



Tasmanian Masters Squash

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Tasmanian Masters Squash

<http://www.tas.squash.org.au/w/masters>

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Don't Mention the "C" word

What a year it's been, a year no-one could have predicted or will ever forget. A perfect time to have a knee replacement and not actually miss out on too much.

It is difficult to put a newsletter together, the first one for this year, when there has been very little squash and no tournaments.

I do hope that everyone has kept safe and it is wonderful to see squash returning back to nearly normal.

A few tournaments have been penciled in for the next few months in Tassie, one in Hobart and one in Devonport. Our President will fill you in on those.

The Australian Masters Championships have been rescheduled for 2021 in Adelaide - October 4-15, so put it in your calendar for next year. Accommodation has already been booked at the Discovery Holiday Park. If you need accommodation let me know, I will pencil you in and I think we will all be looking forward to a holiday by then.

As the rest of Australia and the world is out of bounds at present, it is a good opportunity to support our locals and holiday in Tasmania, there is so much to see and do.

Recently Roy and I ventured down to Dover and Cockle Creek, such a beautiful part of the world. Our accommodation for two nights was at Huon Bush Retreats. Surrounded by nature, we chose a cabin with wood fire and open air bath. Wonderful walks through the rainforest and up to Mt Misery.

Our hosts have offered any squash masters to come stay for 3 nights at the cost of 2 - midweek - Just mention my name. Here is a link to their website <https://www.huonbushretreats.com/>

Happy squashing everyone and hope to see you all around the courts soon.

Annie Baker

P.S. If you would like to publish something in the next newsletter or have any suggestions, please let me know. quirkyannie33@gmail.com

2020 COMMITTEE • **President** - Garry Hulme. P: 0439 000 391. E: garry.hulme@gmail.com

• **Vice President**
Wendy Ashley

• **Secretary/Publicity Officer**
Gaye Mitchell

• **Treasurer**
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• **Tournament Director**
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• **Newsletter**
Annie Baker

• **Committee** Leon Barnett, Christine Bennett, Elaine Boxall, Sandra Fogarty, Andrew Koerbin, Hayden Steele



President's Prognostications

by Garry Hulme

My first sad duty is to pass on the TMSA's condolences to Margaret Barnden and the rest of Ross' family. Ross' Squash family is also grieving over the loss of a great supporter of our sport, a tireless organiser, good friend, and eternally cheery participant in all aspects of the game on and off the court. More of Ross in this newsletter.

The previous newsletter went out in January this year, a long time between editions for some reason. In that edition I flagged the intention to run tournaments in all three major centres, organise skills clinics and expand our profile into other sports centres through lightning tournaments. A small planning group put together a program, we ran a successful skills clinic at Eastside, and then the State Government shut everything down. Why would they do such a thing? As I recall it the main reason was to keep as many Tasmanians as possible from dying or being otherwise inconvenienced by the COVID-19 virus.

Thankfully the early and decisive lockdown finds us able to resume the Masters pennant and plan for the deferred events to be held, albeit with restraints designed to mitigate the risks of viral infection posed by gatherings. The Tasmanian Masters Squash Championships will be held at Eastside 18-20 September and the NW Masters Squash Championships at the

Devonport Sports Centre 9-11 October. I hope you are keen to participate in these events. Entry forms will be distributed to Squash centres and TMSA members. Unfortunately, under the current travel restrictions interstate players will not be able to join us.

I would like to thank the previous committee for its commitment and hard work in their various squash centres around the state and take the opportunity to welcome our new committee members. Welcome to Hayden Steele our newest Committee member and Glenn Tremayne our new Treasurer, replacing Michael Brown who had three Treasurer hats. A big thank you to Michael for his dedication, skills and hard work over the years.

Your committee is planning to implement a full program of events in 2021. As our current reality dictates this is subject to government decisions on managing COVID-19 outbreaks, which will occur. Please all continue to do your bit to adhere to social distancing and other advice on behaviours at Squash and all other settings.

Thank you all for your cooperation, support, and enthusiasm: players, committee members, tournament planners, pennant organisers, families, and friends. It has been a tough year and we are by no means out of the woods yet. Play with conviction and stay safe.

MIKE BANTICK

Unfortunately Mike has been suffering ill health of late and all your masters friends would like to wish you well and a speedy recovery. We miss your happy face at the courts and hope you are back with us soon.

Player Profile

- Liz Hickey -



Where were you born?

I was born in Broken Hill and started playing squash at the age of 17. I moved to Tasmania in 1974. When I started my first pennant in Hobart it was the year the bridge went down and I didn't know my way around and had no idea how to catch the ferry, so I gave up for some time.

Did you have a nickname and why?

My brothers called me Lizard for obvious reasons.

What do you enjoy about being a masters member?

The friendships you make along the way and the exercise.

What would be your advice to someone considering joining masters?

Make it fun, enjoy the company and be grateful that you can still get on the court.

Do you have any other sports that you are interested in?

I play tennis and also love watching my Aussie rules football.

What is your best victory?

Every win is a victory. My most recent victory was Darwin in 2016, Teams event, Division 16 with Judith Fox and Annie Baker. I also have very fond memories of playing in other Australian Masters teams events. Just looking in my trophy cupboard I have a runner up trophy for 2005 at the Central Coast with Glenis Stephens and Helen Hay (dec).

What is your worst defeat?

There have been many of those but when I first started playing pennant my female opponent had hurt her ankle and was limping. I felt sorry for her so started hitting the ball back to her, big mistake, I am a softie but have hardened up over the years.

What pisses you off most on the court?

An opponent that doesn't show true sportsmanship.

Does squash hinder or help your sex life?

Even though we are talking over the phone I can feel Liz blush. I answer it for her. You found Tony so it most definitely helped. Liz adds but then you're too bloody tired after squash!

What do you do for recreation?

I garden, read and watch the football.

How many children/grandchildren do you have?

Two children and three grandchildren.

What is something people don't know about you?

I have kept all my local pennant squash books over the years. I enjoy looking at them occasionally and reminiscing on who I used to play. Not too many that are still playing. Whenever I return to my hometown of Broken Hill, I call in for a game.

Thanks Liz

ONE plus ONE *with* Mark Hudson

by Annie Baker



MARK
HUDSON

I had a brief chat with Mark at the courts recently and gained an insight into what's been happening behind the scenes and the future for squash in general. This is what Mark had to say.....

After the sad passing of Eastside's owner Chris Doig on December 29, 2018, the future of Eastside was unknown. Chris, who devoted his life to squash, gave Eastside members a very generous offer to purchase the courts at a much reduced price within a 12 month period.

A team of people worked tirelessly, hoping they could purchase the courts with member investments. Eventually after many meetings, the Clarence City Council came on board to purchase Eastside. This was no doubt the best outcome in the end and a relief to the Management team who worked so hard to secure the deal.

If Clarence Council own the courts, does anyone have a paid job?

Tas Squash Academy (TSA) operates Eastside Squash Centre, which is a "not for profit entity". TSA pays no wages but relies on the invaluable service provided by the volunteers. From the cleaners to coaches, running of programs, tournaments, finances, working bees, building maintenance, the list keeps going. Way too many names to mention, I'm afraid I will leave someone out. Everyone is important no matter how small the job is, it keeps the Centre ticking over nicely.

You spend a lot of time at the courts, what is your role?

Mark hesitates with the answer to this question, as he wears a few hats. Effectively he keeps an eye on overseeing the operations with the other directors of the TSA, together with some coaching of juniors.

Do you have trouble getting volunteers to help with the daily running of programs?

No, not really, we have dozens of programs

happening at regular times every week and it's amazing how willing people are to put their hand up to help out.

What are some new programs that have started this year?

As part of the commitment to the community, Eastside are offering free squash to young persons involved in "Save the Children" organization. The fund gives these children a chance to have a normal life, a life every child deserves. I think to myself, what a great opportunity for these kids and a kind gesture from Eastside.

There is also a free 5 week program for Totball for children aged 5-8. A great introduction to squash.

We also have new programs for school groups who come in on a regular basis which is good revenue for the courts. We are close to having 40 bookings so far, which is a great result given the year.

In regard to finances, do all the earnings go back to council?

No, the money stays with Eastside. There is a small lease paid to council and rest is used for bills and general upkeep.

A previous owner Reto Vogel has also assisted the club to have the option to do some improvements and repairs around the centre.

Along with any profits, donations and grants, we have a few things in the pipeline.

Which brings me to my next question. Are there any future plans for improvement at Eastside?

There has been plenty going on in the background. We have had quotes for painting the outside of the building, this should make it more appealing and colourful. We will also be getting large interchangeable banners to put up outside.

Another exciting project happening is we have had architects Preston Lane draw up plans for a new social area upstairs where the office is currently located. To help with the finances for this Adam Saddler is applying for a Tasmanian grant on behalf of the Centre.

We have also applied for the Covid-19 grant, and has been recently approved.

Are you happy with the way the courts are being maintained and managed?

"Our Membership has doubled in 8 months. We have programs happening every day at the

Courts - this has been the most exciting improvement for Eastside and something we are very pleased with"

Recently we had a small working bee to tidy the front building area. Those involved were myself, Hayden Steele, Andrew O'Brien, and don't forget my son Ben (tongue in cheek), who turned up and did very little. A normal teenager I would say".

Mark is optimistic that the future for squash is promising and is proud of the efforts of the club members that bring the courts' operations together to make it successful.

WHO DOES WHAT:

Mark Hudson: Oversees the general running of the courts plus coaching.

Mike Brown: Treasurer.

David Mulcachy: Organizes pennants, tournaments and competition promotions.

Ryan Flint: Property Manager /handyman.

Robert Slade: Mowing when needed.

Gaye Mitchell/ Wendy Ashley: Clean the complex twice a week.

EASTSIDE PROGRAMS

Monday	- Walk-in Squash - Fiona Plummer - Performance Pathway Squad & Junior Coaching - Mark Hudson, Jack Hudson & Harry Palfreyman - Masters Pennant - Tony Lawrie & Cheryl Unsworth
Tuesday	- Hobart Mixed Pennant - Tim Melsom
Wednesday	- Ladies Group - John Harding - Performance Pathway Squad & Junior Coaching - In House Pennant - Simon Ottway
Thursday	- Walk-in Squash - Fiona Plummer - Southern Interclub Pennant
Friday	- Gentle Squash for Seniors - Annie Baker - School Group Coaching - Josh Woodward
Saturday	- Totball - Club Training
Sunday	- Interclub Pennant Training

*Find out more on the website eastsidesquash.com.au or go to **Eastside Squash Centre** on Facebook and Like*



Chris Doig and Reto Vogel outside courts in early 90's.



Before the building was painted.



Masters Pennant Squash Report

by Tony Lawrie

We kicked off our first pennant for 2020 in January. In late February, sadly Kym Hancock's partner Lesley passed away. Despite already being badly affected by her illness, Lesley came up to the Gold Coast Masters with Kym and the Tassie contingent in September last year and was known to many of the Tassie masters players.

Then - COVID-19. Our president sent out our first note about precautions to take on 15 March. One week later, the government announced a lockdown from midday 23 March. Many of us were caught by surprise when the courts were shut down just as we were about to play our grand final for the first pennant of 2020. I declare LIMERICKS (Peter Tenni, Andrew O'Brien, Geoff Green, Liz Hickey, Rob Slade, Tony Lawrie) the winner, having finished on top of the ladder. Shortly after we learned our tournament scheduled for Devonport was also cancelled - denying us a chance to catch up with our northern friends.

At that early stage we probably didn't appreciate how quickly it could spread in our little corner of the world. Our outbreak in the north west of Tassie brought home the reality. As we entered lockdown I remember wondering how the layoff from regular squash might seem an opportune time for some of us oldies to give it away or fear of COVID-19 might mean many players might not return.

It was heartening to see the response when we got the all clear to resume. Our new requirement for teams to provide Limericks, Jokes, Riddles etc per their team names during supper is injecting some much needed humour.

It was in early July that we learned the sad news that our Masters squash founder, Ross Barnden, was entering the last stage of his battle with cancer with his treatment ceasing. Ross was one of our greats and leaves a huge hole. Many of us took the opportunity to say our final farewells before he passed. The funeral was a strange affair in that COVID-19 meant numbers had to be limited, meaning many people could not attend. A live stream of the service was organised to cater for the large numbers who would have otherwise attended. Vale Ross Barnden.

As I write this we are well into our second pennant and our president has just informed us that plans are afoot to resume some tournaments, which is helping our lives to feel more normal. COVID-19 seems removed while we enjoy a period of zero recorded cases in Tassie, but I urge people to continue to treat it seriously and observe social distancing rules. We don't know when it will return to Tassie but we know it will, and I'd hate to see a spreader event occur at Masters squash.

And a light hearted finish.

Time flies like an arrow...Fruit flies like a banana (think about it)

What do you call a fowl staring at a lettuce?...A chicken sees a salad

Cheers for now.

Tony

50

VALE ROSS BARNDEN

9 June 1945 - 13 July 2020





2020

TASMANIAN MASTERS SQUASH ASSOCIATION INC

Calendar of Events

TOURNAMENTS

Hobart, 18-20 September
Tasmanian Masters Squash Championships

Devonport, 9-11 October
North West Tasmanian Masters Squash Championships

For more information and contact details:
<http://www.tas.squash.org.au/w/masters>

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squash Tasmania news at
<http://www.tas.squash.org.au/w/masters>

The joke's on us

