



# Newsletter

Issue 10

## Waikato vs. Central Rep Clash

Squash Waikato tested the depths of Squash Centrals High Performance programme on Saturday and were too strong, winning the clash 15 matches to 9. Held at the Kawaroa park Squash Club in New Plymouth the format saw team players having two matches in the day against their opposition. The Squash Central team was without a number of regulars due to unavailability and the workload of some players who were resting. It was the same for Waikato, however team manager, Wanganui's Kent Darlington said, "it's a great chance to see what our other HP squad members can do, also see where they are at with their training and match play



The Central Men ended up being under the pump and only managed two wins from their 12 matches, while the Women did slightly better with winning seven of their twelve matches. After the morning round Squash Waikato were up 7 – 5, winning three of the five crucial five set matches to set them up going into the afternoon. In the afternoon Squash Waikato closing it out again 8 – 4, therefore taking overall honours. In the end they won 5 of the five set matches to Squash Centrals 3, which showed that a third of the matches were a real tussle.

Those to shine for the local district team were Danielle Fourie (Palm Nth) at Number 1 for the Central Team who won both her matches. Courtney Trail (Palm Nth) and Kaye Carter (Taranaki) also won both their matches with both having big five set matches. In one of Trail's matches she was down against Waikato's Taylor Ashton in the 5<sup>th</sup> set 10-8

match ball & managed to save it, winning 12-10. Centrals number two, Jason Baty (Taranaki) was involved in what was the match of the day and came out the victor in a brutal five setter against Waikato's Montell Whatarangi. After being down two sets in which only a point or two separated the pair, Baty came back to take the last three sets 13/11, 13/11, 11/8 with the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> sets delivering some fantastic all over the court action for the local crowd.



*Full results available on the Squash Central Website*

## Jones on the rise

Top local junior Luke Jones (Tararua/SquashGym) continues his rise up the ranks of New Zealand's top squash players. Jones recently took out the NZ Junior Championships. Jones had to fight hard to get past Auckland's Sion Wiggin in the boys final, but eventually edged home 11-6, 11-9, 7-11, 13-11 taking out the Under 19 NZ title.

Luke represented NZ at the Junior Boys World Championships last year and has just been selected for the Youth Commonwealth Games in Samoa on 5<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> September. Luke was selected by the NZ Olympic Committee with a small group of 27 elite athletes across 9 sporting codes to represent NZ at the event.

We wish Luke all the best and watch with interest as this promising player continues to rise.



## Rules and refereeing nights

Do you dread refereeing and feel unsure about the calls you make? Make your way to one of the rules and refereeing nights coming up around our district.

Become a club referee. Playing Interclub or Super Champs? Be sure to sit your Club referee badge. The test can be found here <http://www.squashnz.co.nz/play-squash/referees/becoming-a-referee.cfm>

For more information check out the Squash NZ website about becoming a referee under the "Play squash" tab.

Ever thought of becoming a District Referee? The requirements to become a District Referee have been relaxed somewhat with only one successful refereeing pass required instead of the 3 before. So to become a District Referee, a candidate must sit the theory exam under supervision (only available from Chris Buckland) and have it marked by Chris, then pass a marking assessment, then pass a refereeing assessment – these last 2 on B grade players or above. Any National Referee can conduct these 2 assessments. Candidates can contact me directly via email at [cm.buckland@xtra.co.nz](mailto:cm.buckland@xtra.co.nz)

or contact Centrals Mike Jack on [mikejack@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mikejack@xtra.co.nz)

## Player Profile

Each Quarter we will profile a player from the Central District from top ranking NZ players to local club players and upcoming juniors to a few sly veterans winding down their Squash Careers.

### Meet Victor Romero

Approx. Age? 36      Club SquashGym Palmerston North      Grade A2

**When and how did you get introduced to squash?** I came with my wife to SquashGym on a 'Friday Sport' four years ago. After playing a couple of games I got hooked!

**What was the highlight of your squash career to date?** I've had several... but I think the most significant was beating Ryan Schutte on a 100 min match 21-19 in the 5<sup>th</sup>. It was the greatest battle of wills I've ever had against anyone in any sport.

**Favorite person you have ever played and why?** Sensei Kashif Shuja... There is not a more humbling experience than playing the Sensei.

**Most embarrassing squash moment?** Running out of legs playing doubles vs. Megan Craig at last year's doubles nationals. I tripped and landed face first into her bottom... oops!!!

**Top tip for other players?** Run out of legs when playing vs. Megan Craig... Or.. Always keep in mind that no matter how badly you are being beaten, you'll always get a chance to get back into the game if you don't give up.

**Any squash goals for 2015 and onwards?** Stay healthy and win the doubles national championship.

**Do you have a favorite or signature shot?** Backhand volley drop.

**What was the hardest thing about swapping tennis for Squash?** Not being able to get free points with my serve.

**What's your greatest sporting achievement?** I've got two!!! Beating Ferrer in a prize money tournament and having a 9-2 (in the 5<sup>th</sup>) lead over Kashif in an interclub game. I'm pretty sure one of those two was a hustle though.

**Is it true that you're swapping your corolla for a minivan?** Yeah...Nah... that would be like going back to tennis all over again!!!



## 2015 Awards Nominations



Due to Squash New Zealand Awards dates Squash Central Awards nominations will now close on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2015. Our Awards dinner will still be the 5<sup>th</sup> December but the nominations must be in by first Sunday in October to allow for judging and for the winner of Club of the year and Volunteer of the year to be put forward in time for the National Squash New Zealand awards.

## Central Doubles titles decided!

Doubles players from all over the district contested the 2015 Central Doubles in Stratford.

Men's winners were the bearded duo of Stephen Bennett (SPN) and Matthew Ratcliffe (RC).

Women's winners were Kawaroa Parks Jacinta Harrison and Chelsea Aim. Mixed Division was won by Jacinta Harrison (KP) and her partner Nick Stretton (KP) who was quick around the court despite an ankle injury at the start of the season.

Thanks to Stratford for hosting another great event and to the event sponsors Brian Darth Funeral Services.



## NZ Double's titles claimed!



In front of a good crowd at SquashGym, local players Kashif Shuja and Victor Romero took to the court against Wellington pair Scott Galloway and Corey Love and they played out a thriller. Shuja and Romero took the first set before most of the crowd had settled into their seats, 11 – 2. This was a wakeup call for Galloway and Love who fought back hard to take the second 11 – 6. Galloway played out of his skin down the backhand wall where he matched up against former world number 36 Shuja. He often ripped winners and his error count was very low. His ability to match Shuja shot for shot allowed them to attack partner Romero who made some tired errors in the second set. Shuja and Romero regrouped for the third and final set and it was a see saw battle. At 7 – 6 down, Shuja and Romero made three straight errors to give Galloway and Love five championship balls. Shuja and Romero dug deep to win the next two points but it was all too late with Galloway and Love taking the match 11 – 9.

The Women's Open was fairly straightforward for the home club pair of Danielle Fourie and Rebecca Barnett. After the first round the top three teams went into a round robin against each other. Fourie and Barnett never dropped a set all tournament and beat Sally Guest and Mikayla Kerr 11 – 4, 11 – 7 on Saturday morning. They then beat Joanna Shanks and Holly Donnelly on Saturday afternoon 11 – 4, 11 – 7 after Shanks and Donnelly had lost to Guest and Kerr earlier in the day. The pair showed why they are number 5 and 6 in New Zealand for singles play.

Arguably the match of the tournament was the mixed open final between siblings Zac and Emma Millar of Wellington, and the Barnett twins, Johnny and Rebecca. The Barnett's got off to the best start taking the first set 11 – 6. The rest of the match you could barely split the pairs. The Barnett's had a match ball at 10 – 9 in the second and the Millar's were awarded a questionable 'let' which had the crowd divided on which way the call should have gone. The Millar's then won the next two points to take the match to a third and deciding set. The back and forward match continued throughout the set and it came down to one point as the match reached 10 all. It was going to be the Millar's day as Emma hit a great forehand drive that caught a nick at the back of the court that Rebecca Barnett could not return.



## Junior Prince Series Update

The ever-popular Junior Prince Series is back for 2015 with 15 Sunday tournaments being hosted around the district.

After the first 7 rounds the competition is very tight with only a few points separating the top 10. Results are updated regularly on the Squash Central website as they become available.

### Upcoming Tournaments

June 7	Tararua	June 14	Ohakune
June 21	Palmerston North	June 28	Wanganui
July 5	Ashhurst/Pohangina	July 12	Foxton
July 19	Dannevirke	July 26	Rangitikei (final)



# Eastern vs. Central Junior Clash

The clash between Central vs Eastern was on the 22 March at the Hawkes Bay Racket club. We took away 10 boys and 10 girls to participate in this yearly challenge with Eastern. The clash was very close with the final score being 22-18 to Eastern. Well done to those that participated and keep the training up so we can get back the trophy in 2016.

The team was

Under 11 Boys	Under 11 Girls
William Roberts - Kawaroa Park	Sophie Bell – SquashGym
Daniel Mabey – Tararua	Abby Treder – Tararua
Under 13 Boys	Under 13 Girls
Conner Fortium – SquashGym	Genevieve Bell – SquashGym
Matthew Adshead – SquashGym	Abbie Tankersley
Under 15 Boys	Under 15 Girls
Jordan Bell – SquashGym	Annaleise Faint – SquashGym
Richard Bell – SquashGym	Paige Stantiall – Rangitikei
Under 17 Boys	Under 17 Girls
Jarrod See – Inglewood	Ansley Koolen – SquashGym
Mitch Wilson – Kawaroa Park	Tia Pauro – Inglewood
Under 19 Boys	Under 19 Girls
Blake Koolen – SquashGym	Courtney Trail – SquashGym
Cameron Foster – SquashGym	Tori Claridge – SquashGym

## High Performing Juniors

We had 11 players from central travel to the South Island to compete in the NZ Junior Open and the Oceania tournaments in April. As a district we had a number of successes at the NZ Junior Open in Timaru. Annaleise Faint, Jordan Bell, and Richard Bell from SquashGym Palmerston North all winning their division but the greatest achievement was Luke Jones winning the Boys Open. Well done to you all for your achievements.



At the Oceania Australia vs New Zealand fixture we had two Central players representing New Zealand, which were Kaitlyn Watts and Luke Jones. Both players played well and helped with the victory.

At the Oceania Tournament in Invercargill we also had a number of successes, with Luke Jones finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Open and other players improving on their seeding.

On the international front Kaitlyn Watts has been selected as the reserve for the World Junior Girls Squad travelling to Holland in July. Kaitlyn has worked really hard over the past year to achieve this goal and we would like to congratulate her in her success, keep it up Kaitlyn! Another well-deserved success is Luke Jones making the NZ Youth Commonwealth Games being held in Samoa in September. Only three players were selected so this is a great achievement. Well-done Luke!

## Upcoming District Events and Hosts

19-21 <sup>st</sup> June	Central Juniors	Ohakune
10 -12 July	Central Open	Kawaroa Park
24 – 26 July	District Super Champs	B Grade – RiverCity, C Grade – Okato, D Grade – Wanganui, E Grade – Foxton, F Grade – Taihape.
14 – 15 Aug	Central Masters	Feilding
11 – 13 Sept	Champion of Champions	Hawera
5 <sup>th</sup> December	Squash Central AGM and 50 <sup>th</sup> Jubilee Celebration Awards Dinner	

# Masters

Those interested in playing for Squash Central at National Masters Championships will be expected to play in the Central Masters as the only selection tournament for 2015 Masters team.

Hawkes Bay SRC, will host the National Masters Championships with assistance from Hawkes Bay Lawn Tennis Club, from 16-18 October. All players must be available to play from midday Friday 16 October. The Inter District Teams Event will follow from 19-21 October. It's a great few days away, accommodation and entry fees are paid for by Squash Central if you are part of the Masters team. It's also the chance to catch up with friends from around the country and also see some fantastic age-group squash. Highlights of the non squash-playing week are the Annual dinner/dance and of course the teams Skits,

If you are interested in playing please contact either Mike Jack or Pauline Slovak to register interest via email on;

[pauline@squashcentral.co.nz](mailto:pauline@squashcentral.co.nz) or [mikejack@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mikejack@xtra.co.nz)

A players contribution of \$175 will be needed, this goes towards the accommodation and entry fees, Sending a team away is expensive and we have booked good accommodation for this year in anticipation of rewarding those players who put their hands up to play.

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### Squash Central

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