

## Media Release

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For immediate release

## Squash takes the stage at the SA Sports Awards

The 2017 SA Sport Awards presented on Friday 24 November in the William Magarey Room, Adelaide Oval saw squash players take the stage on two occasions.

First to walk the red carpet was Alexandra (Alex) Haydon who was honoured to receive the award of SA Junior Sport Star of the Year. Alex (aged 16) has grown rapidly as a squash player, and is currently ranked Australian Number 1 in the Under 17 age group, although she often chooses to compete at Under 19 level for her continuing development. Alex has been selected to represent Australia as part of the Australian Junior Squash Team and has competed in the Commonwealth Youth Games. Alex is not unfamiliar with the SA Sports Awards, having won the Primary School Sports Award in 2014. It is not just great results that make Alex a winner however, she is also known for her great sportsmanship and positive attitude, for which she has received the MC Hazell Award on more than one occasion at the Australian Junior Championships.

Next to take the stage was Chris Dittmar, Squash SA Hall of Fame Legend. Chris was inducted into the South Australian Hall of Fame, joining other South Australian squash champion Vicki Cardwell (nee Hoffman). Chris Dittmar's squash career saw him reach the ranking of World Number 1 and captain of the Australian Team—World Champions 1989 to 1993. His achievements include multiple winner and runner-up standings in professional events around the world. Chris is revered for his professionalism, his single-mindedness and his ability to overcome hardships and injury.

Squash SA sincerely congratulate both Alex and Chris. Phil Sinnott, Squash SA CEO says, "It is a great honour for both Alex and Chris who more than deserve these awards. For an up and coming junior like Alex to be recognised in this way is an incredible achievement for her and shows that squash is a competitive, high achieving and exciting sport with excellent grassroots foundations and pathways to progress a sporting career. Likewise, Chris is a fantastic ambassador for squash and the achievements of his career deserve this enduring recognition. To have two of our great players now in the South Australian Sport Hall of Fame (Chris and Vicki), and knowing that we have more talent coming through, keeps squash competitive in the sporting domain."

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