

New website launched

Centrals new website is now up and running! The website is updated regularly and is chock full of information for players and clubs. Be sure to check it out at www.squashcentral.co.nz also follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CentralSquash>.

Jubilee Celebration



50TH SQUASH CENTRAL JUBILEE

**You're invited to attend
the 2015 Jubilee Celebration & Awards Dinner
5th December from 4pm at Wanganui Squash Club.**

**4:00pm Exhibition matches start
5:30pm AGM
6pm Awards dinner (catered by Infusion)**

- Guest speakers, DJ and cash bar.
- \$25 a ticket or \$225 for a table of 10. Club tables available.
- Put on your fancy dress or best pair of jeans and join us to celebrate our great squash district turning 50.

Limited spaces so RSVP to admin@squashcentral.co.nz and confirm your seat by bank deposit to Squash Central 02 0727-0056013-000 using the ref "50 then your name" before 15th November.



Central is turning 50 this year! We are planning a party to celebrate our districts 50th Jubilee and all the people from past and present that have made it so great. Tickets are limited and are selling fast so get in quick so not to miss yours. Check with your club as some have already purchased a table.

Shuja and Fourie win NZ Champion of Champion titles

Palmerston North squash players Kashif Shuja and Danielle Fourie won both A-grade titles at the national Champion-of-Champions finals at SquashGym on Saturday.

Shuja beat Hawke's Bay's Cameron Jamieson in the men's final.

Stephen Bennett was runner-up to Southland's Champion Mitchell Kempton (Makarewa) in the men's B-grade final whilst Hastings Winona-Jo Joyce won the women's B grade in a 6-draw.

Ben Sweeney from Manaia in Northland won the C-Grade men's trophy whilst the ladies C-Grade trophy went to another Northlander Nirelle McDonald from Kaitaia.

The D Grade trophies will both be heading back to Eastern with Quade Hyde and Kiana Reid winning the men's and women's trophies respectively.

Palmerston North's other winner was Patrick Watts who beat John Mullinger in the E-grade men's final, whilst Tayla McDonal made it a family affair for winning trophies by taking the E-Grade trophy in the women's 6-draw.

The F/J Grade saw Daniel Perkinson and Tegen Willis both claim their respective titles. Well done to Squash Gym Palmerston North on a great weekend and well done to all the competitors for battling it out on court.

Central Masters

Well it was another tough few days at the Masters in Napier. This years team representing Squash Central was :- Kashif Shuja, Jason Fletcher, Rod Bannister, Rob Brownrigg, Mark Gunning, Pete Souness, Mickayla Kerr, Sally Stantial, Dianne Tasker, Gael Win, Sherryl Curtis and Janice Trevathan.

Congratulations to Kashif and Mickayla for competing in the Trans Tasman International series, both players were un-beaten against their Australian opposition. Unfortunately the Aussies just pipped NZ on games count back 24/21 in the third and deciding test, and took the series 2/1.

Congratulations on Kashif taking out his 35+ Age Group in the Individuals, looking at his form he will be a force to contend with right through the age groups.

Central were seeded 4th in the teams event but our strongest women player Mickayla suffered what turned out to be a tournament ending injury on the Saturday afternoon of the individuals and wasn't able to complete the remaining Individuals and teams event.

First up in the teams we played 5th seed Wellington, and just got pipped 6/5, a couple of matches could have gone either way, and it was a similar story with the same result when we played Waikato (7th seed) losing 6/5.

Our last match was against Northland which we won 7/4, A confession from Kashif who had left his team shirt at the motel saw him paying a fine, his "punishment" was to play his last game in a pink top and skirt!. Full credit he played along and his opponent Evans Chilese was blinded by some show of leg!

Given that we didn't quite retain our seeding, our crowning glory this year was to take out the Toilet Seat Trophy – so cruelly stolen from us last year!! Instead of Skits, it was decided at the managers meeting to do something different, and a quiz was suggested and agreed upon. A great combined effort from the team (answering some obscure questions I might add) accompanied by Gael & Janice's spouses saw us win by a country mile.

Masters Nationals are in Dunedin next year.



Nationals Super Champs

2015 saw 13 Central teams compete with two claiming their National Titles.

Wanganui Squash Club C grade Men's team consisting of John Roestenburg (coach), Nathan Wall, Shane Stone, Shanan Whitlock, Rob Moore, Nigel Ward (manager) James van Kerkhoff, Brett McKenzie and Ali Hamza

The core of this Wanganui team came up together as winners of the National E and D Grade Squash Championships in 2012-13, and they capped off their run with conclusive performances on Friday and Saturday to win the National C Grade Squash Championships in Taumarunui.



After comfortable wins over Christchurch (5-0) and Northland (4-1) on Wednesday, Wanganui held off Auckland 3-2 in a very tough Thursday matchup where Brett McKenzie and Shane Stone had to fight their way through tough five-set games to get their team over the line.

That put them into Saturday's final against the Wellington region winners, Island Bay, but before then was the matter of disposing of the Waikato team 5-0 on Friday.

Wanganui eventually won the final 4-1 against Wellington.

Nationals Super Champs continued...



The B grade Men's Team from SquashGym Palmerston North of Stephen Bennett, Corbin Faint, Brandon Keenan, David Greer, Matthew Ratcliffe, Taylor Leabourn, Daniel Foster and Pauline Slovak (Manager) had a hard road ahead of them when they set off to Auckland on Tuesday. They were seeded 6th out of the 10 teams.

All the team played out of their skins to get through to the final where it came down to 2/2 tie and the pressure was on the final players the #3's Brandon Keenan who was looking more than slightly nervous vs. Ben Tulloch. In the end Brandon proved he blossomed under pressure playing his best game of the tournament while his opponent crumbled. Keenan took the win and secured the NZ title in 4.

Final Placing's of Central Teams were: B – Men SquashGym 1st Women Kawaroa Park 10th, C – Men Wanganui 1st Women Kawaroa Park 6th, D – Men Ohakune 5th Women Taihape 7th, E – Men Hawera 6th Women SquashGym 2nd and Ohakune 3rd, F – Men Ohakune 5th and Taihape 6th Women Hunterville 3rd and Ohakune 4th.

NZ Senior Nationals

Senior Nationals in Christchurch. With a number of personal changes to the women's line-up through injury leading up to the event things were going to be tough. As defending Champions we were dealt a huge blow the week before when original number one Becky Barnett was forced out injured due to being involved in a vehicle accident. With the Women's teams event already stronger than last year the team dropped down to last seed (6th). The Men's team was stronger this year and after being seeded last in 2014, this year they were ranked 5th.

In the **individuals** Central had three players shine and finish well above their seeding. Kaitlyn Watts seeded 19th in the Women's Open, beat the 14th seed first up to crack the top 16 in the country for the first time. She lost to eventual finalists Megan Craig in the second round but then continued on winning to get through to the Special plate final. Here she beat NZ Junior Team member Abbie Palmer who played at number 2 in the recent Junior Worlds in Holland. Kaitlyn won 11/9, 11/5, 9/11, 11/9 and finished 9th overall.

Rebecca Clifford was another who had a very successful tournament as well. Seeded last and 32nd in the Women's Open she lost to top seed Joelle King 3/0 first up. However she then won her next three matches on the trot, beating two A graders on the way for the first time ever. In the plate final she found herself up against fellow teammate, the 18th seeded Jackie Tapp, who had lost first round also. Here Clifford lost 11/5, 11/8, 11/3 however still finished an amazing 18th place.

Corbin Faint who was in Division One and seeded 7th finish an excellent 3rd place.

Other Open results:

Danielle Fourie (7th seed) lost in Classic Plate semi-final to Emma Miller 13/11, 11/5, 13/11. Finished 7th/8th

Jackie Tapp (seeded 18th) won the Plate final against Rebecca Clifford. Finish 17th

Luke Jones (seeded 10th) lost in Special Plate semi to Scott Galloway 11/9, 11/5, 5/11, 11/2. Finished 11th/12th

Jason van der Walt (seeded 26th) won Consolation Plate over Montell Whatarangi 11/7, 10/12, 12/10, 11/5. Finished 25th

Men's Division One results:

Stephen Bennett (seeded 4th) won Plate against Sam McCarroll 11/9, 8/11, 9/11, 11/5, 11/5. Finished 9th

Nick Stretton (seeded 5th) won Special Plate against Sean O'Connell

11/6, 11/6, 8/11, 11/9. Finished 5th

In the **teams event** both Central Men's & Women's line-ups did well and improved their own seeding's. Both teams ended up 4th. The Men upset Waikato (4th seeds) first up 3-1. That was pretty much the Men's teams big win as they lost 4-0 to top seeds Wellington and then 3-1 to Auckland the 3rd seeds. The Women's team who had dropped to last seed lost first to the 2nd seeds Bay of Plenty 4-0, but then tipped up 3rd seeds Northland 3/1. They then also lost to Auckland 3-1 for the 3rd/4th playoff.



Player Profile

Meet Luke Jones

This impressive young man originates from the very southern part of the district a little town called Tararua. Now playing out of SquashGym Luke has an impressive list of career highlights to date...

1. 2 x NZ Rep at World Junior Champs - Namibia 2014 and Netherlands 2015
2. Ranked number 1 amongst NZ juniors for 2 years
3. New Zealand Junior National Champion 2014
4. New Zealand Junior Open Champion 2015
5. Bronze at Oceania Junior Champs 2015
6. Silver at Comm Games Youth Games 2015 (Mixed Doubles)
7. A1 grade at 18 years of age



Age **18** Club **Tararua and SquashGym Palmerston North**

Grade **A**

When and how did you get introduced to squash? **Age 6 by my Mum**

What was the highlight of your squash career to date? **Being a Medalist at the Youth Commonwealth Games**

Favourite person you have ever played and why? **Olivia Brookland and Andrea Herbert. Because they are watching me write this.**

Most embarrassing squash moment? **Missing the Ball, Match Ball 11 down in the 5th**

Top tip for other players? **Serve the most!**

What are your Squash goals for 2016 and onwards? **Start beating New Zealand's top male players**

Do you have a Favorite or Signature shot? **Backhand roll over**

What have you found most difficult? **Funding.**

You have achieved some amazing results and won awards and title over the last few years what do you attribute your success too? **Hard work, determination, sacrifice and luck.**

Central dominates Wellington at Wairarapa Cup

Squash Central played Squash Wellington in its annual One Day rep fixture on Saturday in Wellington at the Tawa Squash Club. Central retained the "Wairarapa Cup" winning 20 matches to 4. Central won the morning round 9 -3 and were dominant in the afternoon round as well winning that 11 - 1. With Squash Wellington only having one of their Senior National Men's lineup playing in that of Scott Galloway, and the fact that they didn't field a Senior National Women's team this year they were always going to struggle. In saying that there were some good matches that pushed some of the Central players, especially the handful of five setters that were played out. A lot of those were from some young talented juniors, which was a good test for the Central players who managed to come out on top. It was great preparation for the Central Juniors (Corbin Faint, Kairtlyn Watts and Annaleise Faint) & Masters players (Bannister and Stantiall) in the lineup as they head to NZ Junior Nationals & NZ Masters.

The Central team was: Men – Rod Bannister (Wanganui), Jason van der Walt (SquashGym), Stephen Bennett (SquashGym), Corbin Faint (SquashGym), Nick Stretton (Kawarua Park), Brandon Keenan (SquashGym)
Women – Kaitlyn Watts (SquashGym), Rebecca Clifford (SquashGym), Chelsea Aim (Kawarua Park), Sally Stantiall (Rangitikei), Jacinta Harrison (Kawarua Park), Annaleise Faint (SquashGym)

Central Junior Team at NZ Nationals

The team travelled to Invercargill for Nationals this year.

The individuals commenced on the 1 October, as the current NZ titleholder for boys under 19, Luke Jones hoped to retain his title in his last year of Juniors. Luke played his way convincingly through to the final but unfortunately lost to Jamie Oakley in 3 sets - 11/5, 11/6, and 11/8. We had a few players finishing above their seeding. Annaleise Faint was seeded 5th in the under 15 girls, she had a fantastic tournament beating two B1 players which saw her finishing 3rd. Another player that had an outstanding tournament was Richard Bell, he was seeded 10th in the under 15 but finished 6th this was a great achievement. Tori Claridge was in under 19 division 1 where she made the finals but unfortunately lost to Lucy Carter in 3. Corbin Faint was seeded 5th in the under 17, he played constructed squash to get him to the semi-finals but unfortunately his fellow Boys Squad member Matthew Lucente beat him in 5, Corbin finishing up 4th.

Final Placing's

Girls

Kaitlyn Watts	u-19 (seeded 3 rd)	Finished 4 th
Courtney Trail	u-17 (seeded 4 th)	Finished 6 th
Annaleise Faint	u-15 (seeded 5 th)	Finished 3 rd
Tori Claridge	u-19 (seeded 20 th)	Finished 19 th
Tia Pauro	u-17 (seeded 22 nd)	Finished 22 nd

Boys

Luke Jones	u-19 (seeded 1 st)	Finished 2 nd
Corbin Faint	u-17 (seeded 5 th)	Finished 4 th
Cameron Foster	u-19 (seeded 19 th)	Finished 20 th
Allan Bailey	u-19 (seeded 20 th)	Finished 18/19 th
Mitch Wilson	u-19 (seeded 23 rd)	Finished 25 th
Richard Bell	u-15 (seeded 10 th)	Finished 6 th
Jordan Bell	u-15 (seeded 6 th)	Finished 7/8 th



The team's event started on the 5th October. The boys played Canterbury first who were seeded 4th. Corbin was first on against the under 17 National Champion Quinn Udy. He played good constructive squash moving Quinn around the court, which saw Corbin win in 5. Cameron Foster took to the court against Charlie Barker, Cameron fought hard but unfortunately lost in 4. Luke Jones played next against Jayden Millard, Luke was too strong and won in a quick 3 setter, which took it to 2-1 to Central. It was all up to Allan Bailey to seal the deal against a higher seeded team. Allan hunted down every ball against the higher graded player Ben Roughan, it was nail biting to watch which was great to see Allan winning in 5.

The team had the top seed Bay Of Plenty team that night, they proved too strong losing 4-0. The following day the team played Eastern, unfortunately Luke injured himself so it was a great to see Mitch play. This was the final pool play game; the boys went away with a 4-0 win, which meant they were in the play off for 3/4th against Waikato. Luke decided to play with his injury to try and give Central a chance at winning, unfortunately central lost 3-1. Central improved their seeding by 1, great effort team!

The girls had the second seed Northland first. They proved to be too strong losing 3-1, as did Canterbury seeing them losing 3-1 as well. Unfortunately Kaitlyn injured her ankle while she was playing Nikki Kennedy (Canterbury) she finished off the final game with a heavily strapped ankle and won 3-1. With Kaitlyn's injury it gave Tia an opportunity to play the final two games. On Tuesday morning the girls played Eastern, Annaleise was first on against Winona-Jo this was an exciting game to watch which saw Annaleise winning in 5. Next on was Tori she played well but unfortunately went down in a tight 3 setter. Courtney played her fellow Development Squad member Rhiarne Taiapa, Courtney went out and played her best game of the tournament winning in 4. Tia went out and played Rosemary Mair a B grader and more experienced player. Tia gave her best and had some great rallies but lost in 3. With a 2-2 it was a count back on games and unfortunately Central lost, this saw them playing off for 7th/8th. Central went on to win against Southland in straight 4 finishing 7th.

Central Junior Team at NZ Nationals continued....

Team placing's

	Boys	Girls
1st	Bay of Plenty	Auckland
2nd	Auckland	Northland
3rd	Waikato	Bay of Plenty
4th	Central	Canterbury
5th	Canterbury	Waikato
6th	Wellington	Eastern
7th	Southland	Central
8th	Eastern	Southland



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