

## **ACTMSA President's Report 2024**

It has been another big year for ACTMSA. Back in September 2023, we had a large contingent of ACT players head to Sydney for the AMSA Titles, with a number of our members picking up places on the podium. Well done to all who participated. Over the Christmas break, we again ran Masters afternoon Social Squash (MASS) at Weston Creek with good turnouts over the four week period.

March 2024 proved to be a busy month for ACTMSA. Our annual March tournament was a great success with approximately 140 players attending and some 90 people for the dinner dance at the Federal Golf Club on the Saturday night. Congratulations to Gary Hampson who was awarded the Keith Jones Memorial Award for all his work behind the scenes in organising the 2024 AMSA Championships. We are now back to our pre-COVID numbers for this tournament, which is fantastic to see. A number of ACT players were successful over the weekend and congratulations to all who picked up prizes. A big thankyou to the organising committee and a special mention to Karina Sommers who stepped into some big shoes and took on the role of Tournament Director from Ron Smith.

Two short weeks after the March tournament, we hosted Bega Masters for the annual RASHES challenge. There was a lot of great squash played and some very tight matches, including several draws and a number of matches that were only one or two points apart. In the end, ACTMSA claimed victory in a fairly convincing way, coming out on top with both games and points won. Another special thankyou to Ron Smith as the Tournament Director and also a big thankyou to Chris Butler who manned the BBQ on Sunday morning in some pretty ordinary weather initially.

Our numbers have remained relatively steady, with some people choosing to hang up their racquets, while we have had some new faces join the ranks. Please make any new Masters players feel welcome and if you need a reserve, please give them a call and keep them interested.

Looking forward, this is a big year for ACTMSA as we host the AMSA Championships over the first two weeks of September. There has been a large Management Committee working for the last 12 months and things are coming together nicely. Entry forms are almost ready to go, pending signoff from the AMSA Executive and should be available in May. It has been 11 years since ACTMSA hosted this tournament and I am hopeful that we have a huge ACTMSA representation across both weeks.

As always, a huge thankyou to our wonderful sponsors, many of whom are regular Masters players. If you are looking for goods and / or services, please consider our sponsors as your first course of action. The sponsorship they provide ensures that Masters Squash remains the cheapest squash in town, with all of the money, as per our constitution, being poured back into promoting and running Masters Squash in the ACT.

To the outgoing committee, a huge thankyou for your efforts over the past 12 months. There is so much that happens behind the scenes to make all of our events run smoothly, and this all comes down to yourselves.

Finally, a very big thankyou to Ron Smith, who is standing down as Treasurer after some 25 years in the role. Ron has been the backbone of the committee for a long time now and his guidance as a member of the Executive will be sorely missed.

Scott Caban

President, ACTMSA