In the SWing

Squash Wellington Newsletter



It's difficult to believe that it's almost May already, although these darker nights drawing in, whilst the season ramps up, serve as a reminder that our beloved squash is traditionally a winter sport.

At the moment, things feel very much club-focused, with club open after club open filling the tournament calendar. We are also poised for the flagship season of Interclub, which begins next week with a slight increase in numbers compared to 2022.

On a national (and international) level, our district's juniors have been putting in some serious performances on court as April saw national junior open tournaments on both sides of the Tasman Sea. It was wonderful to see Wellington well represented, especially with our junior women taking on the competition. Read on to hear about their performances in more detail.

Russell Henderson, SW General Manager



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PARTICIPATION

HEAD Women's E & Below - Round 2

The second round of the 2023 HEAD Women's E & Below took place on 23 April at Upper Hutt. A huge thanks to the hosts, specifically Sarah Jackson, for running a successful day of competitive squash in a supportive environment. The new E & Below format (replacing 800pts & below) proved popular, with another 17 women taking part; the same number as round one.

The next round will take place at Club Kelburn on Sunday 21 May. Please spread the word, and remember that all women players at E grade or below are welcome – even complete beginners! Enter via iSquash.



PARTICIPATION

Hutt City Women's Open

The HEAD Women's E & Below rounded off a weekend of women's squash, with the Hutt City Women's Open taking place on the same weekend of 21–22 April. Although it was only the second year of this tournament, nearly 60 women and girls entered, ranging from A grade to J grade. It was awesome to see some of the district's top women battling it out in the open division, as well as players from the E & Below series, and a dedicated girls division for some of the younger junior players.

Taking top prize in the Open was Hutt City's very own Sam Douglas, who took out Kāpiti's Nicki Gibbs (back on her right hand – watch out ladies!) in an epic 5 set battle.





PARTICIPATION

Australian Junior Open

Incredible news from across the ditch, where two of our Wellington junior women did their district (and country) proud with their performances at the Australian Junior Open on 22–24 April. Taking home the silverware was Maiden-Lee Coe, who won the Under 17 Girls competition, beating the top seed in four games. Ka pai Maiden!

After meeting Mana's Maiden-Lee in the semifinals, Masterton's Mackenzie Tait went on to finish in fourth place, two places above her seeding. Awesome job Mackenzie!



AON NZ Junior Open

We also saw some phenomenal junior squash on this side of the ditch this month, with the NZ Junior Open taking place at Remuera Rackets Club in Auckland on 14-16 April. Oliver Dunbar (Tawa), seeded third, reached the boy's final, coming runner up after four games against the top seed, having dispatched the second seed in the semis.

It was fantastic to see the Wellington District represented so well, with many of our juniors (and parents and coaches) making the journey to Auckland. This included Diana Galloway (Hutt City), Maiden-Lee Coe (Mana), Otis Brown (Island Bay), Mackenzie Tait (Masterton), Molly Hawkins (Hutt City), Sophia DeNardi-Gonzalez (Hutt City), and Charlotte Haxton (Hutt City).









PARTICIPATION

SuperChamps

It may still be April, but SuperChamps is beginning to appear on the horizon, and no doubt many of our players and Club Captains have started to think about their teams.

This year, Squash Wellington has published our own SuperChamps Rules Appendix, which are to be used in conjunction with the National SuperChamps rules. This is because we have never had clear guidelines regarding player transfers, despite transfers occurring each year. If you're at a club which doesn't have enough players at a certain grade (or under) to form a team, then be sure to have a read so that you are familiar with the process.

See the appendix here:

http://squashwellington.org.nz/content/uploads/2023/04/SW-SuperChamps-Rules-Appendix-2023.pdf

In other SuperChamps news, Squash NZ are running a free SuperChamps Coach/Manager Webinar this coming Monday, 1st May, which should be very useful for anyone planning to coach or manage a team this year. Click or copy-paste the link below to register:

https://events.teams.microsoft.com/even t/ec17f422-e3c8-40ca-a68e-7025e097412a@dc155266-b87a-453b-802e-a7c37c2ad54b



Their decision will be final.

PARTICIPATION/CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT

Wellington Open 2023 - It's Coming Up!

Yes, again it's hard to believe that it's almost May, which means that the Wellington Open, our district's flagship event, is next month! Returning to Hutt City on 8–11 June, the entries are coming in thick and fast, so make sure you get your name in the mix if you haven't already. Hutt City did an amazing job of hosting in 2022, and with over 170 entries, it was the biggest tournament in the Wellington district for many years. As we have the luxury of six courts at our disposal, we could potentially see that number increase even more this year.

Job Opportunity

After two years of incredible work, Felicity Jones is moving on from her role as Club Manager at Khandallah Tennis & Squash Club. The club is currently recruiting for a replacement, with applications closing on 8 May. Please pass the word on to anyone who might be a good fit, as these jobs don't come up very often.

More information is available on the KTSC website: ktsc.org.nz



COMING UP

HEAD Junior 9Hundy & Red Star - 30 April

Tawa Open - 5-6 May

Red Star Open – 12-13 May

Wainuiomata Masters - 12-13 May

Mana Open - 19-20 May

HEAD Women's E & Below @ Club Kelburn – 21 May

Martinborough Open – 26-27 May

Tawa Masters – 26-27 May

HEAD Junior 9Hundy @ Wainuiomata (bonus points!) – 28 May

Kāpiti B&Below - 2-3 June

Wellington Open @ Hutt City - 9-11 June









