



THE MASTER'S VOICE

The Official Organ of the VMSA Inc.

Postal Address: PO Box 1023, Newport Vic 3015

Mail contributions to: The Secretary, VMSA

mrowles@vmsasquash.com.au



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THE PREZ SEZ By Lou Morsch



It's holiday season and how nice it is to put the feet up and relax. Jill and I celebrated New Year's with friends at the

"retreat" in Rye. Owned by Wali and Terry, it's a popular resort location for many of their squash mates or so it seems. They love visitors and their "stay as long as you like" policy is good reason to visit. However, on leaving Terry informed us the policy will change to "when are you leaving". Isn't that nice Jill!!

It doesn't seem that long ago I was expressing Christmas and New Year's wishes to our many members and friends. Hands up if you agree the past 12 months have just flown by! Well here I am again saying the same thing but it's 2013. Best wishes to all you folk for continued good health, happiness and enjoyment of squash. Especially to some of our good squash friends whose health has dogged them in 2012.

As usual we packed plenty into last year with trips to Bairnsdale, Bendigo, Shepparton, Masters/Juniors, Australians in Adelaide and Ballarat. Then there was regular pennant and all that training-come-fitness work plus a little indulgence in our other pet habits – eating well and drinking too much. One would suggest our bodies are in great shape but since Christmas has past, I'm not so sure about that. The recess leads us into temptation and one would expect to put on a few pounds so hands up again if you're fighting weight has increased. My obvious suggestion is to start your pre-season fitness program earlier (like now) because pennant starts on 31st January. If you do, you'll be looking your best again and feeling fit. Just don't look in the mirror!

2013 will again offer plenty for the squash junkies with our first VMSA tournament in February. This time we are heading

back to Wodonga. Should be a summer sizzler! There will be plenty more events to follow so grab your tournament calendar, pencil in the dates and start planning your accommodation etc .etc.

One special matter I need to inform all squash enthusiasts about is our Website. I have to apologize for not having this important property of the VMSA up and running as expected. There have been some major disruptions with the failure of our previous provider to deliver what was required. As a result, we have had to go back to the drawing board and start again. With luck and by the time of this mail-out, we will have what we so dearly need – a fully functional website which will provide members and visitors access to all things relevant to the needs of the VMSA.

As we gather momentum in 2013, I urge all squashies to continue supporting our events as you have in the past. Numbers are vital to maintain our quality events. I can honestly say, our weekend tournaments are a great source of entertainment and the friendship and camaraderie is what makes them so special. It was interesting to note in Ballarat how many clubs virtually entered their team for the event which really added to the social enjoyment both on the court and at the dinner dance. As usual, there was great support from our rural friends too whilst some just came to be a part of this great group. Everyone is welcome, so try to persuade your friends and team mates to enter based on your own good experiences. Squash is an important ingredient of a good tournament but the opportunity to mix, socialize and make new friends is also a measure of the success of the VMSA.

Great squashing in 2013–

Your Prez **Lou Morsch**

2013 COMMITTEE:

PRESIDENT:

Louis Morsch: 0414 397 787

VICE PRESIDENTS:

Jillian Morsch: 0414 522 730

Mike Edney: 0419 584 550

SECRETARY:

Michelle Rowles: 0407 838 572

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Linda Wing: 0402 428 441

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Helena Morgan: 0417 579 311

PENNANT DIRECTOR:

John Donohoe: 0400 692 472

WEBMASTER:

Mark Thurkle: 0409 558 595

RESULTS OFFICER:

Clara Edney: 0419 376 843

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER:

Pam Park: 0439 308 093

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

Lynette Woodyard: 0422 874 825

GENERAL COMMITTEE:

Julie Blackie: 0412 968 848

Darren O'Neill: 0418 362 909

Ian Wyatt: 0409 369 048

**Need an extra
Entry Form?
See the newsletter in
colour
LOG ONTO YOUR
WEBSITE**

www.vmsasquash.com



TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

GRAYS BALLARAT MASTERS 2012

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!!!

Again, our Ballarat tournament was a great end to our tournament year.

We had 176 entries, with 12 virgins.

Numbers were a bit down on previous years. I believe it might have something to do with some injuries throughout our members.

I know of at least 20 players that were unable to play owing to injury. Funny thing though, most of them managed to attend the dinner dance and I saw them up dancing. (Dancing uses different muscles I've been told).

Great you could make it. Get better soon.

Special mention to our interstate competitors.

SA	1
WA	1
QLD	2
NSW	3
ACT	1
TAS	8

Thanks for your support.

From feedback I have received, the tournament was enjoyed by all, and the dinner dance was a fabulous night as always. I thought it was one of the best tournaments as well. Everyone was in good spirits for the whole weekend. No grumbles at all.

I didn't lose my temper at all over the weekend. (First time ever!!) Well done all.

Sorry to all those who missed it, but I advise that you put next year's date in your calendar now. This may also be a good time to let you know all the tournament dates for next year, so here they are:-

Wodonga - February 22 nd to 24 th .
Shepparton - April 26 th to 28 th (<i>Vic State Championships</i>)
Masters/Juniors (Moorabbin) - June 1 st and 2 nd
Bendigo - July 26 th to 28 th
Ballarat - November 22 nd to 24 th .

Besides all the fun and partying, there were also some terrific squash matches to watch.

Congratulations to all the winners.

Again there was a great array of food provided by the Ballarat Squash Club over the weekend. Thanks ladies, and guys. You did a great job.

Our sincere congratulations go to Steve Walton, this year's recipient of the Judith Goadby Trophy.

Thanks for all your hard work and support over your many years of association with the VMSA and Australian Squash in general.

My thanks as always, to my fabulous tournament committee - Karen, Ute, and Bernie.

WODONGA

Now we go to our next tournament .

We are returning to Wodonga as we have not been there since 2007 (doesn't time fly).

Format for the tournament will be either- Triple plate, best of five games to 15, scoring a point a rally, or to 11 depending on the number of entries received.

I trust you all had a safe and happy Christmas and New Year

See you in Wodonga!

Helena

Membership Nook

Hi All,

I hope you all had a happy and safe Christmas and New Year. Now, it's back to working on getting those muscles back into shape ready for the next season of squash.

There are going to be a number of changes with the introduction of the new website, there are bound to be a few hiccups to start with, but it will mean that you will have access to your own details and be able to update them yourselves.

For those people with no computer access or who find the process difficult please make yourself known to me and I will keep you informed of your membership status and assist in any way I can.

Anyone wishing to update details or wanting to know their membership due date, feel free to contact me via email or mobile and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Yours in squash - **Pam Park**
Membership co-ordinator

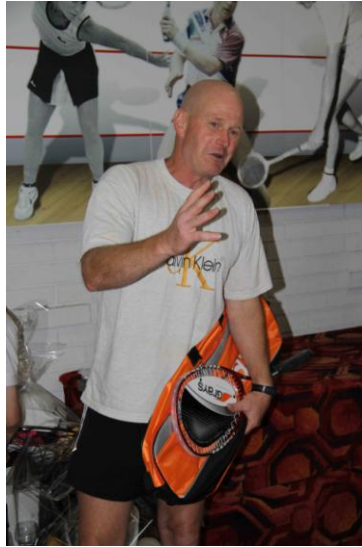
Ballarat Masters 2012

Around the courts





BALLARAT MASTERS TOURNAMENT WINNERS



Grays

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Judith Goadby Award

This year's recipient of the Judith Goadby Trophy was a very deserving Steve Walton. Steve's contribution to squash has taken many forms, but we know him predominantly for his involvement as sponsor for the Grays Ballarat Tournament and the Masters Juniors Tournament with Inform Connection which will be held 1st-2nd June this year.

Our sincere congratulations and thanks Steve for your tireless work.

Pictured below - the Judith Goadby Award presentation and past recipients of this very prestigious award.



Pennant Director's Report

by John Donohoe

To all members of the VMSA I hope that you all had a very Merry Christmas and had an enjoyable New Year.

2012 - Retrospect

Throughout the 2012 year there have been some changes to the traditional methodology by which the VMSA "home & away" season operated:

- There was the change to the way in which competition points were awarded and how the winning team on the night was determined.
- There were also the extended seasons to eighteen (18) weeks to accommodate for a shorter "break" period in between seasons; with the introduction of double points where there was a BYE in a draw.
- We reverted to the top four (4) teams for finals contention.

All in all these seemed to be accepted without a hitch, however there seems to be mixed feelings on having two (2) long seasons – to this end in 2013 we will be having a "long" season (18 weeks) in the front half of the year with a 'shorter" season (14 weeks) in the season leading up to Christmas. Furthermore in the second half of the year we will be trialling a move to the PAR 15 scoring system with the winner being determined by a two (2) points margin i.e. there will be NO election at fourteen (14) all for either a long or short game. Many of you may not have played using this scoring method, so it will provide valuable feedback.

2013 - Growth

We continue to see a "drop off" of teams – 2010 (102 teams) v 2013 (80 teams); whilst we acknowledge there are external factors over which we have no control that are impacting this we still need to be proactive with ways to abate this trend. As a committee we can only do so much and look to all members and clubs for assistance:

From a **committee perspective**, we have/are:

- Introduced a financial incentive; whereby Clubs that increase their team base and hold that team for two consecutive seasons will receive a rebate on that team's entry fee for one season
- Mixed up the format via changes to the finals format, season length, scoring system
- Introduced a new exciting brand of VMSA uniforms
- Invested in a new web site (will be operational early 2013)
- Exploring the concept of common rating the age eligibility for men. i.e. age entry to 30 years for both men and women
- Exploring the concept of six (6) team draws across all grades
- Exploring the impact of three (3) person teams
- Continuing to look for business sponsors

From a **club/members perspective**, we need consideration given to:

- Streamline team lists by converting the number of fill-ins and emergency players to full time participants
- Look at your top end players in all grades and ascertain whether you can create and sustain another team by splitting players
- Promote the VMSA as a preferred competition to non members and/or casual players

- Persue more women to the competition
- Offer incentive at a club level to attract players

Behaviour

I have mentioned this on numerous occasions and will not dwell too much. You are all aware that the VMSA prides itself not only on the high standard of the competition but also on the congeniality in which its members are represented (both on and off court). We are all aware that a wrong split second decision can have adverse ramifications that can affect you, your team and your club. It's no different than constructing an email in the heat of the moment – take a moment to pause/think/assess before hitting the send button because once you have acted it is too late to retract.

Refereeing

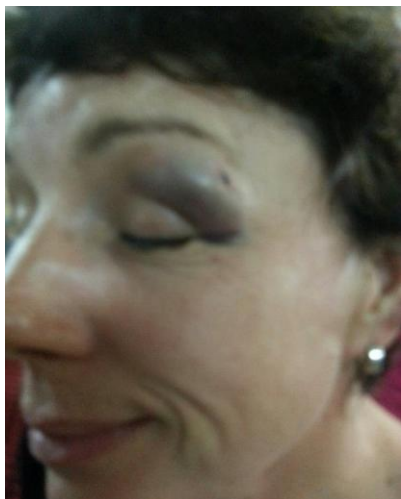
Recently I have been surfing the web for highlights of great matches at an international level. Can I refer you to the PSA Squash TV – You Tube site <http://www.youtube.com/user/psasquashtv>– there are not only great matches on both the men's and women's levels from which we all can take pointers but an opportunity to test your referee skills against those at an international level. Lou Morsch and I took this challenge from the comfort of office chairs and interestingly enough agreed on some, differed on some and thought the international accredited referee got it totally wrong on a number of calls. The point I make here is that not everyone sees the situation exactly the same and is dependent on your view of the play, your interpretation of the call and the position of players at the time of the "let" call etc. What was notable was that the referee did not engage in protracted explanations and players got on with the game "albeit after venting their spleen" and play was continuous. Give the referees a break because it's an unenviable job and we do the very best we can.

Enough said – I look forward to the Autumn '13 season and meeting many of you around the traps in 2013.

John Donohoe – Pennant Director

Bumps & Bruises

Whilst there are always sore and strained muscles during and after a masters squash tournament, we sometimes see very obvious results of bodily contact with racquet, ball or occasionally walls, and here we see colourful evidence



of such contacts. Kerry's injury has been witnessed by us all at some time unfortunately, but it is a mystery how Michelle managed to wear a boast from the back wall on the inside of her leg????!!!



SUMMER PENNANT GRAND FINALS

Congratulations to all the teams who made it to the Grand Finals last season. Gradings worked very well as the majority of teams had a chance to make finals right up the last round, which makes for great competition. Well done to all teams who participated in finals and for those who didn't, roll on 2013!!!!

Venue - Westerfolds



Grand Final Results

GRADE	CLUB		CLUB	RESULT	VENUE
4	Mountain Districts 3	def	Grace Park 1	87-8-2 to 80-6-2	Westerfolds
5	Upwey 2	def	Fitzpatricks 2	98-9-3 to 54-3-1	Westerfolds
7	Knox Park 5	def	Mountain Districts 5	106-8-2 to 102-7-2	Westerfolds
8	Westerfolds 8	def	Werribee 2	126-10-3 to 84-5-1	Westerfolds
9	Club Hawthorn 3	def	Knox Park 7	129-12-4 to 90-4-0	Westerfolds

GRADE	CLUB		CLUB	RESULT	VENUE
1	Knox Park 1	def	Moorabbin 1	98-10-3 to 54-3-1	Moorabbin
2	Fitzpatricks 1	def	Moorabbin 2	107-10-3 to 84-4-1	Moorabbin
3	Moorabbin 3	def	Melton 1	99-9-3 to 101-6-1	Moorabbin
6	Westerfolds 6	def	Moorabbin 6	106-10-3 to 82-5-1	Moorabbin
10	Upwey 4	def	Moorabbin 11	122-12-4 to 66-2-0	Moorabbin
11	Knox Park 10	def	Moorabbin 13	121-10-3 to 96-6-1	Moorabbin

Venue - Moorabbin



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CHINA SQUASH TOUR, October 2012

A group of Aussie squash players has recently returned from a wonderful 10 day Squash Tour to China. This was our second Squash visit to China following on from last years memorable tour. The tour included squash matches against the locals at clubs in Beijing and Shanghai, as well as sightseeing in a country that has everything from amazing sights and things to do to an exciting nightlife and a culture and history of thousands of years. Dean Landy was the tour leader and has developed a good relationship with squash clubs in China, where it is very much a developing sport.



We landed in Shanghai where the weather was still warm and caught the world's fastest train, the Maglev which reaches 431 km per hour to our 5 star hotel in the city centre. Whilst in Shanghai were treated to a welcome dinner of typical Chinese cuisine and a spectacular river cruise taking in the sensational lights and sights of the Shanghai skyline. Some of us also were lucky enough to spend a day at the Shanghai Tennis Masters to see Federer, Djokovic and Murray in action. Others took the opportunity to see the "Venice of Shanghai" and visited an ancient water town, Zhujiajiao

We played some squash at the Shanghai Racquet Club, an exclusive sports club where we had a drawn result (14 matches each) over 2 days play. We also took in the amazing Shanghai Acrobatic show which featured incredible stunts and performances by world class athletes. Some evenings were spent wandering the streets teeming with people bustling, bright colours against the background of city noise and the luxury of trendy restaurants and bars.

We departed Shanghai on the afternoon bullet train to Beijing. With its fully reclining airline-style seats and a top speed of 350 km per hour, the new Beijing-Shanghai express embodies China's race to the future. In Beijing we took in all the sights including the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, the Olympic venue including the Bird's Nest and Watercube. To climb The Great Wall, the pride of China and one of the Seven Wonders of the World was a spectacular and memorable experience for all. There was also a Rickshaw tour of the old town (hutong), including the usual 10 course lunch in a local family house. Food, food and more food was a constant tour theme. Just as well there was plenty of walking and squash to keep the kilos off!



In Beijing we played 2 matches against the locals, winning one a piece and sharing the honours in a friendly, yet competitive atmosphere. Squash is a new and developing game in China, but an ideal game for the people there who are suited to fast racket sports and quick movement around the court. There is a need for more squash centre development, particularly in Beijing and if squash catches on there, look out for their players in 10 years time!!

The night life was a real feature of the tour, with trendy and modern restaurants, bars and clubs now a feature of the bigger cities. With 20 million people living in Beijing there is certainly something for everyone. Every moment of the day is interesting for the tourist, where there is never a dull moment.

You could go back to China a hundred times and still not see everything. So plans are underway to do another squash tour there next year, so if you haven't been to China take the opportunity to combine your squash with a holiday of a lifetime. Once next years tour itinerary is finalised shortly, you will receive all information and details.

TOURNAMENT CONDITIONS AND INFORMATION

1. The Tournament will be conducted on a triple plate system. Every effort will be made to ensure that each entrant gets at least three matches. Scoring will be PAR 11 or 15 depending on number of entries received. **PLAYERS MUST FULFIL THEIR OBLIGATIONS TO OTHER PARTICIPANTS BY COMPETING IN ALL MATCHES SET DOWN FOR THEM.**
2. Players may enter **ONE EVENT ONLY.**
3. **Tournament Committee reserves the right to accept or not accept entrants and to re-grade any entries.**
4. For advice of first round matches, please visit our Facebook site (VMSA Squash). This is to encourage entrants to check for themselves without making unnecessary phone calls. Alternatively phone one of the following from (AH) Wed. 20th February.
Courts: (02) 6024 2872 Helena Morgan: 0417 579 311 (Mob)
5. Players must report to Tournament Control no later than 30 MINUTES BEFORE their next scheduled match.
6. All players will be expected to mark and referee the match immediately following their own match.
7. All players will be expected to be warmed up and ready to play as soon as the previous match is completed.
8. No claims whatsoever will be recognized should any player receive an injury whilst participating in the Tournament.
9. Snacks and refreshments will be available at the squash centre during the day.
10. A social get-together, including complimentary supper will be held at the Wodonga Squash Centre on Friday evening Feb 22 **after the conclusion of the matches.** ALL WELCOME.
11. A Dinner Dance will be held on Saturday 23 Feb. at *Commercial Club, 618 Dean Street, Albury (02 6021 1133)* from 7:30pm until 12:00am, featuring a live band. Drinks at bar prices. **Cost: \$50.00 per person. Please include payment with entry.**
12. Trophy presentation will be at approximately 4:30pm Sunday followed by a complimentary supper.
13. MOTEL ACCOMMODATION: *Golden Chain Motel Wellington, 46 High St, Wodonga Ph:02 6024 2400*, *Warrina Motor Inn, 31 High St, Wodonga Ph: 02 6024 1422*, (both walking distance to courts), also *Hovell Tree Inn, Cnr Hume H'way & Hovell Sts, Albury Ph: 02 6042 3900* and *Paddlesteamer Lodge Motel, 324 Wodonga Pl, Albury Ph: 02 6042 0500* (Both approx. 1 Km from dinner dance venue).
14. **Note: There will be no booze bus.**
15. **No late entries will be accepted. All faxed entries without credit card details will not be accepted. All mailed entries without payment will not be accepted. We encourage as many players as possible to play on Friday evening.**
16. Note: Playing in a VMSA Pennant Team does not automatically mean you are a member of the VMSA. Membership gives participants in tournaments discounted entry rates as well as many other benefits for just \$20 per year. Ask any of our committee members for details.



WODONGA MASTERS SQUASH TOURNAMENT 22 -24 FEBRUARY 2013

Conducted by the Victorian MASTERS Squash Association Inc.
ABN 39 143 122 923



www.vmsasquash.com

Entries close Friday
8th February 2013



COURT HOST: Wodonga Squash Centre



Next Tournament:

Victorian Masters Championships - Shepparton
26th - 28th April 2013

TO BE PLAYED AT:

Wodonga Squash Centre
29 Hovell Street, Wodonga
Phone: (02) 6024 2872

TOURNAMENT HOSTS:

Wodonga Squash &
Racquetball Association
Tournament Directors
Helena Morgan
Phone: 0417 579 311
Fax: (03) 9747 3150

WODONGA MASTERS TOURNAMENT 2013 – ENTRY FORM

EVENTS: Events/gradings will depend on entries. The number of events will be determined by the level of entries.

Date of Birth: _____ **Gender:** _____ **Age at 22nd Feb, 2013:** _____

Surname: _____ **Given Names:** _____

Address: _____ **P/Code:** _____

Contact Phone No: _____

Email address: _____

IMPORTANT: Please fill in all the details of your current pennant team, grade and position.

	Midweek	State	Country	Masters
League				
Grade				
Position				
Club				

Are you a financial member of the VMSA? YES: NO:
 (Playing VMSA pennant is not automatic membership – see overleaf)

ARE YOU AVAILABLE TO PLAY FRIDAY NIGHT? YES: NO:

(We need as many as possible to play Friday night) Preferred Time: _____ pm

ENTRY FEES: VMSA Members \$30.00
 Non-members \$40.00
 25+ Tournament players \$25.00 (Financial Members Only)

PLEASE COMPLETE: Payment attached for: Entry Fee: \$ _____
 (No. attending @ \$50 per head) Dinner Dance: \$ _____
 (\$20 if due) VMSA Membership: \$ _____
TOTAL: \$ _____

Do you have any dietary requirements for the dinner dance? Please advise _____

I agree to abide by all tournament conditions and decisions of the tournament committee.

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

Send entry form and payment to : Helena Moran, VMSA, PO Box 2246, MELTON SOUTH, VIC 3338
 (Cheques/Money Orders made payable to **VMSA**) for Fax to (03) 9747 3150. Please do not send cash by mail.
ENTRIES CLOSE Friday 8th February, 2013

My preferred method of payment is:

Cheque Visa Mastercard Bankcard Money Order

Card Number: _____ | _____ | _____ | _____

Card Holder's Name (please print): _____ Expiry Date: _____/_____/_____

Payment Amount: \$ _____ Signature (Card Holder Only): _____

2013 Australian Squash Masters – Canberra

INDIVIDUALS - Monday 2 SEPTEMBER – Friday 6 SEPTEMBER

TEAMS - Monday 9 SEPTEMBER – Friday 13 SEPTEMBER

INTENTION TO COMPETE

Please complete this form and return to VMSA Secretary by **Friday 1 March 2013** if you are planning to compete. This will ensure that you receive all relevant information and forms.

Send to: VMSA Secretary, PO Box 1023, NEWPORT 3015or

Email to rowles.michelle@yahoo.com.au

NAME:				DOB:	
ADDRESS:				POSTCODE:	
PHONE: (H):		(B):		(Mob):	
EMAIL:					
PENNANT	YES/NO	GRADE	POSITION	CLUB	
Masters					
Other					

I INTEND TO COMPETE IN THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:	YES/NO
INDIVIDUALS: Monday 2 – Friday 6 September 2012	
TEAMS: Monday 9 – Friday 13 September 2012	

Accommodation for Victorians

2013 is Canberra's centenary year so book early to secure your accommodation

If you would like to stay with the Victorians

please complete the form overleaf to register your interest

Accommodation enquiries

Michelle Rowles 0407 838 572

2013 Australian Squash Masters – Canberra

Accommodation – Victorian Players

Pinnacle Apartments

11 Ovens Street Kingston

There are a range of 2, 3 and 4 bedroom apartments available. A group rate has been negotiated and the cost per night is approximately \$50 to \$80 per person depending on the size of apartment and the number of people sharing the apartment.

Name: _____

Arrival & Departure Dates

Check In Date

- Saturday 31 August
- Sunday 1 September
- Monday 2 September
- Tuesday 3 September
- Wednesday 4 September
- Thursday 5 September
- Friday 6 September
- Saturday 7 September
- Sunday 8 September
- Monday 9 September

Check Out Date

- Friday 6 September
- Saturday 7 September
- Sunday 8 September
- Monday 9 September
- Tuesday 10 September
- Wednesday 11 September
- Thursday 12 September
- Friday 13 September
- Saturday 14 September
- Sunday 15 September

Rooming Details

- Own Room
- Happy to Share

If sharing:

- Don't mind who I share with
- Would like to share a room with:

Apartment Details

- Don't mind who I share with

- Would like to share an apartment with:

