

## **Squash Tasmania President's Report for 2008**

During 2008 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 \$10,000 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 the New Town Club and Parsons have not affiliated.

Our affiliation numbers for 2008 are shown in the table below.

<b>Club</b>	<b>Senior</b>	<b>Junior</b>	<b>Total</b>
Burnie	28	0	28
Devonport	43	15	58
Eastside	136	66	202
Kingborough	21	15	36
Parsons Jnrs		6	6
Penguin	33	7	40
Smithton	36	19	55
Ulverstone	20	2	22
University	15	0	15
Wynyard	37	23	60
<b>Total</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>522</b>

We look forward to supporting our affiliated clubs in 2008.

We also look forward to implementing the MATRIX competition system at affiliated clubs in 2009. I have been in touch with the key personnel from each affiliated club and they are enthusiastic about the use of the MATRIX.

Our achievements during 2008 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 the development of our affiliation procedure and co-operation of clubs, we have been able to produce an accurate member register. The system has enabled our Squash Australia affiliation fees, player insurance, public liability insurance and other governance costs to be paid on time.

The 2008 Committee included some new faces – Leon Barnett from Devonport and Max Moorhouse from Kingborough. Paul Harvey moved interstate during the year and resigned from the Committee. The Committee has been meeting every second month and the minutes circulated promptly to each club and posted on the web site.

We are working towards a more representative committee that includes a representative from each affiliated squash club. This will require a review of our constitution and the introduction of associated regulations. This project is well underway and we expect to be able to forward a draft to each affiliated club for comment in 2009.

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

The 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 July. The meeting was very productive and has produced positive outcomes.

A preliminary budget for 2009 has been developed based on our Strategic and Operational Plans. This information was included in our State Grant application for 2009. We received a grant of \$15,000 this year for Development Programs, 50% more than the amount received in 2008. This will allow us to be even more effective in 2009.

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 still at a low point but a highlight and a direct result of our development program, was Maggy Marshall winning the Australian Junior Girls Championship held in Perth, Western Australia. I would like to congratulate her for her persistent hard work over a number of years and the deserving result.

We were able to field a 13 Year Age Group team at the Australian Junior Championships. This is a definite improvement as we have been unable to field a team for a number of years.

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 Tasmanian Squash Academy Club Squad set up at Eastside Squash attended the Victorian Junior in July. The experience was great for the juniors and coaches involved. Eleven juniors competed and Sarah Lindsay won the Girls' 13 Year Age Group. We hope to set up Club Squads at other centres in 2009.

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

### **Facilities, Competitions and Tournaments**

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

During 2008, five open tournaments, two masters' tournaments and seven junior tournaments were held. While the open tournaments were moderately successful, the junior and masters' tournaments were very well supported.

The squash calendar for 2009 has been prepared and forwarded to clubs for comments and additions. Four multi-day open tournaments, eight one-day opens, six junior tournaments and two masters' tournaments are planned for 2009.

### **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 eight schools were involved in 2008. 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 three centres, Smithton, Eastside and Kingborough, for twenty-one schools. The three centres run Primary After School Programs.

Secondary School In-Centre Programs were conducted in at least three centres involving eleven schools. 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. Nineteen teams 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.

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 one Level 1 Squash Coaching Courses including Totball. He also provided "In-School" training at Smithton and conducted a number of updating workshops for coaches. 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.

Max Moorhouse, Bill Cook and 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.

We provided one refereeing workshop at Wynyard during the year. We hope to be able to do more in 2009.

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		8	1	14	1
Kingborough		3	1		
Parsons Jnr		2	1		
Penguin					
Smithton	3	1			
Ulverstone		1			
University				1	
Wynyard					
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>16</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).

**Chris Doig**  
**President**  
**Squash Tasmania**