



Squash New Zealand

National Office Fortnightly Update

4<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Kia ora

The working groups are starting to form, an insights survey is being constructed and currently working through with a travel company on managing our logistics – starting to feel like the engines are starting up!

### Strategic Priority areas

#### **Kotahitanga**

- Note the important request yesterday for all districts to formally adopt the 2021-24 Strategic direction within the next 2 week, see updated version following a few minor edits.
- I am working through a process to align roles in the national office, this should be completed within the next two weeks.
- I am testing with a travel company on managing our travel logistics, thank you to those that responded. FYI in total we estimate over 400 rtn flights and 60 accommodation bookings of groups, estimated budget exceeding \$300k pa.
- Forum agenda is being formed in the next two weeks, if you have any feedback on priority/focus areas please feedback to me prior to completion.
- District Club Hui's starting to be planned, Eastern complete. Next week is Northland's. I have BOP, Auckland, Southland and Otago booked in for July.

#### **Promotion**

- The Auckland Open PSA over the weekend was a big success. It was the largest PSA level event in New Zealand for nearly two years and it was great to watch matches live between New Zealanders and Australian (great trans-Tasman competition). It was great for Squash to be broadcast live on Sky Sport and the finals were great viewing spectacles. Congratulations to Evan Williams for winning the men's tile and Australian Jess Turnbull took out the women's tile. Click here to see the finals report and full results on PSA website <https://psaworldtour.com/news/view/8612/b-t-auckland-open-turnbull-victorious-williams-make-it-four>. Thank you to John Fletcher and Tyler Duberly and volunteers for running a superb event.
- Recent news stories include:
  - Paul Coll Reaches final at El Gouna, unfortunately coming up short in the final against world number 2 : <https://www.stuff.co.nz/sport/other-sports/125274118/kiwi-squash-star-paul-coll-reaches-final-of-el-gouna-international-in-egypt>
  - Evan Williams announced as Challenger Tour Player of the month | May : <https://psaworldtour.com/news/view/8623/williams-and-chan-sin-yuk-named-challenger-tour-players-of-the-month-for-may>
  - Canterbury Sportsperson of the year Paul Coll: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/the-press/sport/125282373/squash-star-paul-coll-wins-canterbury-sportsperson-of-the-year-supreme-award>
  - Congratulations to Brodie Bennett, Peter Arnott, and the Tararua Squash Club C Grade Women's Team, for being recognised at the Tararua Sports Awards last month : <https://www.facebook.com/SquashNZ/posts/4064331220292302>



- Good Luck to referee Nicky Mc Naught who is nominated for Official of the Year at the Southland Sports Awards:  
[https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story\\_fbid=1944562379031417&id=533800016774334](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1944562379031417&id=533800016774334)
- Squash NZ have created “Squash in NZ apparel” (please see attached). This was a trial as we will see if there is need or want for the shirts. We have ordered some in our Contra that we would like to gift to those people that are attending the forum (max 2 per District). We have ordered an array of sizes for the trial and if you wish to receive one please send through your size so we can arrange in advance. We will sell these at the Oliver Sport New Zealand Squash Championships for \$50 each. There are both [T-shirts](#) and [Ladies singlets](#) available. If women would like a T-shirt your size will be converted to the men’s size chart. Please flick your request through to: [deanna@squashnz.co.nz](mailto:deanna@squashnz.co.nz)

### Coaching leadership

- Two practicals have been scheduled in Central (12 June) and Wellington (4 July). These are open to any coaches and will be advertised through the Districts, our coach development calendar and using our online learning platform. Details can be found [HERE](#)

### End to end pathways

- We have summarised the E2E pathway into a table outlining the different stages, see attached.
- The June PSA world rankings are out. Congratulations to many of the domestically based NZ players climbing up the PSA tour rankings. Read more here <https://www.squashnz.co.nz/news/index.cfm>
- The PSA Autumn Series heads to Whangarei next weekend for the Northland Open PSA Men’s Challenger 5 and Women’s Satellite. Check out the men’s draw here [https://www.psaworldtour.com/tournaments/view/11586?tab=mens\\_main](https://www.psaworldtour.com/tournaments/view/11586?tab=mens_main)
- Middle of July is the Liquorland Howick Open PSA Men’s Challenger 5 and Women’s Challenger 3. I am working with a new host to hold a Men’s Challenger 5 at the end of August/beginning of September, following the Australian PSA winter tour. More details soon.
- *HPSNZ Strategy*: Martin and Shelley are meeting with HPSNZ next week to get feedback for SNZ funding application for 2022.
- The monthly HP Update was sent to stakeholders (coaches, development players, emerging pros, HP Pros, campaign athletes, 2020 national squad members) on Wednesday. Please see attached. Note some repeated content in district update.

### Grassroots Initiatives

- A key early tactic is to enhance our insights to both squash participants and non participants. The following link is the proposed draft ‘insights’ survey which we will send out to the community later this month. Feel free to complete. Your data will be kept so please respond honestly as a current or past squash person. The other purpose to complete is to also feedback on the survey as we will still amend it. It is a 10 min survey and we will incentivise clubs and individuals to complete.  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/squash21>



## Key Initiatives

### **Competition framework and Grading**

- The competition review group have had their second meeting where have finalised the process we will be following for the review. Our next step involves discussion of all of our events and forming questions that can go out to our stakeholders to determine what they see as the purpose of the event/what they want from an event and then if our events are fit for purpose. Once complete this will be sent out to the Districts and we will be requesting your help in getting this out to as many people as possible.
- *Cousins Shield and Mitchell Cup* will be taking place this weekend at Devoy Squash and Fitness Centre. Devoy will be sharing results to their Facebook page throughout the event
- *Superchamps*: A reminder that the cut-off date to be on your clubs grading list is the 11<sup>th</sup> June. This means they need to be put in by the 10<sup>th</sup> June at the latest.
- *The Oliver Sport New Zealand Squash Championships*: The top 32 have been made selected but are yet to be seeded. We will share this information once seeded. Sky Sport will be airing the finals live at 1pm and 2pm on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June which we will promoting shortly.

### **Campaigns**

- Nothing new to report at this time.

### **Updated I.T Platform**

- A summary report was presented to our Board last week on the options available. The panel are now assessing what further information is required from each vendor to enable them to make a recommendation.

### **Increased commercial Opportunities**

- *Dunlop Balls*. The next round of Ball orders close on June 15<sup>th</sup>. If your District still hasn't placed an order and would like your District to get on board please let me know so I can create you an order form.
- *St John*. Following some recent near miss stories where AEDs may have saved people lives in a squash club, we are exploring with St John a saving lives campaign which will promote clubs having AEDs or making sure they are maintained, registered with 111 and/or promoting first aid courses. More details to follow.
- *Racketball*. Waikato have launched their pilot promotion. I have 100 rackets and many balls sitting beside me ready for distribution!

### **2030 Facility Planning & Levy model**

- Facility working group met yesterday, one page summary of the meeting is attached. Seeking very simple feedback from clubs is a first step that we will ask Districts to facilitate, more details to follow.
- Levy working group. First meeting is scheduled for 8 June.

### **Support Club Capability**

- Nothing to report.



Operational / Business as Usual / Other

- There has been recent examples of inappropriate behaviour on social media and in particular making personalised comments that can be interpreted as being disrespectful. See email that was sent to administrators on Wednesday stating my clear position.