**Legend**

S&RV has introduced the Legend status to recognise those Hall of Fame members who, following Hall of Fame induction, have continued to distinguish themselves at the highest level for a period of at least five years and in doing so have offered inspiration and example to others in the Victorian squash and racquetball community.

**Paul Vear**

Paul Vear was instrumental in the introduction of the sport of racquetball to Australia in 1977. Having a long involvement in the sport of squash, Paul has been a player, venue operator and was Executive Director of the Victorian Squash Federation for 20 years. He was the squash Assistant Competition Manager during the Melbourne Commonwealth Games in 2006, Director of the Festival of Squash 2001 and Event Manager for the Australian Open in Melbourne from 1994-96. Since his retirement he has continued his involvement in the administration of the sport of racquetball. Paul is actively involved, goes to all the tournaments, compiles rankings points and submits articles to media outlets where possible. Paul has coordinated an extensive review of the Australian racquetball rules and is the secretary of the Victorian Racquetball Committee established by Squash & Racquetball Victoria.

Paul Vear is the glue that holds together the racquetball community and his work has extended to several other States culminating in the National Racquetball Grand Prix Circuit and a national racquetball Committee.

**Lindsay Pattenden**

Lindsay was the driving force behind the development of the Ballarat Squash and Racquetball Association (BSRA), and for over 30 years devoted an enormous amount of his life to developing squash and racquetball throughout the region.

When Racquetball was conceived in this country in 1977, Lindsay became an outstanding advocate implementing promotion and marketing strategies which led the BSRA to become the envy of all racquetball clubs in this country.

When Lindsay first introduced racquetball to his venues, the BSRA had around 1,000 squash players, four years on, the combined total of squash and racquetball players had swelled to around 1,700.

The Ballarat Association won the rights to host the Australian Racquetball Championships for a period of six consecutive years. It is interesting to note that at this time, Ballarat’s squash and racquetball tournaments were so popular, he was able to close entries four weeks prior to the events commencing.

Lindsay was also a long term board member of the Victorian Racquetball Association/Federation and for four years it’s President, plus a board member of the Victorian Squash Federation for five years.

**Judith Fitz-Gerald**

Judith Fitz-Gerald ( nee Tissot), who was a very talented tennis player, coming under the eye of Australian Davis Cup Coach/Captain Harry Hopman, first ventured on to a squash court in 1948.

Fitz-Gerald won the 1952 Australian Women’s Championship, then flittered off to England and Europe, returning in 1955 to capture the 1956, 57 & 58 Victorian and Australian Amateur titles.

Marriage and her first of six children, Kylie, then quickly followed, which certainly curtailed her on court playing exploits, but paved the way for very successful coaching and squash venue operations.

Judith’s coaching career commenced in 1965, she produced two world champions, daughter Sarah and Carol Owens, who won 7 world titles between them, plus numerous state and national junior and senior championships.

Judith also managed the successful Mordialloc Squash Centre from 1972 to 1992.

**Sarah Fitz-Gerald AM**

Sarah started playing squash at 6 years of age , then went on to win every junior state and national title possible, culminating in 1987 winning the World Junior Championship and the ‘Australian Junior Athlete of the Year’. Fitz-Gerald is recognised as one of the top four female squash players of all time; winner of 65 WSA and world tour titles from 94 finals appearances.

Sarah won five World Opens (1996 – 1998 and 2001/02), plus runner-up in 1995, and two British Opens (2001/02), as well as being runner-up 1996-1998.

Sarah has won six World Team Championships, a Commonwealth Games Singles Gold Medal in 2002, represented her country on 75 occasions, was World No.1 from 1996 to 1998 and 2001 to 2003, and captured four Australian Open Championships.

In 1990 a unique piece of history was made when 21 year old Fitz-Gerald won the first of five Victorian Open titles, making it the first time ever a parent (Judith Tissot), and an offspring had won the Victorian Championship, this was replicated at the national level in 1997 when Sarah won the Australian Open Women’s Championship.

Sarah worked just as tirelessly off the court, being on the Board of the world Women’s Squash Association for 11 years, as its President for eight years, devoting much of her spare time to the administration, promotion and marketing of women’s squash at both the international and grassroots levels.

Fitz-Gerald has also won numerous state and national awards, possibly the most significant being the 2001 Sport Australia Dawn Fraser Award, plus the Australian Female Athlete of the Year Award in 2001 and 2002.

Her services to squash and sport have been acknowledged by the Australian Government, being awarded the prestigious Member of the Order of Australia, plus is one of only two Victorians inducted into the World Squash Federation Hall of Fame.

**Geoff Hunt MBE, AM**

Geoff Hunt is arguably the world’s greatest male squash player, having won every major international tournament during a glittering career.

Geoff commenced his playing career at the age of twelve, won the 1962 Victorian Junior title at fifteen, the 1963 Australian Junior at sixteen, and then in 1965 became the youngest player ever at eighteen, to win the Australian Amateur Championship.

Geoff won the first three World Amateur Championships held, in 1967, 69 and 71 (during this period held biennially), then turned professional.

He won the inaugural World Open in 1976 before collecting the next three World Open titles, in 1977, 79 and 80 (not conducted in 1978). In 1981 he lost the final of the World Open to Jahangir Khan.

Geoff complemented these victories with eight British Open Championships in 1969, 74, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80 and 81.

Geoff was world No 1 from 1975 to 1980, overall winning 178 of the 215 tournaments he contested, including four Australian Amateur Championships, Eight Australian Opens, plus ten Victorian Amateur/Opens.

Following his retirement from competition in 1982, Hunt became the Head Coach of the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) squash unit when it opened in 1985, until 2003, where he helped to develop a new generation of Australian squash stars. Up to his recent return to Australia in 2014, Hunt was the Head Squash Coach at the Aspire Sports Institute in Qatar for the past 6 years.

His services to squash and sport have been acknowledged by the Australian Government on two occasions when he received the decorations of the MBE and AM.

In 1981 Hunt was inducted into the World Squash Federation Hall of Fame, only four Australians out of twelve worldwide have been, and one of only two Victorians.

As well, Hunt has been inducted in to the Squash Australia Hall of Fame as a “Legend”, plus inducted into the Australian Sport Hall of Fame.