



THE PREZ SEZ

By Lou Morsch

2024 VMSA COMMITTEE

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Three months into another year and time ticks by so quickly it seems. Summer is over and our first tournament in Bairnsdale is done and

and dusted. Autumn Pennant season is well under way as well with the competition again adopting the East and West model. The number of teams competing seems to have stabilised and the new format seems to have been met with approval. However, we are still looking for greater participation to improve the strength of the competition in general.

A major tournament change to note is the Masters/Juniors tournament which will be conducted for the first time on just one day. It is now on Saturday the 25th May only. The change to a single day event is the result of a review of the tournament itself and how we can best suit the needs of participants. We hope to attract more juniors who only have to commit to a single day event. The same great awards and sponsorships will be offered as usual by all of our great sponsors. The entry form is available right now so enter early to avoid disappointment. Please also take note of my new mobile phone number should you need to contact me for any reason. It's 0448 117231.

Keep squashing, encourage others to play and promote Masters squash. It's a great social activity and a great way to make new friends.

Your Prez

TOURNAMENT BADGES



Elena Morano
50+ Tournaments



Michael Walker
25+ Tournament

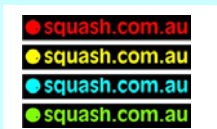
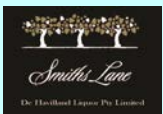
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[A note from Sue Moses regarding her experiences at VMSA tournaments](#)

It's a few years since I've played in a masters squash tournament and nothing has changed (maybe a few more grey hairs, and scars that suggest a knee replacement here and there). A few new faces and a few missing that are sadly missed. It was like coming home – these are my people, where there is no judgement because we are all here for one reason. To have fun, on the court, on the dance floor, having a meal and a bevy, having a chat, laughing, crying and sharing.

Thanks Bairnsdale for a great location with beyond friendly volunteers and great food at the courts that was priced to barely cover the cost of the wrapping. So what a great weekend. My squash hasn't improved but the experience was better than ever. I can only feel sorry for anyone who hasn't experienced the comradery of VMSA.



UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS 2024

Vic Champs - Dromana	Apr 12-14
Masters Juniors – Westerfolds	May 25
Corio Individual	July 19-21
Aust Champs – Canberra	Sept 2-13
Squash.com.au Ballarat	Nov 22-24



Leaving Melbourne and heading to Bairnsdale is always my ultimate road trip, with my car packed, tournament organised, players and partners on their way to have a great weekend, we certainly did that part well. A new addition to our tournament style was the introduction on the Masters/ Juniors format but on this occasion, there were only master's players. Players

embraced the format well by all accounts given.

We really had a fantastic night at the Wy Yung Pub which is under new owners plus a renovation and with great food, what else can we ask for.

There were some fantastic matches played and so many competitive matches, but courts never ran over time at this tournament because it was a timed format and if you read my previous correspondence you would know that this tournament is played with 2 players per team each playing 20 min including warm up and played over 1 hour time slots with 5 min warm up and 15 min play open scoring, then the 3rd part 20 min is the doubles component totalling 1 hour. We had six divisions, two person teams and five teams per section, it was a struggle to get people there on time to start but that sorted itself out as the weekend went on.

A special mention to the Carl Freshwater and his team for trying to find fill-ins to get us balanced again and to Peter Bassett who was on his phone calling everyone, so thanks for that effort. Finally, thanks to Mark Ascoli for manning the whistle and handing out eye-ware for the whole weekend. It was a fabulous effort by Mark.

As I mentioned, our Dinner Dance ended up at the Wy Yung Pub, generally I don't really have any comments about the food because it is what it is, but what the pub achieved was surprisingly fabulous. People made many comments to me about that so I guess we will have to head back there again. Huge thanks to Gillick's Bus Lines for their support and getting us to and from the pub. We appreciate the support. The Jimmy's (Band), let me say James (lead singer) you really put on a special treat for us, the dance floor was flat chat all night which reflects on great music being played. I think we wore James out, but he hung in there - a fantastic effort James.

I had the honour of handing out two tournament badges in Bairnsdale. A huge congratulations to those people, well deserved indeed.

Elena Moreno 50+ Tournament Badge

Michael Walker 25+ Tournament Badge

To our new players (VMSA Virgins) Paul Jonkers, Jeff Stewart, Andrew Meridith (who finally has turned 35), thank you for being a part of the tournament I hope you all had a great time. Please try to play other tournaments outside your local area as building great tournaments is a healthy environment for all.

Thanks to all the people who travelled from everywhere to attend the tournament, for example Garry Irwin (NSW), Jeff Stewart (Swan Hill).

To Carl and his committee, I want to thank you for the endless support and commitment you gave the VMSA you all did a fantastic job to make our experience memorable to say the least. A special thanks to Mark Edgley who donated a racquet for the raffle. Thanks Mark, that was very kind indeed. Thanks to Carl for organising the Gin Tasting and the gin bottles used for trophies, the vouchers for the hot springs and of course your newly arrived stubby holders - fantastic products.

To everyone who attended the tournament a big thank you, and thanks to the raffle girls for giving their time to sell the tickets. Thanks to Ally and Gary for building the raffle prizes which looked fantastic.

As always thanks to Pam, Helen for your support behind the desk everyone has found a place which is great. Thanks to Michelle for all the work she does collecting payments and organising everyone for the bus and dinner table settings.

Thanks for supporting Masters Squash see you at Dromana 12-14 April 2024.

My Pleasure Darren O'Neill.

BAIRNSDALE PRESENTATIONS



Presentations - VMSA BAIRNSDALE TEAMS EVENT 2024

Event	Award	Awarded to
(1) SECTION 1	Winner	ANTHONY MORRIS Bairnsdale MARK EDGLEY MSAC
	Runner up	GARRY IRWIN Bairnsdale CARL FRESHWATER NSW
(2) SECTION 2	Winner	ANDREW CURWOOD Ballarat ROGER CHILD Squash Melb
	Runner up	MICHAEL WALKER Corio JANINE EEDY Mulgrave
(3) SECTION 3	Winner	DAVID SHAY Werribee JIM HOWARD Westerfolds
	Runner up	STEPEHEN SPEHAR Bairnsdale PETER BASSETT Maffra
(4) SECTION 4	Winner	CLEM VINEY Squash Logic ROD WILSON Rod's Toys
	Runner up	DAN KORN Fitzpatricks ALLISON DOUGLAS MCC
(5) SECTION 5	Winner	JACKIE BANNON Nurse Jackie LYNETTE WOODYARD Squash Logic
	Runner up	GEOFF MORLEY Sale PAUL FROST Ballarat
(6) SECTION 6	Winner	VIC STAFFORD Brighton ELENA MORENO Squash Logic
	Runner Up	KAREN THOMPSON HELEN LOCOCO Squash Logic

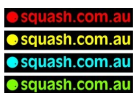
SALMING.
no nonsense.

 squash.com.au



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BAIRNSDALE DINNER DANCE



COURT ACTION





A BLAST FROM THE PAST

There are many familiar faces amount these articles from 2012 Bairnsdale local paper. (Above and left).

Some photos which may appear in 2024's edition. (Below)



Benalla's Courts 4 Sports Project Update

As many of you know, the squash community has been pushing for 14 years to get more squash courts built in Benalla. Many of you wonderful people have helped along the way and been interested in how Courts 4 Sports has been progressing.

Beginning in 2010 the Benalla Squash & Racquetball Association was formed to get more courts built in Benalla. Soon after we got community support and support from the wider squash community and the local council was also in support. Within a few years the community and Benalla Rural City Council had decided that the best site for these courts would be at the Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre (BIRC) as a part of it's redevelopment. Redevelopment of BIRC with squash courts built in it was written in to the Benalla Rural City Council's "Recreation Strategic Plan, 2015". Same was also written in to the Council's "Council Plan 2017-2021" and again in the "Council Plan 2021-2025".

In 2017 Council allocated \$10,000 to progress the project and the "Benalla Rural City, Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre Master Plan" was published in 2019, which had concept plans and costings for the redevelopment that included 6 squash courts.

In 2022 the Labour Government pledged \$15 million towards the BIRC redevelopment project which included our 6 new squash courts.

So all was set to go; the support was there, the plans were there, the money was provided.

Recently the Benalla Rural City Council not only announced that the BIRC may not be the site of the redevelopment, but the new Indoor Sporting Stadium that the \$15 million will be used to build may not necessarily have squash courts included in it at all. They say that community consultation now needs to be sought to decide what is included in the new Stadium.

Not surprisingly we are very annoyed and exceedingly frustrated that after all these years of effort and being promised 6 squash courts as a 'priority project' our Council now tell us that there is no assurance squash courts will even be built. We see this as a major backward step that we now have to canvass the Council to convince them squash courts need to be built, after all these years of being promised them.

Be that as it may, we cannot seem to get the Council to assure us of courts and figure that the best way to convince council to include them is by a good old fashioned petition.

So we appeal to you and all of the squash community to sign our petition to get our 6 squash courts built in Benalla.

Below you will find a QR code that will take you to our on-line petition.

Or you may prefer to use the following link: <https://www.change.org/Courts4Sports>



We would be delighted if you go to this site, but please ignore the inevitable advertising that comes along with it and just do the electronic sign in. Also feel free to pass on these details to anyone and everyone to help us in our cause by signing our petition. It is free, so once again, ignore the advertising and the 'opportunity' to make a donation etc. Your vote will count if you do nothing else than just sign it electronically. Please share it to others though.

The council will decide after the end of March what is going to be included in the new stadium, so please get on to this straight away as there is some urgency. Please hurry up and sign and share and pass on the word so we can get as many signatures as possible.

Thank you.

Benalla Squash & Racquetball Association and Benalla Squash Club



Vale Chris “Furry” Fuhrmeister

It is with huge regret that our friend Chris Fuhrmeister was taken from us on February 8th this year. He leaves behind his wife Dianne, three daughters Brooke, Erin and Hannah, five grandchildren and countless friends. You couldn't be his friend without admiring him. In fact, you couldn't even know him without some admiration for him. Ask anyone to describe him and invariably the word 'fun' would appear in the explanation.

Affectionately known as Furry, well known and respected and perhaps should have been known as the 'funmeister'. He brought people together, a delight to be around and created fun in a social setting for those fortunate enough to be in his company. As was one of his mottos, he could make something out of nothing; especially fun. He made normal things special. He was non-judgmental, accepted all and made them feel welcome. He liked music and dancing and who could forget his standard uniform of the bright and colourful Hawaiian-style shirts.

His early life was lived in the outer suburbs of Melbourne, later to have a cattle farm near Geelong. He didn't start playing squash until his early adult years in 1974 but it became his passion. A few years later he and Dianne got married. Moving to Lakes Entrance he bought the squash courts there in 1990. He ran the courts for 30 years and also took up racquetball somewhere along the way. He promoted these sports tirelessly over the years. He sold the courts in 2021 – the end of an era.

He ran the Lakes Classic tournament for almost 30 years and later created the 'Funament' tournament as a fundraiser for prostate cancer research. He assisted others in squash and racquetball wherever and whenever he could. He often managed to fill a minibus with participants for the Maffra tournament, most of them junior players. Don't know how many Hopman Cup teams he gathered together and competed in, but the highlight was his East Gippsland team winning Division 1, Hopman Cup in 2017.

He was a role model for many; on the court, behind the court and away from the court. He impacted and touched other people's lives and always in a positive way. He was influential. People wanted to know him, people wanted him to know them. They wanted people to know they knew him and that he knew them. He was a role model for many.

Some people like to say someone is 'larger than life', that is a bit cliché, Furry is a bit too humble for that. More to say he lived a normal life, but lived it large! He lived his life his way, and all around him liked the way he lived it and were happy to be a part of it.

Sadly he died at 68 years old, far too early for someone who had so much to give. He did not get to have a 'five setter', his match may have only gone to four, but he won and he played it well.

Our condolences go out to all his family on losing such a well regarded man. He is and will continue to be missed.





Victorian Masters CHAMPIONSHIPS

DROMANA 12th-14th APRIL 2024

CLOSING date: THURSDAY 4th APRIL 2024

Tonic Squash & Gym

50 Collins Road, Dromana, Vic 3936

(03) 5987 1766

*Tournament Director: Darren O'Neill 0418 362 909
tournaments@vmsa.com.au*



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● squash.com.au

NEXT TOURNAMENT:
JIM BRISTOW CUP - MASTERS JUNIOR
ONE DAY ONLY - 25TH MAY 2024

JIM BRISTOW CUP

Jim Bristow is a player with a long history of success in the squash industry, both as a player and as an administrator. His vision of Masters Players and Junior Players interacting with each other and having ongoing contact is the essence of the Jim Bristow Cup concept. Jim is proud to be associated with the Masters Juniors Championships and will play a role in presenting the Jim Bristow Cups.

HOW TO ENTER

You may already have your team of one masters player and one junior player all set to go. If this is the case, simply complete your details on the other side of this form with the Masters player in the Masters text box and the Junior player in the Junior text box. You can enter on the same form or you can enter on separate forms – please list your partner's name.

If you do not have a partner, we can find one, so simply complete your section of the entry form and tick the box for us to find you a partner.
Entry fees are \$35 for Masters players and \$25 for juniors.

T-SHIRTS

Event T-shirts will be supplied free of charge for Junior Entries and distributed at the tournament compliments of the VMSA. Please enter your size on the entry form.
Masters may purchase T-shirts for \$30.00

EVENT ORGANISERS – Victorian Masters Squash Association

EVENT DIRECTOR – Lou Morsch

PHONE: 0448 117 231 or Fax (03) 8614 7070

EMAIL: lou.morsch@gmail.com

SPONSORS: John & Anne Link - TS&L Neon - Phil Howe

Suggested accommodation:

Quest Apartments, 855 Doncaster Rd, Doncaster Ph 8848 1600

Crystal Brook Tourist Park, Doncaster East Ph 9844 3637

Download Entry Form at www.vmsasquash.com.au,



The **VMSA** and

**John &
Anne Link**

proudly co-present the



MASTERS JUNIORS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024

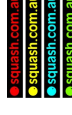
25th May 2024

A VMSA Event

Entries Close 16th May 2024

One Master Player and one Junior Player (U23)
compete as a team in singles and doubles for the

Jim Bristow Cup



VENUE:

Westerfolds Squash Club
Parker Street,
Templestowe 3106
Phone 03 9846 1222

Entry Forms/Payments/Queries

V.M.S.A – Lou Morsch

14 Erskine Crt,

Greenvale, Vic. 3059

Phone : 0448 117 231 Fax:03 8614 7070

E: lou.morsch@gmail.com

HOW TO ENTER

You can enter as an individual and we will find you a partner or if you already have a partner, enter as a team (you can use separate entry forms if you need to!).

MASTERS PLAYER

Name: _____

Your Junior Team Member is: _____

OR Please arrange a partner

Pennant Grade and Position you play: _____

Club you play with _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone (H) _____ (W) _____ (M) _____

JUNIOR PLAYER

Name: _____

Your Masters Team Member is: _____

OR Please arrange a partner

Pennant Grade and Position you play: _____

Club you play with _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone (H) _____ (M) _____ Date of Birth _____

T-shirt sizing - Adult sizing S M L XL 2XL 3XL 5XL

- Junior sizing 6 8 10 12

Visa Mastercard Direct Debit BSB 633000 A/c 1304222223

Description <your name>

Card Number: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Cardholder's name (print) : _____ Expiry Date ____/____/____

Payment Amount: \$ _____

Cardholder's signature _____

Entry fee: Masters \$35 Juniors \$25



RULES AND REGULATIONS

- 1/ Teams Will consist of one masters player and one junior player
- 2/ Juniors must be U23 as at 1/5/2024, Masters Men must be Over 35 and Women over 30
- 3/ Organisers will grade all players into suitable divisions once all entries have been received – please note that due to the nature of the event, numbers of entries accepted may be limited to a first come, first served basis – any players entering after maximum capacity has been reached will be notified as soon as possible.
- 4/ Players will compete in both singles and doubles with rounds being timed.
- 5/ Players can enter one team only and all players are guaranteed a minimum of three matches.
- 6/ Players will be required to referee where asked.
- 7/ ALL players, irrespective of age must wear approved protective eyewear for doubles and all junior players must wear protective eyewear for singles. Protective Eyewear will be available for use free of charge.
- 8/ The organiser's decisions are final and they also reserve the right to:
 - a) Refuse any entry and shall not be required to give any reason for such refusal
 - b) Regrade any player as necessary and disqualify any player not ready to begin his/her match punctually
 - c) Alter times of matches and reduce the number of events
- 9/ It is not possible to pay your entry fee on the day.
- 10/ No entries refunded within 7 days of the tournament commencing

JOHN &

ANNE LINK



DECLARATION: (To be signed by all competitors) in consideration of my entry, I, my heirs, executors and administrators release and forever discharge Inform Connection Pty Ltd, VMSA, local councils, it's servants, agents or subcontractors, instrumentalities, all voluntary community groups and organizations assisting with this event, all sponsors, producers, their agents and representatives of all liabilities, claims, damages or costs which I may have against them arising out of, or in any way connected with my participation in the event. I understand this waiver includes claims based on negligence, action, or inaction of any of the above parties. I recognise the difficulties of this event and declare that I am physically fit and able to complete in event safely, and have not been told otherwise by a medically qualified person. I consent to receive medical treatment which may be deemed advisable in the event of injury, accident or illness. I consent to my image being used on the Inform Connection or VMSA websites and all related circuit information. I have carefully read this entry form and agree to abide by all the rules and directions of all officials.

If under 18 years of age, form must be signed by parent/guardian
Parent/Guardian (signed) _____ (printed)

SIGNED (Player): _____ DATE: _____

SIGNED (Player): _____ DATE: _____

Please send complete page back to us via email or post – **don't forget to record the date of the event and the address if you choose to mail!!**