

QSQUASH LTD - 2016 PRESIDENTS' REPORT

2016 memberships has remained steady and we welcome any new members and hope that we will see more growth in our sport throughout 2017. To enable this to happen we need all regions to contact their clubs/centres and keep them up to date with what is going on in the squash world.

QSquash remains dedicated to providing opportunities for people to be healthier, happier and connected to their community through sport. With our four regional bodies all working very hard and in conjunction with the centre/club operators we support all Queenslanders to join in and participate in our great sport through:

- ❖ Beginner, school and junior club programs
- ❖ Pennant, in-house and social competitions
- ❖ Tournaments
- ❖ Participation in high performance activities

During 2016 several Regions utilised the funding grant from Sport & Recreation Qld and ran a number of beginner classes "Learn to Play courses" at Mackay Leisure Centre, Scottvale Park Squash Centre, Cairns Sportsworld and Sandgate Squash.

Referee development, courses/assessments have been supported by QSquash at the Australian Open in Melbourne, the annual Mackay Open, the QJC and during weekly fixtures in Brisbane. Queensland Squash has supported the development of the referees by subsidising their costs to attend tournaments interstate and will continue to do so in 2017. Many thanks to Chris Sinclair, John Small, Nathan Turnbull and Jordan Till for their help and guidance with these courses and growing the numbers of referees throughout Queensland.

EVENTS

QSquash Northern Ltd hosted the 2016 Queensland Junior Championships in Mackay at Mackay Leisure Centre during the June/July school holidays with juniors attending from all over the state. This event was followed by the inter-regional teams' championships with the Brisbane Vipers taking out the 2016 combined Regional Championships. Many thanks to all involved. The Queensland Open was staged at Nerang with Queensland's own Zac Alexander winning the Men's and winning the women's event. Many thanks to Dunlop, The Australian Sports Commission, Squash Australia, Gold Coast City Council and QSquash Ltd, for their support of this event.

REPRESENTATION

QSquash Ltd again participated in the Australian Junior Championships in Sydney providing a full squad made up of members from each of the four regional teams. It is with great pride that I can report that Queensland won their 13th Combined Girls & Boys Age Groups, what a fantastic effort from the whole team. Many thanks to Metro Nissen and Al's Smash Repairs for their sponsorship and to our Manager Jim Calvert and Coaches, Nathan Turnbull, Tom Calvert, and assistant Coach Jess Turnbull as well as all the parents for their continued help and support of our team. The Team Captains for 2016 Courtney Mathers and Jon van der Kreek provided excellent leadership and support of the team throughout the event. Well done by all! The Queensland Sharks Team were nominated by the Board following their 13th straight win at the AJC in Sydney into the QSport Awards and reached the finalist stage this year being beaten by the under 17 Boys Table Tennis team.

DEVELOPMENT

Following on from our successful referee and coaching courses (14 new coaches inducted under the guidance of Grant Gough) in 2017 we will be promoting further development of our referees and coaches. Unfortunately, we still have many coaches to be transitioned into the new coaching framework. As well as utilising the funding from Qld Sport & Rec, QSquash provided further funding for the development of grassroots players, coaches and referees. The QSquash Board will again match the Sport & Rec funding in 2016 which will see each region being invited to apply for funding to run come and try days and/or 7 week learn to play courses for complete beginners.

Many thanks to our Regional Councils and an even bigger thank-you to Nathan Turnbull, Conway Deacon, Nathan Stevenson and Rhonda Hite for their efforts and continued support of our sport. Also many thanks to the parents and volunteers who turn up week in week out to help keep our juniors involved and also the Centre Operators for providing the venues for everyone to continue enjoying the sport we all love.

Throughout the year I have been involved with the Executive Officers Council and also the Presidents Council all of these councils meet regularly for updates, brain-storming and information sharing with the other states and territories.

On a final note QSquash recently lost one of our most valued supporters, Kay Barclay. Kay was the backbone of our Selectors Panel and supported the development of junior squash both in Mackay, Northern Region and Queensland during her lifetime. Kay will be greatly missed by all.

Roslyn Preston

President – QSquash Ltd