

# Yellow Dot

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## Dickson Squash Club

### Welcome Back!

We hope you all enjoyed your Christmas and New Year break and that no-one was affected by the disasters that befell Canberra a few short weeks ago. It is at times like these that communities discover the true

nature of their people and I think the outpouring of assistance that followed was evidence of the true Canberra spirit.

As always with a new year and new pennant, there are a few comings and goings. On behalf of the Committee and everyone in the Club, a hearty farewell to the newcomers and a fond adieu to those

### Juniors

The squash club junior program is just gearing up again for the year.

One of the initiatives has been the fitting out of all of the juniors with new club t-shirts. Courtesy of Martin Grace and others, the shirts incorporate a new Junior Club logo on an smart shirt. (Hardly a fashion statement but there have been sightings of them being worn off the court as well as on!!)

And here they all are .....



February 2003

**President**  
Ted Kaminski  
**Vice President**  
Marcus Smith  
**Secretary**  
Matthew Driver  
**Assistant Secretary**  
Claudia Krebs  
**Treasurer**  
Dick O'Rourke

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**Committee**  
Paul Cartwright  
Robyn Douglas  
Martin Grace  
Di Hill  
Ben Phillips  
Tristan Wells

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## Dickson Squash Club

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## Club Practice

For many years now the best value squash around Canberra has been our club practice for \$4.

Feel free to come down on Saturdays from 2 – 5 and Sunday from 3 – 7 for a lively hit with players of all standards.

## Social and Ladies Competitions

None of us need to be told of the dearth of squash players, not just here in Canberra but world-wide. Last year the Squash ACT Board established a Women's Committee to look at the current pennant format and suggest changes to try and arrest the leakage of players to others sports.

One of the initiatives that Dickson is looking at is the running a small **women's only competition**. It is apparent that, while the mixed pennant format has many admirers, it has some detractors as well, and we as a club are keen to keep people playing our great game.

At the moment we are trying to gauge interest in running this sort of competition. One thought is to run such a competition along the lines of Masters, with players being ranked in 'lines' according to their ability (eg Line 1s are the strongest 6 players, Line 2 - the next 6 strongest etc).

If you are interested, or even know someone who might be, let either Dick O'Rourke or Ted Kaminiski (6258 2747) know. If there is sufficient numbers then nights of play, teams etc can be looked at and a competition quickly pulled together.

## Xmas Party

While it is a long time ago for some, the Xmas Party was a roaring success. Some last minute arrangements came together well, and those who attended had a fantastic night at the Holy Grail in Civic.

Stories about the friendliness of some people as the night wore on!

## Club Bar

Everyone is aware of the fridge and esky that the Club has introduced for squash nights. The prices are reasonable and the range is diverse. All proceeds stay in the club and are used to subsidise the Xmas Party and other events.

As the fridge is run on any honour system, it helps mus greatly if you even up your account at the end of each night.

## 2003 Autumn Pennant

The 2003 Autumn Pennant Season is only a few days away (the first night is Tuesday 25 February). With this newsletter will be the team sheets and notification of the **Team Captain's** meeting for those lucky enough to be chosen for this august position!

There have also been significant changes to the format and running of the competition and it is important that you read and understand the changes and how they affect you and your team.

### The Matrix

By now all of you would be aware of the Matrix and how it is working. One of the major changes has been the increased use of the Matrix for the grading of teams. Your position in your team will have been finalised largely on the basis of your Matrix ranking and your points, which are determined by your overall on-court performance.

This season the Matrix will be the sole determinant of rankings within teams. And a new change will mean that the traditional mid-season team changes are a thing of the past. Instead, where there is a difference of more than 5 Matrix points between players in a team, then the team shall be changed immediately and not at the half-way mark. This will mean that good results will be rewarded (and bad results won't be)!. So if there is, say, a difference of more than 5 points between the numbers 2 and 3, then they will swap positions for the next week.

This will also require players to be aware of their teams and the positions perhaps a little more than they might already be (I, for one, am a keen reader of the Matrix to see upcoming opponents and how they are going). Every week a fresh copy of the current Matrix for each time will be put onto the notice board down at the Club. And of course, anyone can access the Matrix through the ACT Squash web-site at:

**[www.squashact.asn.au/thematrix](http://www.squashact.asn.au/thematrix)**

This change will also have an effect upon the use of Reserves. Previously Reserves normally came into a team at number 4 (although some were told to play higher). The new change will mean that Reserves will need to play in teams where their Matrix ranking tells them to play. This may mean that a certain Reserve can only play, say, number 2 and everyone else drops down a position. If you are considering using a Reserve, and are a little unsure, please call the Squash ACT office for a ruling. In nearly all cases the answer will be evident, but special circumstances may require a common sense approach.

But remember – if you play a Reserve out of place, you may lose points. **If in doubt, ask!**

# 2003 Autumn Pennant

## **Division 10 and below**

Another major change in the 2003 Autumn Pennant Season is the move to a three person team format for Division 10 and below. Squash ACT, in conjunction with the clubs, has changed this format for a number of reasons.

The first has been the effect that 4 person teams have had on the lower grades. By having four people, the differences between the number 1s and the number 4s has, in some cases, been substantial. This has resulted in lop-sided results when Reserves are used or when people have played in higher positions. The move to a three person team should obviate this kind of thing happening too frequently.

Another reason has been the difference in grading between clubs (and I am sure some of us have played 'burglars' from other, or even our own clubs)! The move to three-person teams, coupled with the use of the Matrix as the major grading tool, should ensure that players in the lower grades are more evenly matched.

Some of you are probably wondering how the scoring system in a three person team format work. The winning team shall now be determined by the team winning the greatest number of games. If games are equal then points will be counted and the team with more points will win overall. If points and games are equal then a draw is declared and each team will receive 3 points plus a point for each game they win. The effect of this is to keep the third rubber alive for as long as possible so that

### As an example:

Team 1 wins the first rubber 3-1.

Team 1 wins the second rubber 3-2. Team 1 now lead 2 rubbers to nil, 6 games to 3.

Team 2 then wins the third rubber 3-0.

Team 1 now leads 2 rubbers to 1, but games are equal (6 all).

The countback then goes to points and as Team 2 won the third rubber easily, they have more points and win the night. They get 6 points (one per game) and then 3 points for winning the night.

Hopefully these changes will result in a more enjoyable night (both on and off the court) for everyone, as matches will be closer and teams will finish a little earlier as well. A full set of guidelines and rules will be published on the ACT Squash web-site – if you have any questions after reading them please don't hesitate to call the Squash ACT office for clarification.