



THE PREZ SEZ

By Lou Morsch

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Masters/Juniors 2026 Report

A great response again with ten full sections and lots of

new competitors. The higher sections contained many elite juniors which set the scene for some high quality matches both in the individuals and teams events. Westerfolds was buzzing all day. Considering the time pressures involved with running this tournament, everything went very well and we finished pretty well close to time. Thanks to all the juniors who competed and to the parents and playing partners who also make this day so special. Speaking of special, the great Jim Bristow, whom this tournament honours, was in attendance. At the ripe old age of ninety-two, it was a pleasure to have you there on the day Jim.

Teams outside Melbourne came from Ballarat, Benalla, Maffra, Bairnsdale, and first timers Neil and son Nathan Burke from a small town called Coleambally. Look it up! I didn't know where it was either. Not to be left out, local support was equally strong. Players came from Mulgrave, Westerfolds, Western Squash, Lilydale, Monash Uni, Melb Racket Club, MCC, Kooyong, Hume City, and Focus GP. Sorry if I missed any clubs. Thanks also to Matt Howard from Tonic Squash for coming to my aid at a late stage to fill a gap in Section 1 which he also won with his junior partner in Casey Brebner. Thank you also to Daniel Jones who was very helpful finding and grading some of the new Juniors and entering with his two boys Henry and Elliot.

A big thank you to Tate Norris from Westerfolds Squash for all his support before and on the day. Tate encouraged lots of new juniors to play and found some valuable replacements to fill up the higher sections. His involvement was really appreciated.

Everybody lends a hand on a day like this, ensuring everything runs smoothly. Volunteers are worth their weight in gold and I really appreciate the help I received. Thanks to all the VMSA committee who dedicated their time and effort on the day and in preparation for the day. Leading the way as ever was Michelle Rowles who stepped up to help with the draw in the absence of Darren O'Neill this year, my very supportive wife Jill, Lynette Woodyard, Pam Park, and Janine Mossop. Janine, along with her splendid work behind the tournament

Competitors again came from everywhere. Once again, our great friends from Leeton in NSW bought a large squad with them. They provided twelve players and plenty of support crew. We welcomed back Cooper Boardman who competed as a junior for the last time and Jacob Harrison returning for the first time now as a Master. It is a real thrill when previous juniors return to support our event especially now they've become masters. Great to see you again Jacob and see you in 12 years Cooper. Hopefully also to return as a Masters player. Thanks also to Isabel Thompson our previous Female Masters Apprentice for teaming up with me and Steve Walton and winning in Division 9.

As mentioned, support for the Masters Juniors tournament is very encouraging.

inform



UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS 2026-7

Squash.com.au Ballarat	Nov 20-22 2026
Horsham	Feb 12-14 2027
Masters Juniors-Westerfolds	May 29 2027
Mildura	July 23-25 2027
Aust Masters - Ballarat	Oct 8-16 2027

desk very kindly provided a great supper for everyone at the presentation. Thank you so much.

As mentioned, major sponsor Steve Walton attended and played this year. Great to see him enjoying the event he is heavily involved in. Sponsorship from INFORM and Squash.com has been instrumental to the success of Masters Juniors and I cannot thank Steve and Lisa enough. They give so much to this sport and this event. The VMSA is also very grateful for the support of our other generous sponsors in TS&L Neon, John and Anne Link and O'Neill Bros.

The choice of the Masters Juniors Apprentices is never an easy task. I commend all the juniors for the way they competed and behaved. The winners this year were Elim Lo from Monash Uni and Aleister Loo from Mulgrave Club. They received great prizes comprising rackets and squash bags and other fantastic products from INFORM as well as \$400 in financial support from the VMSA.

The John and Anne Link Award of \$200 was presented to Karlie Yeung from Western Squash and Racquetball and Robert Peake from Mulgrave Club. Congratulations to both of you.

I hope everyone enjoyed Masters Juniors and will consider returning next year. The tournament attracts all ages and caters for any level of ability which makes it such a fun day. Kids as young as 8 and 9 years of age competing is really encouraging and teams including parents or playing partners makes it a great family day. Mark it down in your calendar next year. I will be there again with you.

Lou Morsch

VMSA President and
Masters/Juniors Tournament Director

LEGACY OF JIM BRISTOW FOR THE MASTERS SQUASH ASSOCIATION



Jim Bristow with Jill Morsch



Sylvie O'Neale with Jill

Tribute from Val Gray

I was talking to Jim Bristow on the phone a few minutes ago and he was so chuffed! I live in Darwin-otherwise I would have accompanied Jim. We first met at Gordon Watson Squash Courts when I was in my early 20's and Victorian Ladies Squash Champion. Jim and his mates were in early 30's and I can still visualise those cold winter nights and the front desk being so crowded with those men's teams checking in!! I joined Masters Squash at Jim's Ivanhoe Squash courts in the 80's and his own masters team too. **He and Sylvie O'Neale** deserve a medal for starting and developing the Victorian Masters Association, innocently promoting a lifelong love of squash and enduring friendships that continue to this day.

Well done, Team for maintaining and developing Jim and Sylvie's legacy!



MASTERS
APPRENTICES 2026



COMPETITORS



JOHN & ANNE
LINK AWARD



TROPHIES

2026 JIM BRISTOW CUP RESULTS

	WINNERS	RUNNERS UP
SECTION 1	Matt Howard/Casey Brebner	Darren O'Donnell/Elijah Rolls
SECTION 2	Avinash Oliver/Juan Guzman	Greg McHenry/Nic Mazzarella
SECTION 3	Greg Murphy/Tom Saddler	Ankit Tarway/Krisiv Tarway
SECTION 4	Stephan Blamey/Meriam Ibrahim	David McGregor/Elim Lo
SECTION 5	Shahroze Khan/Muhammad Ebrahim Khan	David Kempster/Joshua Kempster
SECTION 6	Gary George/Zethan George	Peter Joyce/Cristiano Wijesiri
SECTION 7	Manusha Hettiarachchi/Kayla Goonewardena	Subash Wijesiri/Ayden Wijesiri
SECTION 8	Neil Burke/Nathan Burke	Eslam Gharib/Mohamed Gharib
SECTION 9	Lou Morsch/Steve Walton/Isabel Thompson	Gary Thompson/Cadel Thompson
SECTION 10	Peter Bassett/Max Bassett	Julie Zhu/Chaz Uduman

AWARDS:

THE JOHN & ANNE LINK AWARD

<i>MALE</i>	<i>Robert Peake</i>	<i>Mulgrave</i>
<i>FEMALE</i>	<i>Karlie Yeung</i>	<i>Western Squash</i>

The recipients of this award receive \$200.00 each

MASTERS APPRENTICE AWARD

<i>MALE</i>	<i>Aleister Loo</i>	<i>Mulgrave</i>
<i>FEMALE</i>	<i>Elim Lo</i>	<i>Monash Uni</i>

Our Masters Apprentices will both receive a squash bag, racquet and accessories plus a voucher to purchase shoes online at squash.com.au Thanks to Steve & Lisa Walton of INFORM & their association with Grays, Salming and other feature brands. Apprentices also receive \$400.00 sponsorship from the VMSA to assist with paying their club membership, entering tournaments and/or coaching.

2026 MASTERS/JUNIORS PRESENTATIONS

M/J Apprentices with last year's recipients



Section 1



Section 2



Section 3



Section 4



Section 5



Section 6



Section 7



Section 8

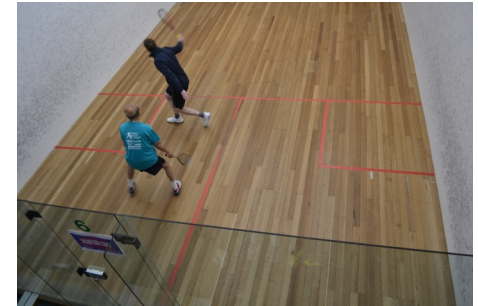


Section 9



Section 10

AROUND THE COURTS AT 2026 MASTERS JUNIORS CHAMPIONSHIPS



JOHN AND ANNE LINK'S CONTRIBUTION TO SQUASH

I need to give another shout out to one of our great friends and a wonderful sponsor of the VMSA and of squash in general. John Link is approaching 92 and now being cared for in a nursing home. A group of squashies well known to John paid him a visit recently and spent an afternoon with him and his wife Annie. I'm sure he was pleased to see us and to share time together having a chat and a cuppa. Thanks to Geoff Chambers for bringing the news of John to our attention and for organising the visit to check on him.

Your Prez



OUR PREZ'S REPORT ON BENDIGO

It's that time of the year when we rug up as we shiver through Winter so congratulations to the brave soles who made it to Bendigo and competed in our most recent Masters tournament. Cold as it was, it was a fun weekend away as is generally the case. Congratulations to Cam Penna for taking out his hometown tournament by defeating David Kempster in the Div 1 final. Over the weekend, we celebrated the life of Ra Ra with a Chardy or two at the dinner dance on Saturday night. I'm sure we did him proud.

The World Masters Squash tournament in Perth is fast approaching. I know there will be lots of Aussies competing so good luck to you and do us proud.

I can now confirm Victoria will be hosting the 2027 Australian Championships in Ballarat. This will be our second time in Ballarat with the dates set for the 8th-16th October. By moving the tournament to October there will no VMSA Ballarat Masters Tournament in the usual month of November in 2027. So please make it a date to compete in the Australians instead.

A reminder our Major tournament sponsor Steve Walton continues to offer members a great deal when purchasing online from squash.com.au Spend \$50 or more online and VMSA members receive a \$25 discount when they use the code VMSA26. This offer still applies until the 31st Dec. It's a great deal so why not take advantage of it before it expires.

The new Spring pennant season has commenced and I'll be back on court after a bit of time out with a dicky knee. Made it through Bendigo so here's hoping the old bones can hold up for a while longer. All the best as we head toward Spring with plenty of competitive squash ahead.

Squash is good

The PREZ



TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR'S REPORT - BENDIGO

brought to you by Smiths Lane Wines

By Darren O'Neill

Bendigo was another great tournament. Although it was a bit chilly, we had 67 entries over 9 sections which is fantastic. Thank you to all the Interstate players who made the effort to cross the border ACT 1, TAS 1. There were so many great matches and it was a pleasure to watch them play out in true master's sport-person-like manner.

We welcomed 7 "virgins" Glen Hofert - Bairnsdale, Belinda Bird - Bairnsdale, Graham West - Bendigo, Gail Oliver - Bendigo, Rosanna Powell - Bendigo, Franc Bakkes - Bendigo, Hilary Ingram - Essendon. Our Virgins buddy, Leanne Haley, looked after them very well. We hope to see you at another tournament soon where you can use your free tournament entry voucher.

The Dinner Dance was held at the Bendigo RSL and we had a fabulous night with good food, drink and great conversation. Our President did a special toast to Ra Ra which was quite fitting as he was known as the "Chardy King". The band played some fantastic songs to help us dance the night away, the dance floor was packed all night. Thanks to the RSL for being so accommodating, it was very easy dealing with them.

To the court's President Wayne Lowe, you were so helpful with all our requirements. You made my job easy, so thanks for the support. To all the people who helped over the weekend I know you were under pressure so thanks for the hours you put in to produce great food, also for the wide range of beverages on offer to our players. Cheers to the bar and food staff.

The Member's draw was won by Lynette Woodyard from WSRC of 2 dinner dance tickets to be used over the next 12 months, Congratulations Woody, nice to see you win those.

Congratulations to 2 great supporters of master's squash, Stephen Russell who received his 25 tournament badge and Michael Byrnes who received his 50 tournament badge. There are quite a few players who are very close to receiving special tournament badges - so watch this space!

The Tournament Desk ran like a dream, thanks to the fabulous job by our Tournament Team – Janine, Allison and Helen. To all the people that helped on the weekend thanks so much – Ally and Gary for the wine tasting, Jill Morsch for the amazing raffle prizes and Wali and Terry for your continued support including the special banner for Ra Ra which followed us around all weekend.

As always Smiths Lane Wines, great supporters of master's squash and squash in general, supplied some fabulous wine for prizes. I'm sure all the people who won a prize will enjoy drinking it. If you would like to have wine delivered direct, contact Smiths Lane at <https://smithslanewines.com.au>

Bendigo Section 1 winner Cameron Penna defeated David Kempster in 4 games in a great match with the gallery full to the brim. Cameron gave a positive speech to the crowd and to other winners. We hope to see more players attend in 2027 to battle it out and to take home a number one place in their relevant sections. Virgins, we are calling you to play in one of our tournaments so don't be shy, come see us.

Check the results page on the VMSA website for all the finals match results. <https://vmsasquash.com.au/bendigo-masters-2026/?tab=draw-sheets>

Our next tournament will be held at Ballarat on the 20-22 November 2026. Entries are open so get busy and bring some friends. It will be a great time.

Click this link to head to the VMSA Website <https://vmsasquash.com.au/tournament-list>

Please keep doing your part for Australian Squash in 2027 as we can't do it without you.

My Pleasure
Darren O'Neill

VMSA Tournament Director

Presentations - VMSA MASTERS TOURNAMENT BENDIGO 2026

Event	Award	Awarded to
(1) SECTION 1	Winner	CAMERON PENNA Bendigo
	Runner Up	DAVID KEMPSTER Mulgrave
	Third/Special plate	WARREN MILLER Lilydale
	Plate	MARK ROBERTSON WSRC
	Consolation plate	MATT HOWARD MCC
(2) SECTION 2	Winner	CHRIS PHOTIS Bright
	Runner Up	GARY MCPYKE MCC
	Third/Special plate	STEPHEN RUSSELL Lilydale
	Plate	MICHAEL BOATMAN Ballarat
	Consolation plate	GRAHAM WEST Maryborough
(3) SECTION 3	Winner	FRANC BAKKES Bendigo
	Runner Up	ROGER CHILD TSMC
	Third/Special plate	DAVID SHAY Werribee
	Plate	GREG DUNCAN GV Squash
	Consolation plate	RICHARD WOODBRIDGE Boorowa
(4) SECTION 4	Winner	GLEN HOFERT Bairnsdale
	Runner Up	ANNE FORDHAM Tonic
	Third/Special plate	LORI FERNANDEZ Tonic
	Plate	DAN KORN MCC
	Consolation plate	JANINE EEDY Mulgrave
(5) SECTION 5	Winner	DANIEL MEYER Baw Baw
	Runner Up	JOHN DE LEIJER GPHC
	Third/Special plate	JEANNETTE VEAR GPHC
	Plate	MICHELLE ROWLES WSRC
	Consolation plate	MICHAEL DEANE Churchill
(6) SECTION 6	Winner	HILARY INGRAM Essendon
	Runner Up	JOSEPH LICCIARDI
	Third/Special plate	CHRIS MCCARTHY Bendigo
	Plate	WENDY MCWILLIAMS Mulgrave
	Consolation plate	ROSANNA POWELL Bendigo
(7) SECTION 7	Winner	LYNETTE WOODYARD WSRC
	Runner Up	CASSIE MILLER Lilydale
	Third/Special plate	ARTHUR SAMUEL Lilydale
	Plate	JEANETTE BARTON VRC
	Consolation plate	GARY MURPHY
(8) SECTION 8	Winner	ROSS WARREN Mulgrave
	Runner Up	VIC STAFFORD Squash Melb
	Third/Plate	JUDY FOX TAS
	Consolation plate	CHERYL GILBEE Lilydale
(9) SECTION 9	Winner	HEATHER CAMPBELL ACT
	Runner Up	JENNY ANDERSON Moe/Morwell
	Third/Plate	NAOMI ROBERTSON Corio

BENDIGO PRESENTATIONS



BENDIGO DINNER DANCE



BENDIGO AROUND THE COURTS





PETER WRIGHT – LIFE MEMBER OF SQUASH AUSTRALIA

Letter to Peter from Lou Morsch on behalf of the VMSA

Dear Peter,

The VMSA wish to congratulate you for being awarded Life Membership of Squash Australia. It is a fabulous honour which you thoroughly deserve and considering nobody has achieved this honour from Squash Australia for 20 years, speaks volumes of the contribution and impact you have had on our sport.

This accolade only adds to the long list of awards you have received along the way but it is no less significant in comparison.

You have achieved everything there is as a player and an administrator, so it only leaves me to say congratulations again on behalf of the VMSA and all it's members.

Yours truly,

Lou – President, VMSA

VALE JOHN SANDLER

I received news from Lee Carlson of the passing of an old VMSA friend, John Sandler. John played masters pennant and competed in VMSA tournaments many years ago. He was also the person who designed a special t-shirt for the AMSA Tournament held in Perth in 1989 when Jim Bristow had to organise a bus to get there because of the Ansett debacle at the time. There were mostly Victorians, some Taswegians and Queenslanders on board the bus. John was also on the VMSA committee in Jim Bristow's time and I believe had been our newsletter editor. Our thoughts go out to John's partner Leonie Cann, another past player as well as a past VMSA Secretary.





Vale Richard Johnson - RA RA



Richard started playing Masters squash in the late 80's early 90's and became well established with the VMSA playing pennant for a number of clubs but in particular Moorabbin Squash where he played in mid-week and Masters competitions. Richard loved his squash and also attended regularly on Saturday mornings to have a hit doing so for over 25 years. He loved using a Head squash racket and would go to great lengths to hunt around Australia to find his favoured racket.

As much as he enjoyed his squash he was a very strong competitor which leads me to a funny story conveyed to me by one of his teammates during a recent session they had celebrating their good times together. It was common knowledge that RA RA, apart from having a bushy moustache also had a bit of a stutter. But on a squash court when the pressure is on and he disliked a decision by the officiating referee, RA RA could become very argumentative and go off in a bit of a rage at the Ref. We are all guilty of that, but I'm told his teammates were always amused by the fact RA RA's stutter would instantly disappear and he spoke perfectly to get his point across.

RA RA played in 102 VMSA tournaments which equates to about 25 years of participation in our events where there was a maximum of 4 and then 5 tournaments per year. In the VMSA we award milestone badges for 25 50 75 and 100. RA RA achieved his 100 milestone in Shepparton in 2023 but sadly only managed another 2 tournaments after that date. Richard played in 17 Australian Masters Tournaments — an event conducted once every year which again highlights his love and devotion for the game of squash. Every year the Victorian squad would meet for a team meeting prior to the Australians and distribute State t-shirts to every competing player to wear during the national event. When Richard received his he would immediately arrange to have RA RA printed on the back of his shirt.

There were some other special tournaments which RA RA would not want to miss. The ANZAC tournament was created in Darwin and Richard would never miss that event out of respect for those who served. The Tassie tournament in July was another of his pet events and Masters/Juniors was also one of his favourites.

Now RA RA also loved being the centre of attention, so it was not uncommon for him to feature in a photo opportunity. The VMSA website has a photo gallery which dates back many many years, and you will not find a tournament which Richard attended where there is not a photo of him in it.

Photo opportunity is one thing, but I have not mentioned anything about drinking and social activity. Richard was known as the Chardonnay King. In fact, he was nearly always seen engaging in a good old chat with someone and with a glass of Chardy in his hand. Be it at supper on a pennant night around the courts or at the dinner dances that were conducted at tournaments around Victoria and elsewhere, it was his signature. He loved the social aspect of our sport as much as the competition and was the ultimate charmer encouraging the girls to get up and dance the night away with him at all our functions.

RA RA holds a special place in our hearts. We miss him and we love him dearly. It was his wish to not wear black and be drab today (the day of the funeral). I hope I managed to shine a bit of light and add some colour to his wonderful life.

Your Prez



PENNANT GRAND FINALS AUTUMN 2026

EASTERN SECTION



WESTERN SECTION





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Cheers

Elie and Carol
and The Team at
Smiths Lane Wines



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smiths_lane_wines





Ballarat Masters Tournament

CITY OF

BALLARAT



20th-22nd November 2026

Ballarat Squash and Racquetball Centre
106 Dowling Street, Wendouree Vic 3355
Phone 0448 410 845

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



Closing date for Early Bird Rate
Friday 06/11/2026

Closing date for Entries
Thursday 12/11/2026



2027

Victorian Masters Squash Tournaments

February 12th-14th - Horsham

April 16th-18th Vic Champs - Lilydale

May 29th Masters Juniors - Westerfolds

July 23rd-25th - Mildura

Australian Masters Squash Championships - Ballarat

Oct 8th - 10th Individual Championships

Oct 12th - 16th Teams Event

