes a Victorian SRA until 1937. The first four Australian and Victorian Titles were one and the same thing.

NSWWSRA

Although no detailed information exists, there is no doubt that a NSWWSRA existed prior to the formation of the SRANSW. The list of affiliated clubs and Associations contained in the 1936-7 AGM Minutes of the SRAA include the NSWWSRA. The SRANSW Minutes of 11 July 1938 refer to a letter to be sent to the Secretary of the NSWWSRA informing them of the formation of the SRANSW. A subsequent letter was sent suggesting that the 1938 Men's and Women's State Championship be held concurrently. As well, a newspaper article of 1935 describing an exhibition match between Miss Joan Long-Inness and Mrs Trail played on the newly opened Langridges courts (278 George St) refers to Mrs Trail as the Honorary Sec NSWWSRA. At this time women could apparently play at only two centres, Royal Sydney and after 1935, Langridges.⁹

However there were several very good women players, particularly Miss Joan Long-Inness (Australian Ladies' Champion of 1935), Mrs P Walker (Australian Ladies' Champion of 1934) and Mrs Trail (Victorian Ladies' Champion of 1935). What other titles they may have won is not clear, although Miss Long-Inness certainly won the NSW title in 1935-36-37-38.¹⁰ Although the NSWWSRA existed, it is questionable how active it was. In 1938 the Ladies' NSW Championships were held in conjunction with the Men's while in 1939:

...it was also resolved that the NSW Women's Championships be played at the courts of Langridges Squash Racquets Club between the 7th and 11th of August.¹¹

This suggests that the NSWWSRA was happy to have the SRANSW run the titles with, presumably, help from the women.

Private Clubs

The list of clubs represented is informative. They were all private clubs, a situation that was to last until the early to middle fifties. Squash was not a "working class" game. Unlike clay tennis courts, which could be built for minimal cost in the local suburban backyard, squash courts represented a heavy financial investment. Thus, as in England and Victoria, squash courts were associated with private clubs, the military and office blocks. Hence squash players were largely "middle class" men and women. Public courts did not appear until the mid-fifties when wartime building restrictions ended.

Early Courts

In 1926, due to the efforts of John (later Sir John) Medley, Dennis Allen and James Dickson, the Sydney Squash Club court was built at the top of what used to be Scottish House (now demolished) in Bridge St, Sydney. Royal Sydney Golf Club (1932), Langridges (1935), University Club (1937) and Killara Golf Club (1938) followed. There are obscure references to other early private courts, namely Giles Sea Baths at Coogee, Dame Edith Walker's at her Concord property 'Yaralla', the Dangar family property at 'Gostwyck' near Uralla¹² and the home of W O Fairfax at Bellevue Hill.¹³

There is strong evidence that the first 'public' court was built in 1920. In about 1912 Christian Bjelke-Petersen (uncle to the ex-Premier of Queensland, Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen), built a gymnasium in the city (perhaps in Castlereagh St). In 1920 the gym was converted into a squash court. Subsequently Christian apparently attended a garden party at Government House where he was presented to HRH Prince Edward, later Duke of Windsor. Upon learning of the newly opened court, Prince Edward ... turned to Lord Louis Mountbatten and said 'see that I am there in an hour'.¹⁴ Apparently the Prince played every day for the fortnight he was in Sydney, coming incognito and wearing a thick woollen sweater whilst playing (his physician had advised him to sweat profusely every day of his life to keep fit). Unfortunately the courts were destroyed by fire in the middle 20s.¹⁵ The same Bjelke-Petersen built courts in Melbourne which were certainly operating in the 1930s. The first winner of the Australian

Amateur Championship, F R S Strickland in 1931, was a member of the Bjelke-Petersen Squash Club.¹⁶

The year 1938 was a time of basic organisation. Affiliation with the SRAA was initiated, some regular meetings held and championships organised. The latter necessitated the formation of a tournament committee, the forerunner of a more permanent match committee. The Australian Championships were held at the Royal Sydney Golf Club, while the NSW titles (the 4th such titles) were held at the University Club at 70 Phillip St.

Balls

A recurrent theme in the early records (shades of the present!!) was the standard of the balls. In 1938 the SRANSW asked the SRAA to:

*... decide what ball should be played with, to lay down a specification of the standard, and to state where such a ball can be obtained.*¹⁷

Competition balls were to be a problem well into the 50s - until Slazenger produced the Australian Yellow Dot Championship Ball.

*Australian
Championships*

As early as 1938 the SRANSW showed interest in promoting the game. The holding of the 1938 Australian Championships was an obvious promotional exercise for the fledgling Association. Many of the formal Meetings for late 1938 seemed to resolve around the organisation of the Australian Championships, both men's and women's.

Interstate Match

At the conclusion of the Championships there was a friendly match between Victorian and NSW players, a match won 4-0 by Victoria.¹⁸ This was the precursor of the interstate series. A second promotional exercise was the appointment of alternate Delegates Mr V G Wesche and Mr J P Carrington, to the Advisory Group of the NSW Sports Committee.¹⁹ Although nothing was recorded as to the function or purpose of this body, it may be assumed that it was a State Government body connected with sport development.

*Inter-Club
Competition*

Initially there was no official inter-club competition (although there is a suggestion that a small three-team unofficial competition existed prior to 1938). A 1936 newspaper article headed "Squash Racket Competition Move" states:

Australian champions, Miss Joan Long-Inness and Noel Heath, participated in the first practice matches of the squash racquets season yesterday.

There is a move to form a winter squash racquet competition among teams representing the Sydney Club, Garden Island Naval Depot, the Military College (Victoria Barracks), and the Royal Sydney Golf Club (Rose Bay).²⁰

What resulted is not recorded but was probably the three-team competition alluded to above. It is to be noted that 1936 was the year the very successful Victorian pennant competition started.

In June 1939 it was decided to write to all clubs suggesting such a competition. Almost certainly the successful Victorian competition provided the model. The positive response resulted in the decision to hold an inter-club competition commencing on 11 July 1939.²¹ All matches were to be played on a Tuesday night (the most popular night for competition squash until the advent of Thursday night shopping in the 1970s), have a 7.30pm start; and consist of four-man teams. There was no women's competition. All clubs entered a team. Although the competition commenced, it was never completed owing to the outbreak of war in Europe. The SRANSW disbanded for the duration of World War II

The Post-War Period -- 1946 - 1950

The period 1946-50 saw most of the organisational structure that was to last for approximately 40 years set in place. It was a period of organisational development, rather than a development in numbers of players. That did not occur until the lifting of wartime building restrictions and the improved economic climate gave rise to the phenomenon of public courts.

The first official post-war meeting occurred on 11 April 1946. Messrs Bavin, Wesche and Murray (all present on 27 June 1938) were present. Elected to office were

President: J W Bavin
Treasurer: H V Napier
Secretary: D R A Murray

Post War Inter-Club Competition

All the pre-war clubs were represented. This first post-war meeting was notable for the decision to hold an inter-club competition commencing in June for both A and B grade teams and to appoint a match committee to organise same. Two rounds were to be played (unlike the abandoned '39 competition). Although no mention of competition during the war years exists, the remarkable swiftness with which the Association was revived and an inter-club competition organised, suggests not only contact between many of the pre-war committee but even the possibility of some play.

Perhaps these men were able to play squash because they were exempt from active service due to either their age or their occupation. Play would have been heavily dependent on the supply of balls. There is some evidence to suggest that play continued in Victoria for at least the early war years.²² The existence of enough players for there to be two grades (only one for 1939) suggests the possibility of there being many demobilised officers wishing to continue the game they played whilst in the armed forces (particularly those officers who served with the British Armed Forces).

Balls

Squash balls, a problem to some degree all through the years, were a definite problem at this time, and the problem persisted until 1956. In 1946 the problems were twofold - availability and quality. The balls, imported spasmodically from England, were ...too fast in summer, too slow in winter.²³

The Ormiston Rubber Co. of Melbourne made some balls specifically for the Australian Championship. Unfortunately they were very fast, to the extent that on occasions they would bounce out of court.²⁴ Mr H V (Vin) Napier (subsequently to represent NSW and succeed Bavin as President), was commissioned to test the balls on their arrival from Melbourne. On 7 June 1946 Napier reported the results of his testing. His solution to the problem of balls being too fast for Australian conditions is well worth reading:

For competition matches, an Ormiston ball to be used, having been previously played with at least five times, and pierced symmetrically eight times with red hot wire, such as a lip grip paper clip.²⁵

Professionals

1946 was also noticeable for the apparent beginning of the often "stormy" relationship between professional players and the amateur body. The SRAA records show lengthy discussions re the admittance of professional players (or those who had lost their amateur status - a subtle distinction), to amateur status.²⁶ Half a dozen or so applications for re-admittance were before the SRAA. To complicate matters, one or more had already regained amateur status. Apparently the English SRA had made a formal "landmark" ruling on re-admittance to amateur status.

The SRANSW (in line with the English SRA) apparently took a "hard line" attitude to re-admittance, a stance that would continue until the advent of "open" squash. The SRANSW advised the SRAA that they favoured ruling all existing re-admissions invalid. There were to be no re-admissions unless under exceptional circumstances. Further, the SRANSW favoured the organisation of more "open" events.

This attitude, echoed by the VSRA, was consistent with the times. Squash, like cricket, tennis and rugby union, was a game played by "gentlemen amateurs". Professionals, particularly teaching professionals (employed by most English and some Victorian clubs) were tolerated, but that was all.

Pennants

1946-50 was the period in which all the basic organisational structures for the modern pennant competition were developed.

One of the first post-war decisions was to hold an inter-club competition. Apart from the details mentioned earlier, not a great deal is known about this first post-war competition. Fortunately the 1947 list of teams has survived (15 teams entered, 6 in A-grade and 9 in B-grade):

Navy	1 B	University	1 A, 1 B
Sydney	1 A, 1 B	Army 1	1 B
Royal Sydney	1 A	Army 2	2 B
Langridges	2 A, 2 B	Killara G.C.	1 A, 1 B

Competition Rules The first production of a *Squash Book* setting out all matters for the forthcoming season ²⁷ was in 1947. As well as containing such matters as fixtures, venues, dates and contact names/numbers, it seems highly likely that a basic set of competition rules was also included. Already Council Minutes contained many references to competition rules and the need to examine them. The 1946 competition would seem to have highlighted some weaknesses.

The search for a better (more resistant to exploitation by the players) set of competition rules continued throughout this period - indeed, up to and including the present. Council Minutes contain many references to rules, particularly to tightening "loop-holes" but also to such mundane matters as starting times, reporting of results, reserves, etc. **SOME PROBLEMS NEVER CHANGE.** A related problem was, as at present, the standard of refereeing. References occur in the Minutes to circularising, on a monthly basis, the "correct" interpretation of the rules (one rule per month).

Finances In 1947 teams were, for the first time, charged an entry fee of £1/1/-. This was in addition to the club affiliation fee of £2/2/-. Over the years this initial entry fee, designed to largely cover the cost of the competition, grew into **THE** major source of income for the SRANSW. The Association was to become more and more reliant on the Sydney competition as it's major source of income. It was to be many years before this situation would be partially relieved (by Government grants and income from the Association Squash Courts). Finances were in such a poor position in 1948 that in December it was decided to write to the SRAA asking for a donation of £20.²⁸ The request was refused.²⁹

Women Of noted absence in the early records is any but the briefest of references to women's squash. Certainly (post-war) there was no NSWWSRA until 1956. Exactly when women's squash restarted after the war is not clear. The first reference in the Minutes is a reference to the 1948 Women's Finals being deferred for a period of time. Certainly NSW Women's Championships were held from 1947 onwards.³⁰ There is a 1951 reference to the Pennant Committee being asked to organise one grade for women in the pennant competition.³¹ The 1952 AGM Report contains the following reference:

The Pennant Competition drew an entry of 24 teams from seven affiliated clubs and was run in three grades for men and one for women.

Note: 6-team/grade competition

Moved by Moffat, seconded Napier:

*That an order be placed with a reputable firm for Pennants for A- and B-grade winners.*³²

Pennant Competition With remarkable speed the inter-club competition became the Pennant Competition. In February 1948 a Pennant Committee was elected, replacing the earlier Match Committee. Although no formal motion seems to have

been passed, almost all future references in Council Minutes refer to "pennant competition" not "inter-club competition", although the latter term did not finally disappear until the early 50s. Most likely the speed of change was helped by the very successful and much larger Victorian competition being called a "pennant competition".

The remainder of the period 1946-50 was a period of consolidation, not expansion. The only new clubs in this period were two army clubs (Victoria Barracks and North Head) and the Sydney University Club (established 1948) which played out of the University Club.

City Houses

In 1948 the Association accepted the affiliation of the City Houses Association.³³ This Association ran a successful competition between employees of various business houses (suggesting the existence of more courts in the city than the list of SRA clubs suggests). At the meeting of 12 July 1948 it was decided that City Houses be allowed two Delegates. It seems that the SRA Pennant Committee had some input into the running of this alternative competition, a situation that was to change in the early 1950s when the two Associations went their separate ways. In 1949-50 the City Houses Championship was played in conjunction with the NSW Open Championship. Certainly the 1950 championship was largely run by the SRANSW.³⁴ The City Houses competition exists to this day, although still independently of NSW Squash Ltd.

Organisation & Promotion

The beginning of 1947 saw the resignation of the Hon Sec, Mr D R Murray. Murray, along with Bavin (President) and Wesche (Delegate and 1st President) was present at the inaugural meeting of the SRANSW. Mr Wilson, the Delegate from Langridges, was appointed both Hon. Secretary and Publicity Officer. His success in the latter period is not known, although the job presumably involved getting articles and results into the newspapers. He was the first of several publicity officers in the period 1946-50.

The evidence suggests that 1947 represented a "coming of age" of the infant SRANSW. Regular (bi-monthly) meetings were agreed to, Constitutional changes made and promotional opportunities examined.

Constitutional Changes

Until this time, the organisational structure was somewhat amateurish in that the ruling body consisted of three elected officials (President, Treasurer and Secretary) and two delegates from each affiliated club. The organisational changes adopted in 1947 (the addition of three Vice-Presidents and a permanent Pennant Committee) were to last, with minor changes, until the end of the 50s when the Districts came into being.³⁵ The 1947 AGM (held on 16 March 1948) saw the name of R A (Bob) Buckland appear as an elected member of the Pennant Committee. He was to be President for many years. For the first time an official Auditor was appointed.

Promotion

Steps to promote the game were taken at the February '47 meeting where it was decided to approach the National Fitness Campaign Director re the building of more squash courts. In brief, this initiative resulted in Napier being involved in an attempt to get the Federal Government to establish, as part of a complex, a set of Association squash courts in the Exhibition Building. Unfortunately this never came to fruition - it was to be many years before the SRANSW was to have its own courts (see Chapter 3). In addition it was decided to:

*approach Victoria Barracks and other establishments with redundant courts in an effort to obtain more competition clubs.*³⁶

Efforts were made to have courts established in all new buildings. An almost immediate result was the formation of Army Club 1 and 2 based at Victoria Barracks and North Head respectively. In February 1948 it was decided to write to the Mayors of country towns with a view to obtaining their support for the establishment of squash courts. In 1949 the North Head Army Club was approached to help in the establishment of a club at Manly.

Probably the major promotional exercise of these times was the 1949 tour by Mahmoud Abdul Karim, World Open Squash Champion. This tour was initially organised by the SRAA. The SRANSW offered to guarantee the tour to the extent of £100, an amount subsequently raised to £150. The tour, certainly the NSW leg, was by all accounts very successful. Karim played in the NSW Open Titles (defeating Gordon Watson from Victoria - the Australian Open title holder³⁷), as well as playing in exhibitions and coaching selected amateurs. A profit of £0/7/- was realised.

Interstate Series

As mentioned earlier the first interstate match, between NSW and Victoria, occurred at the conclusion of the 1938 Australian Championships. In 1946 Mr J W Boden, President of the SRAA, stated:

*... it has not been possible to arrange Interstate matches, but these are receiving the serious consideration of the Executive ...*³⁸

In 1947 the SRANSW suggested that two NSW/Victoria matches be held on a home-and-away basis. The first match was to be in Melbourne and the second in Sydney at the conclusion of the Australian Championships. No records exist as to the fate of the game in Melbourne (assuming it was ever played), but Victoria won the match in NSW (played at the University Club). From the 1947 SRAA Annual Report:

It was very pleasing to see a revival of interstate games this year ... The Association is extremely keen to see an extension of these matches, and hopes shortly to have the co-operation of other States in developing these games as an annual event.

Results were:

<i>I R Carson</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>H V Napier</i>	<i>9-3, 2-9, 9-6, 9-1.</i>
<i>M G Weston</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>G H Slade</i>	<i>9-4, 9-1, 7-9, 9-5.</i>
<i>F L Harris</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>J Burgess</i>	<i>9-6, 9-2, 9-4.</i>
<i>E Metcalf</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>A H McDonald</i>	<i>9-6, 6-9, 9-4, 7-9, 9-0.³⁹</i>

The SRAA records show that in 1948 the States were, for the first time, formally invited to send an official team to the Australian Championships:

*That this Association invites all State Associations, to participate in Interstate Matches in conjunction with Australian Championships...*⁴⁰

Thus 1948 saw the inaugural official NSW team sent to the championships. Vin Napier was appointed Captain-Manager:

*Moved that a team of 4 amateurs be sent to Melbourne & their expenses to be Air Fare + £2/10/- also that the NSW 1948 Professional Champion be offered the alternative of free air to & from Melbourne or £3/3/-. Also that the Professional runner up be given a purse of £1/1/-.*⁴¹

The 1948 Interstate Match was played at the South Yarra Club prior to the Australian Championships. The result was a 4-0 win to Victoria.

<i>I R Carson</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>H V Napier</i>	<i>9-4, 9-5, 9-6.</i>
<i>M G Weston</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>G H Slade</i>	<i>9-0, 10-8, 9-1.</i>
<i>F L Harris</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>H Ratcliff</i>	<i>9-7, 9-6, 9-7.</i>
<i>E Metcalf</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>R A Buckland</i>	<i>9-3, 4-9, 9-2, 9-0.⁴²</i>

The Australian Championships were held in Melbourne in 1949 instead of in Sydney due to the continuing power problems the State was experiencing.⁴³ This, combined with the poor financial position after consideration of the potential expenses of the Karim tour, resulted in NSW not sending a team to the Australian Titles. The 1950 Australian Titles held in Sydney, saw not only a men's interstate match being played but also for the first time a women's interstate match.⁴⁴

Relationships with the SRAA

After the war the reconstituted SRANSW attempted to contact the SRAA (11 April 1946). This proved to be somewhat harder than anticipated, the initial attempt producing nil result. The Secretary was asked to *follow up the effort to communicate with the Australian Association by writing to the Argus newspaper.*⁴⁵ The first post-war meeting of the SRAA was not until 30 July 1946. At this meeting NSW's request to hold the 1946 titles was rejected. Unfortunately by December 1949, relations between the SRANSW and the SRAA had markedly deteriorated. The reason is not altogether clear although one reason was certainly differences of opinion over the financial arrangements of the Karim tour. It could be reasonably inferred that the decision to move the 1949 Australian Championships from NSW instead of postponing them until September as requested by the SRANSW, contributed to the decline in relationships. The wording of the relevant minute certainly suggests other reasons:

After discussion it was decided that a letter, the terms of which to be approved by the Executive, be forwarded to the Australian Association deploring the conduct generally of that body from the executive point of view & suggesting that the 'home' of the Australian Association should be shifted from state to state at set intervals.⁴⁶

Although the motion was lost at the SRAA meeting, this was the start of a push for NSW to be the Headquarters State. Although relationships soon improved, a fervent desire to host the SRAA never disappeared. Success came in 1959.⁴⁷

Finances

Up to and including 1950, the finances of the Association were always in a poor state. The only sources of income were affiliation fees and pennant fees, the latter being basically set at just enough to pay costs with a little left over. The request to the SRAA for financial help in sending a team to the 1949 Australian Championship is indicative of the problem. In February 1947, the financial report showed a credit of £5/9/4 plus approx. £3/-/- value in squash balls held.⁴⁸ The 1949 AGM financial statement showed a reported credit of £6/0/7,⁴⁹ while the 1950 AGM statement showed a credit of £34/12/9.⁵⁰ Not a happy picture, although things were improving by 1950. Unfortunately November 1950 saw the SRAA increase affiliation fees from £2/-/- per State to £1/-/- per affiliated club.⁵¹ In the late '50s this was to represent a lot of money.

The Players of the Period

Miss Joan Long-Inness: An associate member of the Royal Sydney Golf Club (RSGC) and the daughter of Justice Reginald Long-Inness (one of those behind the founding of RSGC and the chief instigator of the building of squash courts at RSGC), she would seem to have been by far the best NSW women's player of the 1930s. Miss Long-Inness won the 1935 Australian Title, was runner-up in the 1933 and 1938 Australian Titles and won the NSW Title between 1935 and 1938.

Geoff Slade: A player who would probably have had a brilliant career if not for the war. Pre-war he was runner-up in the '36 State Titles and won the '39 State Titles. Post-war he won the '46, '50 and '53 State Titles and was runner-up in '47 and '49.

CHAPTER TWO

THE EMERGENCE OF PUBLIC COURTS

1951 - 1959

This period saw squash change from an 'elitist' sport practised by middle-class 'gentleman amateurs' belonging to private clubs, to one in which the average practitioner was more likely to be a 'working class' man or woman playing out of a public court. In these ten years the (men's) pennant competition went from one Winter competition (9 clubs/24 teams) in 1951 to two competitions, Winter (67 clubs/224 teams) and Spring (76 clubs/247 teams) in 1960. For the period 1951 - 1956 there was definitely 1 womens grade and possibly 2 in 1956, the year the NSWWSRA was re-formed.

Organisationally the SRANSW changed from a small executive with clubs having two representatives at meetings, to a larger executive with no club representation, but with four District Chairmen. In 1960, Sydney squash was split into Major grades (1st - 3rd run by a Registrar) and four Districts ('A'-grade and below). Country squash and junior development started at the end of this period, while a NSWWSRA was formed in 1957. The appearance of public courts saw the formation of the Squash Court Owner's Association (SCOA) and the beginning of an often 'prickly' relationship between the two organisations. Similarly a professional player's association was formed near the end of this period.

Pennants

In 1951 the Sydney pennant competition consisted of three men's grades (A, B & C), one women's grade and a City Houses competition. There were only 7 clubs - a situation basically unchanged since 1946. Interestingly, at the May meeting the possibility of the competition running for only one round was discussed.⁵² The idea, most probably a result of power restrictions, was not accepted. In addition the Minutes of this meeting contain the first reference to N R (Nev) Johnson, later to become President.

Rather surprisingly, a reference in the January Minutes suggests that the actual pennant (flag) for winning a competition did not appear until 1951 (presumably for the 1950 winners) although it was in November '47 that a motion was first passed to produce such an item.⁵³ It was not until 1963, and then only at the insistence of the Secretary L W Ezzy, that members of each winning pennant team received individual trophies.⁵⁴

The years 1952-55 saw little change in the pennant competition, there being 18, 22, 23 and 23 men's teams respectively.⁵⁵ The year 1956 saw an increase to 36 teams while 1957, the year in which for the first time there were Winter and Spring competitions, had 44 and 55 teams. The boom had started. Apart from continual refining of the pennant by-laws, one of the few matters of note was the election of Nev Johnson to the Pennant

Committee, the beginning of his long association with the SRANSW.

At the 1954 AGM the Squash Centre (179 Falcon St, North Sydney) was accepted as a venue for the semi-finals and finals of the 1955 State Titles.⁵⁶ The Squash Centre was the first **PUBLIC** court centre in NSW. Langridges was essentially a gym with a set of squash courts attached, while the University of Technology (later UNSW) and Royal Prince Alfred (RPA), although not strictly private clubs, were not commercial public courts. The SRANSW agreed to the holding of some matches at this centre as a promotional exercise. The owner installed a stand for the matches. In June 1956, Apex, Northern Suburbs Rugby Union and St Leonards were accepted as members of the Association.⁵⁷

By the 1960 Spring Competition there were 76 affiliated clubs, the vast majority being associated with public courts. The period 1956-1960 witnessed the greatest increase in teams and clubs in the history of squash in NSW, culminating in the formation of the districts in 1960. The basic by-laws which were developed in this period, along with the organisational structures, were to last until the early nineties - the Registrar became an elected official; weekly result sheets were initiated; the first geographical grading of B and C grades; the formation of the Districts; and the concept of fines for breaches of the pennant by-laws were introduced. The first fine was for "forfeit without notification" (£1/0/0).⁵⁸

The first Spring competition (45 teams) was held in 1957 for B and C grade teams. An attempt was made to grade teams both by standard and by location (for travel minimisation). This second competition innovation proved so successful that the following year A grade teams also entered. The two-competition format became the norm.

The 1955 AGM

In many ways the 1955 AGM (27 March 1956) represented a watershed in NSW squash. The first public squash centre was built, and entered teams in the pennant competition. The previous AGM had seen J W Bavin (the last of the Delegates to the Foundation Meeting - 27 June 1938 - still involved in squash administration), stand down from the presidency to become the first Patron of the SRANSW. He was replaced as President by Vin Napier. Thus, the mid-fifties saw both a 'changing of the guard' and the growth of public courts. It would appear that the majority of the discussion at the 1955 AGM centred around two Constitutional changes involving the definition of a club, voting rights, conditions of affiliation and limitation of rights of court owners. The 'winds of change' had arrived.⁵⁹

The advent of public courts had a profound effect on the SRANSW. No longer was squash the preserve of the "private club". Yet there had to be control of the burgeoning public squash scene. The Association actively encouraged the expansion of the game but at the same time needed a mechanism to organise and control the clubs. An additional problem was - what position was to be occupied by squash court owners? Whilst not professionals under the classic definition of a professional, they nonetheless derived all or part of their income from the sport.

At the 1955 AGM several changes were made to the Constitution. The first change defined the voting rights of a club Delegate:

*No Delegate shall be entitled to vote if the club he represents does not own its own court or courts or lease or rent a court or courts for its exclusive use unless such club has 25 or more members.*⁶⁰

The second change stated that a delegate could not have a financial interest in the profits of any squash court in NSW:

*No Delegate who has any financial interest in the profits of any Squash Court in New South Wales other than as a member of a club shall be entitled to vote.*⁶¹

The Constitutional changes in 1960 extended the restrictions to include any:

*... employee of a sporting goods manufacturer or employee of a major sporting goods distributing organisation.*⁶²

The third change was a list of pre-conditions for the affiliation of a club with the Association. They were to provide a copy of the rules, a list of members and a copy of the latest balance sheet. This last Constitutional condition imposed on the public court clubs was, in essence, an attempt to ensure clubs conformed to the private club model. The exclusion from voting of those having a financial interest in courts other than as a wage-earning employee (and hence the right to nominate for an executive position) was, while understandable in terms of the ethos of the fifties, to prove unfortunate in the long term. It represented a 'split' that was to continue for almost 40 years and ultimately, to have serious consequences for the industry.

The situation was exacerbated by the "McCausland affair". Mr A McCausland, chosen in August 1956 to represent NSW, was the winner of the 1956 Australian Titles. In November 1956 he was in trouble with the SRANSW regarding his amateur status. It was alleged that he was acting as a teaching professional at the St Leonard's courts. An additional complication was that Mr McCausland was a director of Squash Courts Pty Ltd, the company owning the St Leonard's courts. The Delegates' Meeting of 27 February 1957 would seem to have been very largely devoted to this affair, an affair which took a number of months to resolve.

An interim rule finally passed at this meeting went so far as to limit the ability of the court owner/manager to play against a customer, unless the business paid for the court time of the court owner/manager. The customer could pay only for one-half the costs; otherwise, the court owner/manager would be judged to be "semi-professional", and ineligible to play in amateur championships, but eligible to play in pennants. A "full" professional was of course, banned from playing in both.

Not only was the rule passed, but the Delegates were also asked to remain silent until the owners were officially verbally informed. It is recorded that

delegates were requested by the President to *not discuss this matter with Court owners*.⁶³ The court owners were to be invited to a "get together" on 18 March 1957 and £20 was to be allocated towards expenses. Apart from a good social "get together", it would be, in the words of Napier:

*...the opportune time to discuss with Court owners the various matters concerning Amateur Status, in particular, the one which refers to owners or part-owners of Squash Courts.*⁶⁴

Unfortunately the results of this meeting were not recorded. However it seems clear that the unfortunate split, sometimes friendly but often acrimonious, had its origins in 1956-7.

Finances

The early fifties saw the SRANSW again in a troublesome financial position. The 1951 AGM reported a deficit for the year of £59/11/07 leaving a balance of £12/12/07.⁶⁵ By October 1952 the financial position was so poor that the SRANSW was forced to:

hold a guessing competition in aid of the Association and the prizes to be awarded as follows:

<i>First Prize:</i>	<i>Squash Racquet, Tennis Racquet or 3 Doz. Beer</i>
<i>Second Prize:</i>	<i>2 Doz. Beer</i>
<i>Third Prize:</i>	<i>1 Scotch</i> ⁶⁶

The records show a profit of £9.6.3 with the winner being the first Registrar, Claude Jeacle.

The financial position remained poor, despite raffles, until the late fifties. This was largely because the only real source of income were the pennant fees. Whilst there were times when finances were tight, never again was the SRANSW to be in such a poor financial position. As long as the pennant competition numbers remained high, finances would remain comfortable. An 'explosion' of pennant teams in 1956, coupled with a doubling of pennant fees (£1/1/0 to £2/2/0 per team), greatly strengthened the financial position of the Association.

An interesting historical note is that the balance sheet for 1958 lists the first assets of the Association as a typewriter and filing cabinet.

Women's Squash

The first Women's Interstate Teams Event was played in 1950 in Sydney. The lack of any mention of the event in the 1950 AGM Report of the SRAA would suggest either the women's result was not considered important enough to comment on (unlike the men's) or more likely, the event was not considered to be an official result. This latter possibility is strengthened by the comments recorded in the 1951 SRAA AGM Report:

*a silver tray ... to the winning team ... intended that the tray will be held for twelve months in the hope that the competition will become an annual event.*⁶⁷

The 1953 SRANSW AGM Report lists only the 1951-52-53 overall results. More evidence that the 1950 match was not considered to be an official match. Fortunately Mrs R A Buckland was able to supply the results of this first match in which Victoria won 4 rubbers to zero.⁶⁸

M Meagher	d	Y Swan	9-1, 9-1, 9-3.
R Maddern	d	J Calman	9-6, 5-9, 9-4, 9-1.
F Williams	d	M Thorpe	9-4, 10-8, 2-9, 6-9, 9-4.
V Cox	d	J Hislop	10-8, 9-4, 8-10, 9-1.

Thus the year 1951 saw the first official Women's Interstate Team Event. The Women's Match Committee (Misses White and Allan) selected the team of Calman, Swan, Hislop and Griffiths to go to Melbourne. The match was played at the St Kilda Squash Courts on 25 August 1951 and resulted in a win for Victoria by 4 rubbers to nil.⁶⁹ Interestingly the mother of champion squash player Sarah Fitzgerald, Judith Tissot (subsequently winner of 4 Australian titles), played in this match.

V Watts	d	J Calman	9-0, 9-6, 9-1.
B Meagher	d	Y Swan	9-4, 9-0, 9-3.
J Watson	d	J Hislop	9-0, 9-7, 9-4.
J Tissot	d	M Deburgh Griffiths	9-3, 9-2, 9-1.

The relative position of women in 1951 can possibly be gauged by the different treatment with respect to financial aid to team members:

*It was agreed that the men selected should be assisted by the amount of the return air fare to Melbourne (approximately £13/10/0), and that women receive an allowance consistent with the Associations financial position, and the amount of money actually brought into the Associations finances by the womens section of the organisation. This amount was set at £5/0/0 each.*⁷⁰

It must be pointed out that this was at a time when women were basically expected to give up work when married and when under many (if not most) awards, women were paid a lower wage than were men. This notwithstanding, one can easily see the genesis of the move by the women for an independent women's Association.

In 1952, the Australian Championships were held in Sydney. The 1952 AGM report has the rather terse comment, *The women's team showed improved form, but were not strong enough to defeat Victoria.* There certainly was not a women's team sent to Western Australia in 1953, although this could well have been due to other States, noticeably Victoria, also not doing so. Certainly in 1954 a women's team, consisting of Y Swan (Capt), J Calman, W Windon and S Andrews, was sent to Victoria - again with a £5/0/0 subsidy as against £15/0/0 for the men.

At the 1955 AGM (27 March 1956) the President, Vin Napier, made mention that members of the women's team had approached him regarding the formation of a women's Association. The matter was left in abeyance until later in the year. Unfortunately, references to the women's

Association cease soon after this. At the 1956 AGM (20 March 1957) a general discussion occurred re relationships with the NSWWSRA. It was agreed to meet members of the women's Association on Monday 25 March 1957.

Thus it can be inferred that at some time between March '56 and March '57 the NSWWSRA was formed. Unfortunately records cannot be found for the period prior to 1960. In the 1952 AGM Report there is a reference to the good work done by Misses Wendy White and Jean Allen. W White was certainly President 1960-61 and there is evidence that she was President for at least part of the period 1956-59.⁷¹

Country Squash

Until the 1959 AGM very little mention of the country areas appears in the records. This changed in February 1960:

It was moved and passed on the motion of J Cheadle and F V Toohey that the Wollongong Association be invited to conduct the first NSW Country Championships.⁷²

It can be inferred from the Minutes that the event was a success. The awarding of the first country championships to Wollongong had its origins in July 1959 when Napier suggested the concept to the committee as a way of giving encouragement to country players. Mr A Negrine (President of the Illawarra and District SRA), supported the concept and suggested Wollongong as the venue.⁷³

Australian Association

After the problems of 1949, relationships with the Victorian-based SRAA proceeded smoothly during the '50s. Still it would seem that the desire for NSW to be the host state of the SRAA never died. By the mid-fifties all the States were affiliated with the SRAA, resulting in a decline of the Victorian 'dominance'. In the late '50s NSW was successful in instituting far-reaching Constitutional changes to the SRAA. In particular, in August 1955 a clause stipulating that no State could be the host State for longer than 10 years, or less than 2 years (unless near-unanimous agreement from the other States) was inserted into the Constitution. At the Executive Meeting of the SRAA, held Monday 21 December 1959:

It was resolved that NSW shall be the Headquarters State in which meetings of SRAA in 1960 shall be held.⁷⁴

Finally, it is worth recording that in June 1960 the SRANSW passed the following motion:

That delegates to SRAA be directed that, while the voting power of SRANSW at SRAA meetings exceeds the combined voting power of all other States, they should abstain from voting if their opinion is opposed to that of all other States unless to do so would involve SRANSW in a financial commitment which it does not wish to assume.⁷⁵

Thus, entering the 1960s, NSW was the premier squash State.

CHAPTER THREE

THE AGE OF THE DISTRICTS -- 1960 - 1992

This period sees the rise of the influence of the District Committees to levels never thought of, followed by their essential demise; the emergence of affiliated associations (referees, juniors, day-time ladies, country associations, etc); the building of association courts; incorporation; and amalgamation with the NSWWSRA. It was a period in which the number of squash players reached undreamt of heights, only to plummet 10 years later; and when NSW was for nearly 20 years the dominant State, both in administrative influence and player strength.

The Year 1960

The 1959 AGM

This AGM, held in February 1960, must rank as one of THE defining moments in the history of the SRANSW (as indeed the year 1960 could be regarded as one of THE defining years). It effectively set the path and structure of squash in NSW for the next 30 years. The districts came into being; a Constitution for the next 30 years was examined; and country squash as part of squash in NSW commenced.

The Representation

At the 1950 AGM the following clubs were represented:

Army	Killara	Langridges	Navy
Royal Sydney	Sydney Uni	University Club	

By February 1960 the situation had dramatically changed. At the 1959 AGM (held in February 1960), the following clubs were represented or were eligible to attend:

Acme	ANZ Bank	Army	Apex	APM
Ashfield	Bankstown	Briars	Burwood	Campsie
Canterbury	Caringbah	Castlecrag	Chatswood	City Markets
Coogee	Crofts	Dee Why	Dulwich Hill	Eastern Sub.
Epping	Gordon	Giles	Hermitage	Hornsby
Illawarra	Killara	Kogarah	Lane Cove	Lindfield
Manly Dist	Manly W'gah	Maroubra	Maroubra B'ch	MLC
Moorefield	Mosman	North Sydney	Northern Sub	Northwood
Olympic	Parramatta	President	Punchbowl	Queenscliff
Ramsgate	Regents Park	Roslyn	Rothmans	RAN
RPA	Royal Sydney	Rugby Union	Ryde	St George
St Johns	St Leonards	Squash Centre	Sydney	Sydney Uni
Turrumurra	Turrill Bay	University Club		

The acting Secretary of the Illawarra District Squash Rackets Association and a representative from the Griffith Squash Rackets Association were also present. A total of 63 clubs as at February 1960 - a far cry from the 8 clubs in 1950. To quote from the Presidents' report to the 1959 AGM (held 10 February 1960):

Today there are a total of 286 courts in N.S.W with at least 40 more in the course of construction. Of these 286, 64 are situated in the main country centres and we wish to achieve suitable administrative and

*competitive relationship with squash players in all these centres as soon as possible.*⁷⁶

The Districts

In the same report the President, Vin Napier, stated:

The projected formation of District Management Committees and other administrative changes brought forward in this report merit serious consideration by all delegates

At the AGM, on 10 February 1960, the Hon Secretary, W (Bill) Mattick, outlined a scheme which proposed establishing a major NSW competition and dividing the Sydney metropolitan area into four districts each to be run by a district management committees:

*It was moved and seconded by B Fear and R Buckland that the scheme be implemented. This motion was passed.*⁷⁷

The inaugural District Management Committees were

<i>NORTH</i>	<i>Dr J Hadley (Chair), J Hisser, T McGovern, K McCann, H Sykes</i>
<i>SOUTH</i>	<i>D Angus (Chair), L Howell, D Hazell, W Elliott, C Johnson</i>
<i>EAST</i>	<i>B Bruce (Chair), G Levell, A De Bono, L Reading, K Morgan</i>
<i>WEST</i>	<i>D Vanderfield (Chair), K Ison, W Laws, J Luscombe, A Kusher.</i> ⁷⁸

Thus ended approximately two years of thought, hard work and experimentation.

The new Constitution was discussed at the AGM but not passed. Instead, a Committee was elected to examine the document in more detail and report to a subsequent meeting in May. On 20 May 1960 the new Constitution was passed unanimously. With only relatively minor changes (principally those associated with incorporation in 1979), it was to remain essentially unchanged until the restructuring of the Association in the early 1990s.

Life Membership

The first meeting of the newly constituted Council meet on 6 June 1960. After dealing with routine matters, President H V Napier:

*formally announced his retirement as President of the S.R.A. of N.S.W. and in doing so nominated Mr Buckland as his successor. This was seconded by Mr Fear and passed unanimously by the meeting.*⁷⁹

Until the new Constitution there had been no provision for the appointment of Life Members. The insertion of such a provision allowed both Bavin (second President and first Patron) and Napier to be suitably rewarded for their contribution to squash by being made the first Life Members of the SRANSW.

*It was moved by Mr Buckland and seconded by Mr Slade that Messrs Bavin and Napier be elected the first Life Members of the Association. The motion was passed unanimously by acclamation.*⁸⁰

Administration

The 32 years 1960-92 were, administratively, a period of basic non-contentious evolution. The presence of E E (Ted) Barlow for most of this period ensured this. This does not mean to say that there were not many highly contentious matters dealt with over this period of time. There were many such matters.

Court Registration

The 1960s saw a gradual build-up of the game. Probably the most contentious item was the Court Registration Scheme. Centres from which competition clubs operated, were charged an amount per court per year. The scheme was approved in principle in July 1963 and details circulated in September 1963. Correspondence from the Women's Association indicated its opposition to the scheme. There was also, as one would expect, a degree of opposition from the industry. The December Council Meeting decided that all money received would go into an interstate and overseas touring fund, the details to be circulated to all court owners.⁸¹

The scheme seemed to work reasonably well initially, as evidenced by the February 1964 Minutes which records registration fees from 35 court owners and 32 private establishments.⁸² In February 1977 the SCOA representative informed the Board that the SCOA committee had recommended to its members that they no longer pay Court Registration Fees.⁸³ In April '77 it was decided to send out fees notices with an explanation of how the money was to be spent. However, continued resistance resulted in the scheme being dropped in 1980.⁸⁴ Over the years, court owner resistance had increased to the point that the scheme was not worth the effort. In many ways the demise of the scheme was an accurate indication of the relationships between the SRANSW and the SCOA (or at least, over the years, some members of the SCOA board).

In 1987 the SCOA indicated it was in favour of the proposed appointment of a State director of coaching/development officer to be partly funded by an industry levy in the form of a court registration fee. By this time the Articles had been finally changed to allow court owners to be elected as Vice-Presidents. It is to be noted that by 1990 many courts had ceased to pay. This situation was to last until 1993 when the SCOA decided not to financially back the scheme any longer.

SCOA

It must not be inferred that poor SRANSW/SCOA relations were always the case, or involved all SCOA members. Indeed there are many references in the SRANSW Minutes to good relations with SCOA members. Some excerpts from Annual Reports are:

We have continued to work closely with ... thank John Luscombe and his committee for their co-operation and generous support ... 1960

During the year delegates of the SCOA have attended our Council meetings by invitation ... advice and continual support ... 1965

The SCOA have attended our Council meetings and their contribution to discussions is gratefully acknowledged ... 1972

However there was a period in the '80s in which the SCOA board seriously examined the possibility of "taking over" the Sydney pennant competition. Many meetings and appropriate assurances from the SRANSW averted the move.

Professionals

A Professional Association was formed in the early 1950s. Pre-war there seemed to be several professional players in Victoria but there is no evidence of their existence in NSW. The decade-long battle to be allowed to play in pennant matches was again indicative of the times - gentlemen amateurs and professionals. Numerous requests were denied until finally, in 1965, Council decided that they would be allowed to play in the Autumn competition on a trial basis.⁸⁵ From the official letter (6 January 1965) sent to Fred Barlow, Secretary of the Professional Association:

I have to advise that the Association has agreed to allow The Professionals to enter the coming Autumn Competition as a trial...⁸⁶

Fred (no relation to Ted Barlow) was a 'guiding force' in the Professional Association for many years. His wife Yvonne (née Swan) represented NSW in many interstate teams and won numerous NSW titles in the 1950s. Fred Barlow promptly called a meeting of the professionals at which he stated:

We are on trial - everyone must be on their very best behaviour - absolutely no arguing with the referee.⁸⁷

As a result of the very successful trial, the professionals were allowed to play in the Spring pennant on a permanent basis.

Player Registration

An equally contentious matter was the introduction of a player registration fee (\$2.00/player) at the November 1970 meeting. However such was the opposition to the move that at the 1970 AGM there was a petition presented to have the registration fee removed. A Special General Meeting was called (2 February 1971) to debate the matter. Fortunately for the finances of the Association the Meeting, after much "vigorous debate", agreed to the registration fee. This meeting did not solve problems with the country areas where opposition was very strong (what do we get for our money - what do you ever do for us?). In February 1972 it was passed that:

Country clubs affiliate at \$2/player/club or Association with 50% being refunded to the Country club or Association for promotion.⁸⁸

For many years this was to be a source of friction with the country clubs. Although never popular, the player registration fee was, in one form or the other, to remain.

Non-Marking Balls

One big advance in 1971 was the advent of the first non-marking ball. Up until 1971 any squash wall not painted at least once a year was almost 'jet black' in colour. In March 1971 Mal Hazell of Consolidated Sporting

Goods (CSG) approached the Council with samples of his CSG non-marking ball. After discussion it was agreed to pass the sample balls over to the ball testing sub-committee.

In June 1971 the Council passed a motion to the effect that *only Australian-manufactured balls may be used in competition play*. This motion was driven by a move to have squash balls imported into Australia. Both the SRAA and the SRANSW had fought for years for there to be an Australian squash ball suitable for Australian conditions.

Slazenger was to eventually come to the rescue with the Slazenger Yellow Dot Competition Ball, the mainstay of the game for many years. Finally, in November 1971 CSG non-marking balls were approved for competition play. It was not to be very long before Slazenger marketed a similar ball. Although many purists felt that the Slazenger marking ball was the ultimate, pressure from court owners soon led to its demise. An additional bonus for the players was that the non-marking balls definitely did not break as easily as did the old balls. The difference was very noticeable.⁸⁹

The Country

The growth of the game outside the Sydney metropolitan area basically mirrored the Sydney growth in this 30-year period, but not the same decline as in the mid 1980s. Although the Sydney-based SRANSW generally tried to help and encourage the growth of country squash - distances, money and at various times lack of enthusiasm (Ted Barlow being the exception) - made for little real success and often strained relations.

The 1960s and 70s were a period where country road transport was very primitive by 1990s standards, and country air travel was both expensive and limited. Additionally, with all the best will in the world, the SRANSW acted more as a metropolitan association than a State association, particularly with respect to country matters.⁹⁰

For all that, serious attempts were made to solve a problem which had no really obvious solution. In 1973 the Council agreed to change the Constitution so that country clubs had the same voting rights as Sydney clubs.⁹¹ In the 80s an additional position, that of Country Delegate, was added to the board. While this helped relations, they were always somewhat strained despite the excellent efforts of the Country Delegates. The introduction of a State Director of Coaching/Development Officer (plus improved communication systems) improved the situation in the early 1990s.

Open Squash

In the mid-70s worldwide moves were commenced to abandon the distinction between professionals and amateurs - that is "open" squash. Tennis had been the catalyst. By 1977 "vigorous" discussion was the order both within NSW squash and Australian squash. The older squash Administrators such as Napier, Buckland and Johnson fought vigorously against the concept while, as a general rule, the younger Administrators tended to favour the concept of "open" squash. It is instructive to read

from the 1974 AGM President's Report. The depth of feeling is obvious:

During our 38 years as an amateur sporting body, public attitude towards amateur sport has changed very considerably and those people and organisations who were once our greatest supporters seek to discredit amateur players and officials. They seek by declaring everything open to abolish both the Amateur and Professional. Currently the battle is being raged on an international level with Australia defending the retention of a distinction between amateurs and professionals. This attitude is held by a majority of the States.⁹²

In August 1977 the SRANSW voted to oppose the concept. Yet by September 1978 Warren Ewing moved that the question of "open" squash be discussed at the next meeting. Such was the depth of feeling that there was a "great debate" held at the Canterbury Bankstown Leagues Club between Gary McIntyre/John Amer on the one hand (pro change) and Ken Hiscoe/Lionel Robberds on the other (anti change). A very respectable sized audience listened to the debate.

NSW finally moved to support the concept of "open" squash. In October 1979, at the International Squash Rackets Federation (ISRF) meeting, the world governing body decided to abolish the distinction between amateur and professional. Finally, the SRANSW President's Report for the 1979 and 1980 AGM's contains the terse statements:

The year has contained two dark spots. The first was the decision of the ISRF to abolish the amateur status from 1 September 1980 ...⁹³

The 1st July saw the abolition of amateur squash in NSW, which meant that the Australian Championships were an Open Event for the first time.⁹⁴

Colours

At about the same time as the open question was being 'discussed', a related problem was coloured clothing. Again, some of the pressure came from the younger generation of players and administrators. As with "open" squash the 'establishment' fought vigorously against the concept ("looks terrible, dark clothes will obscure the ball, advertising will occur", etc).

Such was the rearguard battle that the author can clearly remember players of world standing (Geoff Hunt and Ken Hiscoe) being forced to cover the green and gold colouring on the old Dunlop OC Volley sandshoes before being allowed onto the court during NSW Championships. Finally the ISRF approved new rules allowing coloured clothing. The comment contained in the 1976 AGM President's Report is informative:

New International Rules effective from 1st January 1977 allow local Associations to legislate on the acceptance of light pastel colours. The Council is not in favour of coloured clothing but will be guided by members' wishes.⁹⁵

The Administrators

Vin Napier OBE

H V (Vin) Napier, Life Member of both the SRANSW and the SRAA, was a dominant force in State, Australian and world squash for many years. Although retiring as NSW President in 1960, after serving as Treasurer for 2 years (1946-47), Vice-President for 6 years (1948-53) and President for 7 years (1954-60), he was to also serve as President of the Australian Association (1960-67). He worked for many years to have world championships separate from the British championships.

He was responsible for the formation of the International Squash Rackets Federation which resulted in the holding of the International Championships in Australia.⁹⁶

On the home scene he was instrumental in both the move of the SRAA from Victoria to NSW, and for getting the SRAA to operate as an Australian Association. As a player, he won three NSW titles - in 1947-'48 and 1951. Napier was largely responsible for the tours by world rated professional players Mamhoud Kerin, Abdul Bari, Hashim Khan and Roshan Khan. He also wrote a well respected book on squash technique. He was eventually to be awarded an Order of the British Empire for his services to both NSW and Australian squash.

To honour the memory of Vin, in June 1983 it was decided to hold an inter-district teams competition called the Napier Cup. Each District was to enter a team consisting of the best District A-Grade players. The concept was entirely that of Richard (Dick) Carter, a great admirer of Vin Napier. The exhibition court at Miranda Squash Centre is named after Vin Napier.

R A Buckland

Bob Buckland was involved with the SRANSW in some capacity for almost 30 years. Bob's involvement in squash started in the late '30s as a member of the Royal Sydney Golf Club. He played in the inaugural 1939 Inter-Club Competition as a fill-in for the RSGC team.⁹⁷ After the war he won the Club Championship thirteen times between 1947 and 1965 - a record yet to be beaten.

As with many others, Bob had his life interrupted for the duration of the war. Originally training with the RAAF as a wireless air-gunner, he eventually completed his tour of operations with Britain's famous Bomber Command Film Unit, whose Lancaster crews produced newsreels of the most spectacular raids of the war. Most, if not all, of the photographs of European bombing raids on exhibition in the War Museum, Canberra, were taken by Bob.⁹⁸

He was to serve as Treasurer of SRANSW for 2 years (1952-53), Vice-President for 7 years (1954-60) and then President for an unparalleled 17 years (1961-77). He represented NSW at many Australian Titles, and was the captain of the 1948 NSW team, the first official State team. Bob captained a number of NSW teams, including in 1952 the first NSW team to win the Team's Event and in 1957 the second team to win the Team's

Event. Although never winning a major title, Bob Buckland was a runner-up in the 1952 Australian Titles and on two occasions, runner-up in the NSW Titles.

Bob was a major influence in the development of squash in NSW, his ever present attitude of 'what's the best thing for the game' influenced a generation of squash administrators. In 1965 Bob was awarded a very deserving Life Membership of the SRANSW. The SRAA also awarded Life Membership to Bob. Unfortunately his untimely demise stopped his being awarded an Order of the British Empire (OBE).⁹⁹

Nev Johnson OAM Nev Johnson was to "partner" Bob Buckland in the administration of NSW squash for 20 years. He served as Vice-President for 20 years (1958-77) and President for 3 years (1978-80), with ill-health forcing him to retire from participation in squash in 1980.

It was during Neville Johnson's presidency that the Thornleigh complex was developed as the NSW Association Headquarters. Neville was a NSW and Australian selector for 25 years, a position he served most diligently, many times travelling interstate and overseas at his own expense to get first-hand information on playing performances. He formed the first NSW junior coaching squad in 1969 and maintained his interest in juniors up to his death. On 18 July 1966 he was elected as a Life Member of the SRANSW. As with Bob Buckland, Nev Johnson was a Life Member of the SRAA. In 1982 the Australian Government awarded Neville the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for services to both NSW and Australian squash.

Player Dominance

The period 1957 to 1973 was one of total dominance of Australian squash by the NSW players. It was a period that saw NSW win 17 consecutive Australian Teams events. Players such as John Cheadle, Ken Hiscoe OBE, Dick Carter, Owen Parmenter, Cam Nancarrow (Men's British Amateur Champion 1971 and International Individual Champion 1973), Lionel Robberds (NSW and Australian Team Captain), Bob Pratt, Ted Hamilton (of the TV series Division 4 fame), Bill Reedman (runner-up to Nancarrow at the '71 British Amateur), Raner Ratinac and others, were to prove unbeatable for 17 consecutive years.

A measure of the dominance of these times was the composition of the first Australian team to tour the United Kingdom (1962). Five of the six players were from NSW. John Cheadle (captain), Ken Hiscoe, Owen Parmenter (captain of the '63 Team to South Africa), Richard Carter (lost in 5 to Jonah Barrington in the 1967 British Amateur) and Ken Binns, with the sixth player being Doug Stephenson of Victoria. It should be noted that the team was undefeated for all 25 matches (including 5 internationals), Ken (The Bear) Hiscoe winning both the British Amateur and the Scottish Amateur championships, (defeating Dick Carter in the final of the Scottish). For the first time, England was beaten in England.

The 1964 Australian Championships saw the first 8 seeded players all from NSW (Hiscoe, Parmenter, Hamilton, Carter, Nancarrow, Binns, Pratt, and O'Keefe).¹⁰⁰ In this 17 year period NSW players won 9 Australian Titles; 7 by Ken Hiscoe (1960-64, 1966-67) and one each by John Cheadle (1957 - first NSW player to win the Australian Title) and Cam Nancarrow (1972). Of the other 8 title winners, 5 were Victorian (including Geoff Hunt - 4) and 3 were overseas players. The last NSW player to win the Australian Title was Kevin Shawcross in 1975 (also 1975 World Championship winner). The dominance of NSW squash also represented a period in which Australian squash was dominant, winning the first 4 World Open Teams Events - 1967, '69, '71 and '73.

In 1980 Ken Hiscoe was awarded the OBE for service to Australian squash. Subsequently he was awarded the honour of Life Membership of the SRANSW. He was undoubtedly the greatest ever NSW male player.

Heather MacKay

This section would not be complete without reference to the greatest woman squash player in history, Heather McKay (*née* Blundell) MBE, OAM. Heather won 14 consecutive Australian Amateur Titles from 1960 to 1973, before she turned professional. The 1960 Australian Championships was only her second tournament. She had to survive an elimination round to reach the main Championship draw.¹⁰¹ Between 1962 and 1977 Heather won 16 consecutive British Open titles and the inaugural World Women's Squash Championships, followed by a second World Women's in 1979. Among innumerable other titles, Heather won 12 NSW Amateur titles from 1961 to 1972. Heather was awarded a Life Membership of both the SRAA and the NSWWSRA. In her career Heather lost only two matches - the 1960 final of the NSW Amateur to Yvonne West in 5 games, and to Mrs Fran Marshall in 5 games in a tournament in Scotland during the 1961-62 season. Fran Marshall had lost in the final of the British Amateur 18 months earlier.¹⁰²

Secretary/Manager

Under the stewardship of Bill Mattick the position of Secretary had achieved great importance in the running of the Association. In June 1961 Mattick resigned as Secretary of the SRANSW (although continuing in the position until a replacement was found).¹⁰³ Such was the esteem in which Mattick was held, that on the motion of Messrs B Fear and N R Johnson, he was elected as a Life Member of the Association.¹⁰⁴

Paid Position

Although the clubs were immediately circularised, great difficulty was experienced in finding a replacement. Mattick proposed a scheme whereby the work he had done was split three ways amongst Council Members.¹⁰⁵ Subsequent to this the NSW Squash Court Owners Association (SCOA) put a proposal to the SRANSW involving a jointly funded secretarial service.¹⁰⁶ This would result in a complete secretarial service for the Association, a donation of £600 from the SRANSW towards costs, and the setting up of a joint coordinating committee (publicity, public relations, etc).

At a subsequent Special General Meeting the SCOA proposal was agreed to in principle, the Executive Council being empowered to discuss the proposal with SCOA.¹⁰⁷ As an interim measure Mr D Clarke was appointed until the next AGM. The matter was finally resolved in March '62 when the SCOA offer was accepted.¹⁰⁸

Unfortunately this situation did not last very long. Within 12 months the SRA was looking to sever the connection.¹⁰⁹ The Minutes suggest there was a general lack of support from the SCOA. Relations between the SRANSW and the SCOA were often stormy in the period 1960-92, a result more of different perceptions as to what was needed for the game and the function of the SRANSW, rather than of intrinsic differences.

Until 1959 the Secretary was an elected unpaid position. In a move setting the conditions for a paid employee, in February 1959 the Secretary (Bill Mattick) was voted an honorarium of £50:

*On the motion of N Johnson and B Fear it was moved and passed that an Honorarium of £50 be paid to the Honorary Secretary*¹¹⁰

This figure was increased in July '63 to £100.¹¹¹ The situation was not satisfactory as there was too much work and so in December '63 Ted Barlow moved that the Constitution be amended to allow a paid Secretary to be appointed by Council from 1 February 1964 to 1 July 1964 at a salary of £500 per annum.¹¹² After the AGM approved changes to the Constitution:

*Mr N. Johnson moved that Mr L. W. Ezzy be appointed as Secretary/Manager at a salary of £210 up to 01.07.64
Seconded K. Tinker Carried*¹¹³

Although the position was only part-time, it was only a matter of time until it became a full-time position. Ezzy was appointed for the ensuing year at a salary of £750.¹¹⁴ Unfortunately in early '63 he was killed in a car crash. His replacement, Ted Barlow was appointed to fill the position until 30 June 1965.¹¹⁵ Ted Barlow was subsequently appointed for the next 12 months,¹¹⁶ a position he was to hold for 26 years (8 March 1965 - 31 December 1991), in all being involved in squash administration for 27 years.

The period 1968-72 saw the Association examine ways, including part funding from the SCOA (never realised), in which the position could become full time. The growth of squash, both in NSW and Australia was such that a full-time position was vital. Finally, in December 1972:

E E Barlow

*Mr Ewing moved that the Council of this Association ratify a decision of an Executive Committee that Mr E E Barlow be appointed as the full time Manager of this Association
Seconded D Ruse.....Carried.*¹¹⁷

On the 12 October 1981 Ted Barlow was made a Life Member of the SRANSW, arguably the most deserving of all to be awarded the honour. In the 23 years spent as Secretary/Manager, Ted had an enormous impact on the direction of both NSW and Australian squash. Such was the respect in which he was held by all, and due to his enthusiasm and knowledge of squash, Administrators from all around Australia would contact Ted regarding any problems they were encountering or "good" ideas they had thought of. He, probably more than any other, most closely held to the Bob Buckland attitude of "what's best for the game".¹¹⁸

The Districts

In 1960 the Districts (District Management Committees) were very much under the control of the Association with both the District Chairman and Committee personnel being elected at the SRANSW's AGM. Within several years these positions were elected at District AGMs.

By the mid-80s the Districts were operating essentially as District Associations (the Southern District clubs had formed an affiliated Association with their own Constitution) with full control of pennant squash within their boundaries. Such things as disciplinary matters, full control of district levies and fines, paid checkers employed by individual Districts, office equipment (photocopiers, faxes, typewriters, answering machines, computers, etc) are only some examples of the essential independence of the Districts in the 1980s.

In February '61 the North asked permission to hold the first District Championship. Council permission was given on 27 March 1961. The West was next, being given permission to hold the Parramatta and Western Districts Championships in November '61 (held at the Parramatta courts).¹¹⁹ Within 12 months all other districts had followed suit. Though a small matter, the holding of district championships gave an "aura of authority" to the newfound organisations. Council Minutes for the next few years show the districts to be actively controlling, organising and improving the competition arrangements.

Many problems of the 1960s are still problems today - starting times, district boundaries, pennant rules and unfinancial players, being examples. At the Checkers meeting of 8 January 1962 which had been called to discuss difficulties with the 1961 pennant competition, Kevin Ison (West Checker) offered to rewrite the pennant rules. Problem areas were discussed such as players playing up in a higher grade, alteration of team order, non-receipt of result cards, unfinancial club members and the point-scoring system. These are all matters familiar to present-day players and administrators.

The question of unfinancial players was to be a vexing problem for over 30 years with no viable solution found. In 1962 unfinancial players were a relatively new phenomenon, a product more of the new public court clubs than the older-style private club.

*Administration -
Judicial Functions*

By the mid '70s the Districts were adding their own list of rules or by-laws to the common pennant by-laws. Such matters as "local" fines (additional to Pennant Competition By-Laws list of fines), organisation of semi-finals (including rules for the supply of referees), multi-point scoring systems etc often differed between Districts. This situation had some merit in that many standard organisational matters originated in one or other of the Districts and was subsequently copied by other Districts. For example, the multi-point scoring system for pennant matches originated in the South. After 12 months of successful operation several of the other Districts introduced either the same system or a modified system. Similarly the idea of having both semi-finals at the one centre originated in one District and quickly spread to the others. The variation in local rules sometimes proved to be troublesome resulting in numerous attempts to achieve uniformity between Districts. Eventually most inconsistencies were overcome.

Early in the 1970s Districts started to hold their own judicial hearings. The administrative load on the Council was such that virtually all Council members were only too happy to allow the Districts to discipline errant players. In this instance the Districts followed a uniform procedure drawn up by Ted Barlow in consultation with Lionel Robberds. Initially appeals from District decisions went to the Council. However this soon proved not only onerous but very clumsy. In 1983 a sub-committee chaired by John Picone investigated the possibility of an appeals tribunal independent of the Board. At the Board meeting of 10 October 1983 a motion setting up an Appeals Tribunal was passed with the initial membership being "*Ken Davenport(chairman), Colin Loveday, Sidney Wang, Don Marks, Jack Skelton, Trevor Butt*".¹²⁰

District Finances

The eventual control of their own finances, though nominally under Association scrutiny and veto, was vital to the development of the District organisations. As the numbers of squash players increased through the 60s to peak in 1983, so too did the organisational complexities of the competition. As early as February 1965 the SRANSW agreed to pay the Checkers £10 per year expenses¹²¹ while in March 1965 the SRANSW agreed to there being a second Checker (Recorder).¹²² Organisational efficiency necessitated the gradual assumption of financial control. In December 1968 it was decided to hold a meeting of the four District Chairmen to discuss the concept of financial control within the Districts.¹²³

In April 1969 Council agreed to the Districts keeping fine money to pay for such matters as postage, stationery and phone bills.¹²⁴ At the same time (March 1969) Districts were allowed to choose their own trophies. However by July 1973 finances were such that a \$100 grant was given to each District.¹²⁵ By this time the Checkers required typewriters, paid phones, photocopiers, etc. The problem was that although the Districts kept fine money, the more effectively the fine system worked, the smaller the District income became. Expenses of course continued to increase.

By 1973 year's end, reform of District finances had been discussed but left in abeyance, largely due to the inability of the Districts to agree on the best course of action. Such was the feeling that there was even some discussion as to the formation of (independent) District Associations.¹²⁶ By late 1976 the Districts finally had their finances on a secure footing. Not only did the Districts keep all fines, but they could add their own District levy to the SRANSW pennant fees.

Thus from 1976 until the restructure of 1992, the Districts, while theoretically answerable to the SRANSW, effectively had little financial, or indeed any other, constraints on their operation (other than the wishes of the membership as expressed at District AGMs) although the North wanted even more control (particularly of pennant fees) as late as April 1978.¹²⁷ The Districts were effectively operating as District Associations in all but name.

South West District

As early as 1961 there was discussion re District boundaries (Kingsford, allocated to the South, wanted to be in the East).¹²⁸ The question of boundaries was to be a never-ending topic over the next 30-plus years. At the 1961 AGM the South moved that some Western District clubs be placed in the South. At the February '62 Council meeting a plan presented by the Registrar, Keith Ison, was approved (mainly involving the South, West and East). There seemed to be little trouble for the next 8 years. It was the spread of squash into the Campbelltown area that was to lead to much discussion and dissension, the formation of a fifth District and the formation of an independent Southern District Association.

In October 1970 Campbelltown Squash Club was allowed to choose in which District it wished to play.¹²⁹ Although the West was initially chosen, it wasn't long before Campbelltown was playing in the South. Over the next few years more centres were built in the area. Most, to the dismay of many Southern District clubs (particularly those in the Cronulla Sutherland area), wanted to enter teams in the South. In the period August 1974 to October 1975 work was put into developing new District boundaries. This resulted in the development of a proposal for an inner-west District. However the proposal was to prove unpopular with the affected clubs, so the proposal was shelved in October '75, never to be resurrected.

The 1976 application by Camden to play in the South (the South declined to accept it) was to prove the catalyst for the formation of the South West District.¹³⁰ The feeling amongst many Southern District clubs (particularly from the Hurstville area through to Cronulla) was that the South should refuse to have any club much past the Bankstown-Milperra region.

In June '77 a sub-committee of the four District Chairmen was formed to investigate the formation of a fifth District based around the Campbelltown area. In July '77 this sub-committee suggested a new District could be formed in about 18 months. The delay caused trouble in the South.

Eventually pressure from the South resulted in the District Boundaries Committee once more examining the problem (September '78). In June 1979 a South West District was approved by the SRANSW Council.¹³¹

However, once again, opposition from clubs (Western District clubs in this instance) led to the proposal being re-examined (though by a different sub-committee). So there would be a District of a viable size, the proposal had included many Western District clubs from the southern side of the Great Western Highway. The new District, minus these Western District clubs, finally commenced operating in 1981 under the leadership of Lindsay Ditchburn. By the end of 1988 falling numbers resulted in the South West folding as a District, the remaining clubs being absorbed into the West.

The South

The intensity of feeling within much of the Southern District was such that by late '77 to early '78, many clubs were pushing to have the South refuse to have clubs further west than about the Milperra region. One major reason, other than sheer distance of travel (the M4 did not exist), was the perceived dangers of driving along Heathcote Road late at night - certainly a bad place to suffer mechanical troubles.

This, coupled with the SRANSW not forcing the issue of a South West District, led to the South notifying the SRANSW in May 1978 that, as a result of a recently held Special General Meeting, it intended to form a Southern District SRA in January 1979. The final District vote on the matter occurred at the December AGM of the South.¹³² Despite an initial 'in-principle' agreement, the SRANSW very quickly opposed the move.¹³³

Several committees set up to examine the position of the Districts could not reach a consensus. The Southern District Clubs subsequently voted for the formation of a Southern District SRA, the only real opposition coming from clubs in the Liverpool-Campbelltown area. At the same meeting the clubs voted to continue to allow these clubs (for one more year) to play in the South, this decision to be reviewed if a new District was not formed within the 12 months. However NO new clubs from the area would be accepted. The Southern District SRA functioned efficiently and harmoniously with the SRANSW until the 1992 restructure.

Association Courts

Early Attempts

The desire for SRANSW to have their own squash courts and Association offices goes back to 1947 when Vin Napier attempted to interest the Federal Government in building squash courts as part of a sporting complex. Thirty-two years were to pass before the goal was achieved.

Squash Club

In 1961 the concept of Association courts was resurrected by Peter Marsh. Peter had been recently elected as a Vice-President, the beginning of a very long involvement in the administration of both NSW and Australian squash. He was President of the SRAA for many years and was made a Life Member of both the SRANSW (19 February 1973) and the SRAA. After

John Bavin's death in 1977, Peter accepted the offer to fill the position of Patron, a position he was to fill with distinction until his death in 1998.

The concept being pursued at this time was to form a (licensed) NSW Squash Club, the licensed club to be included in the squash court complex. In March 1961 Marsh outlined to Council a meeting he had with Mr A Bull, the owner of North Sydney Squash Courts (201 Miller St) who was prepared to sell his courts.¹³⁴ Approval in principle was agreed to, as was the setting up of a sub-committee to investigate the matter, particularly the financial aspects. After lengthy investigation the Association decided it could not finance the purchase of these courts.

In January '61 Marsh was authorised to contact lawyers re writing a Constitution for the NSW Squash Club.¹³⁵ At a combined meeting SRA/SCOA (March '62) Mr Doug Croft, owner of Crofts Squash Courts (now Bondi-Waverley), offered his courts to the Association for £45,000.¹³⁶ Although Croft offered to finance the acquisition of his courts at a very generous rate, the Association in its wisdom decided that these courts were not suitable for Association purposes (because there were only four courts, a small gallery space and no exhibition court). The offer was declined, but the possibility of purchasing other courts (eg, Bellevue Hill) was to be investigated.

In the 1962 AGM report the President stated:

*... plans for this project have reached a vital stage. The Club has been formally constituted, a superb harbour site has been selected, Architects have prepared sketches of the proposed building and finance is available.*¹³⁷

The site referred to was a waterfront site in Drummoyne. In the 1963 AGM President's Report, mention is made of the Constitution having been finalised and the name of the club registered as "The Sydney and Metropolitan Squash Rackets Club Ltd". Further, the President (Buckland) reported problems in raising the money. Finally, the President's Report 1964 AGM states:

*The Sydney and Metropolitan Squash Club has been wound up..... permission to build on the proposed site was not forthcoming from the Department of Lands.*¹³⁸

The reason given for refusing the SRANSW permission was that *squash was not a water sport.*¹³⁹

Ken Tinker

In September '65 a sub-committee of Ken Tinker and Ted Barlow was authorised to investigate the possibility of a headquarters for NSW squash. Ken Tinker, elected the previous year as Treasurer (a position he was to hold for 17 years), along with later work by Warren Ewing and Ted Barlow, was to be the driving force behind the ultimate building of Thornleigh Squash Courts.

Ken Tinker, more than any other man, organised the finances of the SRANSW along professional lines. He changed the financial system from what was essentially an 'amateurish' system to a 'business' system. He was awarded the honour of Life Membership in September 1974.¹⁴⁰ As a result of the sub-committee's work, a motion to allow the SRANSW to start accumulating funds for courts was put before the 1965 AGM. The motion was defeated.¹⁴¹

Land Search

Six years later the process recommenced with Ken Tinker as chairman of a sub-committee to investigate a site for NSW Squash Headquarters.¹⁴² The period 1971-74 saw many potential sites investigated - land in Kogarah, Willoughby and Revesby and courts at Padstow and Ashfield were some of the possibilities examined.¹⁴³ The land at Willoughby was the site of the Burley Griffin incinerator.

At this point Ted Barlow "did the rounds of Sydney" looking for potential sites. Whilst looking around Thornleigh he came across a FOR SALE sign at the corner of Duffy Avenue and Pioneer Avenue. There was a derelict house on the block with a vacant block alongside. On 14 July 1975, despite the blocks needing rezoning, the following motions were proposed and passed:

1. Moved W Mudford Seconded M Van Gelder
 Moved this Association enter into the development of a commercial
 Squash Centre"
2. Moved W Mudford Seconded J Picone
 Moved that Lot 1 Duffy Ave Thornleigh is a suitable site for a Squash
 Centre
3. Moved M Van Gelder Seconded N Johnson
 Moved Mr Picone be empowered to offer up to \$70,000 for Lot 1 Duffy
 Ave Thornleigh on behalf of the SRANSW.¹⁴⁴

Rezoning

A sub-committee of Max Van Gelder, Graham Corderoy and Ted Barlow was formed as a Development Committee. The easy part was over. In September of 1975 Mr Emile Jansen Snr was appointed architect. From September to mid-1976 the major thrust of the Building Committee was to get the Development Application (DA) through Hornsby Council.

One of the major problems was persuading Hornsby Council to rezone the land. The difficulty was that the houses along the northern side of Duffy Avenue acted as a buffer zone to the light industrial area north of Duffy Avenue. If the Council were to rezone for a squash centre, then the factories that owned the other houses would probably want to have their land rezoned too.

Ted Barlow spent weeks walking the streets around the site talking to all the residents. He was able to present evidence to the Council that, with the exception of one household, there was no residential opposition to the proposal. Finally the Council agreed to use a 'special uses' clause to rezone

the land as "Special Purpose Commercial", although with the proviso that the SRANSW was never to apply for a liquor licence.¹⁴⁵ April 1976 saw J Picone authorised to settle when the DA passed the Council.

Finance

Having purchased the land and obtained a DA, the next problem was to find the money to build the courts. The next 18 months was a story of continual searching for finance. Since the SRANSW owned the land (ie it was NOT Crown land) the Department of Sport and Recreation would not match the SRANSW dollar for dollar. Eventually a loan for \$500,000 with NRMA Finance, guaranteed by the State Government via the Dept. of Sport and Recreation, was organised.¹⁴⁶ This guarantee was the result of discussions with Mr Ken Booth, the Minister. The SRANSW was instrumental in the setting up of the Government Guaranteed Loan Programme. This guarantee was essential to the NRMA's agreeing to the loan.

W A Ewing

In March 1978 Warren Ewing was appointed Chair of the Building Committee. This was to be a defining moment since Ewing supplied the drive and enthusiasm needed to complete the project. The architect Emile Jansen Snr was instructed to prepare plans for both a ten-court centre including an exhibition court, and a nine-court centre with the tenth (exhibition) court to be added later. The appointment of a professional project manager in October 1978 ensured the completion of the project. On 11 June 1979 Mrs Beverley Gould was appointed the first Manager of Thornleigh Squash Centre (Gould Enterprises was awarded a three year Management Contract).

The Opening

The courts opened for business on Saturday, 18 August 1979. The official opening, on 2 October 1979, was performed by the Hon Ken Booth, State Minister for Sport and Recreation and Minister for Tourism. Thirty-two years after the initial proposal the SRANSW had a headquarters - a showpiece for squash in NSW, a centre in which to hold championships, a means of promoting the game. A forty-year old dream had come true.¹⁴⁷

Financial Troubles

Initially, under the management of Mrs Beverley Gould (President NSWWSRA 1978-82, Secretary 1983-86), Thornleigh was a moderate financial success. Beverley then took up the position of Secretary of the NSWWSRA. Unfortunately the period following the cessation of the Gould management (31 March 1983) was a period of financial loss. By April 1985 the projected loss for the financial year was in the order of \$20,000.¹⁴⁸ The situation was grave. The NRMA loan could not be serviced.

The Thornleigh Management Committee presented a number of recommendations to the Board. The recommendation eventually accepted involved termination of the management contract and the appointment of a salaried manager with an experienced court operator as his supervisor. In May 1985 the existing management contract was terminated. Mr Greg Davies then accepted the position of salaried manager with Mr Geoff Roberts (then operating the Bankstown Metro Squash Centre) appointed supervisor.¹⁴⁹ Geoff was a highly respected administrator and squash

court operator. Geoff decided to resign his position as Vice-President of the SRANSW.

This situation did not last long. Application of much of the advice received from Geoff led to some improvement in the accounts, although insufficient to redress the situation. So impressed was the Thornleigh Management Committee that by February 1986:

The management committee recommends that the SRANSW enter into a Management contract with Geoff Roberts ... ¹⁵⁰

On receipt of this recommendation, the Board immediately and unanimously engaged Geoff Roberts in a management contract. After close to two years of working for little more than cost, Geoff managed to turn the centre into a very profitable operation, a situation that continued to the end of 1992.

Nonetheless the court income was insufficient to fully service the loan. The deficit was to be paid by the long suffering Sydney pennant players - partly by a continuation of the \$1.50 levy (per player per pennant competition) introduced originally to help raise money for the courts. This levy, although accepted, was never popular. Eventually levy and pennant fees were consolidated into one amount. Finally, in July 1994 the final payment was made.

The courts were not complete. The exhibition court (the R A Buckland Court) had not been built through financial necessity. For the next 10 years the SRANSW attempted to complete the project. Grahame Osborn (President 1981-84 and Treasurer 1985-90) was the prime mover behind attempts to complete the project.

Unfortunately a decline in squash, coupled with high interest rates and unrealised Government assurances, all combined to prevent the realisation of the dream.

It should be noted that post 1992 the Board of the new entity, NSW Squash, changed the situation at Thornleigh from that of a management contract to a commercial lease arrangement. The management contract ended on 1 October 1993. Geoff Roberts was the successful tenderer. No longer was Thornleigh to be the Headquarters of squash in NSW. It was merely a source of income. A dream had died.

Incorporation

The process of Incorporation was driven by John Picone. John was a member of the Northern Districts Committee for 5 years, Chairman for 7 years 1973-79 and served 8 years as Vice-President (1980-87) of the SRANSW. At the August Board meeting 1988, John was awarded the honour of Life Member of the SRANSW.

A by-product of the Thornleigh project was the necessity for the SRANSW to become Incorporated (the SRANSW was not a legal entity). This process

started in July 1976 with Robinson & Crisp (Solicitors) being asked to investigate the matter. In October they were instructed to proceed with Incorporation.

Almost two and one half years later (January 1979) the SRANSW was Incorporated, one of the first sporting organisations to do so. On 12 February 1979 the first motion approving use of the common seal was passed (Guarantee Loan Doc and Mortgage Doc).¹⁵¹

Referees Association

The need for a body of competent referees goes back to the beginning of squash in NSW. 1961 saw an attempt to form a Referees Association. It would seem to have its origins in a request received by Bob Buckland to provide a set of refereeing questions for physical education trainees at Teachers Colleges. Buckland decided to investigate the possibility of forming a referees' Association.¹⁵² Unfortunately at a meeting called Monday 17 June 1961 only 6 persons attended.¹⁵³ No official meeting could be held. The inaugural meeting of the NSW Referees' Association on 31 July 1961 saw a number of positions temporarily filled:

Honorary Secretary:	C Jeacle
Treasurer:	D Blackwood
Board of Management:	M Kingsford, D Mawson

Unfortunately the records show an almost total lack of interest on behalf of the players, the fledgling Association dying almost at conception, only half a dozen or so players attending the meeting. Subsequent records are blank until an early 1963 Council reference to the issuing of "certificates of competence" for refereeing.¹⁵⁴ The idea of certificates surfaced again in September 1963 as part of the records of discussion regarding the 1963 Australian Championships. By April '64 the idea had progressed to the stage of written and practical exams being held,¹⁵⁵ the written exam being largely the work of Ted O'Keefe.¹⁵⁶ The concept included lectures for those interested in sitting for the exams.

From the 1964 Annual Report:

In addition to his duties of Registrar, Ted has also found time to set an extremely comprehensive examination for referees. Examinations ... held during the year and it was most encouraging ... so many were interested. The value of qualified referees was conclusively proved during the Australian championships ...

Around this time the Referees Association must have folded, for on 16 September 1964 Ted O'Keefe moved that the SRANSW bear the cost of reforming a referees' Association. In 1965, 50 badges were purchased for qualified referees including those already qualified. In May 1966 the "previous Umpiring Committee was dissolved and a new committee formed" to finalise the refereeing examination paper. This attempt to form a referees' Association was to prove no more successful than previous attempts. The matter rested until June 1971.

Success

At the June 1971 Council Meeting of the SRANSW a committee consisting of the Secretary (Dick Ruse) and the four District Chairmen (Dave Watson, Bill Mudford, Ron Tait and Bill Jones) was authorised to organise a meeting of players wishing to form a referees' Association. Ted O'Keefe and Graham Corderoy (destined to become the last President of the SRANSW and 1st Chairman of the Board of NSW Squash Ltd) were soon added to the Committee.

At a meeting held at the Briars Club, Ted O'Keefe was elected Chairman of the referees' committee. The drive and enthusiasm of Ted O'Keefe was crucial to re-establishment of the Referees Association. After many meetings and a rewrite of both the old exam papers and Constitution a new Referees Association was formed. From the 1972 and 1973 AGM Presidents' reports:

The Referees' Association, under the chairmanship of Ted O'Keefe, has submitted a Constitution to this Association and approval has been granted. Examination papers have been prepared and the stage is set for all squash players to participate. -- 1972

"The Referees' Association now under the Chairmanship of Ted Barlow and with Alan Fletcher as Secretary, is organised and ready to hold examinations. -- 1973

It exists and functions to this day as a sub-committee of NSW Squash Ltd. The provision of a SRANSW appointee as Vice-President and the continual financial backing of the SRANSW have always been important factors in its success. The major factor was the enthusiasm of the early members of the Referees Association, particularly Ted Barlow, Ted O'Keefe and long time Secretary and President Alan Fletcher (*Alan Fletcher has been the guiding light for the Referees' Association* ¹⁵⁷) coupled with the enthusiasm of the present day members.

NSW Junior Squash Rackets Association

From the Annual Report for the year 1977:

*This year saw the formation of a NSW Junior Association, at the moment playing in Sydney only. The teams are mixed and play on Saturday mornings. The inaugural competition consisted of 7 districts, 187 teams and some 820 players. Each district had its own finals and the Inter-district finals were played at the Lidcombe squash centre. Although many people were involved in the running of the Junior Association there is no doubt that the idea, the impetus and the enthusiasm came from Beverley Gould, the NSWWSRA President for 1978.*¹⁵⁸

Notice of the formation of the NSW Junior Squash Rackets Association (NSWJSRA) was received by the SRANSW on 18 April 1977. The initial steering committee was Bev Gould, Sue Newman (née King), Ray Ware, John Picone and Ted Barlow. The concept and organisation, coupled with the enthusiasm of all involved, resulted in a very successful organisation. The leadership of the four Presidents (Bev Gould 1977-83, Graham

Corderoy '84, Geoff Roberts '85-86 and Bruce Neal '87-88) was vital to the success of the NSWJSRA.

Like the Referees Association, the NSWJSRA eventually became a "victim" of the amalgamation of the SRANSW and the NSWWSRA. With amalgamation a lot of the support structure disappeared. In addition the NSWJSRA had the same problem as the NSWWSRA when it came to Government grants. Amalgamation was both desirable and necessary. Within 18 months of amalgamation between the men and women the NSWJSRA also amalgamated.

CHAPTER FOUR

AMALGAMATION and RESTRUCTURING

Amalgamation

It must be understood that amalgamation between the men's and women's Associations was driven primarily by political motives. The basic drive came from two related incidents.

Firstly, the NSWWSRA was not receiving any money from the Government. Upon receiving an application for money from the women, the Department of Sport and Recreation stated that it would give only one grant to one sporting body. That is - amalgamate and it would be prepared to grant additional money to pay for an Administrative Assistant.

Secondly, there were unofficial statements from the NSW Dept of Sport and Recreation that future increases in grants would be increasingly related to whether (or not) the two Associations amalgamated. Both the State and Federal Governments of the time wanted to deal only with combined Associations.

At the July '81 Board Meeting, members were asked to consider the concept of amalgamation with the women's Association. Subsequently, in September '81, the board agreed in principle to amalgamation.¹⁵⁹ This 'in-principle' decision was confirmed at the 1981 AGM. Lack of agreement on details, plus an unspoken desire of many on both sides to put off the day as long as possible, postponed amalgamation until 1986.

The report of a sub-committee formed in March '83 led to a Special General Meeting in October 1983 at which the Articles of Association were changed to allow for future amalgamation. At the 1983 AGM amalgamation was agreed to even though no consensus had been reached with the women's Association. 1983 saw committees on both sides consider proposals for amalgamation, none of which were to prove acceptable.

In August of 1983 the NSWWSRA considered a proposal received from the SRANSW. This proposal was for an amalgamation along the lines of that finally agreed to but at this time the proposal was not acceptable.

*Moved: That the recommendations from the SRA of NSW are totally unacceptable in their present form to this Association.*¹⁶⁰

The September 1983 meeting of the NSWWSRA saw a new proposal put forward to the SRANSW. The basis of this proposal was that amalgamation in name only should be considered:

A vote was taken FOR that a proposal be put forward to the Men's Association that amalgamation take place as a superficial exercise with

*all Associations adopting the same name, and that the Women's and Junior Associations become subsidiaries of the SRA of NSW (as that Association is already incorporated) but operating independently of the master company.*¹⁶¹

It is not hard to see why the proposal put forward by the SRANSW was "totally unacceptable". The women's proposal was considered by the SRANSW at the October '83 meeting. The result of the deliberations was as follows:

*Following discussions on the paper submitted by the NSWWSRA and their statement that our proposal was totally unacceptable to them it was then resolved that this Association strike from our future agenda items in relation to amalgamation with the NSWWSRA.*¹⁶²

The frustration is obvious. The matter was to rest until November 1985.

The November 1985 Board meeting saw the Board of SRANSW acknowledge that amalgamation was in the best interests of the game and that real efforts should be made to achieve amalgamation in the near future, preferably prior to June '86. Government pressure to amalgamate was increasing.

A sub-committee of G Corderoy, J Picone and R England was formed to respond to arguments raised by the NSWWSRA against amalgamation.¹⁶³ 1986 was one of continual discussion with the NSWWSRA, culminating on 8 December 1986 with both AGMs voting for amalgamation.

Restructuring

By the late '80s the squash industry in NSW was in a definite decline. After building to a peak of 3,763 men's teams in 1983, by 1992 the numbers had dropped to 1,987 men's teams:

Year	Teams	Year	Teams	Year	Teams	Year	Teams
1957	101	1966	829	1975	1,488	1984	3,745
1958	225	1967	887	1976	1,598	1985	3,334
1959	375	1968	930	1977	1,827	1986	3,257
1960	479	1969	965	1978	2,098	1987	2,798
1961	599	1970	982	1979	2,418	1988	2,588
1962	712	1971	1,027	1980	2,893	1989	2,450
1963	802	1972	1,040	1981	3,298	1990	2,203
1964	820	1973	1,196	1982	3,540	1991	2,057
1965	817	1974	1,316	1983	3,763	1992	1,987

It was obvious that changes had to occur. Something was needed in addition to the efforts of the Development Officer and existing Board. Additionally, it had been obvious for many years that the Council had become too large and unwieldy.

The Decline

After peaking in 1983 the number of clubs and teams declined, slowly at first then more rapidly. No one reason for such a decline can be given. Instead a combination of many factors most likely contributed to the decline.

One obvious reason was an oversupply of courts managed by operators with little or no knowledge of the squash industry. In the 1970s and early 1980s squash was a boom industry. By the mid-80s many squash courts were suffering, particularly the smaller, older style centres - too little court space, too few players.

A second factor was the general economic decline of the early 1980s coupled with the economic 'crash' of 1989. The combination of maximum finance and high interest rates was to prove fatal for many centres. A third factor was the increasing value of land in Sydney. In many instances, particularly in the north and east, the land was worth much more than the business. This resulted in the demise of many businesses.

Possibly a fourth factor was a changing social climate. In the 1980s many young people had more money than ever before. Licensing laws were being relaxed, allowing more licensed establishments and such to open until late, thus attracting young adults. There was also an upsurge in other forms of indoor sports such as indoor cricket, basketball, etc.

In addition many areas of Sydney were experiencing a rapid surge in numbers of people from a non-English speaking background. Most of these groups did not, and do not, have a culture of either involvement in sport or any involvement with racket-based games.

A fifth factor was a lack of vision/forward thinking on the part of many - both administrators and court owners. The period of time, say 1970 to about 1985, represented a 'time of plenty', a period in which squash seemed to expand without any real effort on anyone's part. This was the time in which there was a crying need for both administrators and court operators with a vision to the future, a need to anticipate problems, and to devise plans to counteract/overcome them. Unfortunately this did not occur.¹⁶⁴ Restructuring, really a recognition of the problems and an attempt to overcome them, came very late - too late ?

The moment had passed, its existence not recognised - paradise was lost.¹⁶⁵

G Corderoy

Leading the push for change was the President, Graham Corderoy. Graham became involved in administration when in 1971 he was appointed to the sub-committee to re-establish the Referees Association. The following year he was elected Registrar. After serving as Registrar for 11 years he was elected Treasurer in 1984 and President in 1985 (a position he was to hold for 11 years - the last three as Chairman of NSW Squash Ltd). On 16 December 1991 Graham Corderoy was nominated for a very deserving Life Membership. Needless to say the motion was passed.

At the July 1990 meeting, it was decided to investigate what, if any, benefits Victoria and Queensland had acquired from restructuring. After receiving favourable reports from them both, Mr Stewart-Weekes addressed a Special Meeting of the Council.

After discussion:

Moved: D England

Seconded: N Kadwell

*That the SRANSW embark on a programme to restructure the Association as a matter of urgency.*¹⁶⁶

1991 was a year of meetings discussing the proposals of Mr Stewart-Weekes (appointed in April 1991).¹⁶⁷ An additional complication was the imminent retirement of Ted Barlow. In October 1991 it was decided to advertise for a new Chief Executive Officer (CEO). On 9 December 1991 Mr Jim O'Brien was appointed, only the second CEO in 23 years.

The proposals, many of a contentious nature, were discussed at some length at the 1991 AGM. Mr Stewart-Weekes explained the proposed changes and fielded a barrage of questions. After much heated comment, the meeting voted 53 to 19 to accept the basic concept as outlined, and to continue development of the restructuring proposals. An implementation management committee was formed with a well-respected Life Member of both the SRANSW and the SRAA, John Cameron, being recalled from retirement to act as Chairman. John Cameron was Vice-President 1979-80, '83 and Treasurer 1981-82. He was also Executive Chairman of the SRAA for many years.

The End

1992 saw a succession of Extraordinary General Meetings (EGMs), most on the question of restructuring. At the September EGM the basic changes required to the existing articles were passed. However a number of modifications requested by the meeting required a further meeting (23 November 1992) at which all changes were passed.

On the 9th day of December 1992 the Squash Rackets Association of New South Wales passed into history and was replaced by NSW Squash Ltd.

R I P

S R A of N S W

27 June 1938 - 9 December 1992

APPENDIX 1

LIFE MEMBERS SRANSW

J W BAVIN (deceased)	06.06.60
H V NAPIER OBE (deceased)	06.06.60
W S MATTICK	15.06.61
B H FEAR (deceased)	14.02.62
R A BUCKLAND (deceased)	18.06.65
N R JOHNSON OAM (deceased)	18.07.66
P J MARSH (deceased)	19.02.73
K W TINKER	09.09.74
J T CAMERON	20.09.76
E E BARLOW	12.10.81
J CLERKE	19.10.87
J PICONE	22.08.88
W J MUDFORD	22.08.88
K HISCOE OBE	17.04.89
G CORDEROY	06.12.91

At Amalgamation those women afforded the honour of Life Membership of the NSWWSRA became Life Members of the SRANSW. The period 1988-92 saw several women given this honour for work in the service of women's squash in NSW. All these women are listed separately as their services were basically to the NSWWSRA. Absolutely no disrespect to these women is intended by so doing.

Mrs S Donovan
 Mrs B Gould
 Mrs H McKay MBE, AM
 Mrs T Spiers
 Mrs K Mansfield
 Miss C Hands

APPENDIX 2

CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS

Amateur Winners

MEN

1935	N M Heath
1936	J F Fairfax
1937	W M Robinson
1938	L G Bode
1939	G H Slade
1940-45	Not Held
1946	G H Slade
1947	H V Napier
1948	H V Napier
1949	F L Harris
1950	G H Slade
1951	H V Napier
1952	J B Cheadle
1953	G H Slade
1954	J B Cheadle
1955	J B Cheadle
1956	J B Cheadle
1957	J B Cheadle
1958	J B Cheadle
1959	F Toohey
1960	K Hiscoe
1961	O Parmenter
1962	K Hiscoe
1963	R Carter
1964	K Hiscoe
1965	K Hiscoe
1966	R Carter
1967	K Hiscoe
1968	C Nancarrow
1969	K Hiscoe
1970	C Nancarrow
1971	K Hiscoe
1972	C Nancarrow
1973	C Nancarrow
1974	Q Zaman (Pakistan)
1975	K Shawcross
1976	L Robberds
1977	I Yeates
1978	I Yeates
1979	G Brumby
From 1980 squash was Open	
1980	C Dittmar
1981	G Pollard
1982	D Williams
1983	D Williams
1984	C Dittmar
1985	D Williams
1986	R Martin
1987	R Martin
1988	A Hill
1989	R Eyles
1990	R Eyles

WOMEN

1935	J Long-Innes
1936	J Long-Innes
1937	J Long-Innes
1938	J Long-Innes
1939	A Hattersley
1940-46	Not Held
1947	P Clarke
1948	P Clarke
1949	Y Swan
1950	Y Swan
1951	J Calman
1952	Y Swan
1953	Y Swan
1954	Y Swan
1955	Y Barlow (née Swan)
1956	J Faulkner
1957	P Parmenter
1958	P Parmenter
1959	P Parmenter
1960	Y West
1961	H Blundell
1962	H Blundell
1963	H Blundell
1964	H Blundell
1965	H Blundell
1966	H McKay (née Blundell)
1967	H McKay
1968	H McKay
1969	H McKay
1970	H McKay
1971	H McKay
1972	H McKay
1973	H McKay
1974	S Newman
1975	S Newman
1976	S Newman
1977	B Papst
1978	L Chapman
1979	B Wall
1980	S King (née Newman)
1981	V Hoffman
1982	R Thorne
1983	C Clonda
1984	S Devoy (N.Z.)
1985	J Miller
1986	V Cardwell (née Hoffman)
1987	A Cummins (U.K.)
1988	D Drady
1989	V Cardwell
1990	M Martin

APPENDIX 3

**Minutes of a Meeting held at the Royal
Sydney Golf Club House at 8pm on
Monday 27th June 1938**

Present	Mr V G Wesche	Royal Sydney Golf Club (in the Chair)
	Mr R J Conlon	Royal Sydney Golf Club
	Mr D R A Murray	Sydney Squash Racquets Club
	Mr J W Bavin	University Club
	Mr G B Carr	Killara Golf Club
	Mr M A G Walker	Killara Golf Club
	Pay Cm ^{dr} R Lowe RAN	Garden Island Squash Racquets Club
	Mr J P Carrington	Langridges School of Physical Culture

Resolutions The following Resolution was proposed by Mr J W Bavin and seconded by Paymaster Cm^{dr} R Lowe:
Resolved that the representatives of the Squash Racquets Players of NSW assembled, form themselves into the Squash Racquets Association of NSW in accordance with the Articles of Association signed by the Chairman of the Meeting.

This was put to the meeting and Carried unanimously.

It was decided that the Articles of Association should be sent to the Members of the Association and that a meeting should be called on Monday 11th July 1938 for the purpose of Appointment of Delegates to the Executive Committee, Election of Office Bearers and other business.

It was suggested unofficially that the NSW Squash Racquets Championships for 1938 should be held on the Courts of the Royal Sydney Golf Club from 6th to 13th August.

APPENDIX 4

A HISTORY of the GAME of SQUASH

It is probable that all racket games derived from the medieval game of tennis, or real/royal tennis. In the 14th Century tennis was played by hand. It developed into a highly structured indoor game played on a complex court with a net and rackets. In 1600 there were about 1,800 courts in Paris. The game spread to England (it is recorded that Henry VIII was a keen player) where over a period of time two offshoots developed, lawn tennis and rackets. Real tennis required a large enclosed space whereas lawn tennis was an outdoors game, and rackets, although more often an indoors game, required a much smaller and less complicated space. By the early 19th Century most public schools and many private clubs had one or more racket courts. Various offshoots of rackets developed such as handball, Eton fives and Rugby fives (all with rules similar to squash and derived from racket rules).

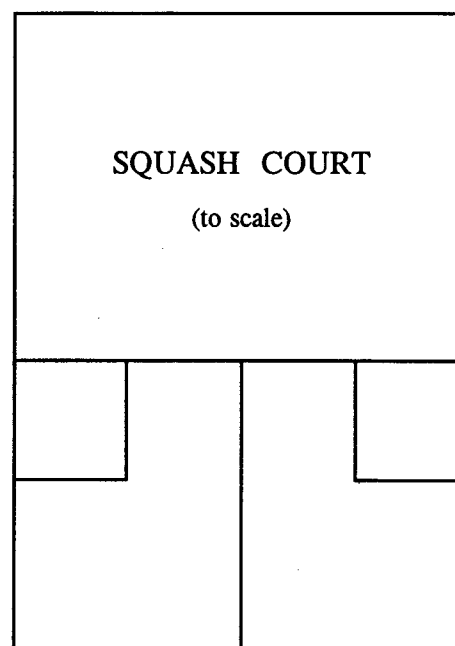
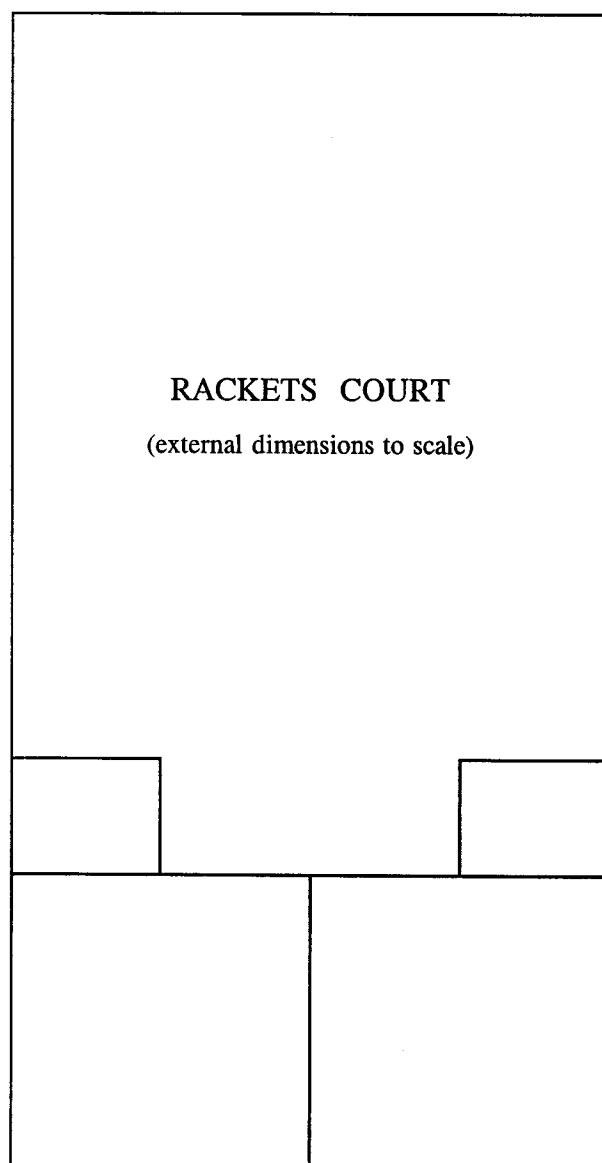
There seems to be little doubt that squash rackets originated at Harrow school some time prior to 1850. Two main versions of how it originated exist. One story has it that boys waiting for their turn on the rackets courts at Harrow school were in the habit of hitting a racket ball around the outside wall (courtyard) of the racket court. Because of noise and/or broken windows they were told to use a softer or "squashier" ball. An alternative story appears in an article by Stuart Hardy, librarian and archivist. Hardy suggests that the younger boys, owing to the pace of rackets, used a softer Indian rubber ball with a hole in it. This allowed the boys to practice correct technique. Possibly the truth is a combination of both tales (hence the name). There are early 1850s "Old Boys" letters referring to 'mini rackets' or 'baby rackets'. There is no doubt that a form of squash existed by 1851. Bill Mattick, in his book "An Introduction to Squash Technique", quotes from a report by Richard Mulcaster, Headmaster of Merchant Taylor's School and St. Pauls England in 1851:

...it is generally noted to be one of the best exercises and the greatest preservation of health.

By the turn of the century the game was so popular that the Bath Club had installed courts for the new game of 'squash rackets'. At this time the basic dimensions of the court had not been standardised. In an article written for the Windsor Magazine (vol. XIII, 1901) Eustace H. Miles, amateur Rackets Champion of 1899, writes:

Any wall - for instance, the wall of a room or the outside wall of a house - can be used for squash. The wall need not necessarily be plain, if only the windows be wired over. A visit to Harrow will show you that the windows and other irregularities in the surface can actually be made to add to the interest of the game.

By 1911 many private clubs had built courts, usually to the dimensions of the Bath Club courts. This year saw the Tennis and Rackets Association attempt for the first time to standardise the court, racket and ball. It was in 1918 that the basic dimensions were finally agreed to. The rules of squash are very similar to those of rackets, although the scoring in squash was first to 9 with only the server scoring while rackets was first to 15 with only the server scoring.



In the same article, Miles states that:

...there are many more racket courts than tennis (Royal) courts ... the large clubs ... Lord's, Prince's, and the Universities ... most Public schools, and in most garrison towns (such as Portsmouth), where they do much to account for the fitness of our British officers. ... Spens, Eastwood, Hedley, and Crawley - in fact the Army is keener about Rackets than any other class of people.

The garrisons in India have their Racket courts, in spite of the heat. ... a game in India as being like running about in a Turkish bath.

It was not so much squash that followed the British army, as is often stated, but the parent game of rackets. By the 1930's the child had displaced the parent - squash rackets was far and away more popular than rackets, probably due mainly to the cost of building squash courts as against racket courts. The squash court is 9.75m x 6.4m while the racket court is 18.23m x 9.14m, almost double the size. An additional advantage would have been that you could build almost two squash courts for one and a half racket courts.

Miles states that there were racket courts in New York, Boston, Chicago, and Philadelphia. Whereas the British game developed around the soft ball, the American game retained the harder style ball and heavier rackets, with their courts being longer and narrower than British courts. The American game also retained the first to 15 point scoring system with every rally won earning a point. The American game would seem to be closer to the parent game of rackets.

APPENDIX 5

1. *SRANSW Minutes 11 June 1938*
2. *SRANSW Minutes 27 June 1938 and 11 July 1938*
3. *Conversation with E E Barlow*
4. *Newspaper Article 24 June 1936*
5. *Newspaper article 14 September 1935 - courtesy Royal Sydney Golf Club.*
6. *Newspaper article by Merv Weston, 12 February 1937*
7. *Newspaper article by H Hopman, April 1937*
8. *SRAA AGM Minutes 1936-7*
9. *Newspaper article, 1935*
10. *SRAA AGM Minutes 1936-37, SRANSW AGM Report 1953*
11. *SRANSW Minutes 8 June 1939*
12. *Information gathered by E Barlow*
13. *History of Royal Sydney Golf Club*
14. *From a letter written by Madame Léonie Henri de Leon (Christian's wife)*
15. *R A Buckland - notes for an address to a Uni NSW Squash Club dinner - from material donated by Mrs R A Buckland*
16. *SRAA AGM Minutes 1936*
17. *SRAA Minutes 11 July 1938*
18. *From material collected by E Barlow*
19. *SRANSW Minutes 7 November 1938*
20. *Portion of a collection of pre - war newspaper articles - SRAA*
21. *SRANSW Minutes 22 June 1939 - last recorded meeting before war commenced*
22. *VSRA AGM Minutes 1940 plus a newspaper article referring to the 1941 State Titles.*
23. *R A Buckland - notes saved by Mrs Buckland*
24. *Draft notes for a speech given by R A Buckland at a University of NSW Squash Club dinner - courtesy of Mrs R A Buckland*
25. *SRANSW Minutes 7 June 1946*
26. *SRAA Minutes for 1946*
27. *SRANSW Minutes 17 February 1947*
28. *SRANSW Minutes 6 December 1948*
29. *SRAA Minutes 25 April 1949*
30. *SRANSW AGM Report 1953*
31. *SRANSW Minutes 11 January 1951*
32. *SRANSW Minutes 3 November 1947*
33. *SRANSW Minutes 12 July 1948*
34. *SRANSW Minutes 21 May 1951*
35. *SRANSW Minutes 15 December 1947*
36. *SRANSW Minutes 17 February 1947*
37. *Newspaper article 23 September 1949, Royal Sydney GC*
38. *SRAA AGM Report 1946*
39. *SRAA AGM Report 1947*
40. *SRAA Minutes 13 July 1948*
41. *SRANSW Minutes 12 July 1948*
42. *From material denoted by Mrs R A Buckland*
43. *SRAA Minutes 27 July 1947*
44. *SRAA Minutes 27 July 1950*
45. *SRANSW Minutes 7 June 1946*
46. *SRANSW Minutes 12 December 1949 and 2 May 1950*

47. *SRAA Minutes 21 December 1959*
48. *SRANSW Minutes 17 February 1947*
49. *SRANSW Minutes 31 March 1949*
50. *SRANSW Minutes 4 April 1950*
51. *SRAA Minutes 14 November 1950*
52. *SRANSW Minutes 21 May 1951*
53. *SRANSW Minutes 11 January 1951*
54. *SRANSW AGM Report 1963*
55. *Based on SRANSW AGM Reports*
56. *SRANSW AGM Minutes 31 March 1955*
57. *SRANSW Minutes 7 June 1956*
58. *SRANSW AGM Minutes 28 February 1958*
59. *Apologies to Harold MacMillan, ex-PM of Great Britain*
60. *SRANSW AGM Minutes 27 March 1956*
61. *SRANSW AGM Minutes 27 March 1956*
62. *Article 11 (b) of Constitution passed 20 May 1960*
63. *SRANSW Minutes 27 February 1957*
64. *SRANSW Minutes 27 February 1957*
65. *SRANSW AGM Minutes 27 March 1952*
66. *SRANSW Minutes 29 October 1952*
67. *SRAA AGM 1951*
68. *Newspaper results collected by R A Buckland and preserved by Mrs R A Buckland*
69. *SRAA AGM 1951*
70. *SRANSW Minutes 15 August 1951*
71. *Discussion with Mrs R A Buckland*
72. *SRANSW AGM Minutes 10 February 1960*
73. *SRANSW Minutes 16 July 1959*
74. *SRAA Minutes of 21 December 1959*
75. *SRANSW Minutes 6 June 1960*
76. *SRANSW AGM 1959*
77. *SRANSW AGM Minutes 10 February 1960*
78. *SRANSW AGM Minutes 10 February 1960*
79. *SRANSW Minutes 6 June 1960*
80. *SRANSW Minutes 6 June 1960*
81. *SRANSW Minutes 15 July 1963, 30 September 1963, 11 November 1963, 11 December 1963*
82. *SRANSW Minutes 12 February 1964 - attached Memorandum dated 9 March 1964*
83. *SRANSW Minutes 14 February 1977*
84. *SRANSW Minutes 11 February 1980*
85. *SRANSW Minutes 4 January 1965*
86. *From files supplied by P P Deacon - long time Secretary of the Professional Association*
87. *Conversation with Fred Barlow April 1998*
88. *SRANSW Minutes 21 February 1962*
89. *SRANSW Minutes 15 March 1971, 15 June 1971, 22 November 1971*
90. *Authors opinion based on heavy involvement during the '70s and '80s.*
91. *SRANSW Minutes 10 December 1973*
92. *SRANSW AGM Report 1974*
93. *SRANSW AGM Report 1973*
94. *SRANSW AGM Report 1974*

95. *SRANSW AGM Report 1976*
96. *SRANSW AGM Report 1967*
97. *R A Buckland notes for an address to Uni NSW Squash dinner - courtesy of Mrs Buckland*
98. *Discussion with Mrs R A Buckland.*
99. *Conversation with E E Barlow, 1998*
100. *SRANSW Minutes 15 July 1964*
101. *The Squash Player Vol 5 No. 6 May 1976*
102. *The Squash Player Vol 3 No. 9 July/August 1974*
103. *SRANSW Minutes 15 June 1961*
104. *Both Bernie Fear and Nev Johnson were themselves to be made Life Members (14.02.62 & 18.07.66)*
105. *SRANSW Minutes 23 October 1961*
106. *SRANSW Minutes 13 November 1961*
107. *SRANSW Minutes 7 December 1961*
108. *SRANSW Minutes 12 March 1962*
109. *SRANSW Minutes 25 March 1963*
110. *SRANSW AGM Minutes 6 February 1959*
111. *SRANSW Minutes 15 July 1963*
112. *SRANSW Minutes 16 December 1963*
113. *SRANSW Minutes 12 February 1964*
114. *SRANSW Minutes 7 July 1964*
115. *SRANSW Minutes 8 March 1965*
116. *SRANSW Minutes 18 June 1965*
117. *SRANSW Minutes 11 December 1972*
118. *Author's opinion based on many years of working with both men*
119. *SRANSW Minutes 13 November 1961*
120. *SRANSW Minutes of 10 October 1983*
121. *SRANSW Minutes 8 February 1965*
122. *SRANSW Minutes 08 March 1965*
123. *SRANSW Minutes 18 February 1968*
124. *SRANSW Minutes 28 April 1969*
125. *SRANSW Minutes 23 July 1973*
126. *SRANSW Minutes 10 October 1973 and 10 December 1973*
127. *SRANSW Minutes 10 April 1978*
128. *SRANSW Minutes 23 October 1961*
129. *SRANSW Minutes 19 October 1970*
130. *SRANSW Minutes 10 May 1976*
131. *SRANSW Minutes 11 June 1979*
132. *SRANSW Minutes 8 May 1978*
133. *SRANSW Minutes 8 May 1978*
134. *SRANSW Minutes 27 March 1961*
135. *SRANSW Minutes 31 February 1962*
136. *SRANSW Minutes 19 March 1962*
137. *SRANSW AGM Report 1962*
138. *SRANSW AGM Report 1964*
139. *Conversation with E E Barlow*
140. *SRANSW Minutes 9 September 1974*
141. *SRANSW Minutes 17 January 1966*
142. *SRANSW Minutes 18 June 1971*

143. *SRANSW Minutes 15 October 1971, 18 June 1973, 12 November 1973, 11 November 1974*
144. *SRANSW Minutes 14 July 1975*
145. *Interview with E Barlow 3 April 1998*
146. *SRANSW Minutes 10 October 1977, 12 December 1977, 10 April 1978*
147. *SRANSW was the only State Association to own its own squash complex*
148. *SRANSW Minutes 24 April 1985 - special Thornleigh Meeting held at the Bankstown Metro Squash Centre.*
149. *SRANSW Minutes 13 March 1985*
150. *SRANSW Minutes 10 February 1986*
151. *SRANSW Minutes 12 February 1979*
152. *SRANSW Minutes 1 May 1961*
153. *SRANSW Minutes 31 July 1961*
154. *SRANSW Minutes 25 March 1963*
155. *SRANSW Minutes 13 April 1964*
156. *SRANSW Minutes 10 June 1964*
157. *SRANSW AGM Report 1978*
158. *SRANSW Annual Report 1977*
159. *SRANSW Minutes 14 September 1981*
160. *NSWWSRA Minutes 15 August 1983*
161. *NSWWSRA Minutes 19 September 1983*
162. *SRANSW Minutes 10 October 1983*
163. *SRANSW Minutes 11 November 1985*
164. *Author's opinion*
165. *Apologies to Milton*
166. *SRANSW Minutes 8 November 1990*
167. *SRANSW Minutes 15 April 1991*

