



May 2019

Newsletter of ACT Masters Squash Inc.

handout

IT'S OFFICIAL – PAR 15

The ACT Masters competitions will, from the start of our winter comp (2nd comp) 2019, be conducted under the point-a-rally scoring system. Matches will be to the best of five (5) games to fifteen (15) points, and at 14-all, a player must win by two (2) clear points.

This was decided by a clear and emphatic majority of votes at our Annual General Meeting held at Woden courts on Monday night 8 April 2019.

The contentious issue drew a larger crowd than in previous years, with 34 or so attendees.

This is how the voting went:

Point-a-Rally votes

Proxy 23; AGM 16; **Total 39**

Hand-in-Hand-out votes

Proxy 6; AGM 12; **Total 18**

Therefore the proposed change to Point-a-Rally scoring was

carried by a majority of 39 votes for, to 18 votes against.

This writer notes the large number of proxy voters and wonders that if they were so passionate for the change, why couldn't they be bothered to attend the meeting... Ed.

2019 Annual General Meeting

The 2019 AGM was held with 34 members attending, and two apologies noted.

The retiring President, Mark Young, spoke on the great success of the 40th anniversary March Tournament; the keen interest in this year's Australian championships at the Gold Coast; and the strong possibility of needing a 7pm start to the upcoming winter competition.

Mark mentioned that an earlier start would of course need much consideration and understanding for those players who would find it extremely difficult to be there due to business aspects and also distance factors e.g. our Goulburn players.

And as always, he paid homage to our wonderful, what-would-we-do-without-them, sponsors.

The Treasurer, Ron Smith, presented his report which showed a very good result considering that we made a loss of \$12,700 on the March Tournament. \$12,000 of this shortfall was on the dinner dance at the OPH.

But Gee! There's nothing wrong with letting your hair down and splurging on a cracking good party (and it sure was) now and then—or every 40 years.

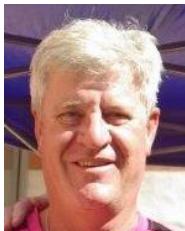
I guess that the committee will need to be a little conservative and pull the belt in a bit this year.

Our evergreen returning officer, Frank Cassidy, chaired the meeting for the election of the office bearers for 2019.

There was a tussle for the position of President, with nominations from Richard Fry and Scott Caban. Each was given three minutes to do a Sco-Mo and address the meeting, after which a secret ballot was held. The voting was counted by Frank (surprise—he can count to more than three), was witnessed by Mark, and as Scott got the majority, he was duly declared the new El Presidente.

All other positions were contested by only the incumbents, and they were elected unopposed. Richard Fry was also elected for Committee.

So we have for your entertainment:
President, Scott Caban. **Vice President**, Alan Martin.
Treasurer, Ron Smith. **Secretary**, Julie Medway.
Committee: Sue Parker, Heather Campbell, Michael Barrett, Denis Mettam, and Richard Fry. Enjoy.



From the President

Another AGM has come and gone and I would like to thank all of those members who attended on the evening and also to those who submitted their proxy vote for the point-a-rally (PAR) vs Hand-in Hand-out (HiHo) agenda item.

The makeup of the new committee is largely unchanged with the exceptions of Richard Fry joining the committee and myself as President. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mark Young for his leadership in the role of President over the last five years. I would also like to thank the outgoing committee for their hard work throughout the last 12 months and especially on staging such a great March tournament for the ACT Masters 40th birthday.

The results of the vote on PAR vs HiHo was 39 for PAR and 18 against, motion carried. What this means is from the start of the upcoming Winter comp, PAR will be the new norm for scoring. PAR is played to 15, however you must have a win of two clear points, so if it gets to 14 all, play continues until someone wins by two points. Moving to Point-a-Rally brings us into line with nearly every other squash community in Australia. ACT Masters was the only Masters association still playing Hand-in Hand-out. I know that we will have some detractors out there, but I ask that you please give it a go and work with the committee while we settle into this new routine.

We are only five short months away from the Australian Championships in September.

This year Queensland Masters are hosting the Championships on behalf of AMSA on the Gold Coast. It promises to be a great event with the first week features the individual age championships and the second week the Interstate Teams Challenge. When registrations open, if you wish to enter the teams event you must register with AMSA/Queensland Masters, but you *must* also register with ACT Masters so that we include you in a team. If you are playing the individuals, there is no need to register with ACT Masters. Remember if playing in the teams event, ACT Masters uniforms are a must.

Looking further ahead, ACT Masters will be hosting the Australian Championships in 2022. This event may be three years out, however the work needs to start now to make this a successful event. In September 2021 at the AMSA AGM in NSW, ACT Masters will be required to table a business plan detailing how we will run the 2022 tournament.

We need to have centres, function venues, entertainment, accommodation options, merchandising, sponsors etc all locked in at this time. There is a lot of work coming up for this committee and we can't do it all on our own. We will be reaching out to our membership base over the coming three years looking for assistance and expertise to make this a great Championship. If you feel that you have something to offer, please talk to a committee member. Any help, no matter how small, will be greatly appreciated.

Regards Scott



*Please forward any items of interest to:
actmasters.squash@gmail.com
attention 'The Ferret'*

It seems that the ACT Government is dishing out buckets of money to sporting organisations. Hmmm, good...

The grants will help local sporting organisations continue to create quality, diverse and safe physical activity experiences and facilities for Canberra's active community. Yeah, no problem there...

One of the successful applicants to receive funding is Canberra Ultimate, who get \$10,000 to do an ultimate frisbee program for girls aged 12–17.... Whaa? Ten Grand to learn to chuck frisbees?

Another is the Canberra Rowing Club (\$13,125) to purchase female friendly boats and oars...

Female friendly boats? Yeeah? Aren't boats simply boats? And oars—aren't they just... oars?

And cop this—Canberra Underwater(???) Rugby awarded \$3,100 to purchase female-friendly equipment and assist with developing a beginner program.

Underwater Rugby??? Whaaaattt???

Aaah! At least sanity has prevailed somewhat. Squash ACT is to get \$18,000 to install a security system and CCTV to allow Woden courts to have 24 hour access to pre-approved paying participants. Phew!

At least it's comforting to note that Squash is deemed to be worth more than Underwater Rugby...

Ramblings

SENIORS MOMENTS – John Forrest

In early February I travelled up the Hume and the M1 to Cardiff to compete (if that's the correct word) in the first NSW Masters Tournament for 2019.

How well remember my first visit to this amazing 16 court centre in the early 80's...in my prime and, a boom time for squash. In fact I seem to remember far more about Cardiff and its surrounds then, as I did on this visit. Of course I was much younger then...

I checked into the Esplanade Motel in Warners Bay and, after a regulation nanna-nap (one has a lot of these in your 70's) and a change of clothes I went to reception to ask if there were any decent Indian restaurants nearby. (Like many Indians I find a curry just the thing to eat when it's bloody hot, and boy was it hot—35 and the sun just setting.)

"Oh yes" said the delightful receptionist "There is the *Rajas Palace* and it is on The Esplanade too, so you can't miss it".

I asked her if it was in walking distance and I was assured that a fit looking fellow like me would be there in no time at all.

Well off I went on foot but in no time at all I was

sweating like a pig. The bloody Esplanade seemed to go on forever so discretion being the better part of valour, I returned to the motel, got in the car and drove.

After failing to find the *Rajas Palace* — **Seniors Moment (SM) Number 1**. I settled down in a Chinese joint and enjoyed a very good Soft Shell Crab. Paying with a \$100 note I was given change for a \$50 and (several minutes later) quickly returned to get the correct change — **SM Number 2**.

Then, sort of remembering I had walked from my motel, I proceeded (and succeeded) to walk back. It was now much cooler, but on arriving at the motel, I thought someone had nicked my car — **SM Number 3**. I was about to call the cops when, thank God my memory kicked in and I began the long walk back to the restaurant. On arriving I went straight to the Chinese joint of course and shock horror, no car — **SM Number 4**.

I finally found my 'stolen' car outside the Indian which I had somehow missed on my first visit, but which now seemed in another galaxy far far away — **SM Number 5**.

Enjoy your 70's. ☀️

TOURNAMENTS — ahead in 2019 —

For all you tournament addicts here's what's coming up this year.

There are two in Victoria, and I personally would like to see a good turn out from ACT.

First is the Wodonga Teams—it's only 4 hours drive, no further than the Central Coast or Cardiff really.

It's a teams event; they put you in a team at your level, and you get to meet a whole bunch of mad Victorian party-goers. Good fun.

The other is the outstanding Grays Ballarat tournament. Need I say more... Oh yes, it's on the week after Dapto.

I have also included one from the Gold Coast at Nerang courts where Dave White and Toni Maxfield are ensconced. (Remember them?)

MAY 25–26 Thornleigh, Sydney

JUNE 22–23 Dural, Sydney Hills
NSW Masters Championships

JULY 6–7 Nerang, QLD

JULY 19–21 Wodonga, VIC

JULY 27–28 Nowra, NSW

SEPT 2–13 Carrara, Gold Coast
Australian Masters Championships

OCT 26–27 Wyong, NSW

NOV 16–17 Dapto, NSW

NOV 22–24 Ballarat, VIC



Here's a couple of likely-looking lads who brought home Gold and Silver ware from the Victorian Masters Championships.

Denis the 70 Open Champion, and Richard the 55 Open Runner-up



The Future of The Woden Squash Courts

I was flicking through the Annual Report of Squash ACT (riveting stuff), and in the President Michael Nuttal's Report I found some interesting bits on where Squash ACT

will be taking the Woden Centre in the future. Masters is a major user of the courts, so below is a precis of how it will affect ACT Masters' use of the Centre.

Grants

Squash ACT applied for and has received two Capital Grants to improve the Woden Squash Centre.

These are:

\$7,530 to put in an airlock entrance and provide some type of shutters blocking off Courts 3 and 6 on both levels during cold periods. The grant requires matching funding and SCSC has already offered to contribute to this project.

There's no doubt that such improvements, if properly done, would make winter squash much more pleasant and thus hopefully increase our playing numbers.

\$18,000 to provide out-of-hours access to Woden Squash Centre. This will allow 24/7 secure entry to the courts and upgrade

security (cameras) to monitor activity.

This will allow minimum staffing requirements and could save \$25–30,000 p.a. in casual wages.

They have also received \$45,000 for

"administration of squash, meeting key priorities, assisting with the operation of the Woden Centre and ensuring it is positioned as a first-rate facility."

Let's hope they spend it wisely. Michael also said that

"Another task is to make the Squash ACT recreation room a reasonable facility but spend as little as possible on it. I have approached Geocon regarding a donation of the old Labor Club tables and chairs, and hope to hear back soon."

Now **that** would be good...

Re-development

Squash ACT has again been approached by representatives of the owners of Bellucci's in relation to a major multi-storey redevelopment that would of course include a squash centre.

Discussions are continuing based on:

1. There be no interruption to the playing of squash at Woden.
2. There be no financial risk to Squash ACT.
3. Any new facility would be state-of-the-art and provide at least 8 courts plus a show court.
4. Squash ACT would be the owner of the centre.

Sounds impressive, doesn't it? But it will be a long process and will only happen with the approval of ACT Squash Clubs.

RULES CHANGES

The World Squash Federation made some minor changes to the Rules of Squash, effective 1 January 2019. These changes have little impact on Squash as we know it, but may add some clarification to some situations. These are:

Rule 4.1: The time period allowed for the warm up has changed from 5 minutes to 4 minutes with half time to be called at 2 minutes.

Rule 8.11 amended to read: "Freedom to strike the ball to any part of the front wall" (leaving out the word entire).

Rule 8.1.4 amended to read: "the freedom to strike the ball to any part of the front wall" (leaving out the word entire).

Added Rule 8.9.3: "Where there has been no actual contact and the swing has been held by the striker for fear of hitting the opponent, the provisions of 8.6 (interference) apply.

