



YELLOW DOT

Newsletter of the Dickson Squash Club

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Howdy Dickson Squashies

The year is like a roll of toilet paper – the closer you are to the end, the quicker that it runs out. With the club championships and AGM behind us, we now start turning our thoughts towards warmer weather and the Christmas break. We have just made the booking for the club Christmas party, which is always a hoot. More detail to follow, **but put 15 December in your diary now!!!**

I have just had a very encouraging talk with the Tradies, who of course own the Northside Fitness Centre. There has been a bit of a turnover in management and this was my first opportunity to talk with the new CFO and see if the goal posts have shifted.

The basic situation has not changed, in that “some day” the Tradies will redevelop the entire block and the squash courts will go. However, before “some day” happens, a lot of planets need to align and “some day” will probably be around the same time as my premier debut. The status quo of 5-10 years remains in place, I am happy to say. The very fact that the Tradies are currently throwing some big bills at the resurfacing of the front walls is an indication that they are still in it for the long term.

I am also delighted that the new CFO was amiable to my rantings about the role of squash, at the NFC, until that “some day” takes place. Blind Freddy can see that gym patronage is not what it used to be and the move to 24 hours is the fitness equivalent of “jumping the shark”. A lot has changed since 2008, when courts 3 and 4 were taken away and I believe that there is a strong economic argument to return this space back to squash. This was a big part of my discussion with the new CFO who, without making promises, said that she would look at my numbers. Obviously I will keep you all informed.

I am very aware that I have now commenced my fifth year as President and do not want to fall into the trap of letting my enthusiasm dwindle through complacency. If there is something that we need to do better, it is to focus more on the social side of things. We have a great club with great people and we need more opportunities to renew those friendships, outside the combative environment of a 9.75 x 6.4 m concrete box.

In past years social functions such as the Mystery Dinner, wine tasting, Dusk till Dawn and the Presidents' cup were social highlights. Over this term I will be looking at restoring more social events of this type, together with more, regular doubles opportunities. As important as the pennant is to the club, there are a large number of club members do not play pennant. As such, we need to ensure that our activities interest all members, not just those in competition.

None of this however is possible without help and I want to pass on my sincere thanks to all the Committee for all putting their hand up for another term. There are of course individuals who deserve special mention, but I won't, as I am bound to leave someone out. There is no “I” in “team” (though there is a “me” if you look hard enough) and the members of the committee show dedication to the greater good of the club, rather than to any individual accolades. I thank them all for their past service and promise that the beatings will be fewer in number this year.

Having stated this, can I please ask that all members don't just think that all is under control and they don't need to help. A club is a function of many moving parts and all members need to play their role. Bar duty is an example of one very real way that you can contribute to the club's wellbeing. The bar is our major source of revenue and all we require is members to give up one evening in front of the idiot box, twice a year. It distresses me that Dick has to send so many emails out chasing volunteers and we end up seeing people do 2-3 shifts as others have not done theirs. I am aware of some members who have not done a night on the bar in 5 years, yet regularly take advantage of the social functions that it finances. If this is you, you really need to have a good hard look at yourself in the mirror.

On a happier note, it is a pleasure to once again sign off, in my newly reinstated official title!

Stephen Barnett
PRES DSC
Xoxo



YOUR 2017-18 COMMITTEE

The Annual General Meeting was held on 12 August as part of the Club Championships dinner and the 2017-18 Dickson Squash Club committed was elected:

President: Stephen Barnett
Vice President: Len Early
Secretary: Pam Price
Treasurer: Dick O'Rourke
General Members: Leanna Davey; Paul Cartwright;
 Julie Polson; Doug Lean; Anthony Burgess;
 Madeleine Barnett; Karina Sommers; Ross Rendell

Remember that you can contact anyone on the committee, at any time, if you have questions, suggestions or comments about any aspect of the Club's operations.

BODYLINE SPORTS PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Every year, the Bodyline Sports Player of the Year award is presented by Dick O'Rourke to the player whose Matrix rating increased the most whilst playing in the two previous pennant competitions for Dickson. The player must have played at least 10 matches in each pennant. This year the winner was Brad Jones, who increased his matrix by a huge 48 points matches across the two pennants. Well done Brad!

Special mentions were given to the following players who also significantly increased their matrix Paul Hoefer (44.9), Patrick Hayes (37), Shane Cox (32), Paul Carberry (24.4), David Messing (19), Sam Abousaid (18.5).

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Each year, at the AGM, the President of the club honours a club member who has made an outstanding contribution to the club. This year, I used a bit of “Presidential discretion” to award two players this prestigious award, as it was a photo finish for their worthiness.

Mark Pollard goes about the DSC largely under the radar. He started playing Pennant in 2008, along with two other regulars, Mark Harrison and Bruce Morgan in Dickson 3, Div 14. It was not a very auspicious start to his pennant career, with Dickson 3 going down to QBN 15 points to 1 that night!

Since then, Mark has lived and breathed the DSC. He is still leaving his blood sweat and tears on the court in pennant, but is into everything else that the club does. He is Dick's “go to bloke” whenever he is stuck for a reserve or bar duty. Mark participates in all DSC Social activities and is always ready to put his hand up.

More importantly, there would not be anyone in squash in the ACT who would have a bad thing to say about Mark. He conducts himself, on and off the court, in a manner that finds that ideal blend of competitiveness and friendliness.

Every club has a **Denis Mettam**. His photo on Squash Matrix has him holding a glass of red wine, which I think we all would agree is entirely appropriate in his case. No one really knows when Denis got to the DSC or where he came from, he just seems to have been here forever.

And just as Mark Pollard goes about his business quietly in the DSC, Denis is the opposite. When Denis is around, you will generally hear him. A laugh bigger than life itself and a “Hey Pres” from the top of the Court 1 balcony. Over recent years he and Cath Williams never fail to entertain and amuse with their doubles antics.

Yet, outside of a big personality, there is no job too big or small for Denis. Our regular Returns officer at the AGM, Santa at the Christmas party and, more recently, big brother to a lot of our juniors. Over the recent club championships, I spent a lot of time with our very young Juniors who said “Denis said we should....” about a thousand times. I'm not sure exactly how much training goes on in those Friday afternoon sessions, but the kids all love Denis. So do we mate!



SUNDAY PRACTICE

Don't forget Club practice is held every Sunday from 1 to 5pm at the cost of \$8.00 per player. Play for 20 minutes or four hours.

AUTUMN PENNANT

Dickson Squash Club teams featured highly in the Autumn 2017 finals. Below are the details

Division	Results	Team members
Premier – Line 1	Runner-up	David White
Premier – Line 2	Runner-up	Hayden Ross
Premier – Line 3	Runner-up	Russell Hyde
Division 5	Winners	Nigel Bicknell, David Messing, Drew Treasure, Brian Dunkley
Division 5	Runner-up	Toni Maxfield, Doug Lean, Nick Westerink, Gavin Howard
Division 6	Winner	Bradley Jones, Adam Bode, Chris Boreham, Jan Noonan
	Runner-up	Paul Reynolds, Matt Clayton, Justin Kerslake, Mark Lewington
Division 7	Runner-up	Lachlan Webb, Mitchell Rolls, Paul Carberry, Eric Wainwright
Division 10	Winner	Paul Hoefer, Patrick Hayes, Elliot Lavers, Tim Kane
	Runner-up	Jeremy Knox, Shane Cox, Aaron Newsam, Pat Sicilliano
Division 11	Winner	Tristan Lovric, Simon Prickett, William Woodward, David Stewart, Joel Gough

SPRING PENNANT

The Spring Pennant season has commenced and Dickson has 23 teams in the competition.

PREMIER DIVISION

In 2016 and for the Autumn 2017 pennant, Division 1 Premier teams were made up of the best possible players in the ACT (based on Matrix rankings). This method of running the Premier competition has been disbanded. From the Spring 2017 pennant the Premier division will return to the club based competition. Dickson has two teams in

JUNIORS

Dickson junior training is still going strong. Numbers are steady, fluctuating between 30 and 35. Our senior players continue to give their time coaching our juniors. A big thank you to Dick who organises the training each week including providing a great supper for the hungry participants.

The Junior player of the year for Dickson in 2016 -2017 was Emily Potter

2017 CLUB CHAMPIONS RESULTS

Dickson Club Championships were held over two weekends
Doubles and Open grade singles on 5th August; and Singles on 11th and 12 August.
Key results

Women	Position	Player
B-Grade	First	Leanna Davey
	Second	Karina Sommer
	Third	Pam Price
C-Grade	First	Sue Whigham
	Second	Donna Hewitt
	Third	Melissa Hewertson
Men	Position	Player
Open	First	David White
	Second	Finian Kennedy
	Third	Hayden Ross
A-Grade	First	Ross Rendell
	Second	Ben Czajor
	Third	Simon Aungle
B-Grade	First	Riley Ellis
	Second	Michael Howard
	Third	Nicholas Godden
C-Grade	First	Nigel Bicknell
	Second	Paul Reynolds
	Third	Doug Lean
D-Grade	First	Michell Rolls
	Second	Matt Clayton
	Third	Justin Kershlake
E-Grade	First	John Truong
	Second	Darryl Seto
	Third	Mark Pollard
Doubles	Position	Players
Open	First	Toni Maxfield & David White
	Second	Russ Hyde & Ross Rendell
	Third	Lisa Matthew & Ben Luckie
Division 1	First	Leanna Davey & Harrison Barnett
	Second	Sarah Penn & Brendan Cara
	Third	Eva Corkery & Riley Ellis
Division 2	First	Cath Williams & Denis Mettam
	Second	Karina Sommers & Bruce Morgan
	Third	Donna Hewitt & Melissa Hewertson

