

Squash Tasmania President's Report for 2009

2009 was another good year for squash in Tasmania especially in the Key Result Area: Development and Participation.

The total number of affiliated players increased from 522 in 2008 to 612 in 2009. The table below provides a club by club breakdown of affiliation numbers.

Club	Senior	Junior (Under 19)	Total
Burnie	26	4	30
Devonport	58	15	73
Eastside	172	76	248
Kingborough	20	23	43
Parsons	30	6	36
Penguin	31	9	40
Smithton	28	12	40
Ulverstone	37	7	44
University	8	0	8
Wynyard	26	24	50
Total	436	176	612

Our achievements during 2009 are briefly summarised under the Key Result Areas identified in the Strategic Plan. A full summary of our achievements is included in italics on the 2009 Operational Plan on the Squash Tasmania website, www.squashtas.asn.au .

Governance, Management and Commercial Interests

Work continued this year to improve our administrative procedure and to develop regulations for operations. We are also attempting to get more accurate membership details.

The constitution is currently being reviewed and amendments made to allow for a national registration system and representation from each club.

We have taken an active role in the move towards a national approach to squash. I have attended the Squash Australia AGM and workshops as well as Squash Australia Executive Officers Group meetings and been involved in discussions on a range of issues including a national registration system, competition software improvements, web site improvements, insurance, tournament circuit and strategic planning. Positive results of these discussions will be seen over the next few years.

Earlier in the year a Squash Australia Board Meeting was held in Hobart and a get together was arranged between the board and the Squash Tasmania Committee. The get together helped to reinforce the relationship between Squash Australia and Squash Tasmania.

All of our governance activities were completed with the usual diligence.

Elite Development

Tasmania was represented by junior, senior and Masters' teams this year. It has been a while since we have been represented in all categories. This is further indication that squash in Tasmania is moving in a positive direction.

The development of junior squash both in numbers and standard resulted in Tasmania being represented at the Australian Junior Championships in the Boys 19, 17, 15 and 13 year age groups and Girls 15 year age group.

Devonport Squash Club hosted the Australian Teams Championships in which our team participated.

A good contingent of masters attended the Australian Masters Championships in Melbourne. Our outstanding performers were Gaye Mitchell and Michael Brown. Gaye won the Women's Over 55 Division and Michael finished 3rd in the Men's Over 55. Michael and Gaye also competed in the World Masters' Games in Sydney with Michael coming away with a gold medal and Gaye silver in their age group.

In 2009 Aaron Frankcomb and Maggy Marshall received scholarships from the Tasmanian Institute of Sport. Aaron is now based in England and represented Australia this year in the World Teams Event. Maggy is training at the Australian Institute of Sport in Brisbane.

Sam Hunt was the only Tasmanian junior achieving a national ranking. At the end of the year he was ranked 14 in the 19 year age group.

Facilities, Competitions and Tournaments

This year we successfully implemented the use of MATRIX software to squash pennants in all affiliated squash club/centres. In addition most of the junior, senior and Masters' tournament results were entered on the MATRIX. The use of the software has been a welcome addition that has increased interest in our local competition results.

Six junior tournaments were held at various venues around the state. At the conclusion of each event the State Junior rankings were reviewed and published through each affiliated squash centre. 125 juniors participated in one or more junior tournament during the year.

The table below shows the growth in participation over the last three years.

Year	2007		2008		2009	
Courts	Month	Entries	Month	Entries	Month	Entries
Eastside			March	20	Reduced to 1 event at ES	
Wynyard			April	34	June	51
Eastside	June	9	May	38	May	50
Devonport			July	29	August	59
Parsons			September	22	October	61
Smithton			October	37	March	24
Eastside	December	28	November	43	Reduced to 1 event at ES	
Kingborough					December	61
Burnie						
University						

Four major open tournaments were held; the Eastside RACT Open, the Tasmanian Open, the Devonport Open, and the Budget Eyewear City of Clarence Open. In addition a number of One-Day Open events at Eastside and one at Kingborough were held.

Two Masters' tournaments were held; the Devonport Masters and the Tasmanian Masters at Eastside.

The squash calendar for 2010 has been drafted and forwarded to clubs for comments and additions.

Development and Participation

Development and Participation was our major focus for the year. These programs were delivered by the Tasmanian Squash Academy.

An increase in our State Grant allocation for Development and Participation Programs together with sponsorship from the Tasmanian Squash Academy enabled our Development and Participation programs to be expanded. This expansion included a roll out of our primary school promotions to the north and north-west.

Successful junior squash promotions in the north and north-west at Devonport, Launceston, Penguin and Smithton resulted in around 50 new junior squash players, the majority of whom have been registered with Squash Tasmania. The promotions in Hobart continued to be successful.

The table below shows the performance targets agreed with Sport and Recreation Tasmania and the outcomes achieved. It also shows the schools visited as part of our primary school squash promotions.

Focus Area	Performance Target	Performance Outcome
Coach Development	1 x Totball Instructors Course	Linda Pattison has commenced training. Angela Desire, Leigh Ellis, Greg Ward and Craig Moore have qualified as Totball Instructors.
	1 x Level 1 Coaching Course	Course run for 7 participants on 24, 25 October
	5 x Coaches Workshops	1 held in conjunction with Training Camp at Penguin, 1 at Smithton in June, 1 at Kingborough in August, 1 at Eastside in August.
	Attend Annual Squash Australia Development Workshops	Chris Doig attended workshops in July
Official Development	4 x Referee Accredited Player Courses	1 Refereeing presentation given at Southern Junior in May. 7 other presentations on NW Coast during the weeks around the Australian Teams Championship. 1 at Eastside in December.
	1 x Club Referee Course held	No participants identified. Funding used for Totball and Squash in Schools
Primary School Promotion	15 schools visited (Squash-in-School Program)	17 schools; Lauderdale, Kingston, Mt Stuart, Nixon Street, Goulburn Street, Lindisfarne, Lindisfarne North, Margate, Launceston Grammar, Penguin, NW Christian School, Stanley, Edith Creek, Smithton, Cambridge, New Town, Illawarra.
	6 Schools visiting centres (Squash-in-Centre Program)	9 schools; St Cuthbert's, Corpus Christi, Rokeby, Bellerive, Collegiate, Devonport, St Aloysius, Penguin, Cottage School.
	5 club/centres running after school program	9 club/centres; Eastside, Kingborough, Parsons, Devonport, Wynyard, Smithton, Theogenes, Penguin, University

Secondary School Program	8 secondary schools attending in centre programs in 3 centres	13 Schools; MacKillop, St Mary's, Geilston Bay, Collegiate, Smithton, Circular Head Christian School, Clarence, Hilliard Christian School, Rose Bay, Friends, Ogilvie, Guilford Young, Eastside Lutheran School. 4 club/centres; Eastside, Parsons, University, Smithton
	5 club/centres running after school programs	8 club/centres; Eastside, Kingborough, Parsons, Devonport, Wynyard, Smithton, University, Burnie
Totball Promotion	8 schools visited	21 schools; St Cuthbert's, Lauderdale, Corpus Christi, New Town, Mt Stuart, Lindisfarne North, Kingston, Collegiate, Nixon Street, Goulburn Street, Bellerive, Montagu Bay, Lindisfarne, Fahan, Margate, Launceston Grammar, Stanley, Edith Creek, Smithton, Illawarra, Cottage School.
	3 club/centres running after school programs	7 Club/centres; Eastside, Kingborough, Devonport, Theogenes, Penguin, Smithton, University
Walk-In Squash	3 club/centres running after programs	1 "Walk-In Squash" at Eastside. Other club training sessions.
Pennants	Inter school pennant held in Hobart	Completed
	9 club/centres running in-house pennants	8 club/centres; Smithton, Wynyard, Burnie, Penguin, Ulverstone, Devonport, Parsons, Eastside
	Inter-club pennants held	Southern Pennant, Coastal Pennant
Club/Centre Support	Assist with setting up programs	Junior programs and Penguin Ladders League

Unfortunately we have been advised that we are ineligible for a State Grant in 2010 as we do not have adequate representation in the north (03 telephone district). We appealed this decision on the grounds that we are actively working towards developing a membership base in the north but our appeal was dismissed.

We have, however, applied for an alternative grant through the State Government's Minor Grants Program. If we are successful we receive less money than in 2009 but will be able to continue with our primary school promotions that achieved such good results in 2009.

We hope to increase the number of affiliated players in the 03 telephone district to a level that is considered sufficient by Sport and Recreation Tasmania to be eligible to receive State Grants Program funding in future years.

Concluding Comments

I am pleased with the outcomes that we have achieved in 2009 and with the steady increase in the momentum of the resurgence of squash in Tasmania. I am looking forward to seeing the results of our efforts over the next few years.

Chris Doig
President
Squash Tasmania