

Off the Back Wall



Welcome to the first issue of the Squash Tasmania/Performance Pathway Newsletter.

We serve first with excellent news of our talented juniors who headed across the waters to pit their skills against some of Australia's top junior guns in the 2014 Australian Junior Open.



Missing in action: George Moore, Oscar Brown and Nancy Brown

With excellent racquet skills our charges earned the respect of our worthy competitors, finishing with 8 in the top ten. **WHAT A GREAT EFFORT!** Our young lady Grace Pattison overcame her hard fought defeat at the hands of the eventual U/15 Girls winner and with true Tassie grit gained a well-earned third place.

Big games by: Jordan Stokes, Oscar Brown, George Moore, Reagan Barker, Toby Moore, Ben Hudson, Jamie Pattison, Jack Hudson, Emma Clyde, Nancy Brown, Ed Strugnell, Thomas and Harry Palfreyman, showed us all that with a little tweaking here and there we are on the right track.



I think at this point a word of congratulations should go out to the Wynyard Squash Club who recently held their first Open Tournament with at least 70 entrants including many from the Deep South. A lot of hard work by their dedicated Committee paid off and could lead this into an annual event.

Of course we can't forget all of the exciting games played right down the rankings. No quarter was spared and on the final day it was topped off by two of Tasmania's finest racquet wielders, Brodie Stokes (Wynyard) and Matthew McConnell (Devonport). These two athletes had everyone gasping at some of the return shots and court movements. It was a hard fought duel to the end with Brodie finally taking out the honors, leaving Matthew gasping for breath following his hard earned semi final win. I think the quote of the year was overheard during the game "I thought I was in with a chance when it was 'luv' all".

A few weeks earlier the Tasmanian Masters Squash Association held its annual Masters Tournament in Devonport. Another well attended event and it was good to see many getting together for a night out. Once again lots of planning by this dedicated group made this yearly ritual the success we have come to expect. This is one organization that's worth looking at if you are over 35. No matter what your skills are there will always be a spot for you. If you would like more information about this band of happy squashies, contact Gaye Mitchell 0407 435 378.

We want to try and make these newsletters as interesting and light as possible, so please if your club or spies have bits of printable news send them to: leonb@westnet.com.au Photos would also be great.

I thought it might be good to introduce you all to your Squash Tasmania Association Committee. Again, if you have any constructive comments or ideas on how to improve squash in our State that you feel your Committee can work on, let's hear from you.

President: Leon Barnett. Vice President: Kent Harbutt. Treasurer: Michael Brown. Secretary: Chris Doig. Committee: Greg Ward, Nathan Ward, Mark Noonan, Robert Clyde, Julie Smith-Kingston.

The next important weekend for the Performance Pathway Juniors is 24 & 25th May at Parsons Squash Centre, Hobart. A full training weekend camp with guest coaches: Gary Pedersen and Terry White. This is a compulsory camp for all Pathway Juniors and should not be missed. 21st & 22nd June is the final State Team Selection Event to be held at Scottsdale. This is another compulsory event for the Performance Pathway juniors. This is followed by the Victorian Junior Championships on the 27th, 28th & 29th June - entry forms on line shortly.

As mentioned before, if you're over 35 and looking for a good friendly tournament look no further than 4th, 5th & 6th July in Hobart for the Tasmanian Masters Tournament.

These newsletters will go on our website and hopefully will be our means of communication.

So until next month, "A good pre-match warm up can prevent a long lay off!"

Leon