

REVIEW OF 2022 WODONGA OPEN RACQUETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The second Wodonga Racquetball Open was held at the Wodonga Squash Centre on the weekend of the 9th and 10th April 2022. Numbers were slightly down on last year with 57 players competing in the singles events and 40 players competing in the doubles. There was a very happy, friendly atmosphere at the centre all weekend and an enjoyable presentation dinner was held at the SS&A Club on the Saturday night. The Men's Open was taken out by "youngster" Ryan McCarter and the Women's Open was won by local lady and fast improving Sarah Quinlivan. The Open Doubles were won by Matt Howard and Leon Faustini.

SINGLES EVENTS – PRESENTER – PETER BAINES; SPECIAL PRESENTER – ELWYN LANGFORD

SINGLES		
Grade	Winner	Runner-Up
Men's Open	Ryan McCarter	Garry Pedersen
Women's Open	Sarah Quinlivan	Sue Dunlop
A	Matthew Tench	Rob Hay
B	Justin Chu	Mathew Dunn
C	Nicola Baines	Ross Falconer
D	Vithiyaram Kugathanan	Tasmin Fischer
E	Michael Westman	Marnie Shannon
F	Lucy Haley	
Junior Girls	Elijah Rolls	Elijah Sommerfeld
Junior Boys	Maddy Rolls	Lexi Sutcliffe

MEN'S OPEN

Seven players field fought out a 7 Player Swiss Draw + plate, with the top 4 seeds progressing to the semi-finals. Due to extensive player lobbying to reduce the length of matches, the Men's Open matches are now best of 3 to 15 points

In the first semi, top seed McCarter was too good for Matt Howard with a 15-4, 15-12 victory. The second semi saw second seed Garry Pedersen making quick work of Craig Ambler winning 15-10, 15-5.



L-R, Ryan McCarter, Garry Pederson

The playoff for 3rd and 4th was another quick affair with Ambler downing Howard 15-5, 15-7. The plate round robin was taken out by first timer Wagga local Sean Cook.

The final was one of the closest, entertaining matches we have seen for some time. The first, hard fought game, was won 15-13 by McCarter. In the second game, he looked like running away with it leading 8-2, but Pedersen fought back to take it 15-12. The final game was point for point and finally after 90 minutes of playing time, the score at 15 all, the final flip of the coin, the point was won by McCarter to take the game 16-15. Both players deserved to win and should be congratulated for the spirit the game was played in.

WOMEN'S OPEN

There were only 3 players in the Women's Open who played out a Round Robin. Sue Dunlop and Sarah Quinlivan both won their 1st match against Michelle Woodhams, so the last match between the two ended up being the final. And what a final it was with Quinlivan coming from behind to win 15-21, 21-13, 21-13 in an exciting encounter.



L-R: Sue Dunlop, Sarah Quinlivan).



L-R: Matt Tench

A GRADE

Played as a six player round robin, Rob Hay won his pool beating Cory Sutcliffe 21-11, 21-9 and Glen Bailey 15-21, 21-5, 21-11. In the other pool Matt Tench beat Carlos da Silva 21-17, 21-17 and Tim Paramore 21-14, 21-15.

The final was won convincingly by Tench over a very tired Hay 21-5, 21-17.

B GRADE

Eleven players fought out a Knockout and Plate. The Plate was won in a close encounter by Brenden Bettess over Matt Westman 21-13, 17-21, 21-12. The first semi saw Justin Chu win a tight 2 games over Jacob Van Der Vegt 21-18, 21-19. In the other semi, Wagga first timer Mathew Dunn accounted for Adrian Sommerfeld 21-15, 21-17.

In the final, Chu won a very long entertaining first game over Dunn 22-21, but took it away in the second to win 21-12.



L-R: Justin Chu, Mathew Dunn

C GRADE



L-R: Nicola Baines



L-R: Ross Falconer

Six players competed in a round robin, with two pools of 3 players. Pool 1 was taken out by in a convincing fashion by Nicola Baines, beating Gordon Hall 21-10, 21-17 and Leanne Hale 21-10, 21-12. In Pool 2, Ross Falconer showed a good return to form with wins over Helen Jones 21-16, 21-17 and Shaun Quinn 18-21, 21-10, 21-11.

The final saw Baines continue her dominant form with a 21-10, 21-5 demolition of Falconer.



L-R: Vithiyaram Kugathasan, Tasmin Fischer

D GRADE

Thirteen players competed in a Knockout and Plate. The plate was won by Blake Sutcliffe over Peter Fagan 21-9, 21-18. In the main draw, the first semi was won by Vithiyaram Kugathasan over Elsabe Du Plooy 22-21, 21-14 after a close first game. The second semi saw Tasmin Fischer come from behind to defeat Elisha Lander 18-21, 21-16, 21-12 in a very long match.

The final was a long, see-sawing affair which was eventually won by Kugathasan over Fischer 21-11, 15-21, 21-10.

E and F GRADE



L-R: Michael Westman, Marnie Shannon



L-R: Lucy Haley

We only had 2 players entered in E Grade and 1 in F Grade, so the Grades were joined to make a 3 player round robin. The winner of E Grade was Michael Westman beating Marnie Shannon 21-11, 21-6 in their pool match. Lucy Haley was the F Grade winner.

JUNIORS



L-R: Junior Winners – Girls: Maddy Rolls – Boys: Elijah Rolls

JUNIOR GIRLS

In one of our biggest fields for some time, we were delighted to have 5 players compete in the under 13's Junior Girls, this included two newcomers, Lily Ludica and Mia Sundernathan. This meant the girls got to play 4 matches between each other. In a dominant display, Maddy Rolls won all 4 of her matches, keeping her opponents under 10 points in every game. Runner up was Lexi Sutcliffe winning 3 of her matches, but not before having a very close match with 3rd placed Lily Ludica, winning 21-15, 21-22, 21-19 which was the closest and longest match in the grade.



L-R: Girls R/UP Lexi Sutcliffe



L-R: Boys R/UP Elijah Sommerfeld

JUNIOR BOYS

We had 3 players compete in the under 13's Junior Boys and they played each other in a round robin. In another dominant display and what proved to be a 'Rolls' quinella, Elijah Rolls won both his pool matches. Elijah Sommerfeld won the brother face off beating Hamish 21-15-21-16.

DOUBLES EVENTS – PRESENTER – PETER BAINES; SPECIAL PRESENTER – ELWYN LANGFORD

DOUBLES		
Grade	Winner	Runner-Up
Open	Matt Howard Leon Faustini	Scott Petts Chris Nichol
A	Silvia Tiet Marcus Horvat	Carlos da Silva Lincoln Harris
B	Matt Westman Chris Briekopf	Eddy Webb Jacob Van Der Vegt
C	Leanne Haley Jacqui Wilcock	Kathy Donnelly Michelle Woodhams
D	Elisha Lander Jackson Lander-Mitchell	Michael Westman Tasmin Fischer
D Plate	Lily Iudica Ben Bell	

OPEN Doubles

Howard / Faustini d Petts / Nichol 19-21, 21-17, 21-15



L-R: Matt Howard, Leon Faustini



L-R: Chris Nichol, Scott Petts

A Grade Doubles

Tiet / Horvatt d da Silva / Harris 21-16, 22-20



L-R: Silvia Tiet, Marcus Horvat



L-R: Carlos da Silva, Lincoln Harris

B Grade Doubles

Westman / Briekopf d Webb / Van Der Vegt 21-15, 8-21, 21-14



L-R: Matt Westman



L-R: Eddy Webb, Jacob Van Der Vegt

C Grade Doubles

Haley / Wilcock d Donnolley / Woodhams 21-17, 21-19



L-R: Leanne Haley, Jacqui Wilcock



L-R: Kathy Donnolley, Michelle Woodhams

D Grade Doubles

Lander / Lander-Mitchell d Westman / Fischer 21-12, 19-21, 21-11

Plate: Bell / Ludica d Suters / Suters 21-13, 21-19



L-R: Elisha Lander, Jackson Lander-Mitchell L-R: Tasmin Fischer, Michael Westman L/R: Ben Bell, Lily Ludica

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Photo s: Courtesy of Marion Baines