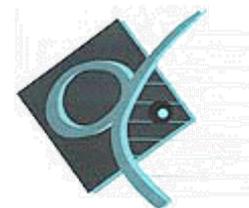


Yellow Dot



DICKSON SQUASH CLUB

With a bumper set of excellent contributions, we have a massive edition of Yellow Dot.

Let's start with giving congratulations to a few people who have all achieved great results for the club:

Matthew Driver – winner of the 2004 President's Trophy. Matthew's efforts around the club over the past years have been significant. His hard work as one of the Club's representatives on the Competition Committee has seen the player grading better reflect their playing ability, and his work in the development of the Matrix has made it the most eagerly sought-after player ranking system in Australia.



July 2004

President
Marcus Smith
Vice President
Ross Reid
Secretary
Robyn Armstrong
Assistant Secretary

Treasurer
Dick O'Rourke

Committee
Karina Agerbeek
Paul Cartwright
Robyn Douglas
Martin Grace
Doug Lean
Tammy Weekes



Michael Mettam – our Player of the Year. Michael played 29 matches and saw his matrix points improve by 36.93! He's an unassuming player who is never seen to lose control - "a referee's dream player". His dad and uncle played for Dickson in years past, so it's great to see the tradition continue.

More details on Player of the Year candidates on page 4.

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Club Champions	SRA Grand Final Winners
Men's Open – Tristan Wells	Div 5 – Alistair Nitz, Peter Trevitt, Gavin Howard & Shaun Douglas *
Women's Open – Emily Russell	Div 14 – Calum Stewart, Craig Gordon and Troy Douglas *
Men's A – Greg Rolls	Div 16 – Alex Paterson, Mat Koen & Shane Vaughan
Men's B – Tony Brown	Div 17 – Alisa McDonald, Jeremy Czoban, Amy Czoban & Jillian Allan
Women's B/C/D – Cath Williams	* Such talented young 'uns. There's something about the Douglas family ... it must be their air-conditioning!!!
Men's C – Minh Pham	
Men's D/E – Matt Koen	
Doubles A – Emily Russell & Marcus Smith	
Doubles B – Helen Fantich & Shane White	

More information on the Club Championships and Pennant inside...

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Club Practice

Don't forget that Club Practice is held EVERY Saturday (1:30 – 4:30, \$5) and Sunday (2:00 – 6:00, \$4). Come along, it's the best value in town!

President's Report

The past year, on reflection, for the Club, has been very successful. Our membership has remained static, even though there has been a turnover of members. We seem to generate new memberships to replace retirees. This is, in part, due to the tireless efforts of Dick O'Rourke and the committee. Our junior base is the envy of other Clubs. The coaching program on Friday evenings is extremely successful. The amount of State representative players is testament to this. All the activities within the squash centre, Club practice, Club championships, social singles and doubles, combine to make Dickson the best organised and most popular Club in the ACT. On a fiscal note, as the Treasurers report has shown, the Club is in the best financial position that it has ever been. With the investment that ACT Squash has made in purchasing the Woden centre, squash hopefully will rise to towards the popularity it enjoyed in the past decades. To all the committee and the willing volunteers who have made this year memorable, my admiration and sincere thanks... Ted Kaminski.

New Committee

At the Annual General Meeting held on the night of the Club Championships, the new Committee was elected, and is listed on the front page. A special thanks to those retiring members for all of their efforts over the past year.

Special thanks also go to our retiring President, **Ted Kaminski**. For many years Ted has been a leading light of the Club, either as a player, committee member or as President. His hard work in making the Club the best Squash Club in Canberra cannot be overstated, and his many life-long friendships made in Canberra both on and off the squash court are testament to his many fine qualities. While he is not on the Committee this year, we will still be fortunate to have the benefit of his wisdom and knowledge running around the court in Division 5 (or so he hopes)!

Welcome

We have recently welcomed a number of new players to the club: Peter & Derek Clack, Matthew Newhouse, Dominic Cooper, Henry Weber, Tony Foon, Larry King, Arvie Pluschke, Jana Fibak and Matthew Byrne. Keith Edwards, Troy Mackay and Robert Hogan return to the club after absences.

We also welcome a couple of juniors who are taking the gigantic step up into senior pennant squash: Alexander Howard (from Gavin and Kath fame) and Holly Barnes (Steve and Veronique fame). Keep an eye on both as they climb the grades!

Junior News

Training is held every Friday at 4.00 to 5.45 during the school term. We have players from the age of 7 to 18, with standards from beginners to awesome!!

The Junior Club Championships are being held on 30 July, and all juniors are encouraged to participate. Dickson Squash Club has donated a RACQUET and a SQUASH BAG to be raffled on the night. Tickets are free with every entry into the Championships.

Once again, we have enlisted the best coaches in Canberra, with regulars Tristan Wells and Trevor Fritzlaff being assisted by Chris Bodenchatz, Paul Cartwright and various other coaches as work commitments allow. I heard a rumour last week that Kristy Morrell may be returning soon. I believe Laura Keating is also coaching for 4 weeks this term, and hopefully Emily Russell may be able to once again slip out of work early. John Smidt is returning this term, and we hope to see Matt Wolffe again soon. Finnian Kennedy, Richard Cullis and Paul Cartwright have also made time to coach the juniors.

A new competition is about to commence and we hope to see most of our new players in teams. Welcome to Celeste Child and Emily Nguyen, the Hall brothers, Marcus, Matthew and Mitchell, the brothers Joseph and Michael Howard joining Alex (who is one of our top juniors). Liam Wilson is also starting comp after showing great promise at training.

A one day competition is to be held at Woden Squash Centre on the 1st. August. Everyone is encouraged to enter as it is graded to suit individual ability.

In September the Australian National Championships are being held in Canberra. All players are able to enter as individuals, and ACT Squash will be selecting players for the team events soon.

Robyn Douglas

Club Championships and Awards

The highlight of the playing calendar, the Club Championships, was held in the last week of June and the first week of July and culminated in a terrific dinner at the New Shanghai Restaurant in Dickson.

Noteworthy matches included the Men's B Grade Final between Tony Brown and John Gojmerac, that went to 5 long and gruelling games before Tony fell over the line (with John doing the same not long after!), and the Men's A Grade Final, where Greg Rolls' experience was enough to overcome John Lennarduzzi's fitness.

Big thanks to the tournament organisers, **Paul Cartwright** and **Tristan Wells**, and to those volunteers who helped out in numerous ways.

Mens

Open

Winner: Tristan Wells
 Runner-Up: Marcus Smith

A Grade

Winner: Greg Rolls
 Runner-Up: John Lenarduzzi
 Special Plate: Chris McFarlane
 Plate: Frank Cortez
 Consolation Plate: Alisatir Nitz

B Grade

Winner: Tony Brown
 Runner-Up: John Gojmerac
 Special Plate: Peter Morrison
 Plate: Gavin Howard
 Consolation Plate: Michael Mettam

C Grade

Winner: Minh Pham
 Runner-Up: Allan Read

D/E Grade

Winner: Matt Koen
 Runner-Up: Darryl Seto

Ladies

Open

Winner: Emily Russell
 Runner-Up: Alison Skinner

B/C/D Grade

Winner: Cath Williams
 Runner-Up: Tanya Rough

Doubles:

Division 1

Winner: Emily Russell & Marcus Smith
 Runner-Up: Tammy Weekes & Dennis Mettam

Division 2

Winner: Helen Fantich & Shane White
 Runner-Up: Cath Williams & Minh Pham

Following the championships, the long-expected dinner was held, coupled with the Annual General Meeting. A few sore heads were to be had on Sunday, as a small group partied on until the early hours at O'Neill's in Dickson and King O'Malley's in Civic.

Matt Driver and Michael Mettam took the **BIG** awards presented at dinner. But special mentions should also go to a few of our other hot candidates for Player of the Year. The key criteria was the change in matrix points. The candidates were:

Shaun Douglas – Grand Final winner, and junior to boot. Nice progress with 36.91 points.

John Lenarduzzi – Last year's winner who fell just short this year. An admirable climb of 34.80 points.

Alistair Nitz – Another person not content with just winning a Grand Final! Points ballooned by 31.07.

John Gojmarac – Played a strong role in his team's recent finals campaign. A tidy 29.98 leap in points.

Rex Robinson – A large number of solid wins saw Rex's matrix points jump by 27.49.

Well done to all – jumps in Matrix points like these are a nice reward for your hard work.

The Matrix

The Matrix has a new feature called "The Game Plan". It is a one page printout with everything your team needs to know for the night of play, such as: your past results, who you are playing, player photos, player ratings, up and coming matches etc. Look out for it – it's a very handy addition to your kit.

Autumn Pennant Results

The Grand Final winners were listed on Page 1. Here is a snapshot of how all the Dickson teams fared:

<p>Our Champion teams who won the grand-final: Division 5 (#3 team) Division 14 (#2 team) Division 16 (#3 team) Division 17</p> <p>It's great to see young guns like Shaun Douglas, Peter Trevitt (both Div 5) and Troy Douglas (Div 14) carry their respective sides on to wins.</p>	<p>Our "almost Champions" who contested a grand-final: Division 4 (#3 team) Division 8 (#2 team) Division 9 Division 13 (#1 team) Division 16 (#1 team)</p>
<p>The teams that gave it a real nudge by being semi or preliminary finalists: Premier Division 3 Division 4 (#1 & 2 teams) Division 6 Division 7 (#2 team) Division 8 (#1 team) Division 11 Division 12 (#1 & 3 teams) Division 13 (#2 & 3 teams) Division 15 (#1 team)</p>	<p>The teams that tried really hard, but didn't make the cut: Division 5 (#1 & 2 teams) Division 7 (#1 team) Division 12 (#2 team) Division 14 (#1 team) Division 15 (#2 team) Division 16 (#2 team)</p>

3 vs 4 person teams

The SRA Competition Committee has decided to change Division 6 to a 3 person team for the Spring 2004 pennant. Divisions 7 and below will stay the same at 3 person teams, and Division 5 and above will retain 4 person teams.

The decision to make this change was largely based on a comprehensive survey which canvassed the opinions of over 200 players across all divisions. A pleasing 70% of people responded to the request. Players from Divisions 1 to 5 had a strong preference to remain with the 4 person format, while the lower grades had a general preference towards 3 person teams.

Impact of this change – Division 6 having 3 person teams

Changing Division 6 to have 3 person teams has had an impact on the assignment of players and Division numbering in lower grades. This has come about by the Matrix highest and lowest rating per player in each division being restructured to reflect new Division rankings.

Some players may therefore go down a Division, and feel that this is an unfair reflection of their playing ability. They may feel hard done by. This is not the case – it is just a result of the restructuring that affects all players in the coming spring pennant.

This type of change has happened before, and could happen again. For example, if Division 5 is changed in to a 3 person team, or if other Divisions change from 6 or 8 teams to something less.

So please don't be disappointed. Strive to play better, and climb up that rung to return yourself to the previous Division that you were in.

Squash ACT News

The big news coming from Squash ACT is the purchase of the Woden Squash Centre. This is a new chapter in the development of squash in the ACT. Paul Bushell has been employed as the Centre manager. He has already started working hard to raise the profile of the game and hopefully unearth another Heather MacKay or Stewart Boswell. Further information is available on the Squash ACT web site at www.squashact.asn.au.

The Bar & Creche

It looks likely that the "Rockape" will soon vacate the bar premises at the Centre. Once that takes place, the Squash Club is in the running to have input as to who will operate the bar. One possibility is that the Squash Club will take over the operation, and other possibilities are that the Tradies Club will decide to lease the premises to an outside Lessee.

Until the new bar arrangements are in place, we will continue to use the Crèche for bar/supper. The squash club remains eternally grateful that the Tradies have let us do this. In the interim, we should all remain vigilant about tidying up after ourselves.

More Squash?

Senior Spring Pennant – Starts on 3 August. Teams will soon be advised through their captains.

Mixed Doubles – The Mixed Doubles lightning tournaments flagged in the last Yellow Dot are on hold. Watch this space.

Tournaments – Inform Connection regularly run tournaments throughout the country, including in our region. Check out their website at www.informconnection.com.au, and register for email updates.

Monday night social – Masters starts soon. See Dick for details.

Motivational Update

Last Yellow Dot reported that two teams chose differing motivational techniques for their teams:

- the stick – a weekly rotating “handbrake shirt” to the least performing player
- the carrot – a bottle of wine to most improved player

Based on the last pennant, the conclusive outcome is that the stick (Div 4, made the finals) works better than the carrot (Div 5, didn't make the finals)!!

Referee's Roundup – Roving Referees

In the past, qualified referees have been encouraged to turn up from time to time on comp nights to help players with any challenges they might have with the rules and their application. It has not worked very well. This upcoming comp I will be trying to organise a more structured arrangement where qualified referees are assigned to particular venues and nights.

Their function will be to wander around the centre watching the play and the refereeing in order to advise and answer any questions on the rules that might arise. It is not the intention to interfere with referees' decisions although they might offer to referee a match for you, and might be able to officiate if asked. There will be no charge for this service.

Dickson has four referees – Ted Kaminski, Marcus Smith, Gavin Howard and I. So look out for the distinctive white shirts and feel free to tap into their expertise during this next comp.

Martin Grace

Coach's Corner

Here are a few tips extracted from Mick Morell's bag of coaching tricks:

Warm up – Concentrate on hitting the ball to a good length. Assess your opponent's strengths and weaknesses.

Serve – Stand in a consistent position every time.

Return of serve – Drive it down the wall to a good length.

Drop shots – Use a full swing if you can. Try and make it look like you are about to drive, then softly hit under the ball.

Tactical hint – If your opponent boasts from the back of the court, play a drop.

Look out for more of Mick's wisdom in future Yellow Dot editions.

Suggestions or contributions for the next edition?

Great – email anthony.burgess@eds.com or call on (h) 6241 7774.