



# handout

December 2017

Issue No. 4

## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from your Committee

With Christmas fast approaching, your committee is looking at how we can keep your squash fun and interesting as we head into 2018. Based on your feedback, the three person team format is here to stay, but with the four person team format available to those who prefer it.

The Australian Masters Squash Association (AMSA) has also decided that from 2018 the National Championships will be run using the point-a-rally (PAR) scoring system. While ACT Masters Squash is not looking to introduce PAR at this stage, it is likely that we will run the occasional evening using the PAR system. It will provide a bit of variety, but also allow those who will be going to the National Championships in Hobart in September 2018 the opportunity to get some practice using the different scoring system. We will also be holding our last MASS for the year on Sunday the 10th of December. We will be resuming early in the New Year—see more info on page 2 this issue.

If you have any suggestions about how we could do things better in 2018, please have a chat to one of your committee members or drop me an email.

On behalf the ACT Masters Squash Committee, I would like to wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas and New Year and hopefully we will see you all back on the court in 2018.

Have a great break.

Mark Young  
President, ACT Masters Squash



ACT Masters Squash  
**CHRISTMAS  
 DINNER DANCE**  
 Monday 11 December 2017  
 7:00 for 7:30 pm  
**DUXTON**  
**Cnr Sargood & MacPherson**  
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Music by  
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**ENTERTAINMENT**



Dancing, lucky door prizes + much more  
 Santa may even make a surprise visit

**Cost: \$50 per head**  
**Two courses Christmas Dinner**

*Attendances to Sue: [sue.parker@actewagl.com.au](mailto:sue.parker@actewagl.com.au)  
 or phone Sue on 0438 800 373*

**Payment required by finals night 4 December**



## THE Ferret

This column may be gossip, semi-truth, absolute balderdash and sometimes even factual, but hopefully, you will find it interesting.



A Masters player while returning to his 'Station' after Masters one Monday night, came onto what was to him quite an amusing sight.

Rapping on his tenant's door, he called out "Hey knucklehead. Are you awake?"

Tenant: (who was sitting up watching television with eyes wide shut) "Mmph eh, who wha?"

Landlord: "Yer ute's in the dam."

Tenant: (struggling to his feet) "No it's not, it's out the front right th... Eh, where's it gone?"

Landlord: "It's in the dam"

Tenant: "Oh \*\*\*\*."

Note: a technical term often heard on the court following a particularly poor shot. —Ed.

Semi-panic ensued as the tenant ran down to rescue his precious ute.

It turned out that only the rear wheels were in the water and it easily pulled itself out in 4x4 mode.

Apparently the ute had been sitting out the front since Sunday with the handbrake on but not left in gear, and somehow the brakes lost grip, the ute slowly rolled down the hill, and stopped at the dam's edge in the mud.

Maybe the cold Monday night contracted the brakes, or perhaps the planets lined up.

Lucky..

## MASS 2018

With Christmas only a few weeks away, we (your ACT Masters Squash Committee) are working on how you can indulge over the festive season and not feel guilty.

To make sure you don't lose the great form you have gained, we will again be running MASS (Masters Alternative Sunday Squash). The last one this year is on 10 December. In January 2018, leading up to the start of our Summer comp, we will continue to run two sessions (1–3pm and 3–5pm) on all four Sunday's—7, 14, 21, 28 January.

At only \$10 it will be a great way to ensure you maintain that hard-earned form heading into the Summer season.

## Summer Comp 2018 – Starts 29 January

If you haven't already filled in an entry form for the 2018 Summer comp, make sure you do it before Christmas.

The Monday Summer comp will run for 14 weeks (two public holidays excluded) while the Wednesday comp will run for 15 weeks (Anzac Day excluded).

The entry form can be found on the ACT Masters Squash website, on the homepage: <http://squash.actmasters.org.au/>



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## 2018 March Tournament

The 2018 ACT Masters Squash Tournament will again be run on the first weekend in March (3rd and 4th).

Our March Tournament has a great reputation for being a very popular and well-run event.

Our goal for 2018 is to top 150 entries. There will be some fantastic prizes, plenty of food (and drinks) available at each of the centres and a great venue for our Saturday night dinner dance—the Bradman Room at Manuka Oval.

It's never too early to get your entry in, so go to the ACT Masters Squash homepage (<http://squash.actmasters.org.au/>) and fill in your entry form today.

That way you won't run the risk of missing out on a great event—or not getting your form in before the deadline.

## OUR SPONSORS

Below and on page three are our sponsors shown by their various logotype.

Sponsors are crucial to the successful running of ACT Masters Squash, as without them our competitions and tournaments would not be the highly successful events that they are.

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# It's Your Call

Mary hits a deft little boast to the front left corner and Joe charges forward manically and throws himself forward, reaches frantically with his racquet and pops the ball up onto the front wall just above the tin a split second before his face came into firm contact with the somewhat unyielding parquetry flooring.

**Marker:** "Down, 6-5, left box."

**Joe:** "Mff\*pffth. Waddya mean down? That ball was clearly a couple or three inches above the tin."

**Marker:** "Yes it was, but the ball was down, it hit the floor."

**Joe:** "Eh? You say I hit the the ball onto the floor then onto the front wall?"

**Marker:** "No, the ball was down."

**Mary:** "Joe's ball was clearly about three inches above the tin from where I was."

**Marker:** "Yes indeed it was, but the ball was down."

**Joe** (hesitatingly): "So the ball was up, but it was also down???"

**Referee** (interjecting): "The ball was not down,—it was not up"

Confused? Not as much as Joe or Mary, I'll wager. The referee eventually straightened things out by explaining that although the marker saw the game correctly, his call terminology was incorrect and it was this that was causing the havoc. He then ruled a 'double bounce' against Joe.

The point of all this is that there are specific calls for the marker that

remove any confusion about the result of the rally so that everyone knows what is happening and the game can continue without delay.

### DOWN

Indicates that the ball hit the floor or the tin.

### NOT UP

Is when a return bounced more than once on the floor, touched the striker or his clothing, or was struck incorrectly e.g. bounced twice on the wall when boasting; hit the racquet twice; was scooped or carried. *Note that 'double' or 'double bounce' is not a valid call.*

### OUT

When the ball hits the wall on or above the out-line, or any fixture above the out-line e.g. fan, light, ceiling etc. *Note that 'high' or 'high ball' are not valid calls.*

### FAULT

The *only* call to indicate a bad serve. *Note that out, cut, foot-fault, down are not valid calls on the service.*

The referee may, of course, sometimes use different terminology to explain his rulings, which is what eventually happened here with our heroes.

## More from the Ferret

See, I told you it may be, semi-truth, absolute balderdash, and sometimes even factual. So tell me, did you find it interesting?



A certain well-known Masters squashie recently celebrated her milestone birthday (the 'Big O') and did so with enthusiasm and gusto, with a big party at the Old Parliament House—with all and sundry in 1920's livery.

Sitting at the Members' Bar in OPH yakking with *The Ferret*, she suddenly decided to stand up but somehow ended up on the floor, legs in the air, lace, satin, and feathers everywhere with 'Oohs' and 'Aahs' resounding.

Thankfully the only damage was to her pride, and she said that "It wasn't the bubblubbles, I chripped on my dresh" a fact she steadfastly maintains to this day.

Well who could possibly argue with that as she was indeed attired in a classy long dress of the era.



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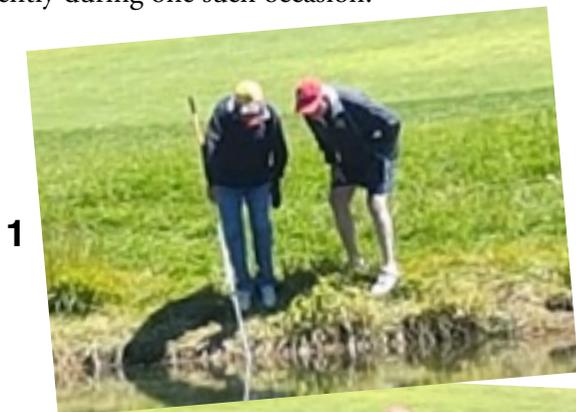


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## This Month's Contest

Every Wednesday morning a number of Masters Squash players meet for a round of very social golf at a well known course in Canberra.

Below is depicted a sequence of photos that were taken recently during one such occasion.



The question is,

### What Happens Next?

1. Will they find Ron's wedding ring that mysteriously came off when they met some nice ladies on the sixth?
2. Does Paul have to play Ron that night and will he try to get an early advantage?
3. Will Ron catch a nice cheap fish for dinner?
4. Did Ron really lose his ball and if he finds it will he play it from where it lies?
5. Did one of the aforementioned ladies lose her ball and said she'd do anything to get it back... and will she?

Send your entries wrapped in a brown paper bag to:

The Editor, Handout  
Masters Squash, Vanuatu.

## Illawarra Masters Tournament (Dapto)

On the weekend of the 25–26 November six (yes, only 6) intrepid ACT Masters made the journey down the Illawarra highway to Dapto to contest the Illawarra Masters Squash Tournament, the last for 2017.

The tournament was held at the Dapto Leagues Squash Centre and the Lakeside Leisure Centre. The new court at Dapto is now in full operation (disabled access and all), and was used to full effect (the court that is, not the stair chair). Yes, the big question is of course, "Why would you need wheelchair access to a squash court?" The answer is of course—stupid bureaucratic rules. Well, have you ever seen non-marking shoes on a wheelchair...

The food supplied over the weekend of this tournament was, as always, legendary. Bacon-and-egg sandwiches, roast beef rolls, ham-cheese-tomato toasted sambos. All very meat-centric, but very popular nonetheless.

The tournament had a very interesting innovation to their grading. Along with the standard mixed-gender divisions, they also ran two ladies divisions—one for higher rankings, and one for the lower ranked ladies. Both 'ladies only' divisions were well received.

And the results...

...a sad state of affairs for the blokes, as they won only one match between them. Mick–0, Denis–0, Ron–0, John–1. Thanks John for that little bit of saving grace.

The Ladies, however, excelled. Sue won Division 8, and Karreen won the Women's Division 1. And that's a big well-done to the girls for showing the blokes how it's done.

It was good to see ex-ACT Masters squashie and old mate Terry Scanlon back on the court after a two year break from the game. We hope to see you more often next year Terry, and get a bit of practice in—those leg-over double-reverse-boast-drop-lob shots were not quite working.



*Sue and Ron posing with NSW president Rob Scott with the poster and shirts promoting next year's Australian Masters Squash Championships in Hobart*