

Presidents Report - 2017

Squash ACT achieved allot in 2016.

We have:

- Ran both a referee and coaches course in 2016 and I would hope that we put further through this training this year.
- Put in place the Facilities Committee to ensure the long term use of the Woden Squash Centre is considered including the potential for commercial use to be considered.
- Obtained a number of grants including tri-ennial funding and a grant to assess the longevity of the Woden Squash Centre.
- Put in place a part time Development Officer.
- Continued to look at ways to reduce our debt – this will result in \$90,000 being repaid in June 2017.
- Social bookings continue to increase however we now need to develop products that allow this to grow further.
- Pennant teams numbers continue to remain stable with 11 divisions still in place.
- Juniors numbers across the ACT continue to grow thanks to the great work of the clubs and the Squash ACT Junior Committee.
- Continued to stay engaged with the ACT Government to ensure that Squash ACT requirements are at the forefront of their considerations. This has resulted in a visit to our Woden Squash Centre and grants to support the future of our sport.
- We were hoping to sell our glass squash court to NT Squash however the Territory election resulted in a change in parties and ultimately the money for that sale being removed.
- The Squash ACT Open continued to grow. In the last three years numbers have gone from 68 to 90 to 97.
- We have continued to reduce the running costs of Squash ACT.

Like my 2016 report it is important to report that our debt continues to hold us back. While we have spent some money this year it is imperative that future Boards are held accountable to ensuring that money is not allowed to be spent without significant scrutiny. As I said last year going forward complacency will be the enemy of the Board. In the next three to five years it is critical that the Board keep aiming to make between \$70,000 and \$100,000 a year. At present the Board has elected to put \$20,000 aside each six months. That needs to continue until our debt is exhausted. We currently have \$60,000 saved in that account with a further \$30,000 needed to pay off our final debt with Gary Hampson of \$90,000. That is due in June 2017.

While I have not nominated to be President this year I encourage all members to ensure that the Board does not go off track with this commitment to pay off our debt. My rough calculations say that if we can pay off the debt that we will effectively be making significantly more than \$100,000 a year. This would open up significant opportunities for the association.

Looking forward we will be running the ACT Open on 5-6 May 2016. This is the fourth year running and I see this event as significant for our squash community especially our juniors who get the opportunity to play a range of different people.

Our CEO Courtenay Budgen continues to work tirelessly to grow our sport. She has done exceptional work in continuing to reduce our debt and has worked hard in managing both Squash ACT and the Woden Squash Centre.

I would like to thank both the Board and Presidents for their support and I know we are heading in the right direction. I look forward to watching squash continue to develop and grow into the future under what I believe to be a strong Board supported by a very good group of Presidents.