

## **Squash Tasmania President's Report for 2007**

During 2007 we were further able to improve our organisation's performance through improved systems and planning. We funded these activities through player affiliation fees. With the help of a \$5,000 grant from the State Government we were able to deliver Development and Participation Programs.

As a result of our efforts we have been able to maintain the number of affiliated players even though we lost the support of the New Town Club and Parsons. The New Town Club wrote to Squash Tasmania stating that the management would not request payment of affiliation fees from his players. Consequently, only four players chose to affiliate through another club, the other players are not affiliated or insured. Parsons Sports only nominated three players. Another four Parsons juniors affiliated in December and their affiliation will carry over to 2008.

We were happy to welcome back to the fold the Wynyard Club. This helped offset the Parsons and New Town losses.

Our affiliation numbers for 2007 are shown in the table below.

<b>Club</b>	<b>Senior</b>	<b>Junior</b>	<b>Total</b>
Burnie	26	1	27
Devonport	51	7	58
Eastside	145	60	205
Kingborough	31	9	40
New Town	4		4
Parsons	2	5	7
Penguin	25	5	30
Smithton	37	13	50
Ulverstone	29	6	35
University	21		21
Wynyard	38	19	57
<b>Total</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>534</b>

We look forward to supporting our affiliated clubs in 2008.

Our achievements during 2007 are summarised under the Key Result Areas identified in our Strategic Plan.

### **Governance, Management and Commercial Interests**

Our Strategic Plan for 2006 to 2010 was reviewed and updated and circulated to clubs and centres.

Through changes to our affiliation procedure and co-operation of clubs, we have been able to produce an accurate member register. Our cash flow has also improved. This has enabled our Squash Australia affiliation fees, player insurance, public liability insurance and other governance costs to be paid on time. Cash flow had been a problem in previous years and it is good to be back in a sound financial position.

The 2007 Committee included some new faces - Jason Faulkner from Smithton, Paul Brewtnall from Ulverstone, Paul Harvey from Launceston and Melanie Dunn from

Eastside. The Committee now has representation from most affiliated clubs. The Committee has been meeting every second month and the minutes circulated promptly to each club and posted on the web site.

I greatly appreciate the efforts of the Committee Members who volunteer their time to help develop our sport.

During the year, I have been able to visit all affiliated clubs and, therefore, have a better understanding of the state of squash in their areas.

My Committee and I have been able to work with Squash Australia to develop our sport nationally. I represented Tasmania at the Squash Australia AGM and Workshops and was lucky to be able to attend the Hall of Fame Dinner held on the same weekend.

I also attended a meeting of State Executive Officers and the National Executive Officers in Melbourne in August. The meeting was very productive and has produced positive outcomes.

A preliminary budget for 2008 has been developed based on our Strategic and Operational Plans. This information was included in our State Grant application for 2008. We received a grant of \$10,000 this year for Development Programs, double the amount received in 2007. This will allow us to be even more effective in 2008.

Research on Tasmanian squash history has commenced. We will be seeking cooperation from all clubs to complete this project.

### **Elite Development**

In some ways our Elite Development Program is at a low point but a highlight and a direct result of our development program, was Maggy Marshall being selected in the Australian Junior Team and playing in the World Junior Championships in Hong Kong. I would like to congratulate her for her persistent hard work over a number of years and the deserving result.

We had a small number of juniors competing at national championships in 2007 but were unable to field a State junior team.

We hope to revive the Tasmanian Squash Academy Training Squads over the next few years. The first step is to set up elite junior training programs at each squash centre and to develop healthy competition between squads, which will ultimately result in a high standard of junior and senior squash within the state.

The first Tasmanian Squash Academy Club Squad was set up at Eastside Squash. The Squad attended the Victorian Junior in July. The experience was great for the juniors and coaches involved.

Tasmania was able to field a full team at the Australian Senior Teams' Championships in Brisbane. Being selected for the team and playing in the event was a great reward for our players.

Squash Tasmania was able to support the attendance of a State Level Referee, Trevor Dooley, to referee at the Australian Junior Championships.

## **Facilities, Competitions and Tournaments**

A report on the squash courts available in Tasmania has commenced and will be completed next year.

The squash calendar for 2008 has been prepared and forwarded to clubs for comments and additions. Five major open tournaments, nine one-day opens, five junior tournaments and two masters' tournaments are planned for 2008. Five open tournaments, one masters' tournament and two junior tournaments were held in 2007.

## **Development and Participation**

Introducing our sport to school children has been identified as a key to our sport's future. Prep to Grade 3 children are introduced to Totball in the school yard and invited to attend after school Totball. One centre, Eastside, and seven schools were involved in 2007. Grade 4 to 6 children are introduced to squash either with In-School Programs or, for those schools able to get to the centre, by In-Centre Programs. Programs were run at two centres, Eastside and Kingborough, for twenty-one schools. The two centres, Eastside and Kingborough, are running Primary After School Programs.

Secondary School In-Centre Programs were conducted in at least three centres, Eastside, Kingborough and Devonport. In these programs students are introduced to the sport by qualified coaches and invited to attend after school secondary school programs.

Another three centres, Parsons, Smithton and Wynyard run after school programs for a combination of primary school and secondary school students.

The Hobart area inter-school pennant was held in second term on Friday night. Seventy-nine students participated, a similar number to the previous year.

For adults there are Walk-In Programs where centres can arrange games for new players as well as regulars who do not wish to make the commitment to regular pennant or for those just looking for an extra practice match. Programs are running in at least three centres, Eastside, University and Parsons.

In-house pennants continued to be successful on the NW Coast and at one club, Eastside, in the south. The Coastal Pennant was conducted between NW Coast clubs and Hobart clubs competed in two inter-club pennants. The master's pennant continues to be successful at Eastside.

Coaching Director, Max Moorhouse, conducted three Level 1 Squash Coaching Courses including Totball. Coach training is essential in order to provide coaches for our development programs. Max is committed to developing coaches within Tasmania and shares my belief that coaches are the key to the future of Tasmanian Squash.

I represented Tasmania at Squash Australia's Development Workshops. The sharing of ideas nationally is important for the sport. My attendance at several of these workshops over the past years has helped me immensely and with some help from clubs I hope to pass on what I have learned.

Trevor Dooley conducted a refereeing workshop at two clubs, Devonport and Eastside. The workshops were well received by both clubs.

The number of qualified referees and coaches is show below.

<b>Club</b>	<b>Trainee Coach</b>	<b>Level 1 Coach</b>	<b>Level 2 Coach</b>	<b>Club Referee</b>	<b>State Referee</b>
Burnie					
Devonport		1			
Eastside	1	5	1	14	1
Kingborough		3	1		
New Town					
Parsons		1	1		
Penguin					
Smithton	4				
Ulverstone		1			
University				1	
Wynyard	1				
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>

### **Concluding Comments**

Squash Tasmania is developing itself into a professional organisation, which is starting to produce some positive results. Each affiliated member can help by providing input to their club on their thoughts about our future directions. These can be incorporated in our upcoming review of our Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan and Operational Plan can be viewed on our web site, [www.squashtas.asn.au](http://www.squashtas.asn.au).

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President  
Squash Tasmania