

2024 VMSA COMMITTEE OFFICE BEARERS

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THE PREZ SEZ

By Lou Morsch



Hope everyone who competed in the recent Australian Championships in Canberra

enjoyed themselves and played well. On a personal note, I teamed up with Janine Eedy and Terry Barlow in the teams and won Section 6. WhooHooo!! All the goss from Canberra can be found in Darren's report in this bulletin.

Whilst in Canberra, I caught up with Steve Walton and we have some exciting news to announce as a result of our conversations. The VMSA and Squash.com.au have entered into a formal partnership until 31st December 2026 with a view to extending for another 2 years after this period expires. Squash.com.au is now an Official Retail partner of the VMSA. With the Squash.com.au Ballarat Masters event looming, the timing is perfect to advise members of the benefits this partnership brings. If you are a current financial member of the VMSA, your \$25 membership fee entitles you to a once only discount on a purchase from Squash.com.au. There must be a minimum spend of \$50 to receive the full \$25 discount. All financial members of the VMSA will be emailed a code to use in time for Ballarat. The code will expire on 31st December 2024 but a new code will be issued for 2025. So the Ballarat tournament on 22nd-24th November is an ideal opportunity to purchase from Squash.com.au and use your discount voucher. Don't miss out on this great offer from Steve and Lisa Walton and their business which has stood alongside the VMSA for many many years.

See you in Ballarat - and don't forget to make plans for our first time tournament in Mildura in February 2025. It will be great to support our friends from the region who have supported our tournaments closer to home for many years.

Get into squash!!

Your PREZ



UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS 2024

Squash.com.au Ballarat Nov 22-24

2025

Mildura Individual Feb 14-16

Vic Champs – Bendigo April 11-13

Masters Juniors – Westerfolds May 31

Horsham Individual July 25-27

Squash.com.au Ballarat Nov 21-23

CORIO CHAMPIONSHIPS JULY 2024

It may be a little while ago but the tournament in Corio was made a little more special for a couple of reasons. First we celebrated a big milestone birthday of Helen Lococo from Squash Logic. Helen has supported Masters for a long time and continues to help out these days assisting behind the tournament desk when Darren is sleeping off the effects of too much partying shall we say. Congratulations Helen and Happy Birthday. We all enjoyed your cake!!

Another lovely couple grabbed a bit of the spotlight at Corio. James and Jan Wilson from Moe are another example of good country folk supporting the VMSA and competing on a regular basis at our tournaments. Both share a great love of Masters and have each competed in over 50 tournaments to date. It was a pleasure to have James and Jan presenting the trophies at the completion of the weekend and enjoy the occasion with all their Masters' friends.

Lou Morsch

Corio Masters Individual Tournament



The VMSA Corio Individual Masters tournament is now complete, Corio attracted a smaller group of masters players but the VMSA and it's volunteers plus the Corio Squash Club still had a great time. Entries were low but I believe they will regain

at the coming tournament in Ballarat 22-24 November 2024 as it is our last tournament of the year and many friends and past players come to catch up on the year's past.

Nine new players who gave up their time to play their first tournament. Thanks to all, I am very appreciative of your effort. Jack Barry, Mark Bates, Chris Burton, Scott Sheedy, Matin McKelvie, Marek Habsuda, Julie Camilleri, Charles Camilleri and Naill Rellis. Keep going forward and connect to us and you will enjoy our tournaments and make friends for life.

No Badges were handed out at Corio. Over the next few tournaments, if you play you may achieve a tournament milestone as I still have few to give out and I already have them engraved, so play our next tournament - you just never know.

Our dinner was at the Leopold Sports Club Hotel, a massive complex. Thanks to the Club for giving us a private room and for the great 2 course meal. Loads of chatting going on 'till the music started then it was busting a move non stop. Huge thanks to Cam Henderson for playing great music with his band.

Check out this link to view all presentations from Corio 2024

<https://vmsasquash.com.au/uploads/files/Tournaments/Previous%20Tournament%20Results/48%20Masters%20Tournament%20-%20July%202024%20-%20Corio%20.pdf>

A special mention to our interstate players who made the effort to come down, you all made a sensational effort. At Corio we had Ron Smith from the ACT and his lovely wife Cheryl and Judy Fox from TAS a regular - thanks for making that effort.

Thanks to Helen Lococo and Janie Mossop for looking after the desk over the weekend - you did a fine job indeed. Thanks once again to the raffle girls for giving your time, also to Michelle Rowles for bus and payment collections ,another stellar effort girls.

Check our website for all the Photos taken by Helen Lococo over the weekend.

Thanks for supporting Master's Squash we cannot do it without you.

My Pleasure Darren O'Neill

Presentations - VMSA MASTERS TOURNAMENT CORIO 2024

Event	Award	Awarded to
(1) SECTION 1	Winner	PETER GILBEE Lilydale
	Runner Up	WARREN MILLER Lilydale
	Third/Plate	KEVIN HEALY Mildura
	Consolation plate	STEPHEN BLAMEY MCC
(2) SECTION 2	Winner	CHRIS BURTON (V) Corio
	Runner Up	UMAR AZIZ Werribee
	Third/Special plate	STEPHEN RUSSELL Lilydale
	Plate	GARY MCPYKE Mulgrave
	Consolation plate	ROGER CHILD Squash Melb
(3) SECTION 3	Winner	MARK BATES (V) Ballarat
	Runner Up	NIALL RELLIS (V) TWSC
	Third/Special plate	GEOFF CHAMBERS RACV
	Plate	MARTIN McKELVIE (V) NZ
	Consolation plate	GREG DUNCAN Milawa
(4) SECTION 4	Winner	SCOTT SHEEDY (V) Corio
	Runner Up	ANNE FORDHAM Tonic
	Third/Plate	LOU MORSCH Squash Logic
	Consolation plate	TREVOR WALKER Werribee
(5) SECTION 5	Winner	JANINE EEDY Mulgrave
	Runner Up	NEIL TYTLER Squash Melb
	Third/Plate	MICHELLE ROWLES Squash Logi
	Consolation plate	LUCY ALLINSON Squash Melb
(6) SECTION 6	Winner	FRANK BUGEJA Poowong
	Runner Up	ALLISON DOUGLAS MCC
	Third/Plate	PAUL ATKINS (V) Ballarat
	Consolation plate	JACK BARRY Ballarat
(7) SECTION 7	Winner	CHARLES CAMILLERI (V) Focus C
	Runner Up	ARTHUR SAMUEL Lilydale
	Third/Plate	JUDITH FOX TAS
	Consolation plate	GEOFF MORLEY Sale
(8) SECTION 8	Winner	IAN WYATT Westerfolds
	Runner Up	CHERYL GILBEE Lilydale
	Third/Plate	JULIE CAMILLERI (V) Focus GP
	Consolation plate	HELEN LOCOCO Squash Logic

CORIO PRESENTATIONS



Section 1



Section 2



Section 3



Section 4



Section 5



Section 6



Section 7



Section 8



Darren O'Neill & Lou Morsch



CORIO DINNER DANCE



CORIO MASTERS TOURNAMENT



AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024 - CANBERRA

Time just flies when you are having fun and that's certainly what the Australians brought this year in Canberra. The ACT Organising Committee really looked after us and excelled beyond belief. I am sure all the volunteers have slept for a week.

I played my first Individual Championships this year and thoroughly enjoyed it. The Vic contingent did pretty well with the 80-84 Open age group being an all star Victorian team on the podium which was pretty special. Frank Bugeja (Winner) Tom Slattery (Runner Up) and Brian Lyons (3rd place).

Other results included:

MEN

45-49 Open Runner up - Cameron Penna
55-59 Div 2 Third Place - Greg Murphy
60-64 Open Winner - Peter Gilbee
60-64 Open Runner up - Warren Miller
60-64 Div 2 Third Place - Darren O'Neill
60-64 Div 3 Runner up - Lori Fernandez
65-69 Div 2 Third Place - Gabe Markovics
70-74 Open Runner up - Geoff Chambers
85-89 Open Winner - Dinny Hurley

WOMEN

55-59 Open Runner up - Janine Eedy
60-64 Div 2 Runner up - Michelle Rowles
70-74 Div 2 Runner up - Lynette Woodyard



Frank Bugeja, Peter Gilbee & Dinny Hurley won their Open Sections.

Congratulations to all the place getters in the Individual Championships.

This year our accommodation was at the Meriton Suites Canberra and housed most of us for the two weeks while the tournament was running. It worked out so well being close to restaurants and bars plus eateries for meals.

The second week for the teams kicked off with our Victorian Teams Dinner on the Sunday night. Michelle had booked a fantastic restaurant (Central Social Club), however it was right next door to an axe throwing centre. Thank heavens no one went in there after a few beverages haha, as we might have started the week with a few injuries!! I was overwhelmed at the support from our Vic's. They all attended and what a great night we had. We even had a visit from our AMSA President Mr Peter Wright and his lovely partner Irene.

Selection of the teams was put together with careful planning and just pure luck (haha) 11 teams of three players per team. We welcomed 2 "Virgins" – Tashia Mihail and Donna Tito. We welcomed back Allison Gilbert who we had not seen for 20 years and Ross Francis who has also been missing in action for the last couple of Australians. We had a couple of interstaters who become temporary Victorians for the week – Martin Gunn from NSW and Mauro Kolobaric from ACT – Thanks to Ron Smith for lending us Mauro.

We started day one without injury but a few niggles for some players who held together. Amen for that, and we finished the week as we started.

The team camaraderie was fantastic and brought some great results this year winning 4 divisions and runners up in 1 other division.

Division 6, Vic 4, Winners - Lou Morsch, Janine Eedy, Terry Barlow

Division 6, Vic 5, Runners Up - Lorenzo Fernandez, Anne Fordham, Trevor Walker

Division 11, Vic 8, Winners - Rod Wison, Paul Frost, Lynette Woodyard

Division 12, Vic 9, Winners - Stewart McKenzie, Jeff Marr, Donna Tito

Division 15, Vic 11, Winners - Vic Stafford, Jenny Anderson, Helen Lococo

Thanks to all the players who ran their hearts out to do the best they could for their beloved Victorian state as a number of other teams only just missed out finishing 3rd by minimal margins.

Congratulations to the Victorians that reached some big tournament milestones:

15 years – Ross Francis, Peter Gilbee, Gabe Markovics and Jeff Marr

25 years – Paul Frost

30 years – Dinny Hurley and Tom Slattery

Canberra did it well this year with a boat ride and dinner on Lake Burley Griffith during the week and a fantasy Black Magic themed dinner dance at an amazing venue. To all the volunteers who worked behind the scenes, a huge thanks once again. All homemade food served was a showstopper can't thank you all enough for looking after us.

A very special thanks to Michelle Rowles who single handily organised badges, uniform orders, team entries, the team dinner, accommodation for those who needed help, plus a bunch of other stuff, so thanks mate. Also, thanks to Dave Shay, Janine Eedy who carried uniforms and the like to Canberra.

So another Australians bites the dust. Thanks for attending Canberra everyone, can't wait for Perth in 2025,

Cheers from Darren O'Neill

SEE YOU ALL IN BALLARAT THIS YEAR IT WILL BE A BEAUTY TO FINISH THE SQUASH YEAR OFF.

TEAMS EVENT PLACEGETTERS



Div 6 Winners



Div 6 Runners-up



Div 11 Winners



Div 12 Winners



Div 15 Winners

INDIVIDUAL PLACEGETTERS



45-49 Open
Runner up -
Cameron Penna



55-59 Div 2 Third
Place - Greg Murphy



60-64 Open Winner -
Peter Gilbee

Runner up - Warren Miller



60-64 Div 2 Third
Place - Darren O'Neill



60-64 Div 3
Runner up - Lori
Fernandez



65-69 Div 2 Third Place
- Gabe Markovics

70-74 Open Runner up
- Geoff Chambers



85-89 Open R-up - Dinny Hurley
Frank Bugeja Mens 80-84 winner
Tom Slattery R-up
Bryan Lyons 3rd



55-59 Open Runner up
- Janine Eedy



60-64 Div 2 Runner up
- Michelle Rowles



70-74 Div 2 Runner up -
Lynette Woodyard



Our Victorian component

TEAMS DINNER - CANBERRA



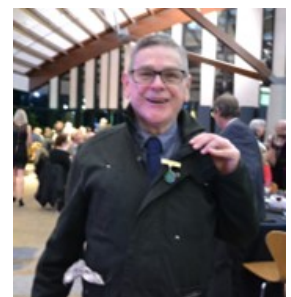
AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS MILESTONES



Tom Slattery & Dinney Hurley
—30 year badges



Paul Frost—25 year badge



Jeff Marr—15 year badge

Ross Francis, Peter Gilbee and Gabe Markovics also received their 15 year badges.

DARREN O'NEILL AWARDED THE 2024 JUDITH GOADBY AWARD.



Darren joined the VMSA General Committee in 2009. Always quick to get involved, Darren was initially responsible for our newsletter and tournament poster mailouts. In those days, it was all done by mail so was quite a big job to print, envelope and mail out the newsletter to over 200 members. He then introduced us to the technological age of emailing our newsletters and doing tournament alerts via Mail Chimp.

Darren quickly took on other responsibilities as his influence grew. He has had a significant hand in much of the design of our uniforms, badges, stubby holders and towels. His background in painting and design has proved very beneficial for creating new merchandise and accessories.

His most significant contribution has been in his role as Tournament Director for the VMSA. A role he undertook in 2019 after serving as understudy to Helena Morgan for the previous 2 years, including the Australians in Ballarat. Finding someone of the quality, understanding and dedication to the task was not something I expected to be easy to find, but Darren has embraced the role of Tournament Director and made it his own and commands great respect for the job he has undertaken. It is a credit to him that our tournament numbers remain strong and events run smoothly. Darren puts an enormous amount of time and effort into his role and was awarded the Victorian Judith Goadby Award in 2022.

Darren is also a keen supporter of the Australians having played over 15 Australians and has been a Team Co-ordinator for the Victorian Teams since 2011. He has also assisted other states with the design of lanyards for the Australians as well as the design of Australian shirts for the World Masters Squash Championships.

Congratulations Darren. You are a very worthy recipient of this prestigious award.

The Master's Philosophy

The Victorian Masters Squash Association (VMSA) was established in 1980 to encourage men and women aged 35 years and over to play Masters Pennant and Tournaments. Aimed specifically for those who still loved playing squash and socialising but were finding it harder to do so against the younger competitors who generally wanted to play and go or stay for supper but not provide a sufficient one. A few years after the VMSA was established it reduced the playing age for Women to 30 years and over in Pennant and Tournaments only. The qualifying age for tournaments such as the Victorian, Australian and World titles still remain at 35 years and over for both men and women.

The VMSA continues to run its own Pennant competition and Tournaments based on the 'Master's Philosophy' established over 40 years ago

TO PLAY COMPETITELY BUT ALSO TO PLAY IN GOOD SPIRIT

So, if you have recently "retired" from playing, haven't played for a while and would like to do so again, or are just a beginner who also enjoys the social aspect of squash – why not come along and try the Master's approach. All you need is your racquet and some enthusiasm to compete whilst having a good time with good company.

The VMSA prides itself on its ability to provide a friendly, competitive way to play squash. You can be as competitive as you want as long as you play with good humour and commitment for the enjoyment of the game and of everyone present. This is what is known as "the Master's Spirit".

Hope to see you all in Ballarat for the final tournament of the 2024 year!

Darren O'Neill – Tournament Director

NEWS FROM VMSA PENNANT DIRECTOR – **MIKE EDNEY**

Since the areas were separated between east and west due to concerns about travelling, we have seen a slight increase the number of teams. Both areas increased the number of teams by two. In the East, the clubs were Lilydale and Mulgrave. In the West the clubs were Werribee and Fitzpatrick.

Currently, we have 22 teams in the Eastern area and 13 teams in the Western area making a total of 35 teams.

With Mountain Districts moving their 3 teams to the new centre 'Victorian Racket Club', hopefully they will be able to increase the number of pennant teams. Of course they will need someone to drive it. Who is the 'driver' at your club, and are they being supported?

I have said this before, but all players need to get involved in our sport, otherwise it will not survive. Players should be attending club meetings and voicing their concerns and opinions on how to grow our clubs and the sport: in other words, do more than just play the game.

SQUASH.COM.AU BALLARAT A VMSA TOURNAMENT

22-24 November 2024

TO BE PLAYED AT:

Ballarat Squash & Racquetball Fitness Centre, 106 Dowling St, Wendouree VIC 3355 Phone: 0448 410 845

Entries close Thursday 14th November 2024



TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR:

Darren O'Neill

Phone: 0418 362 909

Email: tournaments@vmsasquash.com.au



NEXT TOURNAMENT:

INDIVIDUAL EVENT

MILDURA SQUASH CLUB

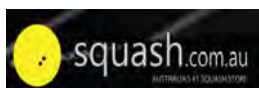
14-16 FEBRUARY 2025

TOURNAMENT CONDITIONS AND INFORMATION

1. The Tournament will be a mixed graded event and will be conducted using triple plate or round robin draws depending on the number of entries received. Scoring will be PAR15 for all sections. All matches will be best of 5 games and every effort will be made to ensure that each entrant gets at least three matches.
2. All players must fulfil their obligations to other participants by competing in all matches set down for them.
3. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to accept, decline or re-grade any entries.
4. Notice of withdrawal and requests for refund must be made to the Tournament Director 7 days prior to the tournament start date. Any requests for refunds after this date are at the discretion of the Tournament Committee.
5. No claims whatsoever will be recognised should any player receive an injury whilst participating in the tournament.
6. First round matches will be available on our website www.vmsasquash.com.au from Thursday 21st November 2024.
7. All players must report to the Tournament Control Desk at least **30 MINUTES BEFORE** their next scheduled match.
8. All players are expected to be warmed up and ready to play as soon as the previous match is completed.
9. All players are expected to mark or referee the match immediately following their own, or as directed by the Tournament Control.
10. Trophy presentations will be at approximately 4:30pm Sunday followed by a complimentary supper.
11. A social get together, including complimentary supper will be held at the Ballarat Squash Club on Friday evening after the conclusion of the matches.
ALL WELCOME
12. Snacks and refreshments will be available at the squash centre during the weekend.
13. A Dinner Dance will be held on Saturday 23rd November at The Ballarat Golf Club, 1800 Sturt St, Ballarat from 8:00pm till 12:00am featuring a live band and a 2 course meal. Drinks at bar prices. Cost: \$60 per person. PLEASE INCLUDE PAYMENT WITH YOUR ENTRY.
14. A Courtesy Bus will be provided to the Dinner Dance. Cost: \$10 per person. PLEASE INCLUDE PAYMENT WITH YOUR ENTRY. You will be advised of the pickup times on Saturday. Any queries contact Michelle Rowles on 0407 838 572.
15. Accommodation: At your own discretion.
16. Tournament Entry Fees are \$50 for Non-Members, \$40 for VMSA Financial Members and \$35 for VMSA Financial Members who have played 25+ tournaments. Please note playing in a VMSA Pennant Team does **NOT** automatically mean you are a financial member of the VMSA. Membership of the VMSA provides discounted entry fees to tournaments as well as many other benefits for just \$25 per year. Ask any of our Committee Members for details.

Early Bird Discount applies for entries lodged online only, cut off date 8th November 2024

Proudly Sponsored By :-



VMSA INDIVIDUAL TOURNAMENT - SQUASH.COM.AU - BALLARAT 2024 - ENTRY FORM

EVENTS: Events/Gradings will depend on entries.

Date of Birth: _____ **Gender:** _____ **Age at 22nd November 2024:** _____

Surname: _____ **Given Names:** _____

Address: _____

Suburb: _____ **P/Code:** _____ **Mobile Phone No:** _____

Email Address: _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____

Relationship: _____ **Phone No:** _____

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 conditions)

ARE YOU AVAILABLE TO PLAY FRIDAY NIGHT? YES NO

We need as many players as possible to play Friday night – matches start at 7.30pm **Time Available:** _____pm

ENTRY FEES: Non-Members \$50.00
VMSA Members \$40.00 (Financial Members only)
25+ Tournament players \$35.00 (25+ Financial Members only)

PLEASE COMPLETE:

Entry Fee:			Entry Fee: \$
Dinner Dance:	\$60 per person	No. attending _____	Dinner Dance: \$
Courtesy Bus:	\$10 per person	No. attending _____	Courtesy Bus: \$
VMSA Membership:	\$25 if due (check due date on website)		VMSA Membership: \$ _____
			TOTAL: \$ _____

Do you have any dietary requirements for the Dinner Dance? Please specify _____

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

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

Send entry form and payment to Darren O'Neill VMSA PO Box 76 CARNEGIE VIC 3163
Email tournaments@vmsasquash.com.au Please do not send cash by mail.

Entries close Thursday 14th November 2024

My preferred method of payment is:

Visa Mastercard Direct Debit **BSB 633000 A/C 130422223** Reference: < eg.....YOUR NAME >

Card Number: _____ | _____ | _____ | _____

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

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

Squash.com.au

BALLARAT



Masters Squash Tournament

22nd-24th Nov. 2024

Entries close Thursday 14th Nov.

Ballarat Squash & Racquetball
106 Dowling Street, Wendouree

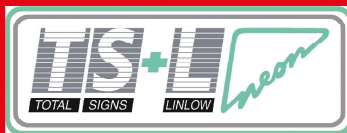
Tournament Director:

Darren O'Neill 0418 362 909

Email: tournaments@vmsasquash.com.au



inform



SALMING.

no nonsense.

**MILDURA
MASTERS
SQUASH
TOURNAMENT**

14th-16th February 2025
Entries close 6th Feb 2025

**MILDURA
SQUASH CLUB**

**Corner Deakin Avenue & Sixteenth Street,
Mildura**



Mildura Rural City Council

Tournament Director Darren O'Neill 0418 362 909
tournaments@vmsasquash.com.au