

New Talent Claims Newbigin from Eastern

Saturday 23rd February, 12 of Centrals best took on Eastern in the annual Newbigin Shield Challenge.

Eastern claimed the shield last year and the Manager and Coach Grant Watts and Rod Bannister warned the players it would be a tough day that often comes down to points count back. With 5 new faces on the Central side they were told to try for every point but to enjoy it.



The morning round saw Central take an early lead with wins by Luke Jones, Kent Darlington, Matthew Ratcliffe, Rory Mortleman, Daniel Foster, Bridget Taylor and Emma Rowe giving Central a 7 - 5 lead heading into the lunchtime break. Often in the afternoon the tides turn but not this year all the morning winners also won their afternoon games giving Central the shield for 2019 14 matches to 10. Many commented how great it was to see fresh faces on the courts alongside a few familiar ones of course.

Thank you to Marilyn Dolan for being the tournament controller and SquashGym for the courts and putting on a great lunch.

The full teams were:

Central
 Luke Jones
 Corbin Faint
 Kent Darlington
 Matthew Ratcliffe
 Rory Mortleman
 Daniel Foster
 Fiona Gifford-Moore
 Tina Steedman
 Michelle Habib
 Genevieve Bell
 Bridget Taylor
 Emma Rowe

Eastern
 Jordan Le Comte
 Taylor Leabourne
 Dave Murdoch
 Ken Bollard
 RJ Cook
 Joel Le Comte
 Jena Gregory
 Tania Tatana
 Mel Goodchild
 Anna Nuku
 Tina Rangi
 Andrea Hewitt

Junior Prince Kicks off for 2019

prince 2019 JUNIOR SERIES SQUASH CENTRAL

Sunday	Host Club	Entry Contact
10 March	Taihape	taihapesquashclub@yahoo.com
31 March	Kawarua Park	office@kpsquash.co.nz
7 April	Levin	madolan@inspire.net.nz
14 April	Hawera	madrholmes@extra.co.nz
28 April	Stratford	peter@m3motivation.co.nz
5 May	Rangitikei	jdellow@extra.co.nz
12 May	Rivercity	mikann@orcon.net.nz
26 May	Inglewood	rubyfields@extra.co.nz
2 June	Feilding	feildingSC@gmail.com
9 June	Ohakune	ohakunesquashclub@gmail.com
16 June	Okato	okatosquash1@gmail.com
23 June	Tararua	kim.deanmabey@hotmail.com
30 June	Ashhurst	ashph-squashclub@inspire.net.nz
7 July	Waitara	waitarasquashclub@hotmail.com
14 July	Dannevirke	dannevirkesquashclub@hotmail.com
21 July	SquashGym	prince@squashgym.co.nz
4 August	Whanganui	kentpauladarlington@gmail.com

For every allocated Prince Series tournament you play, you will automatically be entered into the Prince Series. Points will be awarded as follows:
 Tournament played - 5pts
 Match won - 1 pt.
 Division won - 2 pts.

\$1000 worth of Prince Squash prizes will be presented to the top eight boys and top eight girls at the conclusion of the series final. Squash Central will also award five Coaching Scholarships valued at \$100 each.

Points will be updated regularly on our website as they become available.

www.squashcentral.co.nz

Enter via or email by Thursday before tournament.

The very popular Junior Prince series IS BACK! Starting on the 10th March at Taihape Squash Club there are a huge 17 rounds this year throughout the district.

Entry is preferred via iSquash otherwise email the address on the poster and get your entry or any questions in. Players are expected to be ready for play by 9:30am on the day. This is a great series to get into some competitive squash, improve your skills and make some great mates.

RNZAF Vs Central

Sunday 10th February saw 9 invitational Central representatives take on the Royal New Zealand Air Force team in a one day clash.



The clash started in 2017 with Central winning the inaugural match up. This year it was time for the RNZAF team to even up the score taking the win 10 matches to 8. The base donated a shield for the challenge and this was presented to the RNZAF team by Central President Christine Rukuwai.

It is hoped that the shield will be played for annually and it is great to see some different faces in the representative teams as 6 out of the 9 had never worn the green and black before. A big thank you to Marilyn Dolan for pulling together the Central team and being chief organiser for the day and also to the Ohakea crew for keeping everyone hydrated and fed. It was a fantastic day enjoyed by all.

Teams were as follows:

RNZAF Men

Daniel Lamb
Josh Wood
Anthony Budd
Mark Howard
Glenn Blay
Neil Chappell

Central Men

Jordan Bell
Matthew Adshead
Tihema Merioti
Connor Fortuin
Thomas Mitchell
Brayden Bryce

RNZAF Women

Heather Plank
Kim Gilbert
Teresa Wharewera

Central Women

Julie Berry
Cindy Marsh
Hayley D'Auriol

Final result RNZAF wins 10 matches to 8

Coaching Spot



So far this year we've had a senior camp for our team that successfully won the Newbigin Shield 14/10 versus Eastern, played recently at SquashGym. We have also run a junior camp on the 3rd of March at Whanganui Squash Club in lead up to the Wellington and Eastern junior challenges on 10th and 17th March.

If your club is interested in receiving coaching from the District Coach, Rod Bannister, Rod can come and look at any of your programs or run coaching of coaches sessions. Please feel free to contact Rod in person. These sessions are part of his District Coaching role and are free of charge to your clubs. Please email him on: coach@squashcentral.co.nz



3 / 3a: BIG NIX
Presented by: Kaye Carter
12-2:30 pm , March 16th 2019
Kawaroa Park Squash Club
NewPlymouth

Learn how to work with 9-12 year old squash players.
General movement skills, tactical awareness, creating sessions, technique, feeding skills and more.

Entry: \$20.00
Fac: Kaye Carter
Contact: kayeelliott@hotmail.com
Email: .com

Register by: Friday 9th march
Phone: 0273082005

TRY IT. PLAY IT. LOVE IT.

If you're a budding coach or an experienced one looking to gain new skills here are two upcoming opportunities you may find useful. Our CoachForce facilitator Kaye Carter is happy to run any of the CoachForce modules at your club so please register your interest via admin@squashcentral.co.nz there is a minimum number of 4 attendees

2019 Regional Coach Workshop - Central

The Regional Coach workshops are a development opportunity for coaches who are coaching in the youth and club space. They will consist of both practical and theory sessions.



When: 30-31 March
Where: SquashGym, Palmerston North
Cost: \$30
Presenters: Kaye Carter, Dan Grant, + more TBC

Follow this link to register:
https://squashnz.formstack.com/forms/regional_coaching_workshop

Email daniel@squashnz.co.nz for further information

#LoveSquash TRY IT. PLAY IT. LOVE IT.

Central takes out Wairarapa Cup

Squash Central has won both the junior and senior challenge against Wellington. The seniors took out the Wairarapa cup in a close 9 matches to 6.

The first Central vs Wellington Junior Challenge since 2015 was played on Sunday 10th March, with 20 Juniors travelling to Mitchell Park, Wellington, from 8 different clubs throughout Central, and 7 Juniors representing the District for the first time. It was great to see the more senior and experienced players in the team, interacting and supporting the new players, led by our experienced Captains Genevieve Bell & Jordan Bell.

It was fantastic to come away with the trophy 24 matches to 16. There were some great wins and disappointing losses, but all played with passion and pride and gave 110% contributing to the end result. It is a huge commitment by parents to get the players there and we thank them for their continued support. Also thanks to Rod Bannister (District Coach), assisted by Peter Arnott for helping the kids throughout the day and Grant Watts for keeping things running smoothly with the draw and board.

Our entire team looked Awesome on and off the court with our great culture showing through!

We look forward to hosting and defending in 2020.



District Referee Exam Now Online

District Referee is the second step after becoming a club referee.

Steps of a referee:

- Club
- District
- National
- Regional
- World

This is just the first part of the assessment; you will still be required to pass the practical assessment.

As the exam is now online and open book Squash NZ require a 100% pass rate. Once this has been achieved, they will be in contact to discuss the practical side of the assessment.

Referees will also need to make sure they are willing to abide by the referee code of ethics as they will be required to sign this once they have passed their exam.

Full information can be found on the Squash NZ website:

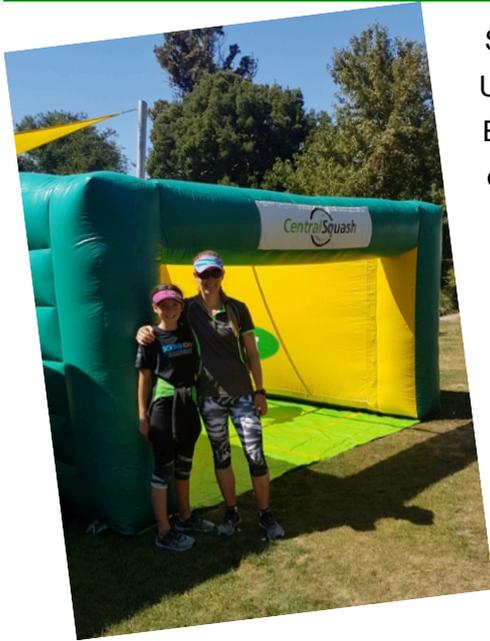
http://squashnz.co.nz/news/index.cfm?content_id=4741

The link to the District referee exam below

https://squashnz.formstack.com/forms/district_referee_exam



Inflatable Court Draws Interest



SquashGyms Super Mum Katrina Gemmell and daughter Anabel (NZ Under 13 Champion) took to the Esplanade on Sunday 3rd March for the Esplanade Day. Manning the inflatable court and exposing the masses to our wonderful sport.

Central has 2 of these courts for use at events such as these. If your community has an event and your club wants to promote themselves this is a great way for people to have a go.

Katrina reported there was "lots of interest shown and fun had by all!"

3 Named in Trans Tasman Team

A strong group of New Zealand players has been selected for the Executive Travel trans-Tasman Junior squash series team's event. Among those selected are 3 Central players.

The players will compete in two test matches against Australia in the hopes of claiming the trans-Tasman title for a fifth year in a row.

The series will be held April 11th-12th at Remuera Rackets Club in Auckland and features some of the rising stars of the sport including Kaitlyn Watts from SquashGym Palmerston North.

Watts has already represented New Zealand at senior level alongside Joelle King and Amanda Landers-Murphy at the world teams champs in China last year.

A total of 18 players have been selected with two players each in boys and girls age groups under 13's through to under 19's.

At under 19 women's level there are four players selected to provide preparation for the 2019 World Junior Women's Championships team in Kuala Lumpur and to allow for increased international exposure and preparation.

A big congratulations to the following 3 players who we will all follow with interest.

BOYS U13

Reece Holmes - Hawera Lawn Tennis & Squash Club

GIRLS U13

Annabel Romero - SquashGym Palmerston North

GIRLS U19

Kaitlyn Watts - SquashGym Palmerston North



2018 Awards



The annual Squash Central Awards were held late November 2018 at the Whanganui Squash Club to wrap up the years fantastic achievements across the District (criteria period from 31st Oct 2017 - 31st Sept 2018). Covering all the districts territory from New Plymouth to Ohakune through to Dannevirke, Tararua and Levin. It was the first in many years that all categories were filled up. A total of 42 nominations were submitted from the clubs, showing that there are some fantastic people doing wonderful things for the sport of Squash in the region. Three of the winners, the Club, Volunteer and Coach of the Year will now go forward for the Squash NZ Awards which are held in Auckland.

Hall of Fame Inductee and Player of the Year Central Squash Trophy - Kaitlyn Watts - Squashgym

Palmerston North - A special award was announced on the night and that was young Kaitlyn Watts from Squashgym Palmerston North who was inducted into the Central Hall of Fame. Along with that she also took out the Player of the Year award. Watts has had huge year competing all over the world. She currently has a world ranking of 117 and is the #1 ranked NZ Junior along with #3 in the Senior Rankings. This year she was sent as NZ's representative to the Youth Olympics in October and also represented NZ at the Junior Worlds in Chennai. It was however her selection in the NZ Senior Women's team that went to the World champs in China this year that earned her the right to join the exclusive club and be the 13th person inducted. Watts was part of the team with Joelle King (Waikato), Amanda Landers-Murphy (Bay of Plenty) and Abbie Palmer (Auckland). They were seeded 7th and advanced through pool play to the quarters where they played the power house Egyptian team, losing 2-1. Eventually they ended up in 8th spot but Watts got a taste of what it's like to play at that top level as she came up against some top 10 players in the world, all very exciting for a 17 year old!

Another special announcement was the introduction next year of the "Leevey Shield" which will see a Shield put up for grabs when the Central Senior side take on its counterpart Squash Waikato in its annual Senior Rep One Day fixture. The Shield is being donated by Tamsyn Levey and her family who have strong ties with both districts. Levey a former Commonwealth and World Doubles medallist started out as a Junior in Taumarunui and along with her family were a big part of the local Squash scene. She represented Waikato as a Junior and now in her later years as she lives in New Plymouth, playing out of the Kawarua Park Club, has also represented the Central Senior team, being part of the winning team back in 2016 that took out the NZ National Women's team title. The clash which will be into its 5th year in 2019 will have the shield unveiled at the event (scheduled for Kawarua Park) and will no doubt see a legacy left along with adding longevity and purpose to the annual fixture.

Squash Central Awards Winners:

Referee of the Year - Acknowledgement Award - Mike Jack - Kawarua Park Squash Club

Services to Womens Masters - Lois Mills Tray - Kaye Carter - Kawarua Park Squash Club

Services to Mens Masters - Merv & Jean Tapp Trophy - Rod Bannister - Whanganui Squash Club

Most Improved Junior - Sansom Family Trophy - Anabel Romero-Gemmell - Squashgym

Coach of the Year - Donna Wilson Trophy - Pete Arnott - Tararua

Most Improved Senior Player - Paula & Kent Darlington Trophy - David Grant - Whanganui

Administrator of the Year - Sharon & Warren Patterson Trophy - Caroline Kuklinski - Hawera

Volunteer Contributor to Squash - Central Squash Trophy - Melville Holmes - Hawera

Personality for the Year - Barb & Mike Jack Trophy - Allan Bailey - Squashgym

Team of the Year - Central Squash Trophy - Central Junior Girls 2017 Team

Club of the Year - Carson Family Trophy - Kawarua Park Squash Club

For the full story and images check out the website.

Congratulations to Squash NZ Award winner Mike Jack for his contribution to Refereeing.



Upcoming Events

2019 District and Major Events in Central District

The dates and venues have been selected for 2019. District events are as follows:

Event	Location	Date
Central Vs. Eastern Junior Challenge	HBLTSC	17th March
Central Juniors	Whanganui Squash Club	17 - 18th May
Central Open	Dannevirke Squash Club	14 - 16 June
District Superchamps	B Hawera, C Inglewood, D Levin, E Ohakune, F Taihape	29th July
Junior Prince Final	Whanganui Squash Club	4th August
AD Long Cup Masters Team Event	Kawaroa Park Squash Club	2 - 4 August
Club Champs Week	District wide	5 - 15th August
Central Masters	Fielding Squash Club	23 - 25 August
District Champion of Champions	Hawera	6 - 8th September
Nga Hau E Wha	Kawaroa Park Squash Club	25 - 27 October

Player Profile

Name - Christine Rukuwai

Club – Kawaroa Park

Grade – E1

When and how did you get introduced to squash? *I randomly filled in for a work colleague for Business House in Island Bay. I played my first game of squash there and loved it!*

Later on, my kids got involved in squash. I loved watching them and became their biggest fan as well as their taxi. It wasn't long before I was having a social hit and got involved running around on the court myself.

What was the highlight of your squash career to date? *My Squash career has mainly been behind the scenes being the Mum, running the tournaments and most recently President of Central.*

My playing career has only just really commenced over the last couple of years, but I am hoping to make D1 this season and take out my division. Having the a-ha moment of what it means to have my racket up in each rally. Thanks coach, yes it does actually make sense.

Best thing about squash for you is? *The lifelong friendships and connections you make.*

The fun-loving care free atmosphere that allows people from all backgrounds to come together and enjoy the sport. Irrespective of whether you are competitive on the court you can still share a drink and a laugh afterwards with your opponent.

Watching the juniors of Central improve and grow both physically and mentally. I have seen some of our juniors go from J grade to B grade and have observed squash teaching essential life skills such as determination, sportsmanship and resilience.

Favourite person you have ever played and why? *My Children both Grace and James. We have some serious battles that at times can get very competitive and yet amongst it we can have a really long rally where we both burst into laughter.*

Most embarrassing squash moment? *Being hit in the face and nearly knocked out on court by the almighty back swing of an E grade lady.*

Top tip for other players? *Don't take yourself too seriously, going up the grades is awesome but as long as you enjoy playing it won't matter whether you win or lose.*

Enjoy the small wins. It might not be the game but rather the individual goals you have set for yourself.

Do you have a Favourite or Signature shot? *Volley frame kill (not many people can get these back).*

What have you found most difficult? *I am naturally a competitive person, so I have found it difficult to come into a sport I have to start as a complete beginner.*

Watching my kids, I have certainly developed the knowledge of where the ball should go, but unfortunately it doesn't always go there...

What are your Squash goals for 2018 and onwards? *Use the strings more and keep my racket up!*

To not be 1st game Saturday morning.

With a little bit of coaching and some drills I am keen to reach D1.

Apart from that I am keen to see some development across the central region. It would be good for the Central board to be more visible to the clubs and I am hoping with my approachable nature any issues will be brought to my attention.

In addition to this I would like the board to assist clubs by providing a framework to increase participation and growth at a local level and support each other through joint initiatives. It is my aspiration that we move forward as a strong united region where players and coaches can excel and are supported in their performance as per our strategic plan.

Do you have any habits/rituals before you play a competition?

Generally, I like to listen to music, but also a nervous pee helps.



14 to lead Central through 2019



The 2018 Annual General Meeting of Squash Central saw many positions change hands. Included in this was the President.

Glenn Blay of Ohakea has been at the helm for the past year but with work taking him overseas for extended periods of time, he had to step down. Kawaroa Parks Christine Rukuwai has taken the lead as President and leads a larger committee of 14 this year. Other key changes were Di Tasker stepping down from Treasurer and into the Master Convener position. Melville Holmes moving from Master to Juniors Convener and Sheryl Hooper has taken over the Treasurers role. We also welcome Marama Cameron onto the Committee and into the Development and Participation role.

Squash Central Contacts

Squash Central

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