



## CEO UPDATE 3 SEPTEMBER 09

### Squash NZ IT Project - District update

The development of the project continues and has been stepped up. Most of the components are written and testing is currently being conducted.

There will be a delay to the rollout due to ensuring the testing is fully complete and to enable the new grading list to be implemented after most events are complete for 2009.

The rollout will now be:

Stage 1:	Membership, Grading List, Result Entry, On-Line booking	1 November
Stage 2:	Interclub and Competition Management, On-Line entry	1 December
Stage 3:	Access and Security	15 December

In October I will be travelling throughout the country meeting with districts and will be able to meet with clubs to discuss the system. I will also be providing training to key staff in the districts.

If you are still looking at any IT development, please be in contact with me to see if this can meet your needs and therefore link your club into the national system

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## **Towards2020**

The Board of Squash NZ formally received the final draft of Cath Clark's report last week and identified some pieces of work, still to be completed, before they, or the community, could move forward with surety.

They included but are not limited to;

- Funding model/ draft budgets for Squash NZ and Districts
- Summary of services under the proposed model
- Project plan with explicit steps and dates for the way forward
- Other 'business as usual' planning documents like business plan/ budgets etc

Until those items have been delivered the report is incomplete and therefore cannot be released.

We are working hard to get this done as soon as possible.

## **Olympics**

It was obviously disappointing for some and gutting for many to not make the Olympics in 2016 but for much of the country life goes on without too much change. My reaction was "Squash is still the same great sport it was yesterday (before the decision was made) and we are looking forward to developing the game and recent successes of new innovative programmes at a grass roots and junior level shows we can grow the base of the game in the community and the A1 Homes NZ Open demonstrates that public interest is strong.

We are still producing world's best performers so at all levels we have cause for optimism. Squash is brilliant option as an all weather, competitive sport that gives a compact and intensive workout for the social and the serious."

For the World Squash Federation's reaction go to [www.worldsquash.org](http://www.worldsquash.org)

## **Coaching Director**

Interviews have been conducted and we are discussing options with SPARC before making an offer and announcement.

## **Parents to be!**

Congratulations to National Coach Anthony Ricketts and NZ#1 Shelley Kitchen on the announcement of Shelley's pregnancy directly after the conclusion of the A1 Homes NZ Women's Open. Shelley is due in February and would like to think she can still represent New Zealand next year – our best wishes for a healthy pregnancy and we'll keep our fingers crossed for the Commonwealth games Shelley!

## Mt Maunganui Festival of Squash

The Festival proved to be an outstanding success and created some great profile in a week that despite the disappointment of not making the Olympics in 2016, gave us reason to be optimistic about the future of the game in New Zealand. The value of high calibre tournaments at home was highlighted by four career best performances and augurs well for the World Women's Team Championships in December 2010 in Palmerston North.

Coverage of the A1 Homes NZ Open is scheduled to screen on SKY in the next couple of weeks;

## Mt Maunganui Festival of Squash September 2009

Date	Time	Channel	Ep. No
7/09/2009	21:00	SKY Sport 1	1
8/09/2009	2:30	SKY Sport 2	1
8/09/2009	7:30	SKY Sport 1	1
8/09/2009	15:00	SKY Sport 2	1
9/09/2009	19:00	SKY Sport 2	1
13/09/2009	15:00	SKY Sport 2	1

\*\*\* PLS NOTE TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTIFICATION\*\*\*

## Squash Auckland's Women in Squash Programme hits 200

Concerned about the lack of women playing squash, Squash Auckland decided to introduce a women in squash programme to try and encourage more adult women to take up or return to the game.

In November 2008 Squash Auckland piloted a 6 week programme consisting of group coaching sessions specifically designed for adult women. Clubs were approached and asked to nominate adult women players they thought might be interested in coaching on the programme. Six women were identified and agreed to attend a Level 1 coaching course in March 2009.

Three clubs (Browns Bay, Belmont Park and Manurewa) and 26 women took part in the initial pilot programme. After a successful trial the programme was officially launched in February 2009.

To date 10 clubs and 3 user pays facilities have run or are running a total of 28 programmes involving over 200 women, the majority (79%) who were not members of a squash club when they enrolled on the programme.

In addition 71% of the women were new to the game of squash.

To date 28% of programme participants have joined a squash club as members.

Congratulations to Steve Hodges, Club Development Manager at Squash Auckland for developing this initiative.



*Browns Bay Women in Squash Participants with their Coach Manu Yam*

## Competition

- This week 83 teams will take to the court in Taupo, Ashburton, Henderson, Tokoroa and Hawera to decide our National Graded Champs for 2009 – good luck to you all!
- Congratulations to Kashif Shuja on his 5<sup>th</sup> and Jaclyn Hawkes on her 1<sup>st</sup> national title and to Sandra Tinkler who received the Derek Cooke Memorial Trophy for Refereeing.
- The NZ Men's Team to compete at the World Championships in Odense, Denmark in October are Alex and Campbell Grayson, Martin Knight and Shuja.
- Campbell, Martin, Joelle King, Jaclyn Hawkes and Amanda Cranston all reached career high rankings this month.

## Regards

**Mike Thompson**  
Chief Executive