



## TASMANIAN MASTERS SQUASH ASSOCIATION

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# NEWSLETTER

20 December 2006

We've been really slack (or very busy!). I notice we haven't done a newsletter since December 2005 – and so much has happened!! Here goes.

### AUSTRALIAN MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2006 – CANBERRA – 4 – 15/9/06

Once again we had a good contingent participate in these championships with approx 20 players (and some partners) having had a fantastic time and also some excellent results from Tassie for such small numbers attending (in comparison to other larger states):

#### **Individual results:**

Gaye Mitchell – winner Womens O'50 Open.  
Mike Brown – plate winner Mens O'50 Open,  
Rob Slade – winner Mens O'60 Div 3.  
Ross Barnden – plate winner Mens O'60 Div 3.  
Don Ambler – r/up Mens O'40 Div 3.  
George Kovacs – plate winner Mens O'50 Div 3

#### **Teams results:**

Winner Div 8 d. Vic – Andrew O'Brien, Judy Fox & Cheryl Unsworth  
Winner Div 6 d. Vic – Eryl Raymond, George Kovacs & Don Ambler

R/Up to NSW in Div 17 – Jane O'Brien, Rob U'ren, John Harding, Sandra Fogarty  
R/Up to Qld in Div 14 – Liz Hickey, Glenis Stephens & Hellen Hay

Our Wrinkley's skit "*An Idiot's guide to the Sound of Music*", masterminded by the very talented Eryl Raymond, was a hit, with full participation from the Tassie players and partners.

The Australian Championships are in Perth, WA in 2007. Accommodation has been pre-booked and if you are interested in attending please get contact Ross Barnden on 0408 442 515 to book your spot. WA has a one squash centre large enough to house the whole championships located at Mirrabooka (Squashworld Mirrabooka). Check out their website as it develops:

<http://www.amsasquash.com/Web2007/index.htm>

Dates:

- Individuals – 3 – 7 September 2007
- Teams – 10 – 14 September 2007

Masters squash isn't just about going away and having a fantastic time! We do have other things happening. See below

### Northern Masters Pennant Report (by Rose Searle)

Not much happening on this scene at present. Any northern players – please let us have feedback.

## **South – GLOBES LIGHTING 2006 Spring Pennant (by Ross Barnden)**

A successful pennant was held with 48 players involved in three person teams. This pennant finishes up this week. Please let Ross Barnden know if you want to be involved in the next pennant. These players enjoy their squash (and the party afterwards!!)

### **Dates for the Diary**

- A Tasmanian Masters Tournament will be held in Devonport on the weekend of 23 – 25 March 2007. Watch out for the entry forms.
- Tasmanian Masters Championships – 6 – 8 July 2007 at Eastside Squash & Fitness.
- The VMSA (Vic Masters) also have a number of good tournaments which some Tasmanians attend – for information on these tournaments, please check the Victorian Masters' website [www.vmsasquash.com](http://www.vmsasquash.com)

## **World Masters Squash Championships 2006 (report from Mike Brown)**

In October this year Debbie and I were lucky enough to have a 3 week holiday to southern Africa which included the World Masters Squash Championships in Cape Town.

These championships were individual events only. The international teams event seems to have fallen by the wayside. (As an aside, this was an event I won in Melbourne 2001 in a team in the 45 to 54 age group with Gaye Mitchell, Richard Bourke and Graeme Holloway.)

The format of the World Masters Squash Championships is almost identical to the Aust Masters Individual Squash Championships but with one major difference in that there are no divisions just one event per age group (being the usual 5 year groups) so when you enter the world championships that's what you are in. The matches were conducted over 6 days, Monday to Saturday.

In Cape Town there were just over 600 entrants, about 30 Australians, and over 70 in my age group, 50 - 54. Five centres were used around the Newlands district. Each event was conducted as a triple plate draw. I was seeded no 2 which was a surprise and an honor. However I did not live up to this seeding losing my first match. Disappointing but I injured my hamstring early August and had a poor preparation etc etc. This put me into the Classic Plate (for second round losers as I had a bye first round) and I managed to get through to the final which I lost in 5, my third 5 setter in 3 days, ho hum. But 6 matches over 6 days was plenty of squash and along the way I beat Larry Malan from Brisbane who was runner up in my age group in Canberra this year. The bloke that beat me in my first match got to the semi finals so knowing his level of game I feel that if I had the preparation I had for the 2005 Aust Championships I could have made the semis. The winner of my event was Peter Alexander from England. There were a number of Australian winners and they can be found on the web - see address below.

As far as the social format goes this was the same as Aus Masters with a welcome function on Sunday, final dinner the following Saturday plus a couple of less formal functions in between.

Win, lose or draw it was worth the effort being there. The next world championships are in Christchurch NZ in October 2008. Details on the web can be found from the Masters page on the Squash Tas site [www.squashtas.asn.au](http://www.squashtas.asn.au)

Our holiday in southern Africa was terrific. In a nutshell, we checked out Cape town of course, had 4 nights driving along the Garden Route to Port Elizabeth, then flew to Vic Falls in Zimbabwe for 2 nights (including white water rafting on the Zambezi River), next 2 nights in Chobe national park in Botswana (great wild animals), 1 night in Livingston Zambia, then flew back to Johannesburg for 1 night and finally 2 nights in Singapore. I can recommend an African holiday and we would go back for more. Always felt safe, got good value, good accommodation, saw some terrific things and ate great food.

**And, finally, MERRY MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL AND GET READY TO HAVE A BIG YEAR OF MASTERS SQUASH IN 2007**