



Elite Athletes find form with funding boost

The Squash SA Pathways Talented Athlete Program funding recipients for 2011 have been announced.

Ben Werchon and **Justin Beard** - the two most promising young professionals in South Australia have benefitted from up to \$4,000 each in funding. Both players will be required to enter into an individual 'player agreement' and meet strict criteria including a code of conduct, goals and targets which will be written in conjunction with each athlete, the Pathways Manager and the Coaching Team Leader. Each player will also be paired with a senior mentor who has had experience playing squash at an international level.

Top SA player **Jason Mudge** has been appointed to mentor Justin Beard. Jason has a long & successful history on the local stage as one of the leading pennant players in the state. Jason turned professional early in his career and successfully made the leap to international competition with a ranking well inside the world's top 100 professionals. He is now one of the state's most successful financial planners and still very involved with squash in South Australia. Jason will work closely with Justin to assist him in making the transition to international ranks.

With Ben & Justin both heading overseas shortly to ply their trade the funding, high level mentoring and coaching will assist them greatly in achieving their professional goals.

The Pathways program also has a strong grass roots program focusing on the development of our top junior players. SA boasts several junior boys & girls nationally ranked in the top 5 in their age groups. A professional **Coaching Pool** has been established to assist the juniors profession to senior ranks & includes:

Mike Nash – With over 30 years experience, Mike is one of the most skilled coaches in S.A.

Mark Jory – current top 5 player in South Australia & formerly involved as State Coach

Manfred Lang – long-time court owner & player representing Germany at international level

Andrew Edwards – Former State Junior Team Assistant Coach & State 1 player

All are very experienced coaches with a passion for the sport and for developing junior & senior athletes.

www.squashsa.asn.au

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