

Top squash players to compete on the Coast



SQUASH

BY CAMRON SLESSOR

SOME of the world's best young squash players will converge on Devonport this month to compete for honours at one of the state's top events.

The 2017 City of Devonport Tasmanian Open will be held at the Devonport Squash Club at the end of June with the top eight seeded players coming from all over the world.

The men's competition features two of Australia's best players who are seeded number one and two for the competition with Matthew Hopkin the first ranked player and Rhys Dowling number two.

Joining them among the top chances will be the number three seed Tsz Kwan Lau of China and past winner Kush Kumar of India.

Devonport Squash Club's Leon Barnett said the event had attracted some of the best young male players the sport had to offer and he expected a fantastic display of squash.

"This will be a really fantastic event in Devonport," Barnett said.

"We have quite a strong field competing this year.

"In fact, the winner of the event two years ago, Kush Kumar from India is returning again and he will be one the ones to watch again."

Not only will the top seeded players be on display in Devonport, but an impressive field of local Tasmanian competitors have the chance to make it through to the main draw.

The competition will begin with qualifying with four places in the draw up for

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Leon Barnett

grabs.

Barnett said there were plenty of talented players set to give qualifying a go and he highlighted one to watch from the North-West Coast.

"We've got some strong ranked players competing this year along with some good local competitors who will go through the qualifiers.

"One young local guy in particular is Jayden Wadd.

"He's based out of Smithton and plays his squash at the Wynyard Squash Club.

"He's quite a hotshot out of the local entrants and will be the one to watch there."

The event will begin at the end of June, Thursday the 29th and runs until Sunday, June 2.

The semi-finals will be held on the Saturday night which always attract a big attention from the public and the mayor will be in attendance on the Sunday for presentations.

For more information on the 2017 event, contact Leon Barnett on 0488 546 040.