



ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Squash & Racquetball Victoria

Level 2, Melbourne Sports & Aquatic Centre
ALBERT PARK VIC 3206
www.squashvic.com.au



CONTENTS

1.0	PRESIDENTS REPORT	3
2.0	GOVERNANCE	5
2.1	Squash and Racquetball Vic Board of Directors 2018/19	5
2.2	Secretary	5
2.3	Board Meetings	5
2.4	Committee Reports	5
	Pennant	5
	Squash and Racquetball GO!	6
	Referees	6
	Governance	7
	Racquetball	7
	Finance & Risk	9
3.0	LEGENDS, HALL OF FAME & LIFE MEMBERS	10
3.1	Legends	10
3.2	Hall of Fame	10
3.3	Life Members	10
3.4	Junior Coach of the Year	10
3.5	Sarah Fitz-Gerald Junior Award	10
3.6	S&RV Volunteer Award	11
3.7	S&RV Patron	11
4.0	2018 MEMBERS	12
	Where Our Members Come From	12
5.0	EVENTS	13
5.1	Professional Squash Association	13
	The Australian Open Squash	13
	Bendigo International	13
	Shepparton International	14
5.2	State Grade Pennant	14
	2018 Summer State Open Pennant Grand Finals	14
	2018 Winter State Open Pennant Grand Finals	14
	2018 Spring State Open Pennant Grand Finals	15
5.3	Junior Squash	15
	State Junior Titles	15
	Australian Junior Championships	15
5.4	Country Squash	16
5.5	Grand Prix Racquetball	16
5.6	Grand Prix Squash	17
5.7	Other Events	17
	24 Hour Mega Squash & Racquetball for Multiple Sclerosis	17
6.0	2018 STATE JUNIOR SQUASH TEAM	18
	Talent Development Academy	18

1.0 PRESIDENTS REPORT

2018 was a challenging year for the organisation.

The Board lost three experienced members. Nicci Rossouw, then President, choose not to stand for re-election at the February AGM, while Catherine Swift, then Vice President, and Peter Wright chose to stand down at the March Board meeting. At that meeting I was nominated as President, with Vice President Lee-Anne Carpenter and Finance Director Kal Desai. At that stage only two of the six remaining board members had been on the Board for a full term.

Subsequently at the March Board meeting a highly conservative budget was tabled forecasting a \$65,000 loss for the 2018 financial year. This came on top of a \$27,000 loss in the 2017 financial year. Clearly this was an untenable situation which could not be allowed to eventuate.

A search was conducted to fill the 3 vacant Board roles and in late April we appointed Kevin Quick, Angela Burton and Teesha Melville. It needs to be clearly noted that these people joined the Board knowing that we were under significant financial pressure but accepted the challenge anyway.

During this time the board and management sought to make savings on expenditure and explore alternative avenues for funding including possible philanthropic contributions. In addition, we were in regular communication with VicHealth and Sport and Recreation Victoria in relation to grant funding. In late May we were advised by VicHealth that we had qualified for a grant under the GPIS program. (Details of that program can be found in the body of the report).

In June Fiona Young, our CEO tendered her resignation, finishing her 10 year journey with S&RV on July 1st. This was particularly challenging given our circumstances. It was clear that the organisation did not have the resources to hire a new CEO. After discussion with the Board I assumed the role of Acting CEO as a volunteer until such time as our financial position was resolved and a replacement could be hired.

The resignation of our CEO also opened up a number of opportunities to look at the management structure and to re-engage with the organisation's members, influencers and participants.

As part of that process the Board received a presentation from the CEO and President of Squash Australia relating to Sport Australia's "One Sport" model and a possible transition to a version of that for the two organisations. This ranged from delegation of day to day management to Squash Australia, reporting to the board of SquashVic, to a model utilising shared services where possible. The Board resolved to undertake a shared services approach initially until we could explore what "One Sport" meant in practice.

During the changeover from paid CEO to volunteer CEO it became clear that a significant portion of the squash and racquetball community were keen to be involved in volunteering and shaping the future of the organisation. The Board agreed that it would seek feedback and guidance from its membership through the formation of an advisory group. It was particularly through the efforts of Kevin Quick that the group was organised and its first meeting was held in October, followed by two further meetings. The group ultimately formed a series of subgroups with particular areas of interest in order to assist the Board and management.

With staff and management resources still very low, these subgroups will form an important part of the structure of the organisation going forward. Kevin will continue to act as coordinator and report to the Board regarding direction and progress. It is a credit to the community that we have people willing to dedicate their time and efforts to this project. While we have been challenged, we have still been able to deliver some significant events and projects.

S&RV is there to help its members when they need it. We may not always be visible on a day to day level but our affiliates can access us to support a submission to local council, auspicing for grants, provide access to tournament and pennant software, provide detailed session plans for both squash and racquetball for kids and adults, provide education for coaches and referees and coordinate the provision of referees for tournaments and pennant and day to day advice.

Through the 'Change our Game' initiative via Sport and Rec Victoria we were funded to provide greater involvement of women and girls in key roles in the sport. We have provided free attendance for women at level one coaching courses, provided Selina Shaik the opportunity to progress her coaching qualifications to level 2 and sponsored a 'Women in Squash' event run by Leigh Evans at Hume City Squash Club.

The new tournament, pennant and club management software system, Sporty HQ, was rolled out January. I acknowledge the incredible dedication of Tony Nash and others from Club Circuit as well as Bryan Bird and Brendon Perry for their time and persistence to get it over the line in time for pennant.

Mega Squash and Racquetball 24 hour ran for the 8th year now at 3 venues, MSAC, Wodonga and Bairnsdale and raised a record \$40,000 for MS. We thank Ted Vale and the Board of the Mulgrave Country Club and its squash club for their support and sponsorship in running the 2018 Australian Squash Open.

My thanks to Darcy St John and Sam Ejtemai for their commitment to setting up the 2018 Talent Development Academy program and coaching the team that represented Victoria at the AJC's in September. Thanks also to Marcia Ratcliffe, Vicki Cardwell and Garry Pedersen for their commitment to the squad. Thanks also to Garry Pedersen who ran the regional development program for country and outer metropolitan clubs involving juniors and coaches. Garry won coach of the year at last years Squash Australia awards. He is a passionate and innovative coach.

I thank all the grand prix circuit clubs for both squash and racquetball who run fantastic tournaments which are the backbone of the sport. Welcome to Wodonga who joined the GP circuit this year. Numbers are at record levels so far this year.

Finally, I wish to thank the outgoing Board for their support, commitment and endeavour as we worked through the intense financial and structural challenges facing the organisation in 2018 and early 2019.

At year end Squash and Racquetball Vic will now make a small surplus and is now in a position to employ a General Manager to take charge of the organisation and move it out of caretaker mode. While significant progress has been made, and staff structures and finances stabilised the new Board and management will need the support of everyone in the community to ensure we have a viable Squash and Racquetball Victoria going forward.

Lao Biesbroek
President and Acting CEO

2.0 GOVERNANCE

2.1 Squash and Racquetball Vic Board of Directors 2018/19

President - Lao Biesbroek

Vice President - Lee- Anne Carpenter

Finance Director - Kal Desai

Board Members:

- Gavin Murphy
- Olivia Coles
- Geoff Schoenberg
- Kevin Quick (commenced May 2018)
- Angela Burton (commenced May 2018)
- Teesha Melville (commenced May 2018)

Past President - Nicci Rossouw

Past Vice President - Catherine Swift (resigned March 2018)

2.2 Secretary

Lao Biesbroek is Secretary of the Victorian Squash Federation Inc, trading as Squash & Racquetball Victoria.

2.3 Board Meetings

The number of Board meetings attended by each of the Directors during the calendar year were:

Board member	Board meetings scheduled	Board meetings attended
Lao Biesbroek	10	9
Lee- Anne Carpenter	10	10
Kal Desai	10	9
Gavin Murphy	10	10
Olivia Coles	10	8
Geoff Schoenberg	10	7
Kevin Quick	8	8
Angela Burton	8	8
Teesha Melville	8	5

2.4 Committee Reports

Pennant

As has been the case in recent years S&RV conducted a 10 round Summer League, a 15 round winter league and a 10 round spring league. These leagues are open to all clubs but mainly aimed at teams from public centres and universities who are unable to compete in Club Circuit. Most entries are from clubs that fall into this category.

NWSL & SSL teams have been playing in these leagues for the past 50 years after graduating from their more local leagues. In the case of Westerfolds, Templestowe who have teams in both SSL & Club Circuit most of their teams continue to participate in SSL and as the players continue to climb enter these teams into S&RV State Leagues.

As the S&RV winter pennant is played mainly while Club Circuit is in recess prize money was offered but did little to attract any of the top class players. As S&RV is required to cater to the needs of the non Club Circuit players we will continue to offer to these leagues a S&RV alternative.

Squash and Racquetball GO!



Squash and Racquetball Victoria were successful in receiving funding from VicHealth under the Growing Participation in Sport grant. The program development has been undertaken by Meredith Hodson and has made significant progress since mid January 2019. Squash and Racquetball GO! Program is targeted towards inactive 12-17yr old participants, as outlined in the grant guidelines.

Currently the initial pilot program is being tested using 'come and try' sessions across metro and regional locations - including but not limited to Lilydale, Portland, Ballarat, MSAC and Stawell. The valuable market research and feedback from these sessions is being collated to develop a 6-week program running in Term 2. Our aim is to create a program that fits not only what a 12-17yr old will find fun and engaging, but to alter the current perception that squash and racquetball "has disappeared". Squash and Racquetball GO! is all about exposing juniors to the sport in an inclusive and encouraging manner, plus hopefully creating life-long players.



Referees

2018 was another busy year for Victorian referees. A number of our State and National accredited referees were up for re-assessment which was completed successfully. In addition, we had two of our club level referees successfully upgrade their skills and attain State level. A number of potential referees are currently working through the theoretical components at club level.

The referees maintained a constant presence at the various tournaments hosted throughout the calendar year. These tournaments were used as opportunities for re-assessment, coaching and general support (in particular the junior tournaments to educate and assist the juniors).

Rent-a-ref is becoming increasingly popular with a record number of requests (particularly finals) occurring in the spring season of 2018. At times, resources were stretched to the limit but all requests were successfully fulfilled.

Sincere thanks to all the committee for their tireless efforts and in addition, Damien Green and Harvey Bowlt for their support and mentoring.

Governance

The primary accomplishment of the governance committee this year was the implementation of a nominations committee. The purpose of the nominations committee is to:

- Review the nominations for Director positions,
- Assess all nominations received against the needs of the organisation,
- Provide a report for all election voters to duly consider, and
- Provide a report for the Board to duly consider when filling appointed Director positions.

It is critical to note that all recommendations by the nominations committee are non-binding. For more information on the nomination committee, please refer to the terms of reference (available through the office and on the website). The introduction of the terms of reference complements the constitutional reform to align the organisations with current thinking around composition practices and will help ensure the organisation meets the gender quotas implemented by Sport and Recreation Victoria.

Outside of this achievement the governance committee has had a quiet year. The committee referred the decision regarding the suitability of the President acting as a Voluntary CEO to the Board. With the Board structure changing next year and longer terms for Board members, it is envisaged that the governance committee will return to a regular meeting schedule and continue ensuring the governance structures, processes, and policies of S&RV are in line with contemporary thinking around good governance and suited to S&RV.

Racquetball

There were six Victorian Racquetball Grand Prix Tournament Circuit events held in 2018, receiving 777 entries, an average of 130 per event, plus the 2018 Australian Open which was again superbly hosted by two S&RV members, the Commercial Club Albury - Squash and Racquetball Section and the Wodonga Squash and Racquetball Association, securing a further 239 entries.

A very special thank you to each of our 2018 tournament directors; Ian Chalmers (ESRA & Victorian Opens), Barry Patterson (Wangaratta Open), Elisha Mitchell (Geelong Classic), Russell McLean (Ballarat Open), Chris Fuhrmeister (Lakes Classic), plus Ross Falconer (Australian Open), and their respective committees, as they do a fantastic job to keep each event and the Victorian tournament circuit running smoothly, plus make remarkable contributions to the sport of racquetball on a day by day basis.

Shane Skidmore has once again been a great asset for the sport and attends all events. During 2018. He was very active, being heavily involved at each event in the running of the tournament, plus introducing several new initiatives which have proven to be most beneficial for the sport of racquetball.

During the year there were six events, including the Australian Open, live streamed which attracted large audiences, courtesy of Leon Faustini and his company Reneon, who covered the total cost for all events, for which the total racquetball community are most grateful.

Special thanks also to Peter French who has been coordinating all the Australian Racquetball Facebook postings for the past four years and keeping everyone up to date with what is happening in racquetball, including regular event filming and updates.

A very special mention to the following players for their outstanding support; Peter French, Charlie Stevenson, Garry Pedersen, Sue Dunlop, Ryan McCarter, Rob Hay, Anthony Dzioba, Ross Falconer, Brandon Morgan, plus the God Mother of our sport Heather Meldrum, who played in all six Victorian Grand Prix Circuit events held in 2018. Peter French and Sue Dunlop also played in all five of our National Grand Prix Circuit events, a fantastic effort.

Victorian players dominated both the Victorian and National Grand Prix Circuits in 2018 - congratulations to all those winners listed on the Events pages of the Annual report.

Victorian members took out nine of the ten National singles titles, six of which were juniors, at the 2018 Australian Open Championships, held at the Commercial Club Albury during October, plus all ten Victorian Open singles titles held at Genesis Wantirna in July.

Victorian members also claimed eight of the nine National and all ten Victorian Grand Prix Circuit Singles Champion Awards for 2018, along with five of the six national and all five Victorian GP Circuit Doubles Champion Awards.

The President's Choice Commercial Club Junior Scholarship Award sponsored by Andrew Sobolewski and all the Grand Prix tournament hosts was won by Xavier Brigden and he received \$200 to put towards his coaching and training expenses, plus free entry into every Grand Prix racquetball event held in Australia in 2019.

The inaugural Squash and Racquetball Victoria Awards for the most promising junior boy and girl under 15 years of age were won by nine-year-old Connor Haberecht and ten-year-old Amelia Brigden respectively, with each receiving \$250 in private coaching from Cam White and Sarah Fitz-Gerald respectively.

The Australian Open Teams Challenge comprised participants from twenty-four clubs, with the Commercial Club annexing the first prize of \$250, Wodonga received \$150 for second place and Geelong LTC taking out third place and winning \$100.

Special recognition also to the King and Queen of our sport, Cam White and Sarah Fitz-Gerald, both undefeated for eighteen and ten years respectively, and who are also fantastic ambassadors for racquetball.

In 2018 White won his seventeenth Australian Open crown, this is seriously bordering on Heather McKay territory who was unbeaten in squash for eighteen years, with Fitz-Gerald claiming her tenth National Women's Open title.

The Nursery event for our sport is the Victorian Primary Schools Racquetball Team's Competition which commenced in 2005, and consistently draws entries from across the state. Congratulations to all teams who reached the 2018 State Finals held at MSAC, and for the fourth successive year it was Mt. Waverley Primary School taking the honours for the Boy's title, with St. Mary's Bairnsdale claiming the Girl's crown.

Racquetball in this state would not survive without the enormous input and support provided by a large army of dedicated racquetball personnel, including my fellow Victorian Racquetball Committee members, who I would like to pay very special thanks too.

Committee Members: Ian Chalmers, Barry Patterson, Elisha Mitchell, Russell McLean, Chris Fuhrmeister, Ross Falconer.

Paul Vear
Manager - Victorian Racquetball Committee

Finance & Risk

Squash & Racquetball Victoria ended the 2018 financial year with revenues of \$486,891, a 5% decline from 2017, driven mainly by lower Grants revenues.

Membership revenues were broadly steady year on year.

The overall net profit for the year of \$5,230, compared to a loss of \$26,973 in 2017, was primarily driven by a lower costs base. The key driver was having a volunteer CEO after the resignation of Fiona which led to a large reduction of staff salaries.

3.0 LEGENDS, HALL OF FAME & LIFE MEMBERS

3.1 Legends

Bryan Bird, Brian Boys (dec), Vicki Cardwell, Judith FitzGerald, Sarah Fitz-Gerald, Geoff Hunt, Lindsay Pattenden, Paul Vear, Gordon Watson (dec), Margaret Zachariah and Cameron White.

2018 Inductee: Betty Meagher (dec)

3.2 Hall of Fame

Matt Ahern, Betty Meagher (dec), Bryan Bird, Bill Bowker, Brian Boys (dec), Vicki Cardwell, Sue Cullinan, David Donnelly, Kevin Fidock, Eddie French (dec), Judith FitzGerald, Sarah Fitz-Gerald, Roger Flynn, Geoff Hunt, Vic Hunt (dec), Allen Minchington, Gavin Murphy, Lindsay Pattenden, Paul Price, Thomas Spark, Paul Vear, Gordon Watson (dec), Gary Westbrook, Cameron White, Geoff Wilcock, Judy Wright, Peter Wright, Margaret Zachariah.

2018 Inductee: Brendan Woodford

3.3 Life Members

Geoff Argæet, Noelle Bartling, Bryan Bird, Ken Bolle, Brian Boys (dec), Jim Bristow, Elaine Broadway, John Broadway (dec), Neville Caine, Ian Carson (dec), Mervyn Davidson, David Donnelly, Jack Ellery (dec), Eddie French (dec), Judith FitzGerald, Chris Fuhrmeister, Bev Garfield, Penry Green, Denise Hill, Bill Hunt, Geoff Hunt, Patricia Hunt, Vic Hunt (dec), Angus Kerr (dec), Ian Kitto, Faith Lacey, Jim Lambert (dec), John Link, Libby MacDonald, Elva Maroney, Betty Meagher (dec), Allen Minchington, John Moline (dec), Joan Morey (dec), Steve Murray, Sid Myers, Ken Oaten, Sylvie O'Neale, Lindsay Pattenden, Bill Patterson, Joan Rival (dec), Shane Skidmore, Margaret Smith (dec), Barry Taylor, Ian Tod (dec), Pam Van Huizen, Martin Welsh, Mervyn Weston (dec), Brendan Woodford, John Wreford, Peter Wright, Margaret Zachariah, Brian Galt-Smith, Ian Kent and Robin Reed

2018 Inductees: Rosalind French, Bert Armstrong, Karl O'Leskin

3.4 Junior Coach of the Year

In 2015, Squash and Racquetball Victoria established the Eddie French Junior Coach of the Year Award which is designed to recognise junior coaches of the past and present, who mirror the ideals, coaching and mentoring skills of Eddie French.

2018 Inductee: Peter Baines

2017: Richard Cagliarini

2016: Karen Cagliarini

2015: Roger Flynn

3.5 Sarah Fitz-Gerald Junior Award

Previous winners: Sam Ejtemai (2), Tyler Hawkins, Aaron Maidment, Jessica Graham, Dylan Molinaro.

2018 Inductee: Dylan Molinaro

3.6 S&RV Volunteer Award

Previous winners: Carolyn Ayres, Lucas Bediaga, Colleen Bell, Penry Green, Kevin Healy, Thomas Nguyen, Jodi Wilkinson, Ghen-Tze Goon, John Kostiw, Jacqui Williamson, Garry Pirie, Jason Holmes, Julie Blackie, Valma Bourne, Elias Stergiopolous, Greg Ikin, Elizabeth Lopes, Damian Maidment, Sylvia Tiet, Steve Ibbott, Jeanette Barton, Elisha Mitchell, Corey Robertson, John Webber, Darryl Henderson, Paul Flood, Amanda Hamilton, Ian Kirkby, Lao Biesbroek, Brian Elton, Shane Skidmore, Mark Soutar, Kevin Quick, John Tobin

2018 Inductees: Ross Falconer, Don Groom, David Crossley, Jessie Yeung, Marcia Ratcliffe

3.7 S&RV Patron

Sarah Fitz-Gerald

4.0 2018 MEMBERS

Where Our Members Come From

Albury - Soldiers, Sailors & Airmen Squash Club	83
Alexandra Leisure Centre	31
Bairnsdale Squash & Table Tennis Centre	120
Ballarat Squash & Racquetball Centre	170
Baw Squash Club	29
Beaconsfield Squash & Fitness Centre	20
Benalla Squash Club	37
Bendigo Squash Centre	139
Bluescope Steel (BHP)	2
Bright Sports Centre	1
Brighton Recreation Centre	7
Camberwell Grammar School	28
Casterton Squash Club	24
Cobden Squash Club	18
Cohuna Squash Club	18
Commercial Club	111
Corio Racquetball Club	33
Corio Squash Club	50
Cranbourne Aikido & Fitness Centre	26
Donald Squash Club	1
Eastern Suburbs Racquetball Assoc (Not club, get 1 vote)	13
Echuca Moama Squash Club	0
Eliza Village Squash Club	3
Epping Squash Club	5
Essendon Squash and Racquetball	8
Euroa Squash Club	0
Federation University	0
Fitzpatrick Squash Club	19
Furlan Club	2
Geelong Lawn Tennis Club	7
Genesis Fitness Centre Wantirna	3
Gladstone Park Junior Squash Club	8
Gladstone Park Squash Club	24
Goulburn Valley Squash Club	48
Grace Park Hawthorn Club	106
Hamilton Squash Club	20
Horsham Squash Club	104
Hume City Squash and Racquetball Club	25
Inspired Peak Performance (Hunts Squash)	3
Ivanhoe Squash Centre	0
Kaniva Squash Club	0
Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club	93
Kyabram Squash Club	22
La Trobe University Squash Club	26
Lakes Squash & Movie Theatre	50
Lilydale Squash Club	12
Lismore Squash Club	0
Lowan Squash & Racquetball Club	1
Macedon Ranges Squash Club	36
Maffra Squash & Racquetball Club	106
Marcellin College	13

MCC Squash Club	121
Melbourne Sports & Aquatic Centre	64
Melbourne University Squash Club	96
Melton District Squash	
Milawa Squash Club	2
Mildura Squash Club Inc	55
Moe Squash Club	46
Monash University Squash Club	81
Morwell Squash Centre	6
Mount Eliza Squash Club	
Mountain District Squash & Racquetball Club	82
Mulgrave Country Club	368
Myrtleford Squash Club	22
Numurkah Squash Club	31
Penleigh Essendon Grammar School	9
Portland Squash & Racquetball Centre	0
RACV Club	82
Reggio Calabria Club	12
Rosebud International Squash Centre	2
Royal Melbourne Tennis Club	5
Royal South Yarra Lawn Tennis Club	24
Sandringham Club	15
Squash Logic Melton	23
St Arnaud Squash Club	14
Stawell Racquetball Association	34
Swan Hill Squash Club	23
Tallangatta Squash Club	27
Terang Squash Club	0
The Bentleigh Club	93
The Squash Melbourne Club (was Moorabbin)	17
Timboon Squash Club	18
Tonic Squash and Gym	56
Towerhill Cranbourne Squash Club	20
Trinity Grammar School	9
Upwey Squash & Racquetball Club	1
Veneto Club	21
Viva Fitness Club	0
Wangaratta Squash & Racquetball Club	1
Warrnambool Squash Club (Action Squash Club)	144
Westerfolds - Albert Park (MSAC)	22
Westerfolds - Bayswater	29
Westerfolds Squash and R/Ball Club - Templestowe	72
Wodonga Squash & Racquetball Assoc	209
Yarra Valley Country Club	5
Yarram Squash Club	1
Yarrowonga Squash Club	35
Friends of S&RV (Estimate)	286
Veneto Club	21
Total	3,988



Official opening of the Jim Sawyer Wing at The Lilydale Club, 23rd March 2019

5.0 EVENTS

5.1 Professional Squash Association

The Australian Open Squash

Mulgrave Country Club hosted all the action of the prestigious Australian Open Championships.

Malaysian master Low Wee Wern claimed her third straight PSA World Tour title, when she defeated Egypt's Hana Ramadan in the Women's final.

In the Men's Open, Hometown hero Rex Hedrick claimed his first Australian Open crown, following his 3-0, 61-minute victory against tournament third seed, Dimitri Steinmann.



The 29-year-old, finally secured a major tournament win in his home state, an honour that previously eluded him in his illustrious career.

Final results:

Women's: Low Wee-Wern def [9/16] Hana Ramadan EGY 11-6, 11-9, 10-12, 11-6 (60 min)

Men's: [1] Rex Hedrick AUS defeated [3] Dimitri Steinmann SUI 11-4, 12-10, 11-5 (61 min)

Bendigo International



August, after four days of competition at the Bendigo Squash Centre, Christine Nunn and Sean Conroy claimed victories in the Women's and Men's Open finals respectively.

Nunn continued her amazing run of form to take out her fifth PSA World Tour title in succession, defeating tournament second seed, Sarah Cardwell.

Plenty was also expected from the all-international Men's Open final, with second seed Conroy taking on third seed Enzo Corigliano. Conroy was victorious, as both players turned on an exciting showcase of squash throughout the 59-minute contest.

Final results

Men's: Sean Conroy def Enzo Corigliano 5-11, 11-9, 11-13, 11-8, 11-9.

Women's: Christine Nunn def Sarah Cardwell 14-12, 11-7, 11-6

Shepparton International



The Greater Shepparton International Open saw Swiss star Dimitri Steinman reign supreme, when he defeated Evan Williams in the International Open final.

An event supported by Goulburn Valley Squash Club saw the 21-year-old justify his number one seeding, coming from a game down to secure his first PSA World Tour title in almost 12 months.

Final Result:

Men's: Dimitri Steinman def Evan Williams 3-11, 11-9, 11-5, 11-7

5.2 State Grade Pennant

2018 Summer State Open Pennant Grand Finals

SUMMER	Winner	Runner Up
Premier	Squash Logic Melton	Lilydale Club
State 2	Focus (Gladstone Park)	MCC
State 3	Epping	Westerfolds (MSAC)
State 4	Moorabbin	Focus (Gladstone Park)

2018 Winter State Open Pennant Grand Finals

WINTER	Winner	Runner Up	Best Player
Premier	Westerfolds (Templestowe)	Lilydale Club	Shahzad Khan Focus (Gladstone Park)
State 2	Melbourne University	Squash Logic Melton	Mohammad Ali Naqvi (Squash Logic Melton)
State 3	Epping	MCC (Corio)	Nasir Mumtaz Focus (Gladstone Park)
State 4	Fitzpatrick	Mountain District	Yusif Mansaray (Mountain District)



2018 Spring State Open Pennant Grand Finals

SPRING	Winner	Runner Up	Best Player
Premier	Abandoned		
State 2	Westerfolds (Templestowe)	Squash Logic Melton	Mohammad Ali Naqvi (Squash Logic Melton)
State 3	Fitzpatrick	Fitzpatrick	Luke Fitzpatrick (Fitzpatrick Squash Club)
State 4	Melbourne University	La Trobe University	James McNamara (Melbourne University)



5.3 Junior Squash

State Junior Titles



Westerfolds Templestowe hosted the mid-year State Junior Championships.

Tasmanian Jack Hudson was victorious in the Under 19s division - defeating Benjamin Ratcliffe, 12-10, 11-1, 8-11, 11-9 (21m).

While Grace Pattison finished on top of the Under 19 Women's standings in a dominant display, to claim the state title.

Australian Junior Championships

Darwin hosted the AJCs featuring a plethora of Victoria's best junior talent. Dylan Molinaro took out top honours in the Under 17 Boys defeating top seed Sam Sergo, 11-3, 11-5, 11-8.

In the team events, Victoria had strong showings across all divisions. The Under 17s were supreme to finish second in the final standings, while the Under 19s secured third in the final standings.



5.4 Country Squash

The 2018 “Hopman Cup”, otherwise known as the Victorian Country Teams Championships were held for the 45th time at MSAC on the weekend of 19th and 20th May.

It saw a changing of the guard when Mandy Hamilton and Mark Soutar stepped down from running the event after more than 30 years of doing so. It has been a wonderful effort that is well appreciated by both players and supporters of this iconic event.

Once again, the Hopman Cup had 3 divisions of five teams. Wodonga made a welcome return to the event and it's hoped that they will now be a permanent part of the weekend.

Division 1 was reclaimed by an outstanding Mornington Peninsula in an extremely close contest against Geelong who were the eventual runners up, last year's winner East Gippsland came third.

In Division 2 Bendigo were too strong for all comers and easily regaining a place in next year's top division and claimed the Merle Sampson Trophy.

Division 3 was another close contest but Mornington's second team was just a little too strong in defeating Sunraysia in the battle for the Royal Trophy.

What a great year it was for Mornington Peninsula as they took out both 1st and 3rd divisions of the 2018 Hopman Cup.

The 46th event will be held this year on the 18th and 19th of May.

5.5 Grand Prix Racquetball



The National Grand Prix Racquetball Circuit, incorporated (for 2018) 6 tournaments comprising both singles and doubles events with grades for all standards of racquetball players. The player with the highest number of points in their grade (providing having played at least 50% of tournaments available) at the completion of the circuit events is recognised as the year's National Grand Prix Racquetball Circuit Champion for that particular grade.

Grade	Singles Winner	Doubles Winner
Open	Garry Pedersen (GEE)	Charlie Stevenson (CORIO)
Women's Open	Judy Kool (BAR)	N/A
Grade A	Matt Bayley (MUL)	None
Grade B	Steve Theologou (LAK)	Sylvia Tiet (MUL) / Matthew Tench (MEL)
Grade C	Anthony Dzioba (BEN)	Michael Brigden (COM)
Grade D	David Drew (BEN)	Cheryl Brigden (COM)
Grade E	Zach Tamburini (WOD)	Amelia Brigden (COM)
Grade F	Amanda Pavia (MUL)	N/A
Junior Girls	Amelia Brigden (COM)	N/A
Junior Boys	Xavier Brigden (COM)	N/A

5.6 Grand Prix Squash



Squash & Racquetball Victoria coordinates the Victorian Grand Prix Graded Squash Circuit, incorporating (for 2018) 10 tournaments comprising singles events with divisions for all standards of squash players.

The player with the highest number of points in their grade (providing having played at least 50% of tournaments available) at the completion of the circuit events is recognised as the year's Victorian Grand Prix Graded Squash Circuit Champion for that particular division.

Division	Winner	Runner Up
Division 1	Cameron Penna (BEND)	Corey Robertson (CORIO)
Division 2	Matthew Tench (MEL)	David Hayes (SQUASH MELB)
Division 3	Michael Walker [Snr] (COR)	Andrew Meredith (SHEP)
Division 4	Ben Yong (MONASH)	Barry Reid (CORIO)
Division 5	Peter Bassett (MAFRA)	Andrew Curwood (BALL)
Division 6	Darcy Hayes (SQUASH MELB)	Joanne Joseph (SQL) / Stephanie Dyer (CORIO)

5.7 Other Events

24 Hour Mega Squash & Racquetball for Multiple Sclerosis

The Victorian Squash & Racquetball Community has once again banded together in support of a great cause in 2018. In the weekend of May raising more than \$37,000 for MS as part of the 24 Hour Mega Squash & Racquetball.



6.0 2018 STATE JUNIOR SQUASH TEAM

Talent Development Academy

In 2018 the junior high-performance program in Victoria was re-branded as the 'Talent Development Academy'. With this saw the introduction of two new program coordinators and coaches, Darcy St John and Sam Ejtemai, who were supported by continuing program delivery coaches Vicki Cardwell and Garry Pedersen. With a deep background in organisational development, change and performance psychology, coupled with extensive high-performance Squash experience, St John and Ejtemai aimed to re-imagine the approach to talent development in Victorian Squash.

The number of athletes participating in high performance programs in Victoria had begun to decrease over time, with less than 20 athletes participating in 2017. Furthermore, individual and team performances at national events were becoming progressively less competitive. Changing the way players were identified, developed and retained in the sport was generally accepted to be a key priority. Prioritisation was given to enhancing the experience of athletes participating in the high-performance program, whilst also focusing on achieving better performance outcomes for Victorian players.

The 2018 program attracted 34 new and returning athletes. The existing playing group had expressed a clear sense of dissatisfaction, indicating that the coaching model was no longer fit for purpose. In addition to this, there were observable levels of disengagement with Victorian Squash training programs, resulting in inconsistent attendances and fulfillment of session objectives.

In response to this, the TDA program for 2018 was simplified and took on a readjusted focus. It was agreed that focusing on coaching innovations or introducing new performance training practices would not result in any meaningful benefits at the time. The rationale was that with a lack of trust in the high-performance program, athletes were not genuinely engaging with or absorbing information that was delivered by various highly experience coaches. As such, the primary focus became establishing a culture of high performance within the playing group and broader junior squash community. This was to be underpinned by targeted sessions focusing on athlete professionalism, commitment, teaming, self-insight and shared respect between coaches and players.

Throughout the training year, Academy athletes were supported to set challenging performance and progress goals, which were meaningful for their own respective level and aspirations. These were used to guide individual development objectives and allowed program coaches to gain greater insight into each athlete's playing style and goals. In addition to this, monthly training sessions included a variety of technical on-court training, tournament preparation support and athletic ability uplift through strength and endurance sessions.

The pinnacle junior squash event for the year took place in Darwin for 2018. Over a 2-week period 17 of our Talent Development Academy athletes competed in the individual Australian Junior Championships, followed by a team based competition. The Victoria Junior State team had their most competitive placing in the team event for over 5 years, finishing in 3rd place. This was a meaningful improvement for the team compared to previous years, usually finishing between 4th and 5th place. With much of the state team playing within their age groups for the first of their 2 years, the squad is placed competitively to continue form into future national events.

At the conclusion of 2018, feedback from the playing group and observations made by coaches showed a considerable improvement in the level of engagement and vigour towards the high-performance program. Key improvement areas for the year included establishing a greater sense of connectedness between the coaching staff, playing group and families, more consistent attendance, proactive athlete behaviour to set and review performance goals and an overall uplift in consistent on court performances.

Heading into the 2019 year, the Talent Development Academy is positioned well to begin introducing significant structural delivery changes. With the positive momentum gained in 2018, and having established a strong culture amongst the playing group, the program will now look to introduce greater innovation in coaching methods and introduce cross functional high-performance capabilities.

