



AUSTRALIAN Squash PLAYER

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Merry Christmas

Photo courtesy of squashpics.com



**Donna Urquhart up against
W#4 Raneem El Welily**

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Welcome to the December edition of ASPM. **Merry Xmas to all the readers of ASP Monthly.**

Zac Alexander and Kiwi **Amanda Landers-Murphy** completed the "Triple Crown" with both winning the three PSA events held in Queensland held over 3 consecutive weekends: the Queensland Open, the Mackay Open and the Cairns International.

Great to see **Cameron Pilley** and **Ryan Cuskelly** got past the first round in the rich Qatar Squash Classic.

After a disappointing exit from the World Championships last month the pair have bounced back and lets hope they continue to perform well.

The Qatar Squash Classic represents the third leg of the **2016/17 PSA Road to Dubai.**

Only the top eight players on the **PSA Road to Dubai** Standings will qualify for June's Dubai World Series Finals.

The updated standings were announced after the Qatar Classic. Cuskelly is hanging in there on equal 6th with 3 other

players whilst Pilley is currently in 10th.

2016/17 Men's PSA Road to Dubai Standings – After 3/7 Tournaments

- 1: Karim Abdel Gawad (EGY) – 205
2. Mohamed ElShorbagy (EGY) – 180
- 3: Nick Matthew (ENG) – 105
4. Ramy Ashour (EGY) – 100
- 5: James Willstrop (ENG) – 80
- 6=: Max Lee (HKG) – 65
- 6=: Ryan Cuskelly (AUS) – 65**
- 6=: Marwan ElShorbagy (EGY) – 65
- 6=: Simon Rösner (GER) – 65
- 10: Cameron Pilley (AUS) – 60**

Donna Urquhart is currently in equal 15th position on the Women's PSA Road to Dubai Standings.

Much effort has been put in to bringing you an extensive listing of all the main events in each State for 2017.

Whilst all care has been taken the calendar is always subject to change. Please don't hesitate to contact me if any errors have occurred or you have made changes.

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Brisbane based Squash Photographers
Toni van der Kreek and **John Lockton**
have kindly agreed for their squash images to be
used as required in the ASP monthly newsletter.

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1

Donna Urquhart won her opening match at the W50 Wadi Degla Open against Hong Kong's Liu Tsz-Ling in a tough 5 setter. Down 1-2 the Aussie fought back strongly to set up a 2nd round encounter with #3S Raneem El Welily.

[8] Urquhart (AUS) def Liu (HKG) 3-2: 9-11, 11-6, 8-11, 11-6, 11-4 (44m).

2

Donna Urquhart put up a strong showing against W#4 Raneem El Welily losing a tight opening game before claiming the second. El Welily dominated the 3rd but Urquhart refused to surrender without a fight. The 4th went down to the wire.

[3] El Welily (EGY) bt [8] Urquhart (AUS) 3-1: 14-12, 7-11, 11-3, 11-9 (43m)

6

Zac Alexander completed the "triple crown" winning the three Queensland PSA events held over 3 consecutive weekends in October/November: the Queensland Open @ Nerang, the Mackay Open and now the Cairns International. His opponent in the inaugural Cairns International final was former W#45 Steven Finitis. Finitis turned back the clock beating the #5S in 88 minutes, the #2S in 50 minutes and the #3S in 81 minutes to reach the final.

Alexander def Finitis 3-1: 11-6, 11-4, 9-11, 11-7 (60m)

14

A major upset took place at the Brisbane Open (PSA Satellite) when Zac Alexander lost the Men's Open final to Josh Larkin. It was the first time Larkin had defeated Alexander.

Larkin def Alexander 3-1: 8-11, 11-5, 11-8, 11-5 (50m).

As expected the top two seeds reached the final of the Women's Open with former W#2 Jenny Duncalf from England beating former W#1 Rachael Grinham. Currently both players are ranked in the World Top 20.

Duncalf def Grinham 3-1: 12-10, 9-11, 11-5, 11-5 (41m).

Aussies Ryan Cuskelly and Cameron Pilley reached the second round of the rich Qatar Squash Classic.

[8] Pilley (AUS) def [Q] Nafiizwan Adnan (MAS) 3-0: 11-5, 11-9, 11-5 (52m)

Cuskelly (AUS) def Max Lee (HKG) 3-2: 3-11, 11-9, 11-6, 11-13, 11-9 (96m).

15

One of Australia's greatest squash players, Sarah Fitz-Gerald, has just been elected to the World Squash Federation Board as one of its four new vice-presidents. Congratulations Sarah.

Australia's #1 player Cameron Pilley advanced to the Quarter Finals of the M150 Qatar Squash Classic with a comfortable win against Mexico's Cesar Salazar whilst Ryan Cuskelly couldn't take a trick against #5S Marwan ElShorbagy.

[8] Pilley (AUS) def Salazar (MEX) 3-0: 11-2, 11-4, 11-4 (39m)

[5] ElShorbagy (EGY) def Cuskelly (AUS) 3-0: 15-13, 13-11, 11-7 (60m)

16

Cameron Pilley exits the Qatar Squash Classic after losing to England's W#19 Daryl Selby. Despite the loss, Pilley will gain good points toward qualifying for the World Series.

Daryl Selby (ENG) bt [8] Pilley (AUS) 3-1: 11-9, 11-1, 8-11, 12-10 (70m)


18

After victory in Brisbane Josh Larkin flew to Canada to compete in the PSA M10 Sunrise Foods International Saskatoon Movember Boast. #7S Larkin reached the Quarter Final but lost to #2S Andrew Schnell (CAN) 12-10, 8-11, 6-11, 4-11 in 50 minutes.

21

The Aussie Women's Team used the W25 Monte Carlo Classic in Monaco to warm up for the World Team Titles. Christine Nunn and Tamika Saxby had to qualify for the main draw but fell one round short.

Hollie Naughton (CAN) def Christine Nunn (AUS) 8-11, 11-9, 11-5, 11-3 (35m)

Nele Gilis (BEL) def Tamika Saxby (AUS) 11-6, 11-5, 11-3 (29m)

22

The disappointment of yesterday was compounded when #3S Rachael Grinham lost to qualifier Hollie Naughton in Monaco. Fortunately, the Aussie flag was still flying when Donna Urquhart recovered from a 3rd game hiccup to win in four.

[Q] Hollie Naughton (CAN) def [3] Rachael Grinham (AUS) 8-11, 11-4, 13-11, 11-1 (36m)

[2] Donna Urquhart (AUS) bt [Q] Hania El Hammamy (EGY) 11-9, 11-7, 2-11, 11-9 (48m)

Competing in the PSA M35 ReidBuilt Homes Edmonton Open Josh Larkin qualified for the main draw but lost in the 1st round to England's #5S Joe Lee 8-11, 8-11, 11-13 (40m).

23

The run continued for Donna Urquhart winning through to the semi finals of the Monte Carlo Classic.

[2] Donna Urquhart (AUS) bt [Q] Hana Ramadan (EGY) 7-11, 11-2, 11-6, 11-7 (38m)



24

#2S Urquhart lost her semi final to England's Millie Tomlinson in a tough 3 games 8-11, 5-11, 12-14 (64m). Despite the loss Urquhart is in good form which is important heading into the Women's World Team Championships.

29

Australia got off to a great start at the Women's World Team Championships in Paris. The #6 seeds beat #16 seeds Austria 3-0 in their Pool C match.

Tamika Saxby def Judith van der Merwe 11-1, 11-3, 11-4 (15m)

Donna Urquhart def Birgit Coufal 11-8, 11-3, 11-6 (19m)

Rachael Grinham def Sandra Polak 11-2, 11-4, 11-3 (14m)

30

Australia hit a speed bump pretty hard at the Women's WTC on Day 2 when they lost to #3 seeds Malaysia in Pool C.

Sivasangari Subramaniam def Christine Nunn 12-10, 9-11, 15-13, 11-8 (51m)

Delia Arnold def Rachael Grinham 11-9, 11-9, 11-7 (36m)

Nicol David def Donna Urquhart 11-8, 11-4, 11-5 (27m)

1

WSF's Howard Harding reports on the final Pool C match between Australia and the Netherlands.

It was in the last tie on the glass court that sixth seeds Australia reserved their place in the last eight courtesy of a 2/1 win over Netherlands. Milou van der Heijden gave the Dutch team an unexpected lead after surviving a close encounter with veteran Australian campaigner Rachael Grinham.

In the first team match they have ever played for opposing teams, Rachael's younger sister Natalie Grinham went on for Netherlands - but soon went down to the higher-ranked Aussie left-hander Donna Urquhart to make matters level.

Despite making her first senior appearance for Australia, and having a year-long injury break which almost took her out of the game, Tamika Saxby rose to the occasion by beating Dutch opponent Milja Dorenbos 11-2, 6-11, 11-1, 11-6 in the decider to seal her country's place in the quarter-final play-offs.

"Despite losing tonight, Rachael can give so much - it's good to have her in the team," said team manager Michelle Martin, the former world No.1. "It was good experience for Tamika to bring it home for us the way she did.

"We've achieved what we had to do - we've got nothing to lose against France. They'll have the crowd behind them and we'll be the underdogs. We'll just go out and enjoy it!"

Rachael Grinham lost to Milou van der Heijden 7-11, 10-12, 13-11, 12-14

Donna Urquhart def Natalie Grinham 11-4, 11-6, 11-8 (21m)

Tamika Saxby def Milja Dorenbos 11-2, 6-11, 11-1, 11-6 (26m)



Photo courtesy of the WSF

The Grinhams' ... still creating history!

Rachael Grinham caught up with sister **Natalie Grinham** at the Women's World Team Championships in Paris, France.

It is the first time in the championship's history that two siblings have competed for separate nations!

Whilst Rachael is playing for Australia, her younger sister Natalie is representing the Netherlands, the country in which she has resided since 1999.

Ironically, they were competing in the same group - Pool C. Australia edged out the Netherlands 2-1 to advance to the quarter finals.

At 39 Rachael Grinham is the oldest player in the championship.

Saxby shines as Aussies advance.

Tamika Saxby was in fantastic form beating Milja Dorenbos 11-2, 6-11, 11-1, 11-6 (26m) in the clash with the Netherlands.

Her victory was crucial and helped Australia reach the quarter final playoffs.



Photo courtesy of the WSF



EVENTS

QATAR SQUASH CLASSIC



Photos courtesy of squashpics.com

PSA World Series PSA150 Qatar Classic

ROUND 1:

[8] Pilley (AUS) def [Q] Nafiizwan Adnan (MAS) 3-0: 11-5, 11-9, 11-5 (52m)

Cuskelly (AUS) def Max Lee (HKG) 3-2: 3-11, 11-9, 11-6, 11-13, 11-9 (96m).

ROUND 2

[8] Pilley (AUS) def Salazar (MEX) 3-0: 11-2, 11-4, 11-4 (39m)

[5] ElShorbagy (EGY) def **Cuskelly (AUS)** 3-0: 15-13, 13-11, 11-7 (60m)

QUARTER FINALS:

Daryl Selby (ENG) def **[8] Pilley (AUS)** 3-1: 11-9, 11-1, 8-11, 12-10 (70m)



PSA M5 CAIRNS INTERNATIONAL



Zac Alexander won his 8th PSA title for the year when he took out the inaugural Cairns International.

Alexander beat fellow Queenslander and local hero Steve Finitzis in four.

Alexander has now won 16 consecutive matches.



Final

[1] **Zac Alexander** (AUS) def [Q] Steven Finitzis (AUS) 11-6, 11-4, 9-11, 11-7 (60m)

Semi Finals

[1] **Zac Alexander** (AUS) def [4] Ben Grindrod (NZL) 11-5, 11-5, 11-5 (27m)

[Q] Steven Finitzis (AUS) def [3] Rui Soares (POR) 10-12, 11-3, 11-4, 7-11, 11-8 (81m)

Quarter Finals

[1] **Zac Alexander** (AUS) def [8] Solayman Nowrozi (AUS) 11-4, 11-9, 11-5 (31m)

[4] Ben Grindrod (NZL) def [6] David Clegg (AUS) 11-5, 11-3, 11-7 (21m)

[3] Rui Soares (POR) def [7] Thomas Calvert (AUS) 7-11, 11-2, 11-8, 11-6 (54m)

[Q] Steven Finitzis (AUS) def [2] Patrick Rooney (ENG) 11-9, 6-11, 11-7, 11-6 (50m)

Round 1

[1] **Zac Alexander** (AUS) def Courtney West (AUS) 12-10, 11-4, 11-1 (27m)

[8] Solayman Nowrozi (AUS) def [Q] Graham Miao (HKG) 11-2, 9-11, 11-5, 11-6 (50m)

[6] David Clegg (AUS) def [Q] Shahzad Khan (PAK) 11-5, 11-5, 12-14, 11-6 (31m)

[4] Ben Grindrod (NZL) def [WC] Darcy Evans (AUS) 11-6, 11-1, 7-11, 11-5 (39m)

[3] Rui Soares (POR) def Rohan Toole (AUS) 13-11, 11-6, 11-3 (21m)

[7] Thomas Calvert (AUS) def [Q] Zac Millar (NZL) 11-7, 11-5, 11-7 (27m)

[Q] Steven Finitzis (AUS) def [5] Dimitri Steinmann (SUI) 11-6, 8-11, 12-10, 12-14, 11-9 (88m)

[2] Patrick Rooney (ENG) def Joel Luca (AUS) 11-3, 11-7, 11-4 (20m)



PSA W5 CAIRNS INTERNATIONAL



Kiwi **Amanda Landers-Murphy** made it a clean sweep of three Queensland PSA titles when she beat South African Milnay Louw in the final of the Cairns International.

Landers-Murphy also beat Louw in the Queensland Open final last month.



Final

[3] **Amanda Landers-Murphy** (NZL) def [5] Milnay Louw (RSA) 11-7, 11-8, 11-7 (34m)

Semi Finals

[3] **Amanda Landers-Murphy** (NZL) def [1] Ho Tze-Lok (HKG) 11-7, 11-7, 11-4 (34m)

[5] Milnay Louw (RSA) def [4] Jessica Turnbull (AUS) 11-5, 11-8, 11-9 (29m)

Quarter Finals

[1] Ho Tze-Lok (HKG) def [6] Stephanie Wighton (AUS) 11-5, 11-6, 12-10 (35m)

[3] **Amanda Landers-Murphy** (NZL) def [7] Samantha Foyle (AUS) 11-7, 11-5, 13-15, 11-7 (36m)

[4] Jessica Turnbull (AUS) def Selena Shaikh (AUS) 11-4, 11-3, 11-4 (20m)

[5] Milnay Louw (RSA) def [2] Lisa Camilleri (AUS) 9-11, 11-4, 11-1, 11-8 (31m)

Round 1

[1] Ho Tze-Lok (HKG) def [Q] Courtney Mather (AUS) 11-6, 11-4, 11-2 (18m)

[6] Stephanie Wighton (AUS) def Taylor Jones (AUS) 11-7, 11-4, 11-6 (20m)

[7] Samantha Foyle (AUS) def [Q] Aleisha Greenwood (AUS) 11-5, 11-4, 11-2 (19m)

[3] **Amanda Landers-Murphy** (NZL) def Jemyca Aribado (PHI) 11-2, 11-7, 11-8 (30m)

[4] Jessica Turnbull (AUS) def [Q] Katie Smith (ENG) 11-4, 8-11, 11-5, 11-4 (24m)

Selena Shaikh (AUS) def [8] Samantha Calvert (AUS) 8-11, 11-8, 11-9, 11-6 (31m)

[5] Milnay Louw (RSA) def Taylor Flavell (AUS) 11-6, 11-4, 11-3 (28m)

[2] Lisa Camilleri (AUS) def [Q] Olga O'Neill (AUS) 11-4, 11-7, 11-3 (13m)



BRISBANE OPEN

SQUASH TOURNAMENT



CLOSED SATELLITE

The **2016 Brisbane Open** boasted a quality field worthy of a higher PSA classification. The Men's Draw featured 3 of the 4 semi finalists from the Queensland Open.

The top 4 seeds fought out the semi finals with Zac Alexander and Josh Larkin qualifying for the final. The pair last met at the Queensland Open where Alexander prevailed 11-9, 6-11, 11-8, 11-7 in 56 minutes.

In their first three encounters Alexander was too strong winning on each occasion in straight. At the Q Open Larkin stretched the match to 4 games. It has taken 5 matches but Larkin has finally broken through and recorded his first victory over Alexander in four.

Alexander began strongly winning the first but from there on Larkin dominated the 50

Final

[2] **Josh Larkin** def [1] Zac Alexander 8-11, 11-5, 11-8, 11-5 (50m)

Semi Finals

[1] Zac Alexander def [3] Matthew Hopkin 11-4, 11-7, 11-6 (30m)

[2] **Josh Larkin** def [4] Rhys Dowling 11-6, 11-1, 11-6 (30m)

Quarter Finals

[1] Zac Alexander def [8] Alex Eustace 11-1, 11-2, 11-2 (20m)

[3] Matthew Hopkin def [6] Solayman Nowrozi 11-6, 8-11, 11-5, 11-5 (40m)

[4] Rhys Dowling def [7] Brad Freeme 11-3, 8-11, 11-8, 8-11, 11-8 (75m)

[2] **Josh Larkin** def [5] Tom Calvert 11-5, 11-5, 11-6 (35m)

Round 1

[1] Zac Alexander def Thomas Bamford 11-9, 12-10, 11-2 (30m)

[8] Alex Eustace def Joseph White 11-6, 11-3, 10-12, 8-11, 11-4 (70m)

[6] Solayman Nowrozi def Lachlan Coxsedg 11-4, 11-6, 11-4 (35m)

[3] Matthew Hopkin def Bradley Gallivan 11-6, 11-2, 11-4 (20m)

[4] Rhys Dowling def Courtney West 11-6, 11-6, 11-7 (30m)

[7] Brad Freeme def Jon van der Kreek 11-5, 11-7, 11-9 (20m)

[5] Tom Calvert def Nathan Turnbull 11-7, 11-5, 11-8 (35m)

[2] **Josh Larkin** def Jason van der Walt 11-3, 11-0, 11-1 (15m)



BRISBANE OPEN

SQUASH TOURNAMENT



CLOSED SATELLITE

minute encounter winning the next 3 games fairly comfortably.

The Women's event featured a former W#1 (Rachael Grinham) and W#2 (Jenny Duncalf) plus Tamika Saxby who has won 5 PSA titles on the domestic circuit this year.

As expected Grinham and Duncalf won their way through to the final without dropping a game. Grinham took care of Saxby in three whilst Duncalf knocked out local hopeful Samantha Foyle.

In the final W#18 Duncalf won a tight first game before W#19 Grinham bounced back and won the 2nd by a similar margin - just two points!

Unfortunately for Grinham, Duncalf wasn't phased by the toughness of the first two games. She put the foot down and ran out a strong winner 11-5, 11-5 to win the 41 minute clash.

Juniors Courtney Mather and Mackenzie Sleep performed well above expectation. Both girls upset seeded opposition to reach the Quarter Finals.

Final

[1] Jenny Duncalf def [2] Rachael Grinham 12-10, 9-11, 11-5, 11-5 (41m)

Semi Finals

[1] Jenny Duncalf def [4] Samantha Foyle 11-6, 11-7, 11-5 (30m)

[2] Rachael Grinham def [3] Tamika Saxby 11-8, 11-8, 11-6 (33m)

Quarter Finals

[1] Jenny Duncalf def [5] Katie Smith 11-7, 11-7, 11-4 (20m)

[4] Samantha Foyle def [7] Heather Pilley 6-11, 11-5, 11-9, 11-7 (30m)

[3] Tamika Saxby def Courtney Mather 7-11, 11-0, 11-0, 11-3 (20m)

[2] Rachael Grinham def Mackenzie Sleep 11-3, 11-6, 11-4 (20m)

Round 1

[7] Heather Pilley def Kay Kendall 11-9, 11-6, 11-4 (30m)

Courtney Mather def [8] Jaymee Haylock 7-11, 11-7, 11-5, 11-5 (20m)

Mackenzie Sleep def [6] Hannah Shipley 11-4, 13-15, 11-1, 11-5 (25m)

BRISBANE OPEN

SQUASH TOURNAMENT

TKreek Photography



1st December 2016



RANKINGS



WORLD TOP 5 MEN

1	Mohamed Elshorbagy	EGY
2	Karim Abdel Gawad	EGY
3	Gregory Gaultier	FRA
4	Nick Matthew	ENG
5	Ramy Ashour	EGY

WORLD TOP 5 WOMEN

1	Nour El Sherbini	EGY
2	Raneem El Welily	EGY
3	Nouran Gohar	EGY
4	Laura Massaro	ENG
5	Camille Serme	FRA

TOP 10 AUSSIE MEN

TM	LM	PLAYER	HWR
12	14	Cameron Pilley	11
19	16	Ryan Cuskelly	13
51	55	Rex Hedrick	51
73	64	Zac Alexander	36
86	88	Joshua Larkin	86
95	101	Matthew Hopkin	89
130	122	Rhys Dowling	120
179	179	Thomas Calvert	179
190	201	David Clegg	177
199	211	Mike Corren	38

33 Aussie players listed

Rex Hedrick achieves a new HWR

Joshua Larkin achieves a new HWR

Matthew Hopkin returns to the World Top 100

TOP 10 AUSSIE WOMEN

TM	LM	PLAYER	HWR
20	21	Donna Urquhart	13
26	19	Rachael Grinham	1
46	44	Christine Nunn	36
47	46	Sarah Cardwell	46
53	52	Tamika Saxby	52
64	66	Lisa Camilleri	28
73	83	Jessica Turnbull	73
101	100	Samantha Foyle	73
108	105	Lakeesha Rarere	75
111	111	Stephanie Wighton	98

17 Aussie players listed

Donna Urquhart returns to the World Top 20

Donna Urquhart returns to Aussie #1

Jessica Turnbull achieves a new HWR

What a great game!

SQUASH

2017



CALENDAR



<<< MARCH 2017 >>>

MAR 4-5 Esperance WA: **Horizon Power Esperance Open** (PSA Closed Satellite)

MAR 11-12 Elanora, NSW: **Pure Blonde Elanora Open** (PSA M5) ***

MAR 24-26 Townsville QLD: **Australian Closed Championships** (PSA National Closed Satellite) ***

<<< MAY 2017 >>>

MAY 11-14 Darwin, NT: **NT Open** (PSA M10)

<<< JUNE 2017 >>>

JUN 2-5 Kalgoorlie, WA: **City of Kalgoorlie Boulder Golden Open** (PSA M5/W5)

JUN 6-10 Campbelltown, SA: **SA Open** (PSA M5/W5)

JUN 29-2 Devonport, Tasmania: **Tas Open / Devonport Open** (PSA M5/W5) ***

<<< JULY 2017 >>>

JUL 11-16 Mulgrave, VIC: **Victorian Open** (PSA M10/W10)

<<< AUGUST 2017 >>>

AUG 16-20 Bendigo, VIC: **City of Greater Bendigo International** (PSA M5/W5)

AUG 23-27 Shepparton, VIC: **City of Greater Shepparton International** (PSA M5)

AUG 30-3 Bega, NSW: **Tarra Volkswagen Bega Open** (PSA M5)

<<< SEPTEMBER 2017 >>>

SEP 7-10 Coffs Harbour, NSW: **North Coast Open** (PSA M5/W5)

SEP 14-17 Thornleigh, NSW: **NSW Squash Open** (PSA M5/W5)

<<< OCTOBER 2017 >>>

OCT 19-22 Venue TBC, QLD: **Queensland Open** (PSA M5/W5)

OCT 26-29 Mackay Leisure Centre QLD: **Mackay Open** (PSA M5/W5)

<<< NOVEMBER 2017 >>>

NOV 2-5 Cairns, QLD: **Cairns International** (PSA M5/W5) ***

NOV 14-18 Darwin, NT: **Australian Open** (PSA M15/W15)

*** (Not Registered on PSA)

2017



CALENDAR

MAJOR EVENTS IN EACH STATE

ACT

Australian Capital Territory

MAY 6-7: Woden: **ACT Open**

MAY 20-21 Woden: **ACT Junior Open** (AJST Gold)

NSW

New South Wales

MAR 11-12 Elanora: **Pure Blonde Elanora Open** (AST PSA M5) ***

JUL 7-9 Thornleigh: **NSW Junior Open** (AJST Gold)

AUG 30-3 Bega: **Tarra Volkswagen Bega Open** (AST PSA M5)

SEP 7-10 Coffs Harbour: **North Coast Open** (AST PSA M5/W5)

SEP 14-17 Thornleigh: **NSW Squash Open** (AST PSA M5/W5)

NT

Northern Territory

JAN 12-15 Darwin: **Australian Junior Open** (AJST Platinum)

MAY 6-7 Darwin: **NT Junior Championships** (AJST Gold)

MAY 11-14 Darwin: **NT Open** (AST PSA M10)

OCT 17-18 Darwin: **Australian National Graded Championships** (Premier, B & D)

NOV 14-18 Darwin: **Australian Open** (AST PSA M15/W15)

NOV 19-20 Darwin: **Australian Doubles**

QLD

Queensland

MAR 24-26 Townsville **Australian Closed Championships** (AST PSA National Closed Satellite) ***

MAR 24-26 Townsville: **National Graded Championships** (A C & E Grades)

APR 29-30 Carseldine: **QMSA State Titles - Best of 5 - Traditional AGED**

JUN 25-28 Venue TBC: **Queensland Junior Championships (Individuals)** (AJST Gold)

OCT 19-22 Venue TBC: **Queensland Open** (AST PSA M5/W5)

OCT 26-29 Mackay Leisure Centre: **Mackay Open** (AST PSA M5/W5)

NOV 2-5 Cairns: **Cairns International** (AST PSA M5/W5) ***

SA

South Australia

JUN 6-10 Campbelltown: **SA Open** (AST PSA M5/W5)

JUN 10-11 Campbelltown: **South Australia Junior Age Championships** (AJST Gold)

TAS

Tasmania

MAR 4-5 Hobart: **TAS Junior** (AJST Gold)

JUN 29-2 Devonport: **Tas Open / Devonport Open** (AST PSA M5/W5) ***

2017



CALENDAR

MAJOR EVENTS IN EACH STATE

VIC

Victoria

JUN 24-25 MSAC: **Victoria Junior State Titles** (AJST Gold)
JUL 11-16 Mulgrave: **Victorian Open** (AST PSA M10/W10)
AUG 16-20 Bendigo: **City of Greater Bendigo International** (AST PSA M5/W5)
AUG 23-27 Shepparton: **City of Greater Shepparton International** (AST PSA M5)
SEP 4-8 Ballarat: **Australian Masters Championship (Individuals)**
SEP 11-15 Ballarat: **Australian Masters Championship (Teams)**
SEP 30-8 Geelong: **Australian Junior Championships** (AJST Platinum)

WA

Western Australia

MAR 4-5 Esperance: **Horizon Power Esperance Open** (PSA Closed Satellite)
MAY 25-27 Terrace: **WA Open**
JUN 2-5 Kalgoorlie: **City of Kalgoorlie Boulder Golden Open** (AST PSA M5/W5)
JUL 1-2 Mirrabooka: **WA Junior Championships** (AJST Gold)
JUL 21-23 Venue TBC: **Masters State Championships**

*** (Not Registered on PSA)

AST: Australian Squash Tour
AJST: Australian Junior Squash Tour
Masters



Important Overseas Events

APR 14-16 New Zealand: **Oceania Junior Championships** (AJST Platinum)
APR 18-19 New Zealand: **Trans-Tasman Test Match**
APR 21-23 New Zealand: **NZ Junior Open**
JUL 19-23 Tauranga, NZ: **WSF World Junior Championships (Individuals)**
JUL 24-28 Tauranga, NZ: **WSF World Junior Championships (Women's Teams)**
AUG 1-5 England, GB: **WSF World Doubles Championships**
NOV 28-3 France: **WSF Men's World Team Championships**
NOV 30-4 Singapore: **Singapore Junior Open**
DEC 6-11 Kuala Lumpur, MY: **KL Junior Open**



WORLD SQUASH

WSF



By **Steve Walton**

SQUASH ● UNITED

It has been almost a year since I founded **Squash United** and developed four major goals to achieve over the next 10 years.

One of these goals is to have squash centres or facilities managed by professional programs or systems to ensure that they are profitable.

Once we have centres that can be run profitably we achieve a number of things;

1/ It is less likely that the centre will be pulled down, converted to a gym or used for anything other than squash. Not many people destroy something that is producing money!!

2/ It will be easier to convince Councils and Government bodies to include squash in any plans for new or upgraded sports facilities.

3/ Squash Centre Management will become a genuine pathway for University graduates. It will probably fall under the heading of Sports Facility Management but a Professional Management System for a squash centre has the same fundamentals as a Professional Management System for any sporting facility.

4/ This is the big one. We will attract entrepreneurs and investors that see that squash will give them a return on their money. They will want centres built so that they can lease them or manage them.

So that all makes sense doesn't it? And yet when you speak to many court owners they will tell you that it can't be done, there is not enough money in it etc, etc.

I wonder what reaction Jim got from his friends and family when he said he was going to start a lawn mowing franchise!!

He charges people to do what most people are perfectly capable of doing and in fact many of them have a lawn-mower in their garden shed!!

So my focus this year has been on the system and the people required to make Professional Squash Management real. And it has been very easy!

24/7 gyms are all around us. There seems to be an absurd amount of them. They can't all be making money can they?

I don't know but I do know that the 24/7 concept is here to stay and it is a perfect partner for squash. So, along with others, I have been learning all about it and what is required to adapt it to squash.

I am certainly not the first to do this. Greg Middleton opened up DGen Squash two years ago with swipe card access and many regional centres have had pin codes, etc for years. But it has not been done on a large scale and this is about to change.

Now of course there is a lot more to Professionally Managed Centres than just 24/7 access. There needs to be modern programs that fit to people's busy lives and these need to be delivered by qualified people.



Once again there have been some centres doing this style of program all over Australia for many years but until now it has not been duplicated and commercialised and that is why investors have never been involved.

My role with Squash United is not to undertake all of these programs myself. I aim to be a catalyst and supporter of those doing great stuff for squash. There are two very strong examples in the Australian Squash Marketplace right now and more to come.

In WA, **Kane Fasolo** now has three squash centres in his management group. Whilst he does not promote them under one banner yet, they all use the same system and have the same qualities.

Squash Mechanics operates on a National level and has two centres in Sydney and one in Melbourne (and more under negotiation).

The Managing Director is Peter Aitken and he has a team of partners and people operating their centres. He has now taken this a step further with **The Squash Alliance** which gives members equal rights at all facilities.

There is another significant management group that will launch in 2017 so in a very short space of time this goal of Squash United has some real momentum.

I am not here to tell you the secrets of each of the entities above but I have told you two names so you can follow them up yourself!!

I am now absolutely certain that in only a few more years we will have Squash Centres and facilities operating under branded names.

And for all the obvious reasons we need to be looking at squash courts being built as part of multi-sport centres. These can be privately held or Government owned, both will need professional management.

So watch this space because I think the revolution in Squash Management has begun!!

Photo:
Peter Aitken
Squash Mechanics

