

# MAKING HEADLINES

his annual publication aims to capture and celebrate the success of **Australian Squash Players** at major and professional events around the world.

Zac Alexander
Sarah Cardwell
Ryan Cuskelly
Josh Larkin
Christine Nunn
Donna Urquhart



**Ryan Cuskelly** (pictured) was the most impressive mover of 2015 rising

from 46 in the World at the start of the year to burst into the World Top 20 and reach a career high World Ranking of 16 in December.

The 28 year old from Lismore in NSW captured 4 titles in 2015 and finished the year with a WR of 17. Cuskelly has now won 14 PSA World Tour titles.

Josh Larkin broke through to win his maiden tour title and quickly turned that into two whilst Zac Alexander dominated the domestic scene winning 3 titles to improve his record to 17 career titles.

Sarah Cardwell won two tour events in late 2015 to bring her tally up to 3 career titles. Donna Urquhart returned from foot surgery to snatch her 9th career title in Seattle and Christine Nunn won her 3rd career title.

## THANK YOU



Aussie Squash Player has been created and compiled by Kim Schramm.

**ASP** would like to thank the following main contributors: **Nathan Clarke** and **Howard Harding**.

Both internationally renowned writers have agreed for **ASP** to reprint their weekly reports to form a collection of Aussie stories.

Their awesome articles are truly appreciated. They keep the world squash community well informed with event news and results.

**ASP** would also like to thank the PSA for all the information and photos used in this publication.

Thanks also to all the athletes, promoters, photographers and reporters who may have provided information and photos to the PSA.

### INSPIRE



**ASP** aims to inspire the next generation of Aussie Squash Players to strive toward success and **make headlines**.

The **ASP** collection forms a yearly summary of Aussie success stories ... our very own Squash Annual.

**ASP** is also a vehicle for athletes and promoters to thank and show support for their sponsors.

**ASP** is a <u>FREE</u> publication. Please send it on to anyone you consider might like to receive it. Should you wish to receive it directly each time it is updated please send your request to the email below.

Likewise if you have anything you would like to contribute please feel free to send your information to:

kim@queenslandsquashmanagement.com.au

# WORLD RANKINGS





### **Aussie Top 10**



1 January 2016

MEN:	LY:	TY:	HWR:
Cameron Pilley	17	13	11
Ryan Cuskelly	46	17	16
Rex Hedrick	56	53	52
Zac Alexander	94	78	36
Steven Finitsis	60	79	45
Matthew Hopkin	99	122	89
Rhys Dowling	165	150	150
David Clegg	261	176	176
Thomas Calvert	198	185	183
Rohan Toole	315	217	217

WOMEN:	LY:	TY:	<b>HWR</b>
Rachael Grinham	13	18	1
Donna Urquhart	36	23	13
Christine Nunn	57	47	47
Sarah Cardwell	56	53	51
Lakeesha Rarere	96	75	75
Jessica Turnbull	91	81	81
Lisa Camilleri	54	85	28
Selena Shaikh	110	98	94
Tamika Saxby	69	100	55
Jasmine Chan	119	101	101

### **2015 Titles**

Zac Alexander PSA M5 New South Wales Open

**PSA M5 Mackay Open** 

**PSA M5 Queensland Open** 

Sarah Cardwell PSA W5 Queensland Open

PSA W5 Malaysian Tour No 8
PSA Challenger 15 Oregon Open

PSA International 25 Northern Ontario Championship

**PSA M15 Victorian Open** 

**PSA M35 Welaptega Bluenose Classic** 

Josh Larkin PSA Challenger 5 City of Perth WA Open

PSA Challenger 5 City of Kalgoorlie & Boulder Golden Open

Christine Nunn PSA W5 City of Devonport Tasmanian Open

Donna Urquhart WSA Challenger 5 Stratos Seattle Open



Ryan Cuskelly





# February 15



### **Cuskelly Captures Portland Prize**

#### Final:

[4] Ryan Cuskelly (AUS) bt [3] Omar Abdel Meguid (EGY) 11-5, 11-4, 11-7

Victories over two higher-ranked opponents led to Australia's **Ryan Cuskelly** claiming the 11th PSA World Tour title of his career at the Oregon Open in the USA.

The US-based left-hander made his breakthrough in the semi-finals of the PSA Challenger 15 squash event at Multnomah Athletic Club in Portland where he outlasted England's World No.28 Adrian Grant, the second seed, 15-13, 12-10, 11-13, 12-14, 11-6 in 105 minutes in his first ever victory over the former World No.9.

Fourth seed Cuskelly's opponent in the final was Omar Abdel Meguid, the No.3 seed from Egypt who also survived a semi-final marathon in his 107-minute 9-11, 11-6, 9-11, 15-13, 11-4 win over Saurav Ghosal, the top seed from India.

In the first game of the final, Cuskelly exposed Meguid with soft touch in front corners, resulting in the Aussie taking the first game, relatively quickly, 11-5.

In the second, the World No.45 from New South Wales continued his impetuous form and quickly forged a 6-0, then 9-2, lead. Cuskelly's excellent short game secured the second game with a beautiful straight drive that licked the wall and died in the back corner.

The 26-year-old Egyptian changed his tactics in the third game to increase the pace to force Cuskelly errors. But from six-all, Cuskelly moved ahead to 10-7 - and quickly clinched his first match-ball to secure his 11-5, 11-4, 11-7 title triumph.

"In the past it's been a tough battle for me at the Oregon Open," said Cuskelly as he received his trophy. "I feel the result of strenuous work and focus over the past year has elevated my game towards the world top 20.

"Winning the Oregon Open, defeating higher-ranked and experienced players such as Adrian and Meguid, builds confidence moving forward."

When asked if his marathon semi-final victory over the top seed affected his plan for the final, Meguid - also the Oregon Open runner-up in 2014 - said: "The effort early on in the third game was defining the outcome reflecting the atrocious semi-finals. I apologise for not playing up to my standards tonight.

"However I'm planning on returning to Oregon Open next year, a tournament and squash community which makes me feel so welcome."



## March 15



### Comeback Queen Donna Celebrates Seattle Success

#### Final:

[1] Donna Urquhart (AUS) bt [2] Liu Tsz-Ling (HKG) 11-8, 9-11, 11-9, 11-8 (50m)

Australia's **Donna Urquhart**, a former world No.13 plagued by injuries for the past two years, marked her comeback in sensational style in the USA by winning the Women's Stratos Seattle Open, the WSA Challenger 5 squash event at Seattle Athletic Club in Seattle.

Competing in only her fourth WSA World Tour event since undergoing foot surgery in September, the 28-year-old from New South Wales survived a five-game quarter-final battle against England's Fiona Moverley before overcoming Germany's Sina Wall in four games in the semis to reach the 15th Tour final of her career.

The top seed's opponent in the final was second seed Liu Tsz-Ling, the world No.57 from Hong Kong making only her first Tour appearance this year. 23-year-old Liu cruised through to the final without dropping a game, despatching Norway's No.3 seed Lotte Eriksen in the semis to reach the ninth Tour final of her career.

The final marked the pair's third Tour meeting since April 2011 - and it took the Australian left-hander 50 minutes to extend her unbeaten record over Liu to win the title by an 11-8, 9-11, 11-9, 11-8 scoreline.

"It feels awesome to be in the final since my foot operation and to actually win the tournament," said the jubilant Urquhart, currently ranked 36 in the world, later. "I'm so happy to be back on track and so much enjoying playing squash again.

"Liu played very well and put me under a lot of pressure today - every time I was putting the ball loose she was putting it away, so I had to find the right game plan.

"I'm taking confidence from this and hopefully will keep playing well next week in Calgary."

Urquhart is the fourth seed in the Calgary CFO Consulting Services WSA Women's Squash Week championship which gets underway in Calgary, Alberta, on Thursday.



# April 15



# Cuskelly claims Northern Ontario Open squash title By Bruce Heidman, Sudbury Star

#### Final:

[5] Ryan Cuskelly (AUS) bt [3] Laurens Jan Anjema (NED) 12-10, 11-7, 11-8 (78m)

**Ryan Cuskelly** had booked his flight back home for Friday night. He figured he'd be done with the Northern Ontario Open squash tournament at that point. He envisioned himself being eliminated by quarter-final opponent and No. 24-ranked player in the world, Alister Walker of Botswana.

"I never beat Alister before," Cuskelly, of Australia, said. "We train together, and I wasn't expecting to beat him."

But something surprising happened and Cuskelly won 3-0. It was Walker who took the early flight home. And since that win on Thursday, Cuskelly has played exceptionally well. He went from expecting to leave Sudbury on Friday empty handed to leaving the Nickel City on Sunday \$25,000 richer.

Cuskelly defeated LJ Anjema 3-0 on Saturdaay in the championship game of the Northern Ontario Open squash tournament.

"I seen the draw and I thought if I could get by Alister Walker in the quarters I'd have a good chance to make the final," Cuskelly said. "From there on it's anyone's game to make the final. I took it match by match, and when I beat Alister is when I felt I had a real good chance."

Cuskelly's confidence was evident against Anjema, of Netherlands, who entered the final as the slight favourite. Anjema is ranked No. 33 in the world, and came into the championship game having breezed his way through the competition. He never lost a game all tournament long. Cuskelly, on the other hand, is ranked No. 43 in the world, and endured a much tougher path to the final, having defeated Cesar Salazar in a hard-fought five games in Friday's semi.

"I felt like I've been playing well but I really haven't had the wins," Cuskelly, 27, said. "I mean, I won a \$15,000 tournament about two months ago against some really good players and that gave me confidence. It sort of changed my game a bit. It seems to be working, I'm attacking the ball, being more aggressive, and it seems to be working. This is the biggest tournament I've ever won, probably the highest-ranked players I've beaten back-to-back. I'm really happy.

Cuskelly's aggressiveness and pace was too much for the taller, bigger Anjema, who has only recently returned to action from a injury. Cuskelly tired the big man, and by the third game, after Cuskelly had won game one 12-10 and game two 11-7, Anjema looked mentally and physically spent. Cuskelly threw everything he had at Anjema. He put forth better, more quality shots and controlled majority of the rallies.

"He's quite a big guy and I'm obviously a bit smaller," Cuskelly said. "I tried to twist and turn him and make it a fast-paced game, because after a while, because he is a bit heavier than me, it would take its toll on him. He'd get a bit more tired. I felt I played a pretty good game. I felt like I was in control, and in most control of the rallies. He's coming back from injury so he was very keen on winning. He didn't give any cheap points."

# April 15



# **Cuskelly claims Northern Ontario Open squash title** *continued*



Up two games on Anjema, Cuskelly buckled down mentally.

"I said to myself, 'I've got to win this now.' I tried not to think about it. I took each point and I didn't even want to think of the finish line. I didn't want to step back, I wanted to keep attacking. I didn't want him to get confident."

Anjema never got confident, only frustrated. He shouted, threw his racquet against the court floor in anger. Cuskelly won, and now he gets to leave Sudbury a few days later than expected.

"I think I've made the semis before but never made the final in a big tournament like this," Cuskelly said. "I really wanted to win today because if you win the tournament it boosts you up the rankings so much. (Anjema) started coming back in the third game, I didn't want to get edgy, I relaxed a lot more and all my shots paid off."

When Cuskelly made his final point in Game 3, securing a 11-8 win, a sense of relief came over him.

"It was massive emotions," Cuskelly said. "I didn't expect to win. It's a big, massive tournament for me to win. I was pretty happy."

www.thesudburystar.com

# **May 15**



### Larkin Wins Maiden Title, But Ko Makes History

#### Final:

[3] Joshua Larkin (AUS) bt Ko Youngjo (KOR) 11-8, 8-11, 11-3, 11-8 (48m)

Australian **Joshua Larkin** celebrated his first PSA World Tour title at the City of Perth WA Open – but runner-up Ko Youngjo made history by becoming the first Korean man to reach a Tour final at the PSA Challenger 5 squash event at the Terrace Squash Centre in Perth, Western Australia.

Larkin, the third seed from Canberra, made his breakthrough in the semi-finals where he battled back from a game down to upset Canadian Dane Sharp, the top seed from Toronto ranked more than 50 places higher.

Unseeded Ko kicked out home hope Rhys Dowling, the No.4 seed, in the guarter-finals.

The 19-year-old – ranked 440 in the world – saved his best for the semis by sinking second-seeded Englishman Lewis Walters, ranked over 300 places higher, to make his historic Tour breakthrough.

Underdog Ko stretched Larkin to four games in the final – but the Melbourne-born 25-year-old used his experience to guide himself to an 11-8, 8-11, 11-3, 11-8 victory in 48 minutes, and a place on the winner's podium for the first time.



# June 15



### **Larkin Lifts Golden Open Title**

#### Final:

[3] Joshua Larkin (AUS) bt [2] Lewis Walters (JAM) 11-8, 11-9, 11-7 (53m)

**Joshua Larkin**, the World No.125 from Melbourne, has captured his second successive PSA World Tour title with victory at the City of Kalgoorlie & Boulder Golden Open, PSA Challenger 5 event on homesoil after a 3-0 win over Lewis Walters.

Larkin, who took the City of Perth WA Open title last month, overcame number one seed Dane Sharp in the semi-final. Sharp had to come through five games against Darcy Evans in the previous round and Larkin took full advantage of the World No.93's tired legs to ease through with an 11-6, 11-2, 11-6 victory.

Jamaican World No.105 Walters sailed past David Ilich and Ko Youngjo in the opening two rounds before producing a thrilling comeback to come through a five-game-thriller against qualifier Jong Myoung Park in the semi-final.

Larkin seemed the fresher of the pair in the showpiece event and he leapt into action, recording an 11-8 win in the first game before following that up with an 11-9 victory in the second.

Walters, who has not won a PSA World Tour title since 2010, struggled to get into the game with Larkin's consistency not giving the Jamaican any opportunities to attack. The 26-year-old kept up his assault to earn an 11-7 win in the final game to take the match and the title.



Photo from The Western Australian - Kalgoorlie Miner

# July 15



### Nunn Downs Tucker To Take Women's Tasmanian Title

#### Final:

[1] Christine Nunn (AUS) bt [3] Cheyna Tucker (RSA) 11-6, 11-6, 11-2 (34m)

**Christine Nunn** secured her third career PSA World Tour title with a comfortable straight-games victory over number three seed Cheyna Tucker in the final of the City of Devenport Tasmanian Open, PSA W5 event.

Nunn had to fight to the death against Lisa Camilleri in the semi-final, overturning a two-game deficit to complete a mammoth comeback which delighted spectators at the Devenport Squash Club.

Tucker meanwhile upset Sarah Cardwell in her semi-final encounter, taking a 3-1 victory after dropping the opening game.

Nunn showed no signs of being tired after her titanic tussle the previous day and took the first two games comfortably after tearing away to open up big leads in both over her opponent.

After breaking Tucker's resolve, Nunn raised her game even further to romp to victory in the third and final game and record a 11-6, 11-6, 11-2 triumph over the South African.



# August 15



### **Cuskelly Captures Victorian Open Title**

Final:

[1] Ryan Cuskelly (AUS) bt [4] Greg Lobban (SCO) 12-10, 13-11, 11-9 (65m)

**Ryan Cuskelly** came up with a superlative performance to play to his seeding and lift the Victorian Open, PSA M15 title against Greg Lobban in a dramatic final encounter.

The number one seed swept past Mahesh Mangaonkar in the semi-final while Lobban needed five games to triumph against Steven Finitsis.

The first game was a tense affair with both players bringing the gathered spectators to their feet with some sumptuous squash. Cuskelly narrowly edged out the opener with a victory on the tie-break.

Game number two was even closer as both players traded a number of highly-charged blows with Cuskelly again winning to open up a two game advantage.

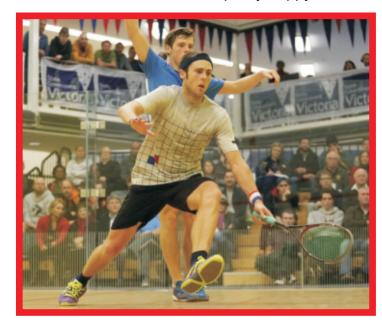
After a high-octane battle in the third game which saw both players put each other through their paces, Cuskelly eventually managed to rise to victory, taking the match 12-10, 13-11, 11-9 and claiming his 13th PSA World Tour title in the process.

"It was a tough match," said Cuskelly.

"It was pretty physical and it was quite bouncy out there and, with the higher tin, difficult to really finish the ball. Greg was hitting the ball quite hard and trying to keep the ball really hot and I was trying to hit more winners so it was a real contrast of styles. I felt a bit flat this week but still managed to win 3-0 for most of the matches so I'm pretty happy about

that.

"I've just got a few minor things to change for next week and to step up for the \$25k event [Australian Open]. I'll spend the next day or so relaxing and get ready for Wednesday and start again."







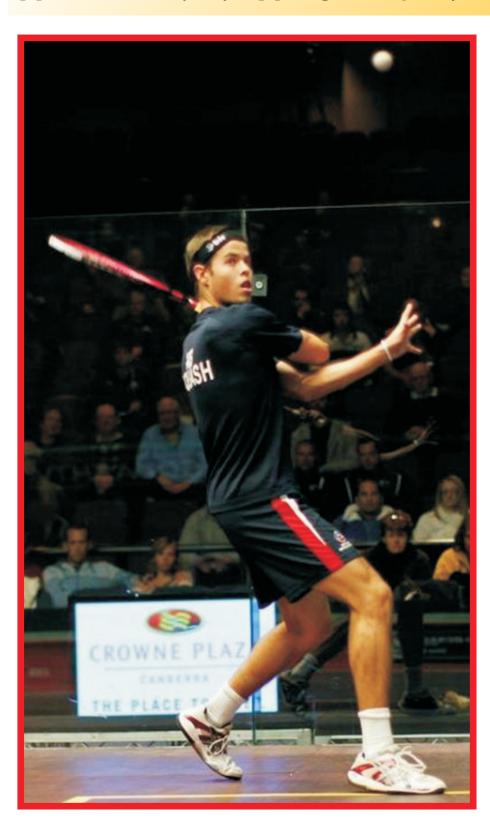
# August 15



### **Alexander Claims NSW Open Title**

Final:

[2] Zac Alexander (AUS) bt [4] Douglas Kempsell (SCO) 11-7, 11-7, 11-7 (45m)



Second seed **Zac Alexander** came up with a superb performance to defeat Douglas Kempsell in the final of the New South Wales Open, PSA M5 event and lift the title on home soil.

The Australian secured his final passage after a comfortable victory over compatriot Rhys Dowling in the semi-final while Kempsell overcame number one seed Matthew Hopkin to progress.

Alexander started well, keeping Kempsell at arms length to great effect in order to take the opening game.

He kept up the assault in the second and third games to storm to a 3-0 triumph with an 11-7, 11-7, 11-7 scoreline.

The victory means that Alexander has captured his 15th PSA World Tour title over a year since he claimed his last one.

### October 15



# **Cuskelly Upsets Gawad To Lift Bluenose Classic Title**

#### Final:

[4] Ryan Cuskelly (AUS) bt [1] Karim Abdel Gawad (EGY) 16-14, 11-8, 11-6 (66m)

Australia's **Ryan Cuskelly** captured his biggest ever PSA World Tour title after scalping top seed Karim Abdel Gawad in straight games in the final of the Welaptega Bluenose Squash Classic, PSA M35 tournament.

The number four seed reached the final without dropping a single game and achieved his place in the showpiece event after easing past World No.10 Marwan Elshorbagy, who was struggling with illness, in the semi-final. Gawad had also been in near flawless form in the build up to the final, seeing off Shawn Delierre, Alfredo Avila and surprise package Andrew Schnell en-route.

World No.22 Cuskelly started brilliantly and soared into an early lead after putting his Egyptian opponent under pressure at the front of the court. Gawad came into the match more as it went on but it was Cuskelly who stayed patient and picked his openings well to edge the opening game by a 16-14 margin of victory.

Cuskelly built up another lead in the opening stages of a second game which excited the gathered spectators Homburg Centre, Canada with a superb flurry of attacking volleys bringing the crowd to their feet time and time again. A tin from Gawad handed Cuskelly the game as the Australian No.1 doubled his advantage.

It was Cuskelly again who started the quicker of the two in game three as he romped to an unassailable lead. Gawad battled back in a bid to try and save the match but Cuskelly stood firm to complete a 16-14,



11-8, 11-6 victory which yielded the 14th PSA World Tour title of his career.

"In the first [game] it was really high quality and I did a lot of work," said Cuskelly.

"I think I was probably pushing the pace too much and I was a bit too keen to get on there and win. When you do that you are just putting it on Gawad's racket and, if you do that, he puts in the winners so I tried to slow it down and be aggressive when I got the loose balls."



### Alexander Secures Back-To-Back Successes With Mackay Open Crown

Final:

[1] Zac Alexander (AUS) bt [2] Joshua Larkin (AUS) 12-10, 11-8, 14-12 (46m)

Top seed **Zac Alexander** captured the Mackay Open, PSA M5 title on home soil with a hard-fought straight games triumph over fellow Australian and number two seed Joshua Larkin to capture a second successive PSA World Tour crown.

World No.91 Alexander booked his place in the showpiece event with a fine 3-1 victory over compatriot Rhys Dowling while Larkin overcame a 2-1 deficit to move past England's Adam Murrills in his semi-final fixture.

A number of long, gut-busting rallies set the tone in the early stages as both players patiently probed for an opening, with Alexander eventually taking the first game by a 12-10 margin.

The 26-year-old remained consistent in the second as he kept his opponent at arm's-length for the majority of the game to double his advantage.

Game number three was the closest of the lot as Larkin redoubled his attempts to find a chink in Alexander's armour. However, the latter stayed strong to complete a 12-10, 11-8, 14-12 victory, securing a 16th PSA World Tour title in the process.









### Alexander Arises To Take Queensland Open Title



Final:

[1] Zac Alexander (AUS) bt [2] Joshua Larkin (AUS) 11-7, 11-5, 11-9 (37m)

Top seed **Zac Alexander** secured his third successive PSA World Tour title with a straight games victory over Joshua Larkin in the final of the Queensland Open, PSA M5 event.

Alexander overcame fellow Australian Rhys Dowling in the pair's semi-final encounter while Larkin swept past Adam Murrills to reach the final and set up a repeat of the previous week's Mackay Open final in which Alexander triumphed.

The World No.91 was in effervescent form throughout the encounter and started brilliantly, opening up the court with a number of deep drives to go two games ahead.

Larkin imposed himself on the match more in the third and pushed Alexander all the way but there was no stopping the Brisbane-born 26-year-old from recording an 11-7, 11-5, 11-9 triumph to ensure a third PSA World Tour title on the bounce, the second time he has achieved such a feat in his career.

The victory over Larkin brings about Alexander's 17th PSA World Tour crown and extends his unbeaten run to 15 matches.







### Cardwell Chops Down Camilleri To Claim Queensland Crown



#### Final:

[2] Sarah Cardwell (AUS) bt [4] Lisa Camilleri (AUS) 11-8, 10-12, 11-4, 11-9 (42m)

Number two seed **Sarah Cardwell** overcame fellow Australian Lisa Camilleri in the final of the Queensland Open, PSA W5 tournament to capture the title on home soil.

World No.66 Cardwell downed South Africa's Cheyna Tucker in the previous round while Camilleri came through an almighty 3-2 victory over Tong Tsz-Wing to reach her first PSA World Tour final of the year.

Cardwell, appearing in her second successive PSA World Tour final after her defeat in the Mackay Open final a week previously, managed to edge a hard-fought first game but Camilleri brought the match level after winning the second 12-10 on the tie-break.

A resurgent Cardwell swung the momentum back in her favour with an 11-4 victory in game three, using her speed around court to open up opportunities for herself to attack with great aplomb.

Camilleri attempted to mount a fightback but was repelled by a resolute Cardwell who managed to hold out impressively, securing an 11-8, 10-12, 11-4, 11-8 triumph to bring an end to a run of six defeats from as many finals.







### Cardwell Conquers KL By Kim Schramm

#### Final:

[2] Sarah Cardwell (AUS) bt [1] Teh Min Jie (MAS) 11-5, 11-5, 6-11, 11-3 (32m)

Australia's **Sarah Cardwell** has won her second PSA title in as many weeks when she defeated #1 seed Teh Min Jie in the PSA W5 Malaysian Tour No 8 at the Royal Selangor Club in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Cardwell was relentless in her quest to win the third title of her career. The 24 year old Victorian had the physical and mental toughness to win 11-5, 11-5, 6-11, 11-3 against her younger opponent, 19 year old Min Jie, who was chasing her first career title.

It was the 3rd time the pair had met. Min Jie defeated Cardwell in the quarter finals of the 2nd leg of the Malaysian Tour in April this year 11-8, 4-11, 13-11, 2-11, 11-7 (58m) before Cardwell turned the tables in the following month in the quarter finals of the NT Open in Darwin 11-0, 11-8, 11-2 (23m).

"Though we had 1 win each, I felt good going into the final and stuck to my game plan throughout the match (which paid off!)" explained Cardwell.

The World # 66 was clearly over the moon about her win - "I'm very happy that the work I've put in with my coach (Cassie Thomas) is starting to show. It's definitely encouraged me to keep changing things and complete solid training blocks"

"It was definitely worth having a couple of months away from tournaments to train even if I had to watch my ranking slip a bit" said Cardwell who has enjoyed a career high ranking of 51.

At the Queensland Open a week before Cardwell broke through for her 2nd career title after taking her first way back in January 2012.

She beat former World # 28 Lisa Camilleri for the first time 11-8, 10-12, 11-4, 11-9 in the 42 minute final.

"I think Gold Coast set me up really well for Malaysia because it was far more humid in Nerang than at the courts in KL. I had tough matches right from the start in Queensland, so I took a lot of confidence knowing that I could back up good win after good win for an entire event" explained Cardwell.

That was clearly evident in her semi final clash





### Cardwell Conquers KL continued

with Malaysian Vanessa Raj. Despite being down 1-2 Cardwell didn't feel nervous at any stage, stuck to her game plan and ground out a tough win in five.

Cardwell reflected on this current campaign "I went in to the event with a really good mindset and although I would've loved to win all 3 events, I think I learnt a lot from the final against Vanessa Chu in Mackay and successfully changed my approach to the finals in the next two events because of that match".

Cardwell concluded "My coach and I think that the pressure sessions we've been doing has made one of the biggest differences, not just physically but mentally it's been a huge help".



### December 15

**Cameron Pilley** was desperately unlucky not to join the list of Australian Title winners in 2015.

The World # 24 hit a purple patch of form in December when he beat the current World Champion and World #1 Greg Gaultier before powering past former World Champion Nick Matthew to reach the final of the 2015 Hong Kong Open.

Pilley was no match for World #2 Mohamed Elshorbagy in the final but it was great to see Pilley cause so much havoc and achieve the best result of his career on tour.

As a result of his performance in Hong Kong, Pilley moved back into the World Top 20 (WR13) on 1st January 2016.

F: [1] Mohamed Elshorbagy (EGY) bt Cameron Pilley (AUS) 11-8, 11-6, 11-8 (41m)

SF: Cameron Pilley (AUS) bt [2] Nick Matthew (ENG) 11-9, 13-11, 12-10 (59m)

QF: Cameron Pilley (AUS) bt [3] Gregory Gaultier (FRA) 11-9, 12-10, 12-10 (43m)

2R: Cameron Pilley (AUS) bt [5] Simon Rosner (GER) 9-11, 11-5, 13-15, 11-2, 11-6 (87m)

1R: Cameron Pilley (AUS) bt [Q] Rex Hedrick (AUS) 11-2, 11-5, 11-2 (34m)