



Newsletter

Issue 17

Watts to take on World in Tauranga

Congratulations to Kaitlyn Watts of SquashGym Palmerston North on her selection to the Junior Worlds Team. Squash New Zealand announced the team of 4 Junior Women to represent New Zealand at the World Junior Championships Individuals and Teams event in Tauranga in July, as well as the 4 Junior Women and 6 Junior Men who will compete in the World Junior Championships Individuals.

The New Zealand Junior Women's Team is Kaitlyn Watts, Anna Hughes, Anika Jackson and Camden Te Kani-McQueen. The reserve for the team is Nadia Hubbard, who will also compete in the Individual event, along with Rhiarne Taiapa who is sixth player for the World Junior Women's Individual event. The Junior Men competing in the Individual event are Finn Trimble, Matthew Lucente, Gabe Yam, Lwamba Chileshe, Mitchell Kempton and Quinn Udy. Kaitlyn Watts has claimed numerous titles throughout her squash career and in 2017 she has already claimed the Under 19 Oceania Junior Championships title as well as the Aon New Zealand Junior Open title. Watts competed in the World Junior Championships Individual event in Eindhoven in 2015 where she made her way to the quarterfinals of the Special Plate. Watts will look to improve on her performance in 2017.



We wish Kaitlyn all the best and will follow her games with much excitement!

2017 Junior Prince Update



The 2017 Junior Prince Series is in its 8th week. The series this year is bigger than ever with 16 rounds in 16 different clubs around the district. It kicked off in Kawaroa Park, New Plymouth on 9th April and wraps up at Whanganui Squash club on 6th August. The top 20 places on the leader board are fiercely competed for with only a few points in it. Whanganui's Blake Hoskin has taken a 5-point lead over Taihape's Kory O'hara who is on 48 pts. The top of the leader board has two lots of siblings with Maximus Mathews in 3rd followed by Maddison O'hara 4th and Connor Hoskin 5th. Next in the series to host is Inglewood followed by Tararua and Ohakune. Best of luck and have fun to all those 90 odd players participating.

Central Open and Super Champs

Two of the main events in this year's calendar are coming up fast. Are you ready? The **Central Open** hits the courts on June 23 -24th. Last year this event was won by Squashgym's Jason van der Walt and Kaitlyn Watts.

Super Champs is the team event of the year! It's a chance for anyone of any grade to be a national champion. The friendships forged as the team battles it out against fellow clubs are often life long. Gather the best in your grade and start your training sessions now. The grading list eligibility for Super Champs is 15th June this year and the District competition is on 11th – 13th August.

If you are transferring club lists be sure to have your request through iSquash by the 13th of June.

SQUASHGYM
Central Open

23-24TH JUNE
ENTRY FEE: \$40
J GRADE: 20
ENTRIES CLOSE: 17TH JUNE
ENTRIES TO:
ADMIN@SQUASHGYM.CO.NZ
SATURDAY NIGHT ENTERTAINMENT

www.squashgym.co.nz - 063576022 ext - 22 Linton Street PN

SQUASHGYM SQUASH DUNLOP



Central Juniors at Oceania's and NZ Junior Open

Over the last 2 weeks, several of our Central District Juniors have been competing at 2 very prestigious tournaments on the Junior Calendar – the “Oceania Junior Championships” in Henderson, and then the “NZ Junior Open” in Cambridge. Both these tournaments also doubled as selection tournaments for both the NZ and Australian teams to attend the World Juniors in Tauranga in July – so all the top players from Australasia were attending

In the first tournament – the “Oceania Junior”, we had 6 of our juniors competing – Anabel Romero-Gemmell (SquashGym) in the U11 Girls, Reece Holmes (Hawera) in the U11 boys, Abbie Holmes (Hawera) in the U15 Girls, Annaleise Faint (SquashGym) in the U17 Girls, and Courtney Trail and Kaitlyn Watts (both SquashGym) playing in the U19 Girls. Anabel was playing in her first big international tournament, and impressed everyone with her attitude and ability to handle the pressure. She beat Kaianne Henare from NZ 3/0 in the first round, and then beat Paloma Sze from Hong Kong 3/0 in the Semis. She then put up a huge fight against current NZ champion and 1st seed Maia Smales in the final - losing in 3 tight games. Runner Up in the Oceania's is a pretty good start to the year – well done Anabel. Abbie Holmes had a tough task ahead of her in the U15 girls draw. She played well but lost her first 2 games against Kurstyn Mather (Auz) and Tahlia Ashford (NZ), but saved her best for last, beating Grace Condor (NZ) 11/7, 8/11, 11/7, 12/10 – fantastic finish and was a sign of things to come in the NZJO the following week. Annaleise was seeded 6th in the U17 Girls and won her first round 3/0 vs Leah Hodges. She then played 3rd seeded Jade Woods from Australia, dominating the game and not giving Jade a chance to get into the game, beating her 3/0. She then played 2nd Seed Amara Afgan from NZ, and again played way above her grade taking the match to Amara. Annaleise had times where she was completely dominant, but Amara showed why she was 2nd seed, and used her experience to dig in and finally win in 5. It was a tough loss for Annaleise, but also fantastic to see how much she has improved to be very competitive with these higher seeded players. Annaleise lost her playoff game to Ruby Turnbull 3/1 to finish 4th – great result and sign of things to come.

Courtney and Kaitlyn were playing in the U19 division, and both fighting for selection in the Junior Worlds team, and this was the first of 3 selection tournaments so all the girls were looking for some solid results. Kaitlyn was seeded 1st, and went through the tournament showing real confidence and purpose, winning her first 3 matches against Jess Graham from Australia, and then Junior Squad teammates Winona-Jo Joyce and Nadia Hubbard all 3/0. This put her in the final against the Aussie No1, Alex Haydon. Kaitlyn again showed her ability and maturity to deal with the big games, beating Alex 3/0 and taking the U19 Oceania Title! Well done Kaitlyn, and a great start to the selection events. Unfortunately, due to medical reasons Courtney had to withdraw from the tournament.

Next was the NZ Junior Open in Cambridge – this time we added more boys to the group, with Matt Adshead, Connor Fortuin and George Mikkelsen (all SquashGym), along with Genevieve Bell (SquashGym) and Brooke Reid (Hawera) all travelling to Cambridge, joining Reece, Abbie, Courtney, Annaleise and Kaitlyn. Reece was seeded 2nd in Div 7, and showed he deserved this seeding beating Hayden Collier and Mikaore Joyce to make the final. The final was against top seed Luca Carter. Reece fought hard right to the end, finally winning the title 11/13, 11/8, 11/2, 1/11, 11/2 – well done Reece. Connor was seeded 3rd in div 5, but showed how much he had improved playing very confident squash to beat the 2nd seed to make the final. He played well in the final, again showing his new-found confidence to take the game to Liam Batts, but was unable to win this time – but the way he is playing it will not be far away – well done Connor on 2nd place. Matt was seeded 2nd in div 4, and fought his way to the final without losing a game. Matt has put a lot of work in the off season, and this showed in the final with his ability to dig in when the going got tough, making the rallies long and was very patient to grind out a win in 4 tough games – well done Matt on your first big win of the season.

Abbie Holmes was seeded 2nd in Div 4, and followed from her great finish at the Oceanias beating Saara Joukani from India 3/0. She followed that up with an epic semifinal game against Chelsea Trail, finally winning 13/11, 11/5, 9/11, 4/11, 11/9. She then played top seed Hannah Dunbar in the final, but she was now on a role, and showed real confidence to win her title 11/8, 11/4, 8/11, 13/11 – awesome work Abbie, two champions in one family – well done team Hawera!

Brooke Reid was the 3rd part of Team Hawera, and got off to a great start beating Elise Eaton 3/0. She then unfortunately injured herself in the next game and was unable to continue. We all wish you well on your recovery, and she became the No 1 supporter for many of our CD players – well done Brooke. George was seeded 13th in Div 3, and found it tough against 4th seed Johnathon Beazley in the first round. He lost 3 close games but went on to beat 12th seeded Caleb Davey in 5 the next day. He then played outstanding squash against 8th seeded Nathaniel Adams, with the game see sawing between them both, with George finally losing 13/11 in the 5th. Well done George, you played some fantastic squash and will only improve with the experience. Genevieve was also seeded 6th in Girls Div 2. She started well beating the 3rd seed Lily Rae 3/0, then had a huge battle with the 2nd seed Aleisha Coombes, finally winning 10/12, 10/12, 12/10, 11/8, 11/3. This was a fantastic result, and although she lost the final to top seed Anna Moselen 3/0, she should be very proud of her efforts, and going from 6th seed to runner up was a fantastic result – well done Genevieve.

Central Juniors at Oceania's and NZ Junior Open cont...



Pictured Reece Holmes

This brings us to the Girls Open Division where we had Annaleise (seeded 19th), Courtney (seeded 6th) and Kaitlyn (seeded 1st) all playing. Kaitlyn and Courtney won their 1st round 3/0, but the game of the day went to Annaleise who played 14th seed Shehana Vithana from Ausi. Shehana is fighting to make the Ausi Junior Worlds team, and had finished 9th in the Oceanias. Annaleise took no notice of that beating Shehana 3/1, and moving her into the top 16. She then took on in form NZ player Anika Jackson losing in 3, but the next day played 11th seeded Annmarie Holst. She again showed the huge effort she has put in during the off-season again winning in 4. She was not able to continue her giant killing ways, but finishing in the top 12 at the NZJO when you are only 15 is pretty good – well-done Annaleise. Courtney moved through to the top 8 beating Annmarie Holst 3/0, but was unable to move past Anika Jackson. Courtney played very well in parts, but Anika was just too consistent, finally losing 11/6, 11/5, and 12/10. She then played World Juniors teammate Rhiarne Taiapa. Courtney

started very well and showed how good she is taking a 2/0 lead 11/5, 11/6. Rhiarne is known for never giving up and she dug deep to take the next 3 games, taking the match 3/2. Courtney will come back stronger from this, and I know we will see some great results in Rotorua in 2 weeks' time – the last selection event.

This leaves Kaitlyn who was coming off a win in the Oceanias. She got through the first day beating 2 Aussie girls 3/0. This bought her up against Camden Te Kani-McQueen in the qtr. final. She lost the first game 11/7, but then came back strong, staying calm to beat Camden in the next 3 games - 11/4, 11/4, and 11/8. That same day she played the semi vs Ellie Jones from England which she won 3/0, setting up a final with 2nd seed Anna Hughes. Anna had flown back from the US where she is on a squash scholarship at Drexel University, and was determined to go back with the title. Kaitlyn was just as determined to take the title after coming runner up last year. Kaitlyn again showed her professionalism and experience at this level beating Anna 3/0 – and taking her 2nd major title in 2 weeks. Congratulations Kaitlyn, the hard work you have put in over the years is really starting to pay off.

In between the two tournaments NZ played a 2 day test match vs Ausi, and we had both Courtney and Kaitlyn representing NZ in the U19 girls. Both girls played very well winning both their matches, and helping NZ keep the Trans-Tasman trophy 26 games to 10 – well done girls.

Well done to all the Central District players – you are awesome representatives for your clubs and a credit to your families, you are great role models for the younger players coming up – well done to you all.

Summary of results:

Oceania's:

U11 – Reece Holmes – Runner Up

U11 – Anabel Romero-Gemmell – Runner Up

U15 – Abbie Holmes – 25th

U17 – Annaleise Faint – 4th Place

U19 – Kaitlyn Watts – WINNER

NZ Junior Open

Boys Div 7 – Reece Holmes - WINNER

Boys Div 5 – Connor Fortuin – Runner Up

Boys Div 4 – Matt Adshead – WINNER

Boys Div 3 – George Mikkelsen – 11/12th

Girls Div 4 – Abbie Holmes – WINNER

Girls Div 3 – Brooke Reid - injured

Girls Div 2 – Genevieve Bell – Runner Up

Girls Open – Annaleise Faint – 11/12th

Girls Open – Courtney Trail – 7/8th

Girls Open – Kaitlyn Watts - WINNER



Pictured Anabel Romero-Gemmell

World Masters Games

World Masters Games 2017 in Auckland – what an amazing experience. It started with going to games headquarters at The Cloud on Queens Wharf to get our accreditation on the Friday afternoon. We thought with over 28,000 athletes we would set aside at least an hour – 5 minutes later we were done!

At the Opening Ceremony that night we sat in groups of our sports. Squash had a relatively small group of just over 400 competitors. At this we caught up with many old friends who we would reacquaint with during the coming 10 days. Auckland put on a great light show and some good old New Zealand music (what's a party without singing along to '10 guitars' right?). The next day play started at the North Shore Squash Club. There were many fierce battles during the following days all played with good sportsmanship, the individuals concluded on Thursday morning. I was fortunate enough to have 4 matches in the individuals and played ladies from Japan, Australia, Canada and the United States.

Squash Central was well represented and the final results were:

Kashif Shuja (SPN) – Gold 35+ men's Open

Joy Koolen (SPN) – Silver – 45+ women's rec

Iveta Arthur (SPN) – Bronze – 50+ men's rec

Di Tasker (Rang/SPN) – Classic Plate winner – women's 50+ Open

Sherryl Curtis (SPN) – Consolation Plate winner – women's 55+ Open

Sarina Budge (Ohakune) – Special Plate runner-up – women's 55+ Open

Tina Steedman (Ohakune) – Special Plate runner-up – women's 45+ Open

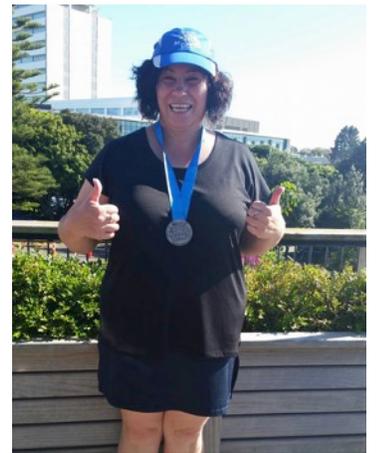
Nick Ang (SPN) – Consolation Plate winner – men's 60+ rec

The teams event was hotly contested, but not by Squash Central. Their team of players from Rangitikei and Manawatu – team Rangiman was very social.

The games concluded with more medal ceremonies and everyone agreeing that WMG2017 squash passed their expectations.

Bring on WMG2021 in Japan!!

Submitted by Di Tasker



Pictured Joy Koolen looking chuffed.

Referees critical to the game



Referees are an integral part of our sport and anyone can become a squash referee. By doing so you'll develop observation, leadership, confidence and communication skills to be able to manage a squash game.

Our District and New Zealand need more referees. If you are interested in becoming a referee the full process and different levels are listed on the Squash NZ website here <http://www.squashnz.co.nz/referee/pathway.cfm>

If interested please contact the district on admin@squashcentral.co.nz Central are happy to support anyone who wishes to become a District Referee and higher that resides within the district. We recommend all players take the Club Referee course to give them confidence when marking and refereeing games at the club level.

Club Rules Nights Available!

If your club is interesting in holding a rules night? Contact admin@squashcentral.co.nz for more information.

Central Junior Age Groups 2017

On the weekend of 19th - 20th May at Levin Squash Club juniors from around the district competed for the Central Junior Age Group Titles. The sought after U19 titles were taken out by Kobe Fleming and Annalise Faint. Full results were:

BOYS

U11 Boys- Reece Holmes,
Theo Gannon R/UP

13 Boys – Daniel Mabey
Reece Holmes R/UP

U15 Boys – Connor Fortuin
Sam Fletcher R/UP

U17 Boys – Matthew Adshead
George Mikkelsen R/UP

U19 Boys – Kobe Fleming
Richard Bell R/UP

GIRLS

U13/15 Girls – Abbie
Holmes
Anabel Romero-Gemmell
R/UP

U17 Girls – Rebekah Turner
Abbie Tankersley R/UP

U19 Girls – Annalise Faint
Tia Pauro R/UP



Doubles Titles for 2017 decided

Feilding Squash Club were fantastic hosts of the Central Doubles which was a fun and casual affair held 24 - 25th March with some great food and tight doubles matches. The 2017 Doubles Titles went to Mixed - Min Bristol and Loni Martin (*pictured*). In their first go at doubles took the title proving that couples can work well on court. Womens - Sarah Ratcliffe and Pauline Slovak. The Wanganui pair had to work hard in the final going to 5 against SquashGyms Denise Ramsay and Jackie Taylor Mens - Jason Burton-Brown and Croydon Rutherford. This well practiced pair proved their second seeding meant nothing taking the win with ease. Mens Division 2 was taken out by Troy Ramsay and Phil Harris Mixed Division 2 was won by Troy and Denise Ramsay



Doubles has seen an increase in popularity around many clubs in the district. If you haven't already give it a go some time soon. Because of the way doubles draws work with many players playing 2 divisions this is a great District event for the smaller clubs to host. Two courts or more required. Laughs guarenteed.



Elite Squad Manager needed

Squash Central is currently seeking an Elite Squad Manager. You will work closely with the central coaches to manage our Elite Squad of 14 top players. This position involves travelling with the team to Representative events. The role is a voluntary one but the association will cover expenses.

Some duties of the position are:

1. Encourage and grow player grading's
2. Establish senior team selection and management
3. Provide coaching guidelines for players and coaches
4. Appoint as required team selection and management panels
5. Manage senior teams representing the district.
6. Coordinate with District administrator to ensure all teams requirements are meet.

Responsibility: Rep Teams, District Coaches.

If you are interested in filling this position contact the Administrator – Pauline Slovak on 021 0224 9003 or admin@squashcentral.co.nz

Central Vs. Waikato Rep Challenge

On Sunday 2nd April the CD Seniors took on the Waikato Seniors in Ohakune. It is normally played with 6 men and 6 ladies, but due to Waikato not been able to field 6 ladies, we played the event with 6 men and 4 ladies, with each player playing 2 games. It was a bit disappointing that many of our senior players made themselves unavailable for various reasons, and on paper we looked well and truly outclassed, with many of the men's games in particular having to take on players at least 400 points ahead of them.



Despite some major mismatches, the CD men played way above their grades. Dylan Budge started us off well taking on Alex Oakley (who was ranked 635 points ahead of Dylan). Dylan played fantastic squash to take a game off Alex, finally going down in 4, but setting the scene for the CD team in that we were not going to take any notice of the grading's. It carried on with Jordan Bell taking on Will Hurst (+365 points), and although Jordan lost in 3, the match took almost 40 minutes with all 3 games going long – another amazing performance. Whilst the men were battling along, the girls were gaining the team some valuable points with Di tasker winning 3/2 vs Jaimee Hunt, Gina Bailey beating Paige Browne 3/1, and Kaitlyn Watts beating Amber Helm 3/0. The last game of the morning session saw Richard Bell taking on Fergus McKinnon (+175 points). Richard made sure the boys did not go winless in the morning session with a hard fought win 3/2 against Fergus. The morning session finished with Waikato up 6-4.

The afternoon session again started with Dylan Budge taking on Ben Calvert. Ben is ranked 675 points ahead of Dylan, but Dylan again showed the improvement he is making fighting hard, and forcing Ben to play some amazing squash in the final few games, with Ben finally winning in 5 – another fantastic start to the afternoon session by Dylan – and very unlucky not to win. Brandon Keenan continued the theme, taking a game off NZ representative Max Trimble losing 3/1. Annaleise Faint kept the score board ticking over for the CD team, beating Amber Helm 3/0 – a very good win for Annaleise against a very good B1 player. Jordan Bell then showed the improvement he has been making over the past few weeks taking on Fergus McKinnon, and dominating the game beating Fergus 3/0. Allan Bailey then followed in the theme of playing way above your grade to take a game off Alex Oakley, and should have had a second, fighting hard but finally going down in 4 – well done Allan. This set the scene for the two number 1's - Corbin Faint vs Tyler Ranger. Tyler is ranked 250 points ahead of Corbin, but once again Corbin took no notice of the points, took the game to Tyler and made him fight for every point. At one stage Tyler needed an injury break - this is often the time the person dominating loses concentration, but Corbin kept his focus finally wearing Tyler down and winning an epic match 3/2. With this win we found ourselves down 10 matches to 7, with Kaitlyn, Gina and Richard to play. Gina took on Jaimee Hunt and dominated to win 3/0 – 10/8. Kaitlyn then played the number 1 from Waikato - Nadine Cull. Nadine is a bit of legend in the sport and reminded us that she has been in A grade longer than Kaitlyn had been alive! Nadine played well, but Kaitlyn was just too fast and accurate beating Nadine 3/0 – leaving the tie at 10-9 to Waikato with only Richard to play. Richard was up against in form Will Hurst, and Will is ranked 345 points ahead of Richard. Richard fought hard, but Will knew what was at stake, and showed why he is graded higher, moving Richard around and finishing many rallies with fantastic drops or drives, beating Richard 3/0. Waikato took the tie 11 matches to 9.

This was an amazing day for the CD team with all players playing way above their grades to produce an amazingly close result. It's never nice to lose, but I was very proud to have been a part of what is a very young team (including Di who is young at heart), and the effort they put out on the court today – it was a pleasure and privilege to be a part of it – well done CD.

2017 District Events

The dates and venues have been selected for 2017. District events are as follows:

Event	Location	Date
Central Doubles	Feilding Squash Club	24 – 25 th March
Central Juniors	Levin Squash Club	19 – 21 st May
PSA North Island Senior Championships	SquashGym Palmerston North	8 – 11 th June
Central Open	SquashGym Palmerston North	23 – 25 th June
District Super Champs	B Grade - Rivercity, C Grade - Kawarua Park, D Grade - Squashgym, E Grade - Ohakune and F Grade - Taihape.	11 – 13 August
Central Masters	Dannevirke Squash Club	25 – 27 August
Club Champs Week	All Clubs	28 Aug – 2 September
District Champion of Champions	Inglewood Squash Club	22 – 24 September

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Committee

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