

In the **SW**ing

Squash Wellington Newsletter

LOOKING BACKWARD, MOVING FORWARD

What a year it has been! Although we began the season in the midst of vaccination passes and changing alert levels, that eventually gave way, and most of us were lucky enough to enjoy something resembling a 'normal' squash season. As the season has now wound down, this is a shorter issue of In the SWing than usual, with some reflecting back on the season we just had, and some looking forward to the season we're about to have.

Rather than me attempting to summarise our season, I've left it up to some of our Board Members to share their 2022 squash highlights. And I'll be drilling down into the wealth of incredible events which make up the 2023 calendar.

Combing through the calendar serves as a reminder of how lucky we are to have so much of our favourite sport happening (almost) all year round, so this is a perfect opportunity to say thank you to all the amazing volunteers, staff, sponsors, refs, and of course players across the Wellington district for making 2022 an incredible year of squash.

One exciting piece of news I'd like to share is that Squash Wellington is going to have a new base. From late January, we will have an office at Club Kelburn, so feel free to drop in and say hi! A huge thank you to Squash NZ and Club K for providing the space, and AZ Flooring for donating fixtures and furniture.

I hope you all get to enjoy a few weeks of r&r and family time, and on behalf of Squash Wellington, we wish you Meri Kirihimete me te Hape Nū Ia!

Russell Henderson, SW General Manager



Sponsors & Supporters



PARTICIPATION – AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

SQUASH NEW ZEALAND
NATIONAL AWARDS 2022

Development Coach of the Year

Jack Shearer (Wellington)



SQUASH NEW ZEALAND
NATIONAL AWARDS 2022

Most Improved Junior Players

Oliver Dunbar (Wellington)



SQUASH NEW ZEALAND
NATIONAL AWARDS 2022

Club of the Year

Thorndon Squash & Tennis Club



SQUASH NZ AWARDS

Not only did these remarkable people knock it out the park at the Squash Wellington Annual Awards, they only went on to clear up at nationals! Sending a huge congratulations to:

Oliver Dunbar – Squash New Zealand Most Improved Junior Player

Jack Shearer – Squash New Zealand Development Coach of the Year

Thorndon Tennis & Squash Club – Squash New Zealand Club of the Year

SQUASH NZ REFEREE PANEL

While we're recognising national-level achievements, Upper Hutt's own Brett Simon, WSO Level 3 Referee, has been voted on the 2023 Squash NZ Referee Panel by National and District Referees. Ka pai Brett, we'd like to recognise your huge efforts in getting to this stage.

Let's hope Brett's achievements will inspire others to follow in his footsteps! If you want to find out more about refereeing, check out the World Squash Officiating website, where you can register for free: worldsquashofficiating.com



MEET THE BOARD

MEET THE SW BOARD

A bit like the last day school before the holidays, where you get to leave the uniform at home, and bring in your favourite board game; Kerplunk, Buckaroo, Hungry Hungry Hippos (*I think school kids are a bit more sophisticated these days - ed.*) we're breaking from our usual In the SWing format for this issue.

The Squash Wellington Board have been busy all year in the background making important decisions. This 'Christmas Issue' of In the SWing felt like the perfect opportunity for you to get to know them better as they share their squash styles, and their 2022 highlights.



Name: **Ann Smith**

Club: **Hutt City**

Length of time on SW Board: **About 4.5 years**

How long have you played squash? **7 years**

Drop or length? **Both**

Attrition, power, or cunning? **Power**

Mark or ref? **Either**

What was your club's highlight of 2022? **Hosting the NZ Junior Individual and Teams event.**

What was your district highlight of 2022? **Wellington Open - best yet!**

What was your overall squash highlight of 2022? **It has been great to see so many new faces around the circuit. Clubs have done a fantastic job to bring new members through and convert to competition. Well done everyone!**

How would you like our sport to develop in 2023 and beyond? **I'd like to continue to see the participation growth in our junior and women's space!**

Is there one rally or shot that keeps you up at night? **No**

Name: **Catharine Sayer**

Club: **Island Bay**

Length of time on SW Board: **3 ½ years**

How long have you played squash? **Classified**

Drop or length? **Let's just say that head says length**

Attrition, power, or cunning? **Everyone knows I'm a power player**

Mark or ref? **Ref**

What was your club's highlight of 2022? **Island Bay trip to NZ Open in Tauranga: the group chat was next level comedy**

What was your district highlight of 2022? **Wellington Open**

What was your overall squash highlight of 2022? **Feeling that I'm slowly getting better thanks to super fun coaching sessions with Jack Shearer**

How would you like our sport to develop in 2023 and beyond? **More players encouraging their friends to give it a go or get back into it supported by more mainstream media**

Is there one rally or shot that keeps you up at night? **Too many to mention**



MEET THE BOARD

Name: Malcolm Thomas

Nickname: Mad Mal

Club: Tawa

Length of time on SW Board: 2 years this time around (so far)

How long have you played squash?

Play Squash! That's funny! I attempt squash. Started playing before

PAR

Drop or length?

Drop

Attrition, power, or cunning?

Cunning

Mark or ref?

Ref

What was your club's highlight of 2022?

4th Court being completed

What was your district highlight of 2022?

Otaki winning Sport Wellington Club of the year. Amazing effort from one of the smallest clubs.

What was your overall squash highlight of 2022?

Attending the Nations Cup in Tauranga. A great opportunity to see some of the best players in the world play in a new format tournament. Great 5 days of squash.

How would you like our sport to develop in 2023 and beyond?

I would love to see more open doors at squash clubs. What I mean by that is more clubs with managers or someone on site to welcome non squashies and the potential new players into the club. Our buildings can look quite imposing with the high walls and hardly any windows and I remember growing up in my hometown always passing the local club and wondering what it was like inside. Right now, with the high profile PSA players we have we need to really get people inside our buildings and having a go.

Is there one rally or shot that keeps you up at night?

Not now. As soon as my head hits the pillow I'm gone!



Name: Storm McKenna

Club: Red Star

Length of Time on SW Board: 9 months, started in March 2022

How long have you played sport ? Since I was a kid at the age of five, I was involved in juniors, so I have been playing for 20 years

Drop or Length: Drop (preferably a boast)

Attrition, power or cunning? Cunning

Mark or ref? Mark

What was your clubs highlight of 2022? Red Star May Open, it was nice to have a huge tournament to start the season especially due to the impact COVID had on the game last year. We had a great turnout from all over the lower North Island which was nice to see and great games to watch.

MEET THE BOARD

What was your district highlight of 2022?

I would have to say district SuperChamps. It is a great weekend around the entire district to find the best of the best. There was a huge number of teams this year which made the event even better.

What was your overall squash highlight?

For me it was the return of the NZ Open, and bringing international players onto local soil.

How would you like our sport to develop in 2023 and beyond?

I would like more schools to involve squash as a sport available to play. It is a great game that can be played all year round and there are so many clubs available to join.

Is there one rally or shot that keeps you up at night?

The reverse boast

Name: **Aaron Hape**

Club: **Thorndon AKA Club of the Year 2022**

Length of time on SW Board: **(Almost) one year**

How long have you played squash? About five years, but looking at my playing style you could safely assume I was a beginner.

Drop or length? Answering this would reveal my weaknesses (spoiler: everything is a weakness)

Attrition, power, or cunning? Luck!!

Mark or ref? Mark.

What was your club's highlight of 2022?

Getting glass backs for all the courts.

What was your overall squash highlight of 2022?

Attending the New Zealand Squash Open, particularly with such a huge contingent of Wellingtonians.

How would you like our sport to develop in 2023 and beyond?

I would love to see more Māori take up our sport. Shout out to the crews at Ōtaki and Wainuiomata for the work they're doing in this space.

Is there one rally or shot that keeps you up at night?

My rallies don't last long enough for me to remember a particular one.



CALENDAR

2023 TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

The 2023 Tournament Calendar is even more packed with amazing squash events than our 2022 calendar. Here are a few key facts and figures to get you looking forward to next year.

Not including Interclub, the Wellington district plays host to 67 district and club events next year, as well as 2 national events! When you bear in mind that the playing season is 47 weeks long, there's plenty to choose from.

4

DISTRICT TOURNAMENTS

These tournaments look set to be awesome in 2023.

Wellington Open – hosted by **Hutt City**, 9-11 June. The Open returns to the Hutt in 2023, following the biggest one ever (or at least for a long time). Could it be even bigger this time round?

Wellington Junior Open – hosted by **Tawa**, 17-19 August. With the addition of their brand new fourth court, and as the home club of the Squash NZ Most Improved Junior Player, this is set to be a great competition.

Wellington Masters – hosted by **Mana**, 1-3 September. The Masters returns to Mana, who have previously done an amazing job of hosting this event. Capping off a seven-round Master of Masters series, this will see some high stakes!

Wellington Doubles – hosted by **Hutt City**, 24-25 November. Now scheduled during the long and ever growing run of dubs tournies, and with a few tweaks made in response to the 2022 debit event, players will once again get to enjoy this growing form of the game on some of the country's only full size doubles courts.

We are looking forward to another amazing weekend of SuperChamps in 2023, for many it's the highlight of the playing calendar.

We will be revealing some revised rules and guidelines for SuperChamps early next year which aim to find the perfect balance of participation and competition.

Our 2023 hosts are:

B Grade – **Thorndon**
C Grade – **Red Star & Masterton**
D Grade – **Tawa**
E Grade – **Island Bay**

4

DISTRICT SUPERCHAMPS EVENTS

17

CLUB OPEN TOURNAMENTS

With **14** affiliated clubs in the Wellington District, we would be lucky to have 1 open at each club. But we get even more than that!

CALENDAR

12 JUNIOR EVENTS

Next year, the **9Hundy** series grows, with **7** events (**Island Bay, Red Star, Wainuiomata, Mana, Martinborough, Upper Hutt and Hutt City**).

We also see the reformatted **Wairarapa Juniors and Masters**, hosted by **Red Star**, making for a fun (but seriously competitive) weekend for the whole family.

As well as the **Wellington Junior Open**, we see the return of the **NZ Junior National Individuals**, and **NZ Junior National Teams** events, once again at **Hutt City**.

Supporting the wahine, again, we have **2** multiday tournaments; the **Tawa Women's Open** in March, which coincides with International Women's Day, and the return of the **Hutt City Women's Open** in April, which debuted in 2022.

WOMEN'S EVENTS 8

The **800 series** returns with **6** events (**Khandallah, Upper Hutt, Club Kelburn, Red Star, Thorndon, Wainuiomata**).

7 MASTERS EVENTS

The Master of Masters series is shaping up to be a biggie in 2023, with 7 tournaments – up from 5 in 2022.

This starts early in the season with the Hutt City Masters Age Groups in February, and culminates with the Wellington Masters at Mana in September. Don't forget to stretch!

Don't like reffing A Graders? For those who enjoy the B & Below format, there are plenty of these happening in the heart of the season.

7 B & BELOW TOURNAMENTS

CALENDAR

INNOVATION

Ham & Turkey is perhaps the original innovative tournament, and still going strong at **Tawa**.

Island Bay are introducing a singles one-dayer in the heart of the doubles season, providing an antidote to four-on-a-court fun for those who want a last chance to make the next grade before the season ends. Along with the **Hutt City** one-dayer doubles this makes a Labour Weekend squash bonanza for those who want the best of both worlds.

Capping off the year is the new **Thorndon** (did anyone mention that they're National Club of the Year yet?) 'Fun Tournament'. Exact details to be revealed, but this won't be played for points, so will make for a light-hearted end to the season.

And that doesn't even include the likes of the **Mana** Summer Leagues, the **Wainuiomata** Business House, and the various Intraclubs and Club Champs happening all over the district.

Interclub sees a slight change of format, in response to club and player feedback, as well as turnout in 2022.

Masters Interclub will continue to have separate summer and spring seasons at either end of the year, but will now have a longer winter season, running alongside **Women's Interclub**.

We now have a longer break for **Men's/Mixed Interclub** and **Women's Interclub**; 4 weeks rest between autumn and winter, and another 4 weeks rest between winter and spring to allow players to recharge their batteries and prepare for the next round (although no doubt many will be playing back-to-back tournaments).

In total, we have **22** weeks of **Men's/Mixed Interclub**, **22** weeks of **Women's Interclub**, and **20** weeks of **Masters Interclub**.

INTERCLUB

CALENDAR

TOURNAMENTS AND EVENTS

TOURNAMENTS AND EVENTS

Jan	27 - 28	Tawa Doubles (postponed from 2022)
Feb	09 - 11	Hutt City Masters Age Groups
Feb	17 - 18	Ōtaki Open
Feb	24 - 25	Club Kelburn B & Below
Feb	26	Wellington v Central Jnr Team Challenge @ Central
Mar	03 - 04	Tawa Women's Open
Mar	11	Island Bay B & Below One Dayer
Mar	11 - 12	Khandallah Masters
Mar	17 - 18	Wainuiomata Open
Mar	24 - 25	Tawa B & Below
Mar	27	Squash Wellington AGM @ Upper Hutt
Mar	31 - 01	Wairarapa Juniors & Masters @ Red Star
Apr	06 - 08	Upper Hutt B & Below
Apr	14 - 15	Kāpiti Open
Apr	21 - 22	Masterton April Open
Apr	21 - 22	Hutt City Women's Open
Apr	28 - 29	Thorndon April Open
May	05 - 06	Tawa Open
May	12 - 13	Red Star May Open
May	12 - 13	Wainuiomata Masters
May	19 - 20	Mana Open
May	26 - 27	Martinborough Open
May	26 - 27	Tawa Masters
Jun	02 - 03	Kāpiti B & Below
Jun	09 - 11	Wellington Open @ Hutt City
Jun	16 - 17	Khandallah Open
Jun	22 - 24	Upper Hutt Open
Jun	30 - 01	Island Bay Open
Jul	07 - 08	Hutt City Open
Jul	14 - 15	Masterton July Open
Jul	15	Matariki Maori Poipatu @ Ōtaki
Jul	21 - 22	Club Kelburn Open
Jul	28 - 30	District Superchamps
Aug	04 - 05	Kāpiti Masters
Aug	11 - 12	Red Star August Open
Aug	17 - 19	Wellington Junior Open @ Tawa
Aug	18 - 19	Wainuiomata B & Below
Aug	25 - 26	Thorndon August Open
Sep	01 - 03	Wellington Masters @ Mana

Sep	08 - 09	Mana B & Below
Sep	13 - 17	National Superchamps
Sep	22 - 23	Club Champs Suggested Weekend
Sep	29 - 01	NZ Junior Nationals - Individuals @ Hutt City
Oct	03 - 04	NZ Junior Nationals - Teams @ Hutt City
Oct	06 - 07	Red Star Doubles
Oct	13 - 14	Tawa Doubles
Oct	21	Hutt City Doubles One Dayer
Oct	22	Island Bay Singles One Dayer
Oct	27 - 28	Martinborough Doubles
Nov	03 - 04	Masterton Doubles
Nov	03 - 04	Thorndon Doubles
Nov	10	Squash Wellington Awards
Nov	11	Upper Hutt One Day Doubles
Nov	17 - 18	Island Bay Doubles
Nov	24 - 25	Wellington Doubles @ Hutt City
Dec	01 - 02	Wainuiomata Doubles
Dec	05 - 10	Tawa Ham & Turkey
Dec	14 - 16	Thorndon Fun Tournament

HEAD JUNIOR 9HUNDY & BELOW

26 March @ Island Bay
 30 April @ Red Star
 28 May @ Wainuiomata*
 25 June @ Mana
 23 July @ Martinborough*
 6 August @ Upper Hutt
 27 August @ Hutt City (Final)

* Bonus points for these rounds

HEAD WOMEN'S 800 & BELOW

19 March @ Khandallah
 23 April @ Upper Hutt
 21 May @ Club Kelburn
 18 June @ Red Star
 6 August @ Thorndon
 10 September @ Wainuiomata (Final)

CALENDAR

SUMMER INTERCLUB			
TUESDAYS	17 Jan	MASTERS	
	24 Jan		
	31 Jan		
	07 Feb		
	14 Feb		
AUTUMN INTERCLUB		Entries Close 13 Feb	
TUESDAYS	28 Feb	MEN'S / MIXED	01 Mar
	07 Mar		08 Mar
	14 Mar		15 Mar
	21 Mar		22 Mar
	28 Mar		29 Mar
		WEDNESDAYS	WOMEN'S
WINTER INTERCLUB		Entries Close 17 April	
Slazenger Trophy			
TUESDAYS	02 May	MEN'S / MIXED	03 May
	09 May		10 May
	16 May		17 May
	23 May		24 May
	30 May		31 May
	BYE		BYE
	13 Jun		14 Jun
	20 Jun		21 Jun
	27 Jun		28 Jun
	04 Jul		05 Jul
	11 Jul		12 Jul
		WEDNESDAYS	WOMEN'S & MASTERS
18 / 19 July - Make Up Week			
25 / 26 July - WINTER INTERCLUB FINALS - Top Qualifier to Host			
SPRING INTERCLUB		Entries Close 14 Aug	
TUESDAYS	29 Aug	MEN'S / MIXED	30 Aug
	05 Sep		06 Sep
	12 Sep		13 Sep
	BYE		BYE
	26 Sep		27 Sep
	03 Oct		04 Oct
	10 Oct	11 Oct	
		WEDNESDAYS	WOMEN'S
TUESDAYS	07 Nov	MASTERS (e.c. 23 Oct)	
	14 Nov		
	21 Nov		
	28 Nov		
	05 Dec		

To access the PDF version, head to the Squash Wellington Website, hover over 'Play Squash', then click 'Tournament Calendar'.

Alternatively use this URL:
<https://squashwellington.org.nz/content/uploads/2022/12/2023-Squash-Wellington-Tournament-Calendar-22-Dec.pdf>

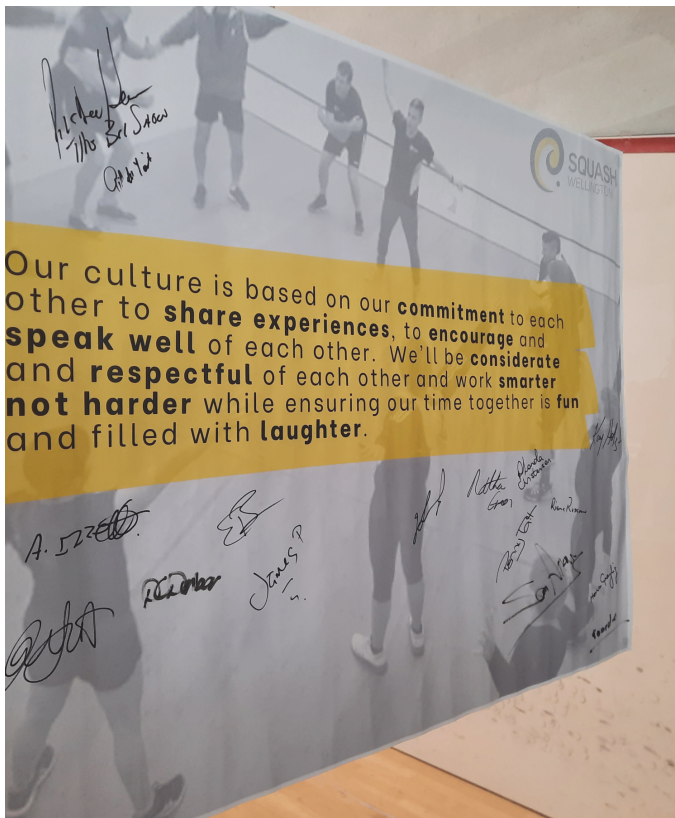
CLUB CAPABILITY & PARTICIPATION

SQUASH SMART

Squash Smart has a new Club Volunteer module – go and check it out!

This will no doubt be a really useful course for many of our Club Committee Members, Presidents, Captains, Convenors, and all the other amazing volunteers who make it all happen.

squashsmart.co.nz



2023 WELLINGTON SQUADS

Keep an eye out in January for the call for Squad Members. We will once again be running squads for juniors, seniors and masters, and have secured sponsorship with the good folks at AZ Flooring, who help to make this possible.

Spread the word, and remember that when the time comes, we will welcome applications from all kinds of players. Even if you don't think you would be able to play for your district, we still want to hear from you! Watch this space.