

## Central wins NZ Women's Teams title

Squash Central has taken out the New Zealand women's teams title at Auckland's North Shore Squash Club late last month.

Central was given an excellent start by young Kaitlyn Watts, who continued her excellent form over the week with a win over Auckland's Sue Kim, her 5th straight A grade win. Seeded 29th in the individuals, Watts finished up in 17th position, and then continued that form throughout the teams event to underline her status as one of NZ's most exciting young talents. Number two Danielle Fourie then accounted for Abbie Palmer in 3 straight games to double Central's advantage. The battle of the number ones was a tighter affair, Central's Rebecca Barnett defeating Ellie Epke in a gruelling and pulsating four set match to seal Central's first women's title in the 42-year history of the event. Auckland then pulled one back in a dead rubber, with Lisa Cowlard defeating Jackie Tapp.

Kent Darlington, who heads Central's high-performance programme, was ecstatic with the win. "It's a fantastic achievement for the team. [They] had trained hard leading up to this event, knowing they had five days of squash ahead of them and that some would play up to eight matches during that time. A testament to this was nine of our 10 players were all playing on day three in the individual finals. So to see all our players completely empty their tanks on day five made our group feel pretty proud at the end of proceedings".

It was also vindication for Darlington, who had approached the Central Squash board three years ago with a plan to create a programme to bring national success. "To do this in such a short time is a great feeling and knowing that what we are doing as far as planning, training the players and getting them match play is working." He praised head coach Kashif Shuja, who is Palmerston North-based. "Kashif is a five-time New Zealand champion and so his expertise and knowledge is massive to the young group of players that we're trying to nurture. To have him training the player's daily has been the backbone to this win - you just can't get anybody with his caliber so we're very lucky as a district. Along with Grant Watts, the women's coach also does a superb job with the team behind the scenes and on game day, so hopefully we can bring more titles home in the future."

Central's men led by Kashif Shuja, seeded seventh, sealed a creditable fifth place beating Waikato on a points count back when sets were tied Central 155 pts to Waikato 151 pts to take out the plate & 5th spot!



## 2014 District Super Champs Results

Last month the District Super Champs competitions took place at 4 clubs around Central. This year saw a small increase in team entries from 2013 however they were all in the higher grades. Lets get those F and E Graders playing next year. Competition was stiff as teams battled it out after months of training for their grades title.

The results are as follows:

B Grade	Men	Hawera
	Ladies	Palmerston North
C Grade	Men	Palmerston North
	Ladies	Palmerston North
D Grade	Men	Kawaroa Park
	Ladies	River City
E Grade	Men	Ohakune
	Ladies	Tararua (not played)
F Grade	Men	Okato (not played)
	Ladies	Ohakune (not played)

*Pictured below C Grade winners SquashGym Palmerston North Men and Women's teams.*



Congratulations to the winning teams and good luck at the Nationals. All the teams have some distance to travel to Nationals this year and are no doubt fundraising around the district. Please support them whenever you can.

# Bannister and Elliott take Masters Titles

The Squash Central Masters was played at Kawarua Park Squash Club over the weekend of 8th and 9th August. A total of 50 players attended with entries from Wainuiomata, Rangitikei, Wanganui and SquashGym Palmerston North amongst the local Taranaki folk. Play was held in Divisions/Grade rather than Age groups due to numbers entered but, as always competition was fierce particularly in the finals. This year saw the re-instatement of the two Masters cups the previous cups had gone AWOL, so new cups were purchased and presented to the two Division 1 finalists in the Men's and Women's. Winner of the Ladies Kawarua Park Cup was KP's own Kaye Elliott – runner up Janice Trevathan KP, and winner of the Men's SquashGym Palmerston North Cup was Wanganui's Rod Bannister – runner up Jason Fletcher SquashGym. At the conclusion of the tournament the Squash Central Masters Teams to play at New Zealand Masters to be held in Palmerston North later in September were named: -

## WOMEN

Janice Trevathan  
Sally Stantiall  
Kaye Elliott  
Sherryl Curtis  
Gael Win  
Jill Shirkey  
Mickayla Kerr

## MEN

Kashif Shuja  
Rod Bannister  
Jason Fletcher  
Ant Rountree  
Mark Gunning  
Peter Souness

Team Manager Mike Jack  
Congratulations to those selected and best of luck!



# Interclub District Playoffs

The District Interclub Playoffs were again held in Hawera on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August, again no sight of that mountain.... The results were as follows.

**Ladies:** Kawarua Park Divas beat the Rangitikei ladies by 36 points. The matches went to 2 all and it came down to the last matchup. Great games played by all.

**Men's Div. 1** Okato Defenders beat Wanganui #1 by 3 matches to 1. These matches were very entertaining and most were very close.

**Men's Div. 2** Kawarua Park Devils won this division by default, as the MWR zone winners were unable to get a team together at such short notice.

**Men's Div. 3** River City #2 beat the Patea guys 3 matches to 1. Even though the score doesn't say it, there were some great matchups.

A special thanks to Adele Peters for opening up and being bar and food lady for the morning and Mike Cresswell in the afternoon. Again great hospitality from the Hawera club.



# Top Central Juniors Abroad

## NZ World Junior Boys Championships – Namibia 10 – 21 August

Squash Central's Luke Jones represented New Zealand in the World Junior Squash Championships individuals and teams events held at Windhoek, Namibia during August.

The Kiwi boys all got knocked out of the individual event before finals day, however some matches were very close and they all had valuable experience against world class players, preparing them for the teams event.

The teams event saw the New Zealand team seeded 18th, which put them in a tough pool with the 6th and 7th ranked teams, so they finished 3rd in their pool, meaning they had to play off for 13th - 24th position. The first game was against host team Namibia, winning convincingly 3-0. They moved on to play Kuwait, a poor team performance resulted in a 2-1 loss. Next up the Kiwis faced Zimbabwe, this match was dominated by NZ, winning 3-0. Their final game was to be played against South Africa for 17th -18th position. NZ got off to a slow start with our no.1 player going down 3-1. Luke played next in a 119 minute match winning 13 -11 in the 5th. Tied at one match each, it was a nail biting deciding game. While after being down 2-0, NZ pulled back to 2 all, however unable to seal the deal, losing 12-10 in a grueling 5 seater, to be placed 18th.

Luke gained incredible experience and is back home, looking forward to the Under 23 Championships and Junior Nationals in October to finish off a very eventful season.



## Central Junior Representatives at the Trans Tasman Secondary Schools

Three rising central junior players, Courtney Trail, Gina Bailey and Corbin Faint represented New Zealand at the Trans Tasman Secondary Schools Series, held at the Acacia Ridge Squash Centre in Brisbane from 18-22 August.



Courtney, Gina and Corbin won all 10 of their games over the week and help bring home the two trophies. The New Zealand vs Australia final on the 22 August New Zealand won 53-26.

The trio secured their place on the New Zealand Team following their performance at the New Zealand Secondary Schools competition held in Nelson from the 8-10 August, where many central junior players participated. Final placing for our district schools were: Palmerston North Girls High 2<sup>nd</sup>, Palmerston North Boys High 4<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, New Plymouth Boys High 12<sup>th</sup>, Ruapehu 13<sup>th</sup> (girls) & 18<sup>th</sup> (boys), Hawera High School 26<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to SquashGym Palmerston North hosting New Zealand Secondary School event for the next three years.

# Inspire Players Series Update

Through 3 rounds of the 2014 Inspire.Net Players Series and it is a race between the Wanganui based team Doyles and Palmy's More FM sponsored sides. The series picked up this year by regional web services company and long time squash sponsor James Watts, sees the regions top 18 players in 3 man sponsored teams competing for over \$3000 in prize money. The competition takes a break with other player commitments and Uni holidays. The last 2 rounds and Final will be contested at the SquashGym Club on the 10th and 17th, with Finals on Thursday the 25th September.

Points Update: Doyle & Associates 28 / More FM 25 / Inspire Net 18 / Higgins Contractors 21 / MacDougalls 21 / GSA Design 15.



# Upcoming District Events



# SAVE THESE DATES!



# Prince Series Results

## 2014 Junior Prince Series Final Results

The Junior Prince Series Final took place at Wanganui Squash Club on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July with some very keen juniors taking part. There was some promising squash on display and all round great attitudes by the kids. Over 140 kids took part in the series for 2014, which has to be a promising sign for our sport heading into the future. Once all the points were added up it came down to a 2-point difference between first placed Sameed Khan over second placed Elish Oliver.

### The top 8 boys

1. Sameed Khan (Overall winner on 158 points)
2. Matthew Adshead
3. George Mikklesen
4. Tom Bowie
5. Nico Cowley
6. Harris Sweeney
7. Seamus Walsh
8. Josh Brownrigg

### Top 8 Girls

1. Elish Oliver (also second overall on 156 points)
2. Genevieve Bell
3. Molly Stantiall
4. Kate Burnell
5. Abbie Tankersley
6. Stella Stantiall
7. Jenna Bowie
8. Sophie Bell



### The 5 winners of the Squash Central Coaching Scholarships were

1. Stella Stantiall
2. George Mikklesen
3. Maliek Mullins
4. Thornton Ropiha
5. Tait Whale



*Pictured above winners Sameed and Elish*

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## 2014 Senior Prince Series Final Results

SquashGyms Ballie Construction Ltd B grade and below tournament wound up the final of the 2014 Prince Players series. The top 3 positions were undecided right through to the last round of games with eventual winner Shanan Whitlock from Wanganui taking out 1st and the \$500 cash prize. Shanan and fellow Wanganui friends Aaron Wales who placed 2nd and James van Kerkoff 3rd followed the Prince series playing at 6 of the 9 Prince tournaments throughout the district.

Whitlock secured his series win with 2 solid match wins in the weekend, which meant either Van Kerkoff, or Wales would need to win their divisions to take the lead. Wales lost his first match and van Kerkoff lost his last 2 giving Whitlock the win. Wales had a great battle to 5 against SquashGym Manager Clint Dunstan with Wales eventually taking the win over Dunstan and second place in the series over van Kerkoff.

**The top 8 placing receive cash prizes. (From \$1800 prize pool)**

1. Shanan Whitlock 50 pts
2. Aaron Wales 48 pts
3. James van Kerkoff 47 pts
4. Daniel Brosnan 35 pts
5. Annalese Sharrock 33 pts
6. Matthew Ratcliffe 26 pts
7. Pauline Slovak 24 pts
8. Maria Needham 23 pts

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*Pictured above from left are Shanan, Aaron, James, Daniel, Pauline and Matthew, absent are Annalese Sharrock and Maria Needham.*

# Barnett and Fourie make New Zealand squad for Worlds

The Squash New Zealand senior selectors have named a five-woman squad for the World Women's Team Championships in Canada in December.

The squad is notable not only for the injury-enforced absence of Joelle King - a regular fixture in the senior women's team since first being selected last time the Women's World Team Champs were held in Canada, in 2006 - but also for the call-ups given to young Palmerston North-based players Danielle Fourie and Rebecca Barnett.

Fourie and Barnett are clearly the next cabs off the rank, having finished fifth and sixth respectively at the Senior Nationals in late August. The duo are close friends, having represented SquashGym Palmerston North and the Central senior representative team together over the past two years. They are also ex-New Zealand Junior teammates, having travelled to the World Junior Championships in Boston together in 2011 (Barnett also travelled to the 2013 World Junior Championships in Wroclaw, Poland). The two have performed strongly this season, and High Performance Coach and convenor of selectors Paul Hornsby said: "It makes sense to offer the opportunity to Rebecca and Danielle. They are clearly the next best players on the domestic circuit at the moment, and as selectors we hope that they grab this chance with both hands".

The final team of four will be announced in October



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