



**Verbatim Comments from  
the Competitions Review Survey  
September 2009**



**19 September 2009**

**Prepared by Vitality Research**



**VITALITY RESEARCH LTD**

# 1) Club Members Survey

## Ungraded Players:

### What sort of competitions would interest you?

Any low level competitions where I could get a foot in the door and enjoy the competition

Anything casual, fun focused, as I'm not graded, am somewhat reluctant to play in comps.

Anything competitive

Anything in which I can compete with players on a similar or slightly better ability

At this stage inter club competitions

Casual

Casual competitions. I would like to start playing more often and become a graded player.

Casual, social

Casual. Can't play regularly. Maybe once a fortnight

Friendly

Interclub

Just a quarterly ungraded comp

Maybe club competitions first and then inter club and go from there in the women's section. Firstly I was keen to learn and progress in squash, but I haven't heard back from Eden Epsom squash to see what happening with my registration. Very slack....I don't think I'm keen anymore!!

Social

Social / Flexible

Social Boxed Competitions

Super social

Mid Week Evenings

## Club Competitions

### What is working well about Club competitions?

A decent level of competition

A Friendly environment

A good forum for your voice to be heard at our club level

A great range of activities

A growing number of players from different clubs attending.

A point of difference

A range of players at varies grades

A small number are keen

Able to watch some very high level squash games

Accessibility of organisers

# 1) Club Members Survey

Atmosphere

Advertising

After Match Function

Aileen is absolutely the best person at organising competitions!! She deserves a medal!! Not only that she devotes her own time to making events at Remuera a success, other clubs could learn a lot from her!! :) Secondly she has fantastic helpers, Liz C puts in a lot of time too!!

All members chipping in to help on competition days

Allowing first games to be played on Junior club night.

Always encouraged to join in

Always friendly and helpful

Always well run

Atmosphere

Atmosphere

Atmosphere

Atmosphere

Atmosphere

Atmosphere

Atmosphere

Atmosphere

Attracts outsiders

Bar & Catering

Being a family orientated club, we have a social committee who organises events for all every couple of months.

Bringing all grades together

Brings people together socially

Business house is an opportunity for people new to the game to be involved in semi competitive play in a low pressure environment

Can develop a wider network and relationships with players to play with following the tournament

Care about the club

Cater for all levels of ability

Catering

Chance to play competitive matches

Clear communication of playing times and changes

Close to home

Club experience

Club facilities are fantastic

Club follows a routine and the players know what is expected of them.

Club is Proactive in developing Junior Squash

Club ladder keeps members active by providing a game against different players each week.

Club members offering to help in running the comps

# 1) Club Members Survey

Club Nights  
Club participation  
Club social atmosphere encouraged  
Club spirit - volunteer help  
Club tournaments encourage players to mix with those from other clubs.  
Committed people.  
Communication  
Communication  
Communication  
Communication  
Communication is good  
Communication to members and prospective players of the availability of competitions to play - ie well communicated  
Communications  
Competition level is good  
Competitions run on time  
Competitive  
Competitive  
Competitiveness  
Competiveness  
Controllers  
Controllers involvement & commitment  
Controllers know what they are doing  
Dedicated to squash and understand squash at all levels  
Desert  
Different opponents  
Dinner  
Diversity  
Draw arrangements  
Draws affective, clear, and fair  
Draws on website  
Driving us to get higher grades  
Easy to enter  
Efficiency of the club as a whole  
Encourage players to try to improve their grading and stay in the sport.  
Encouraging new members to participate  
Engaging with everyone and making new members welcome  
Enjoyable for all levels  
Enjoyment

# 1) Club Members Survey

Enthusiasm and commitment of Tony S both prior to and throughout the competition

Equal treatment of sexes

Even opposition

Even the people who are very experienced are happy to give you suggestions on how to help you on one acts like they are better therefore will not speak to you which I have experienced in other sports

Everyone gets to know each other

Everyone seems to have fun.

Excellent atmosphere with a family environment.

Excellent club members and organisers

Excellent communication between the club & members

Excellent entries to our last open tournament. Well run too.

Excellent organisation and club participation

Excellent social atmosphere

Excellent uptake from our own Club members

Experience

Experienced organisation.

Facilitation

Facilities

Facilities are dated but always presented as best as possible

Family based

Fantastic people running it

Flexibility

Flexibility around playing times

Flexible to individual needs

Flexible with times

Focus on improvement and fun

Follow up

For Auckland tournaments. Friendly atmosphere Mt Eden, Tops Panmure Excellent,

Friendliness

Frequency of competitions

Friendliness of club

Friendly

Friendly

Friendly

Friendly

Friendly

Friendly

Friendly

Friendly

## 1) Club Members Survey

Friendly  
Friendly  
Friendly  
Friendly  
Friendly  
Friendly  
Friendly  
Friendly  
Friendly  
Friendly / social atmosphere promoted at the club  
Friendly atmosphere  
Friendly and lots of fun  
Friendly and Social environment  
friendly atmosphere  
Friendly atmosphere  
Friendly Atmosphere  
Friendly atmosphere  
Friendly atmosphere  
Friendly atmosphere  
Friendly atmosphere  
Friendly atmosphere with helpful people  
Friendly but competitive  
Friendly competition  
Friendly congenial atmosphere  
Friendly controllers  
Friendly members.  
Friendly members/competitors  
Friendly yet competitive atmosphere  
Friendly, all inclusive club atmosphere  
Friendly, social competition  
Fun  
Fun  
Fun  
Fun  
Fun and focus for new members  
Fun feedback  
Fun friendly atmosphere  
Gaining interclub competition

# 1) Club Members Survey

Games on Time

Generally ok standard of draws

Generally well organised

Get to play people I normally wouldn't

Getting match play

Getting more experience

Getting people who may not normally play tournaments to play

Getting to play against other graded players

Give you another aspect of the game instead of having just social games

Gives you a variety of players to play

Giving more opportunity for people to play

Good atmosphere

Good atmosphere

Good atmosphere

Good atmosphere

Good atmosphere - not too serious

Good Atmosphere for all players

Good attendance, providing adequate room for improvement

Good attitude and club atmosphere

Good bar

Good bar and kitchen facilities

Good bar facilities and changing rooms

Good camaraderie and banter between teams - enhances the fun aspect of the game. (Business House)

Good communications

Good competition

Good competition

Good competition

Good competition

Good competition

Good competition at my level playing male and female opponents on the club ladder and business house comp

Good competition for all levels of players

Good competition with fellow masters

Good control

Good convener (organiser)

Good draws

Good emphasis on top squash.

Good facilities

Good facility's

# 1) Club Members Survey

Good food normally  
Good friendly people  
Good games (despite having to play in the mens comp)  
Good Kitchen  
Good kitchen  
Good level of competition  
Good local sponsorship.  
Good meeting new people  
Good mix of players  
Good numbers for tournaments  
Good numbers.  
Good organisation  
Good Organisation  
Good participation  
Good participation - plenty of players.  
Good people participating  
Good Personal Communication  
Good player participation  
Good prizes  
Good prizes  
Good prizes  
Good prizes for all grades  
Good social events after prize giving eg themed party afterwards  
Good social atmosphere  
Good social atmosphere  
Good social environment  
Good socialising after games  
Good spirit and atmosphere  
Good timing  
Good turnout  
Good way to meet new members  
Good way to meet new players  
Great Administration Team  
Great atmosphere  
Great atmosphere - social functions at completion best in Auckland, live music, themed parties, large turnout.  
Great atmosphere, have a lot of fun and feel welcome  
Great club atmosphere  
Great club atmosphere.

# 1) Club Members Survey

Great Club President who has turned the club around  
Great committee  
Great communication and advertising  
Great communications go our regularly of the up and coming events plus reminders  
Great environment, friendly club members.  
Great facilities  
Great fun  
Great fun, good social atmosphere  
Great members who all get on and have A LOT of fun together... we're all friends  
Great organisation by Kaye Jackson.  
Great people  
Great people running and playing the events  
Great prizes  
Great prizes  
GREAT prizes.  
Great social atmosphere  
Great social atmosphere to go with them  
Great Social Club  
Great Squash Captain... who goes the extra mile time and time again  
Great standard of Competition at all levels  
Great Team  
Great vehicle for improving ranking  
Great venue for competitive play  
Great volunteers  
Happiness  
Having Fun  
Having others to play against  
Having sufficient support to run tournaments well  
Help of club members with controlling the tournament  
Helps bar takings, which all clubs need to maintain  
Helps with bar takings  
Herne Bay facility is excellent for players and spectators  
High level of competition  
High level of player ability  
High number of entries  
High participation ladder. Good competition at a social level.  
High quality of squash. Able to attract top squash players to our tourneys which is motivating for all concerned.

# 1) Club Members Survey

In C-grade and below it is mostly about getting a few good games with other players at a similar level from outside your own club as numbers are down.

Includes other

Inclusive

Interaction with club colleagues

Introducing of members to other members that don't normally play each other - mainly for the Box League

It also means members themselves take ownership for the success of the event.

Learn how a tournament is run

Less experienced players are encouraged to enter

Like most local clubs, Howick has an excellent band of volunteers who ensure that things happen. The club captain has done a fantastic job and being on the committee, we focus on all the different levels within the club. It is a fantastic team effort

Local

Local event means more focused promo. New members and visitors are encouraged to participate in a fit format.

Lots of communication - very aware of what is coming up etc

Lots of competitions

Lots of people are entered

Lots of people attend our tournaments.

Makes the club seem active and alive

Masters are not asked to play more than one game in a day

Meet new people

Meeting other players

Meeting people

Meeting people

Members participation in assisting running the event on the day.

Mix with new members

Most outsiders enjoy Henderson after functions

Most participants got prizes

Mostly finished in weekend

New members are encouraged to participate and this flows through into them joining in with other non squash social events.

Nice club

No play Sunday all finishes on Saturday

Not too costly.

Not too many tournaments so able to concentrate of making the event a good one

Number of attendees

Number of players playing

Offers the wider club community a regular competition at all levels

On time

# 1) Club Members Survey

On time  
Open Friendly environment  
Open to all  
Opponents are same skill level  
Opportunities for competitions to improve playing skills  
Opportunities for young & old  
Opportunities to develop personal game  
Opportunity to improve & find out about interclub  
Opportunity to play against players of similar strengths but still competitive  
Organisation  
Organisation  
Organisation  
Organisation  
Organisation  
Organisation  
Organisation  
Organisation  
Organisation  
Organisation and notification of games  
Organised  
Organised  
Organised fitness  
Organising the event and running without any glitches  
Organisation  
Organisation  
Our neighbouring clubs support us well as they know they will have a well run competition  
Our neighbouring clubs support us well as they know we are excellent hosts and they have a good time,  
Overall control  
Overall friendly service in accommodating people and the after tournament event.  
Overall running of competition after commencement of the competition  
Paid staff running them  
Panmure Squash Club members work together to make the tournaments run smoothly...  
Participation  
Participation  
Participation from good reputation  
People  
People are actually staying and marking next game in tournament.  
People are friendly and always willing to help  
People are supporting these events.

# 1) Club Members Survey

Plenty of court space

Play squash locally don't have to travel too far

Played at a reasonable time

Player arrangements

Playing different people

Playing different people

Playing fair

Please note we are a very small club and do not have the capacity for these events

Plenty of Heineken

Prize giving tea

Prizes

Promoted very well to members who receive the online newsletter (both before & after the event with results & photos)

Promoting social aspects of being at the club eg meals available

Promotion

Promotion website updates

Prompt entry of results

Promulgation/communication

Quality of competition

Quality of courts

Quality of opponents

Quality of players

Really organised - hardly ever behind on time.

Reasonably well advertised because always competitors from a number of different clubs

Referees have been fair

Regular matches

Relationship between the two clubs involved generates its own area of accepted friendliness and co-operation.

Relaxed

Relaxed atmosphere

Remuera has a dedicated sports coordinator who is well respected and does a fantastic job

Remuera has very good facilities maintained to a good standard

Remuera is very central for all participants

Run over an acceptable time frame

Running on time

Runs on time

Runs on time

Sense of community - social atmosphere

Smooth organisation

# 1) Club Members Survey

Sociability

Social and friendliness of the club

Social aspect

Social aspects, meeting people

Social atmosphere

Social atmosphere

Social backup

Social environment

Social event

Social events are fantastic

Social events on Saturday night mean more out of towners participate and enjoy

Social interaction

Social mixing

Social play for all members

Social

Sociable and friendly

Sponsorship

Sportsmanship

Sportsmanship of players

Standard of Competition

Support in getting started and introducing you to the people at your own level

Teamwork

The atmosphere is friendly

The atmosphere

The atmosphere around the club whilst tournaments are being held is very welcoming and positive.

The availability use of the courts and support overall.

The club is really nice

The competitions are generally well organized and you don't end up playing at 11pm on a thus like some other clubs

The comps are fair: run by the book and the points system (to determine ones grade) is logical and fair.

The friendliness and hospitality of other players - a negative or aggressive environment stops the lower grades participating.

The friendliness of all the competitors after the days play

The friendly helpful atmosphere and general club spirit

The games are not scheduled to start before 11am in the morning for masters

The games do not start before 5.30 on week nights

The grading system ensures close competition

The help received from the A and B graders in our club too, with marking and tourney control; everyone is always soooo willing to help out.

# 1) Club Members Survey

The lower cost of some of the tournaments has been a real incentive for me to get involved, ie paying \$10 to play in a tournament with no prizes rather than paying \$30 to play in a tournament.

The organization of games is good

The parties have become really good this year which has increased the social aspect

The people are very friendly and helpful in every aspect.

The playing times tend to be quite accurate i.e. there aren't usually any delays.

The prizes are well spread across the grades

The prizes have been good

The seniors in the club look after the juniors

The social aspect - although this could be better

The times available to play

The variety of players you get to play in tournaments

The way they are run

There are a lot of juniors entering

There are a large group of participants and they keep growing.

There are enough controllers to ensure things run reasonably smoothly

There is a good variety of tournaments

There is always good food provided and a good social atmosphere.

There never seems to be any problems with refereeing of games and if there is, the club provides a more competent and experienced referee.

They actually happen

They are run by experienced people

They are well communicated to all participants.

They are well organised

They enable one to compete regularly

They have a good social get together at the end

They have a positive atmosphere

They have qualified refs at the tournaments

They have run on time

They promote squash

They run Efficiently

They running on time since switching to American scoring

Time bound. 4 players per team games 1/2 hour start at 7 finish 9.15pm. Food and drink can be home in bed by 10ish to get beauty sleep - unlike interclub that can take forever - supper not till last match over, travel, late night, grumpy man the following day. (Business House)

Timing is good - start of the season or early season

Tournament control

Tournament Control

Tournament control

Tournament control, toiletries in showers, prizes - needs more thought already got 4 bags!!!

# 1) Club Members Survey

Tournament control is exceptional and keeps improving  
Tournament Control Mt Eden  
Tournament controller, Aileen does a great job  
Tournament Controllers well organised and competent  
Tournament organisation  
Tournaments run on time  
Trying to include all members, whatever ability  
Variety of different players  
Variety of new players to play against  
Very friendly  
Very Friendly  
Very friendly  
Very friendly atmosphere, try to include non club members  
Very good enjoyment value  
Very good turnout: The Club comps attract many participants of both genders and all ages  
Very helpful  
Very Organised - there is always a controller there and the games usually run on time  
Very well organised  
Very well organised  
Very well organised. Good support from Committee and other club members.  
Watch good squash  
Watching other games  
We have a part time squash co-ordinator who does an excellent job.  
Welcoming  
Welcoming to other clubs  
Well advertised  
Well advertised with flyers and on the website and verbal communication via coaches and other members to promote the competition.  
Well advertised, both at the clubs and through other media, emails, club websites and newsletters.  
Well attended by players outside the club  
Well communicated  
Well Controlled  
Well coordinated  
Well Looked After Courts  
Well marketed  
Well organised  
Well organised  
Well organised  
Well organised

## 1) Club Members Survey

Well organised  
Well organised  
Well organised  
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Well organised  
Well organised  
Well organised  
Well organised  
Well organised  
Well organised  
Well organised  
Well organised and age group  
Well organised and good communication  
Well organised and they provided qualified refs  
Well organised by squash committee  
Well organised competition  
Well organised, people always make sure that you know where and when you are playing  
Well organised.  
Well organised.  
Well organised.  
Well organised.  
Well organised.  
Well organized  
Well patronised  
Well put together player ladder  
Well represented  
Well run  
Well run  
Well run  
Well run

# 1) Club Members Survey

Well run  
Well run  
Well run  
Well run  
Well run tournaments  
Well scheduled  
Well sponsored  
Well sponsored  
Well structured  
Well supported  
Well run  
Wide range of players  
Winning a prize! LOL

## How do you feel these Club competitions could be improved? Why do you say that?

All good.

For all NZ D grade upwards should all use the double yellow dot ball

A lot of effort can be put into it, but it doesn't mean a difference in the outcome of improvement. A lot of tournaments can be too much for people and with having other commitments, the saturation point is reached.

All working well - don't change what isn't broken. Leave scoring as is and NEVER go to American scoring for any but learner Juniors and Open Graded players

Allow longer court time for higher grades ie B possibly C as they have longer rallies, this will make the tournaments run to schedule.

Allow more time for games so that competitions run on time

Attract more new players to play. I it's always the same old players taking part. Outside the main clubs there is no support from players for a lot of tournaments. These need to be stopped and we should have 50% less choices to encourage greater participation and make them more desirable.

Automated entry and paying facility, through club website and possibly more social and business house leagues

Being a small club you really need someone to stand up and push people, a communicator.

Better advertising, additionally supported within all squash ak (distant clubs seem to get "second best" support from ak).

Better numbers of entries.

Better or earlier promotion of the competition. Someway to remind other clubs that our competition is on rather than relying on sending flyers. There always seems to be a last minute ring-around of other local clubs to see if we can recruit more entrants.

Better organisation, better prizes, bigger numbers, better advertising

Better prizes!! More (higher) cash prizes!! This will attract more people!!

Better Prizes, I quite like picking a prize rather than money it feels more worthwhile

Better prizes, more promotion and more publicity during and after competition in local media, club newsletters, websites etc.

# 1) Club Members Survey

Better promotion to encourage new members and fringe players to participate.

Better promotion, more volunteers, more making people feel welcome

Better sponsorship

Better support by members. Always have to chase them to enter

Bigger posters at club, more frequent emails to members eg weekly, advertising upcoming events - communication with members has not been so good over the last six months

Broader range of players per grade, especially in the lower grades. Perhaps the lower (points) graded players would enjoy it more if there were more players at their level. I have a partner who is "F" grade that will not play tournaments because she gets lumped in with higher graded players to "Fill" up the section of the tournament.

By making sure that people do not play more than one game on any one given day. Especially masters. Playing one day and missing one or two and then playing two games the following day is not acceptable.

By making sure they have the right people running the competitions instead of leaving it to people who end up doing the job because no one else will.

By putting the poster out well before for hand. not at the last min.

C grade players and above should have to some referee training

Can't think of anything - currently very good

Cheaper entrance fees. \$20 is a lot

Clearer indication of finishing date. Important to know before you enter a tournament whether it finishes on Saturday or Sunday. Competitions spoiled by players withdrawing or not even showing up to first game. This can ruin a draw.

Closing the gap between advertised playing time and actual playing time

Communication is poor; they basically keep asking the same people to play. Needs to be out in the community more. People can come to these comps, play someone. then drift away if there's no follow up to encourage them

Communication of schedule changes could be improved to save time waiting around to play

Competitions used to run from Thursday to Sunday and you normally had two games on the weekend, which I found better than playing games earlier in the week and only having one game on the weekend so that the tournament finishes on a Saturday (I think this really deters "out of towners" from being able to enter)

Continue with the no play Sunday. Start earlier in week if have to. This enables family time on Sunday whilst still being able to play a tournament. Increase the number of doubles tournaments. Has a more element of fun and enables past retired players to return and play without stress of singles type game.

Could be improved on organisation. Often games don't start on time or there aren't enough referees to score the games.

Could encourage more people to play by ringing around players, pulling in more top players. This would encourage even more people to play. Don't rely so much on internet messaging, it takes away some of the personal touch & also people don't always check email and hence last tournament we had people not turning up for games. Good to have a variety of prizes too.

Could review the cost involved - there is no need for lots of prizes

Couldn't do much better than at our last open tournament

Court Lighting / condensation need to be higher standard. Continual problems of wet walls and sub-standard lighting levels at some clubs. I can't play high level squash with wet walls. Some courts need to have higher lux levels of light. Competition games should be under set guidelines of court conditions to enable consistency and improvement.

Developing masters squash. There are a lot of older players.

# 1) Club Members Survey

Draws to be posted online before tournament begins, so you know who and when you are playing.

Encourage more club members to participate

Encourage new members and lower grade players

Everyone hates late games, yet it's nice to finish tourney on Sat instead of a Sunday - guess it can't be helped really

Extending it to same area clubs rather than just between two clubs. It does carry the risk of being labeled for its exclusivity; however this could be offset via generating interest by greater numbers participating, which has follow on benefits mid to long term.

Free member!!!

Get more people from other clubs joining so as to vary the competition.

Greater spread of competitions over other grades by not only focusing on having Open competitions.

Greater support and sponsorship from the squash industry

Greater support from Squash Auckland and Squash New Zealand particularly with promotion and profile.

Why - the tournaments will have a wider impact with a coordinated approach with the regional and national body including obtaining sponsors and sales/marketing

Have more comps run by club - not necessarily for squash Auckland

Having more of them. I enjoyed it.

Having to referee the match immediately after your own match does not allow any time to cool down, to stop sweating, or to STRETCH. So muscle stiffness and aches quickly sets in. Allow players to referee two matches before or after their match?

I am really just a social player so am happy with the running of the competitions. They seem to be fair and run the best way for the number and grading of the competitors.

I think the staff at Remuera could not do much more to improve. Other clubs could take note

I wish the club ran a ladder

I work till 7 in the evening so it's hard for me to be there at 5 or 6 so if they had 3 different times for the people to participate.

If there was a way we could lighten the load on Liz and Aileen, ha-ha I'm sure they would appreciate it. Other than that I think Remuera tournaments are superbly run!! As well as Te Puke Tournaments!!

I'm very content with my club competitions

Improved consistency between clubs in grading of juniors & new players. Some juniors & new players are under or over-graded, which leads to mismatched games for players of the 'same' grade. This can be quite demoralising for new players.

Increased advertisement at other clubs and a longer period of time that the advertisements are put up for before the competition starts

It would be great if tournaments can be available and marketed centrally through one site on the internet and that you can join tournaments through this site. Also, if I could mark which tournaments I am interested in and then be reminded a few weeks before hand and then opt in online. Often I have missed tournaments because I haven't been able to get hold of the tournament organiser in time or they have not included me for some reason. Also, having the draw available online would be great so I can what dates/times I might have to commit to and I can research which players I might be up against beforehand.

I dunno, I'm sick of this survey already.

Ladder control is slack and people coming late is very annoying. Late comers should be defaulted if more than 15 minutes late.

Make food available during competition. Last Junior competition there was no opportunity to buy lunches within the club facility

# 1) Club Members Survey

Maybe a get together - dinner or drinks to help get to know everyone after the event

Mini in-house (club only) weekend tournaments. Club ladder. Squash club captain. Coaching for lower graded players from senior experienced players (both to give back and to break down elitism). Coaching of referees prior to or during the tournament to improve skill and understanding (referees are so varied in skill level greater emphasis needs to be put into training)

More active promotion to get larger draws

More advertising Sponsorship Better prizes Better after match functions

More advertising, Cheaper entry fee, to get more entries

More efficient with the time as often running at least an hour behind

More entries

More external support.

More involvement in player improvement

More media involved to target outside community

More of a social atmosphere would be good. I think its important visitors feel really welcome. Would be good to get more teenagers involved in squash via the college. Think lots would enjoy it if they had a go.

More organised with getting match times right

More organisers/helpers - a few carry the load

More promotion through other clubs. Quite often in a tournament you find you are generally playing only members of that club. Better standard of behaviour by junior players competing in tournaments. There is quite often unsportsmanlike like behaviour shown by younger players which is not appropriate in a competition

More promotional drive from other clubs to increase the numbers & competition

More publicity

More refereeing tuition

More social competitions for members of all standards to mix - they tend to be exclusive and favour the elite players

More spectators - better promoted externally.

More use of the internet to update tables/time of play etc so it is easier to follow the progression of the tournament.

More variety our club runs a Calcutta Tournament which is the most enjoyable competition that I have played. It is very well run and is completely different format but very competitive.

Mt Eden excellent in all areas except prize money for minor places. Entry fee of \$40 excessive for some clubs some clubs need climate control. Information about tournaments for competitors outside Auckland needs to be improved. Mailing list like this one perhaps.

My only criticism in our club is our doubles competition it is aimed at only higher graded player as they feel the lower grades do not have the skill base for doubles. It is the only forum where our voice cannot be heard, this is due to the organiser of this competition.

My only grudge is that I am nearly always in the top division for our B grade tournaments as I am c1 graded player and never stand a chance of winning. But you can't do much about that,

Need more assistance from members, then more club competitions could be held, only a few organise events, which causes issues when members want more, but the few are too stretched to help.

Beed more events and more promotion of events so that members are aware

Need more players as the bottom people eventually stop coming.

# 1) Club Members Survey

Need to complete early Sunday afternoon Saturday morning draws excluded Due to family sport commitments with other codes

Needs more promotion and more sponsorship

No improvement as players keep to grades all the way to ungraded so have a good time on and off court. Just need to do this more often

None

Not enough experience to give a reasonable feedback

Not enough variety - need league or ladder system League and/or ladder could not only be for our club but also include other clubs nearby Would be good to also have our results from leagues/ladders go on the grading list

Not junior referees because they don't know about lets and strokes half the time

Not much more can be done to improve. Only that the participants should not default and everything should be kept on time. No delays.

Not so much promotion on open tourney's and none of normal ones. Should be even for both.

Nothing - everything going well

Nothing at this stage. Competition members are growing all the time.

Nothing to say, I am pretty satisfied as they are.

Nothing. It's all good

On time matches

One way that these competitions could be improved would be more promotions presented in a variety of different ways. More notice about these tournaments would also be an improvement so that people can make early arrangements and therefore take part. Another improvement in my eyes would be to push and promote junior players. It would be nice to see far more emphasis put into the newer players eg. small weekend tournaments for newer and lower graded players. Not only would it be good to see the lower graded players have more emphasis but also the juniors who are more highly graded and therefore provide them with more opportunities for them to gain points and move through the grading list.

Open run like masters

Our club lacks players to have club competitions apart from our annual club champs - but other clubs around (eg Silverdale & Devonport) encourage me to participate in their competitions. Small clubs support each other through partnerships

Our club works well in this area

Ours needs much healthier catering.

Panmure, Henderson, Papakura & Manurewa are very friendly family clubs. Others seem a bit cold on arrival, no greeting just name tick off. Not much said, needs more PR!!! Make players feel welcome especially if travelling afar from home.

Participation - there is never enough and draws are not always even. maybe at lower grades there could be a handicap system where you sometimes have F graders playing E1

People now have so many activities competing for their leisure time and few are prepared to dedicate a full weekend to a tournament. Saturday finish is popular in weekend tournaments, but masters don't like to play 4 consecutive nights (Wed. interclub, then Thurs/Fri/Sat. tournament). Perhaps try spreading over 2 weekends - eg. games Friday and Sat. (or Sun.) one weekend, finish the following Sat. or Sun.

Perhaps look at bulk purchase discount stores for Squash Auckland. Creating buying power

Players need/want to feel welcomed when playing at an away-club. I have played at several this season (first year player) and I walk in and no one seems to know what is going on, who is running the competition etc. I have to wander around and try and find my own way. Perhaps there should be a

# 1) Club Members Survey

gathering and small welcome to the competition players when the tournament starts. Several people from the host club should be on hand to direct, answer questions, assign a ref, find a ball etc.

Players not pulling out at the last minute, players unhappy if someone is late. Maybe we should charge players that pull out with 3 days before the first day of play.

Players who enter should be informed that part of the participation includes marking and refereeing. Because there are some players who do not assist in this part of the competition - juniors and seniors.

Possibly having some lower grade tournaments, say d grade and below, to encourage the members who are possibly intimidated by the thought of playing tournaments when higher players are involved.

Promotion of the tournaments, not enough advertisement

Red Beach tournament at the start of the year was crap

Refereeing standard is poor. Need some sort of practical test that each person must do.

Run on time - they are always running late

Social events on the Saturday nights.

Some clubs have too much time between games. No referrers

Some open competitions have very poor competition. This is because some of the clubs allocate higher points to their playing without looking at their abilities & these players get thrashed in competitions especially from juniors, unnecessarily giving very high points to opponents. My suggestion would be there should be separate juniors-only competitions for all grades of juniors & same with seniors.

Sometimes the timing is not done very well and games end up being later and later which means you wait around awhile to get on court

The 1st round of the day, say 17.30 if your opponent doesn't arrive by 17.45 then he forfeits the match. As we all have cell phones these days & the clubs have phones, so if you get a puncture you can phone & say you'll be late, can't be that difficult

The distance to travel is sometimes too far and teams get home after midnight during the week - perhaps have smaller/ closer regions competing or have a team of 3 players.

The only thing really lacking in our club is the member support, and that is not through lack of trying by the committee. More member participation is what is needed.

The time in between rounds of play, need to be a larger time frame so players get on court when they are scheduled to play

There is a definite need for better planning to take place prior to tournament start. Details about who plays when are far too often left to the very last minute and it should not be this way. Also I feel discouraged for those that are scheduled to play, only to have their opponent withdraw at last minute - should this happen I would suggest (unless they have a valid reason) a potential 50 point reduction on grading - a reduction in this type of problem would definitely help organisers.

There shouldn't be so many changes to the draw & times at the last minute (usually a fault of other players rather than the clubs, but they need to get stricter on late withdrawals). Perhaps offer an extra cost of entry fee in return for not having to ref after playing.

These are all extremely well run - refer comments above

They could be better controlled as people arriving 30mins after their game to play on the ladder. What is the cut off time? When one member hasn't turned up a brother or sister can play their game for them, is this counted in their rating for the ladder? People putting in another game to suit themselves. All form one family.

They should possibly be advertised slightly better with every club having up coming competitions advertised on their website with easy to use online tournament entry. Squash Auckland should also look at an advertising page for tournaments where clubs can advertise their up coming tournaments etc.

Think outside of the square. Shorter sharper competitions eg One night competition, best of three games 1st to 15.

## 1) Club Members Survey

Timing could be a little better on early games.

To be less cramped around draw area

To run more to time as some games were put on very late at night. Also not to let people have two late games two nights in a row it is not fair. Also to give out the prizes in the right order.

Unfortunately, as in the past (20-30yrs) the work required to successfully run a competition falls on a few, the few who are always left to ensure all is a success. I might add, this is very apparent with other squash clubs around the country, and I dare say, common with all voluntary run sports clubs across the country.

Unsure - perhaps make them more family friendly as a lot of people have children and would make it easier for them to participate in tournaments in general

Usually they are 1 evening per week over 3 weeks and tend to be Thursday evenings. If held on Friday evenings members would be more likely to socialise after their game and therefore put more revenue over the bar.

We need more funding to improve facilities and tournament aspects. We don't need more or better prizes, just well run squash tournaments. Maybe more high profile players at tournaments to get the interest of youth

We need to do a lot more tournaments and not cancel them all the time.

Well they need to actually use the kitchen at our club. The best thing you can get is some potato chips and a chocolate bar from the bar. Bit average in my opinion.

With most club tournaments, the inexperience of Referee's has put a downside to some games that I have played, with the requirement that players ref games with little or no experience it is a recipe for disaster. At the level that I play, E Grade, there is often a mix of ages, with some very young players, and sometimes I feel a bias towards the younger players.

# 1) Club Members Survey

## Squash Auckland Competitions

ONLY IF YOU SAID YOU WERE UNHAPPY WITH THE TIMING AND/OR VENUE/S OF ANY OF THESE COMPETITIONS:

Why aren't you happy with the timing and/or location/s? Specifically what would suit you better?

### Re the timing...

2009 Winter season too long this year

Anything but a relaxing Sunday morning.

Believe there should be a days rest for those who wish to play open and masters - therefore would prefer if open could be played on Monday - instead of Tuesday nights for those at higher levels. Let the open lesser graded players play on Tuesdays. Additionally I believe starting both 30/45mins earlier would help in getting home at a reasonable hours - starting supper for masters at 10:30 is not ideal - but has happened on a quite a few occasions this year

C Grade ladies at Warkworth was not a good interclub event/ place particularly as they were not a competitive side at that level

Competition is meant to start at 7pm and often does not get underway until 7.20pm. It also takes so long once you finish playing and then having a meal. Often you don't get home until 11.30pm or later.

Finish too late due to waiting for other teams to finish.

For Masters Interclub, I am finding that with a 7PM start and a close to midnight return home time, it makes for a very long day. Would a 6PM start be realistic given peak traffic considerations and work schedules?

Give us @ least 24 hours to recover!! Do the All Blacks play two games on the same day??

I am 15 and play other sports as well. Would be great if there were senior 1-day tournaments. I really want to play more tournaments in the Rodney, North Shore and Auckland areas but when the games are over 3 days usually there's at least one day I can't get there.

I have walked in my door from an interclub game no earlier than 10pm even when its a home game and as late as 11pm for an away game.

I know Masters is supposed to be a social event, but with such busy work schedules playing then having dinner you often do not get home until around 12am which is rather late if you have an early start. So I don't know if it is possible that instead of dinners you have nibbles so those who want to stay a bit late can and those who what to leave early can.

I think there are too many weeks in the year when there is no interclub. Having long weekends off is good. But the autumn and spring competitions are too short

I understand it is difficult but it is just a little bit late.

I would like to play interclub for the challenge, variety of opponents and venues, as well as the socialising BUT: The current system does not attract me. Suggestion A: 1. The club classifies graded players as follows: a. 1 desires to play every week and is committed to it b. 2.has other commitments but is available as a reserve c. 3.has significant commitments but might play if team is desparate 2. The club enters a team for each set of four type 1 players who are available(eg 9 type 1 players will provide 2 teams. The spare player loses out and will have to accept type 2 status until they improve their grading. 3. Each type 1 player pays the interclub fee in advance before the season starts else they are not in the team 4. In the unlikely event that any type 1 player cannot play they MUST arrange with type a 2 or 3 player of equivalent grading to take their place. Type 2 and 3 players do not pay the interclub fee and as a

# 1) Club Members Survey

consequence cannot expect regular call-ups to play. Suggestion B: Divide the Auckland region into regions within a certain km radius, say 20km so that only the teams within that radius play each other. 1. The current area has about 100km from top to bottom which is too far 2. It's a disincentive for me who works in the city and commutes by bus. I have to either catch a bus to the venue south, west or east of the city and get a lift home OR go home by bus and then drive south through the traffic to the venue. 3. Keep the interclub games more local Suggestion C: All teams play one home and one away game per season. We want home advantage but also want away hospitality in the season.

I would prefer if we didn't have to supply dinner for interclub, its often eaten very late & most people would prefer to go home quicker, cheese & crackers would be ok to go with the drink you buy your opponent. Most people eat dinner before they play.

Interclub runs too late for me, hence I will not be entering again. most nights I'm not home until 11pm or thereabouts and I have to get up at 6am. I need 8 hours sleep and by the time one winds down, gets ready for bed, and actually falls asleep, its 1-2am. Way too late for me!

It can be very hard getting across Auckland to your destination by 7.00pm if the traffic is bad getting home is hard enough some days

It either starts too late or goes on to long. When you combine this with the amount and time of travel it becomes a very late night or very early morning which then destroys the rest of my week

It starts far too late in the season - referring to Masters interclub - middle of March better than a month later.

Masters Interclub. I know I will be in a minority here. I am OK with start and finish times of games, I just find the large meal afterwards 'silly' and gets very late (e.g. sit down meal at 10:30pm). It seems to have got very big, and a bit of 'keep up with the other clubs'. I would much prefer a social beer with some simple snacks, then go home at 10:00/10:30pm. At present I leave most of the time just before the meal comes out; you still end up paying for the meal at your own club - it all makes interclub expensive and makes me feel like giving up.

Meals generally too late

My wife & myself play interclub & a number of families agree. Due to having to get baby sitters, you need to play Women on Monday's & Men on Tuesday's. I was un-able to play winter interclub for this very reason & I know others that have the same problem. Also If you were to play 2 rounds on the same night, this would make a very late night & I probably would not bother to play Interclub.

Need to rethink format and timing - eg 3 man teams 5 games but use American scoring

OK

Playing time becomes too late when games are long

Quite good!!

Senior interclub needs to be shorter. It is great when we can use two courts as it halves the time. There is nothing worse than getting home after 11:30pm on an interclub night! In saying this, I heard the points system may be changing to American scoring up to 11. I think American scoring is fine, but it should be up to 15 for C Grade and below. The games will just be too quick.

Should be at least another week's gap between winter and spring

Should be later in the year - say Sep

Some games are far away from home and with Auckland traffic it can be hard to get to on time. maybe on such far trips there can be arrangements to meet in the middle

Super Champs was too late for the start time - when you commit to play you should be able for one week for teams event you should be able to make it to any club by 6 for a start of 6.30 otherwise the night is too long 1/2 an hour can make quite a bit of difference.

Takes too long to play and makes the evening a drawn out affair

The competition is continually broken up tournaments

# 1) Club Members Survey

The meal component makes it run too late

The timing clashed with NZ development squad camp.

They always seem to stop and start interclub at the wrong time and some of the draws were ridiculously so that you only got to play once a month with the tournaments on and the byes in the draws.

Timing is okay

Timing is okay. IE: dates competition run. 7Pm start is great, however, when travelling from one end of Auck to the other, peak hour traffic can be horrid. Therefore, more flexibility needs to be introduced for those clubs travelling the most that particular night.

Timing was fine but clubs should not be able to enter two teams into Superchamps

Too much cheating by clubs. Make it earlier by 2 months

We had two teams from our club in the same division. We ended up having to pay for five suppers. We were in the wrong grade.

We need to be smarter with the use of court time. We lose a lot of membership because peak court time is blocked off for all of these competitions and it is not an effective use of that time. Interclub is scheduled for 7pm, the players saunter in at 7 and then get to the court at 7:30 so why not start it later and open up all of that casual time? Why not double shift to reduce the number of courts being used?

Will you all leave Interclub alone. Everyone we play with/against likes it the way it is!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

With the Auckland open and graded champs I had my first game on Tuesday of that week and then had two games on the Saturday which was difficult because there was a huge gap between and then two in one day which was exhausting as I had to play then work and then play again

Would be better if they started earlier than 7:00

Would prefer Winter Masters to start a little earlier in the year.

## Re the venue/s...

All clubs should have the same number of home games.

All good

All the clubs are good venues but sometimes travelling from North Shore right across Auckland is a bit of a pain especially if its raining. Auckland traffic is a bit of a problem.

Always fine, good to move around the clubs

Assistance from SNZ and SAuckland to make sure that at the very least the floors are in good condition at each facility. This directly impacts enjoyment and to a certain degree safety...and is cheap to sort out. Wider facility improvement should be a goal as well.....

Auckland Masters choose a more central venue

Auckland Masters Open was played in Henderson in the middle of winter - the courts are notorious for moisture content and posed safety issues - squash was definitely not the winner

Auckland superchamps - when entering we had no idea where the venue would be, it could have made a difference when travelling for 5 nights to the same place which would be many many miles away. if the venue was known then people have the knowledge of whether they can commit to the 5 days at that venue, or on the flip side, maybe more people would enter knowing where the venue is

Being from Red Beach we are one of the most northern clubs. If we have to travel South of the bridge, travelling time can be up to 2 hours to get to the venue. This can make the whole night very long and tiresome. Northern clubs should only play North or city clubs and Southern clubs play only southern or City clubs. Then have a playoff if needed at the end of the competition

Both rounds of the open this year saw us travelling to Te Kauwhata from North Shore. Happy to travel however should be alternate venues

# 1) Club Members Survey

didn't enter because in Manurewa - too far to travel/expensive - need central venue major comps eg Auckland masters, juniors etc

Distance to some of the clubs from Auckland is a problem.

From Red Beach to the far side of Auckland (Maramarua) is ridiculous - too far to travel just for a game of squash.

generally good

Giving teams a bye when playing at the closest club instead at the one furthest away

Home and away basis need to be looked at for interclub. Our team has ended up going to the same club at least 4 or 5 times this year for interclub and we did not host them once.

I feel senior interclub would be better if run the same as masters. all at one venue

I know it's hard on these clubs, but the clubs located very north and south of Auckland are a pain to travel to and from. Maybe these games could be organised in another way, or earlier?

I think in some cases where clubs are very remote from Auckland central it would be better for to assign a more central club to play at. eg Franklin and Red Beach are too far away. Main impact on this is time that everyone might end up getting home.

I would like to play interclub for the challenge, variety of opponents and venues, as well as the socialising BUT: The current system does not attract me. Suggestion A: 1. The club classifies graded players as follows: a. desires to play every week and is committed to it b. has other commitments but is available as a reserve c. has significant commitments but might play if team is desperate 2. The club enters a team for each set of four type 1 players who are available (eg 9 type 1 players will provide 2 teams. The spare player loses out and will have to accept type 2 status until they improve their grading. 3. Each type 1 player pays the interclub fee in advance before the season starts else they are not in the team 4. In the unlikely event that any type 1 player cannot play they MUST arrange with type a 2 or 3 player of equivalent grading to take their place. Type 2 and 3 players do not pay the interclub fee and as a consequence cannot expect regular call-ups to play. Suggestion B: Divide the Auckland region into regions within a certain km radius, say 20km so that only the teams within that radius play each other. 1. The current area has about 100km from top to bottom which is too far 2. It's a disincentive for me who works in the city and commutes by bus. I have to either catch a bus to the venue south, west or east of the city and get a lift home OR go home by bus and then drive south through the traffic to the venue. 3. Keep the interclub games more local Suggestion C: All teams play one home and one away game per season. We want home advantage but also want away hospitality in the season.

Interclub - if the team is way out of town - Maramarua etc. then maybe a middle mark club should be used so both teams don't have to travel so far.

Interclub should be divided between clubs south of the bridge and north of the bridge. It can be a long drag from say Waiuku to Silverdale and in peak hour traffic. We had the situation this season where 2 Browns Bay teams were due to play each other for the minor pennant at Papakura. Majority of players in both Browns Bay teams did not want to travel to Papakura to play each other.

It was impossible to watch the matches that weren't on the glass court

Maramarua is a long way to go in the middle of winter, on a wet night. I don't see a way around it, as I guess they have a right to compete, and Auckland is the closest... I know you've tried the North vs. South leagues at some point, and that was a disaster! Not enough team around the same level to do that. So I guess we just have to keep our fingers crossed that we are not in a draw with Maramarua, but grin and bear it if we are. I think the travelling does put some people off though

Maramarua? Te Kauwhata? Red beach? Really?

Masters Interclub. Final at Franklin. We had only been there 2 weeks prior. Should have been at a more central club. Also they need to look more closely at, having even amounts of hosting; sometimes some teams might have it 3 times and others once.

More in central Auckland like Remuera racquets club, club Eden Epsom and Royal Oak.

# 1) Club Members Survey

Most squash clubs need a major overhaul. They are old fashioned and run-down. If I win lotto, I will be sprucing up my club for sure!

No issues - all clubs very hospitable with acceptable facilities

No problem with venues. It would be good to play home and away if playing the same team twice in a season. for example played Warkworth 5 times before they travelled south to us

Not much, just make them more central!!

Manure....I need not say anymore.....

Playing at more local clubs and cut down the travelling for all interclub events.

Playing in Franklin and one of the North Shore clubs is a hassle. Nobody wants to spend 45mins getting somewhere.

Red Beach has insufficient courts to host more than 4 teams. They should be OBLIGED to have extra courts available at Silverdale (or other) when hosting Masters Interclub

Some clubs are a huge distance away - feel there should be some midway point to be fair to all

Some clubs are really run down; prefer nicer clubs to be playing super champs comps at.

Some of our venues are too far away and we find it difficult to get to them on time. It would be great if Warkworth could play clubs on the North Shore, Central or West Auckland.

Some of the clubs run down and North Shore badly run

Some of the venues are of very poor quality

Some venues e.g. Te Kauwhata and Franklin are a long way to travel on a school night for me from Warkworth but I really want to play.

The clubs are friendly and welcoming.BUT..You can end up spending huge amounts of time travelling to play one (possibly quick) game of squash. I don't mind going 40 minutes if I have too...but longer than that is ridiculous. This is a bigger issue for us at red beach and Silverdale, and the players from Franklin and Papakura than with those fortunate enough to be in central city.

The clubs are too far away, should not include clubs from Franklin or Warkworth, far too far to drive.

The travel all over the country side isn't something that appeals to me at all.

The Venue's for each Winter Round should always be on a home and away basis just like every other sport. There should never be an occasion to play the same team away or at home 2 times in a row.

They were always on the shore and only once at red beach so we would have to drive far every time

Think more thought needs to be put into teams travelling-in 1 competition our team had to travel to red beach, Warkworth, takanini and Henderson, all over an hour away in an 8 week period.

This year have had to play at Te Kauwhata twice - where is the home and away aspect????? Perhaps need to regionalise and bring in a finals series where north meets south

To far to travel to some venues

Too far away

Too much travel - too wide an area

Too much travelling with Warkworth & Franklin in same division

Travel often too long, making the night too late. Take more account of each club's location in relation to others when doing the draw.

Travel to Te Kawhata on a Monday is too far. They need to be in a separate division

Understanding that Te Kauwhata and Maramarua need to enter league it is extremely difficult to travel to away games on a Monday evening that are that far out of Auckland. Almost 100km from my home club.

# 1) Club Members Survey

Venues okay, except a fairer choice of location within the teams of a division must be made in relation to home and away games.

Waiuku to Silverdale in same division too far

Warkworth's a hike if you live in Manurewa!! That needs reviewing badly.....

We need to seriously look at regions for interclub, people are not playing due to the excessive travel required, we should have a north, central, and south division, play the clubs in your zone, then have playoffs between all clubs, this will well reduce the travel, and make the competition more of a challenge.

Will you all leave Interclub alone. Everyone we play with/against likes it the way it is!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Would like to stick to more centralised venue's absolutely hate having to go the outlying clubs like Silverdale Warkworth Franklin Maramarua. Travel is a big problem getting the whole team to the venue on time it is hard enough just going to local clubs

Would prefer venues to be organised along the same lines as masters, ie all at one venue each night.

## What is working well about these Squash Auckland competitions?

5 players

A good computer system

A good way to meet other squash players of similar ability

Ability to enter tournaments on line

Able to play squash competitively for a large chunk of the year.

Access to team lists, draws, results on line

Affordability

Akld Masters combined with Juniors

All games played were of a convenient distance away

All squash Auckland events I have been involved in have been well organised. For big events like the open it may be better to split the grades over two venues

All teams playing in one venue

All the draws, team lists and results are online.

Atmosphere

Atmosphere

Auckland Squash website is always up to date.

Availability of information regarding competition scheduling on squash Auckland website

Awareness

Awareness of events is more pronounced

B2 superchamps introduction was good.

Being looked after at each venue stands out

Can't think of anymore

Caters well to established, competitive players

Clubs take responsibility when hosting

Communication

Communication is fantastic

# 1) Club Members Survey

Communication is good  
Competition  
Competition  
Competition  
Competition length works for me  
Competitive  
Competitive  
Competitive  
Competitive  
Competitive squash standard  
Competitive standard  
Competitiveness  
Competitive without being overly serious  
Competiveness  
Competitions throughout the year  
Consistency of participants encourages friendships  
Controllers at tournaments  
Current game format is good (not American scoring)  
Different venues  
Easy to get draws and enter results through website  
Enables one to practice marking and refereeing  
Enjoy catching up with people from the other teams each week  
Enjoy social side of Masters interclub being at same venue  
Enjoyable  
Enthusiastic players  
Even competition  
Experience in marking  
Fairly even standard within grade  
Fairly well organised  
Familiar faces  
Feeling of a squash community at large  
Fitness ... great way to keep trim  
Fitness opportunity  
Fixtures clearly advertised  
Flexible with timing of games.  
Focus on improvement and fun  
Format  
Friendly atmosphere

## 1) Club Members Survey

Friendly  
Friendly  
Friendly  
Friendly - by all teams playing at the same venue each week  
Friendly and relaxed atmosphere  
Friendly atmosphere  
Friendly atmosphere amongst all clubs  
Friendly atmosphere following competition  
Friendly clubs  
Friendly people  
Friendly sportsmanship between players  
Friendship  
Fun and inviting to play in good spirit amongst the teams  
Fun to play in  
Gauge the skill level of my grade  
Generally friendly people  
Generally organised very well  
Get to play different people from different clubs, of roughly same level as me  
Gets everyone involved extremely well  
Getting around different clubs and meeting people  
Gives you access to many different styles of competitor  
Good as a team sport  
Good atmosphere  
Good atmosphere  
Good atmosphere  
Good atmosphere  
Good atmosphere, attitude of the players and quality of the games  
Good balance of competitiveness vs. camaraderie  
Good bunch of people  
Good communication  
Good communication  
Good communication on Web page  
Good competition  
Good Competition  
Good competition  
Good competition  
Good competition at a personal level with players of similar grading  
Good competition.

# 1) Club Members Survey

Good communication  
Good fellowship in the masters  
Good food etc  
Good for team mentality  
Good Format for Masters Interclub  
Good Grading System  
Good level of competition  
Good mix of participants from around Auckland  
Good organisation  
Good organisation  
Good people and organisers  
Good planning and draws  
Good range of competition  
Good social atmosphere  
Good social environment  
Good solid competition both individually and inter-club  
Good standard to play against  
Good team spirit  
Good timing  
Good use of the internet to publish game information and results  
Good variety  
Good way of catching up with friends  
Good website  
Grade list and team results updated regularly and speedily  
Grading  
Grading good  
Grading list very efficient so enables fair competition  
Grading means meeting players with similar abilities  
Grading structure - means good even games  
Grading system  
Gradings  
Great atmosphere  
Great food  
Great group of people  
Great socialising after games  
Great squash  
Great squash  
Great to have all teams at the one venue

# 1) Club Members Survey

Great to practice against different players

Great updates & regular

Great website

Great website - easy to find results , teams etc

Having a meal and a beer at the end.

Having the right clubs run the competitions

Helpful friendly people.

Host club always very welcoming

I like the timing and although the trips can be long, they are still manageable.

Info easily available

Information

Information on web sites

Interclub

Interclub competition is very good.

Interclub is a fantastic format but think it will be wrecked if it shifts to point a rally (to 11) at worst it should be 15. But this will really punish lower grade sand new players to the sport. The Super Champs format is brilliant and highlight of the squash calendar.

Interclub is managed well.

Interclub is the best way mid week to play people from other clubs.

Interclub well organised information available on website

Internet Results

It encourages new members to participate in interclub and get a grading.

It is a social outing

It is well set up

It's very good to now have all Open interclub teams co-located each week.

Jason does a superb job and is the right person to run the comp

Keen and enthusiastic Squash Auckland members

Keeping things interesting and addressing the need to change to keep the sport alive.

Lack of formality

Leave Masters alone

Lots more women 1 day events - great idea!!

Lots of competition available

Lots of promotion for well graded players, what about more support for lower grades (like me!)

Lots of tourneys

Lots of training done so good for improvement of game

Marking is a lot better from open I think

Masters - playing all teams at same club

Masters - social

Masters - standard of games

# 1) Club Members Survey

Masters - great spirit amongst the competitors...lots of tough games played in the right spirit.helped having an inclusive team. Senior teams are more split in ages so perhaps not as social at times, but a higher standard of squash

Masters format where all teams go to one club is excellent

Masters having all teams at same venue

Masters interclub at one venue

Masters interclub keeps older players in the sport.

Masters is great having the whole division at one location. A lot more friendships are developed, and interest taken in each other's teams.

Masters is very friendly, usually!

Masters is well organised and everyone seems to just get on with it go hard drink hard great night great atmosphere

Masters: Good social environment to play in at different venues

Masters interclub has a great concept of all teams playing at the same venue and then all having a meal together by the host club. This should be put into the seniors level. Much better system.

Meet new people

Meeting different people

Meeting new people and the competitive nature of the sport.

Meeting other players

More variety e.g. for Juniors

Most amenities are clean & tidy

My first year of competitive squash as part of the interclub masters has been a blast, loved it. Great people, some wins, some losses, some great food and met some lovely people.

New faces, different people to play each week.

Nice people

Nice people at SQAKLD!

None

Nope

Normal scoring. This means you get a decent game that makes you feel like you have a good game. If you revert to PARS scoring I won't be playing interclub

Opportunity to meet other players

Opportunity to play others and improve

Organisation

Organisation

Organisation

Organisation

Organisation

Organisation

Organisation happens

Organisation

Overall well organised

# 1) Club Members Survey

People and teams turn up, very rare to have a default, or not all players turning up, or turning up very late...

Play opponents of similar levels

Play people at your own level

Play various players

Play wide variety of players

Players

Playing against players generally of similar ability

Playing different people

Playing people similar ability, the grading system works very well

Plenty of choice

Plenty of competitions

Points system means games are even

Promotes teamwork well in what is an individual sport

Promotion

Provides a social atmosphere for players.

Provides incentive to get better

Provides opportunity to play other skill levels

Quick results of competitions on website

Range of opponents

Reasonable email communication

Reasonable fees

Reasonably competitive

Regular competitive play

Regular events

Relaxed atmosphere at the different clubs but still maintaining a degree of competition between teams

Results on website

Resurrecting the Open interclub competition has been a very good move for squash in the region and with a few twitches here and there will continue to grow.

Run smoothly

Runs smoothly

Schedule is managed well to 'dove tail' into NZ programme.

Schedule is well organised within Akld to prevent 'double up' of tournaments.

Score results available

Scoring system

Seem to be good new initiatives by squash Auckland such as the women in squash programmes which can only result in more/ better standard of female players

Seniors - is good, not too competitive but a challenge

Single venue for grade on each night

## 1) Club Members Survey

So many different styles and strategies. Old squash players are cunning buggers and I love watching them play.

Sociable interaction at competitions

Social

Social

Social

Social aspect

Social aspect - meet good people

Social aspect of interclub still good

Social atmosphere

Social atmosphere

Social atmosphere

Social atmosphere

Social atmosphere

Social ie. format of interclub and catering afterwards

Social interaction

Socialising with other members of different clubs

Speed of updates of results & score tables

Spread across Auckland

Squash seems to be having a bit of a come back

Still offers competitive play

Strong competition to each league

Structured competitions - with programmes established at beginning of each year

Superchamps is a great format and is great for uniting a club and making people lift their game

Taking part

Teams went back to 5 players

That they are available

The atmosphere at these tournaments is competitive but also friendly. For example the Auckland Super Champs competition.

The automation of interclub has bedded down and is a good way of running the competition

The clubs promote the competition well within their own clubs

The competition is organised well

The competitions that are being organised are being held at friendly clubs that are willing to help with any problems or issues.

The development activities at the junior level in particular with reference to our club are going gang busters.

The format of staying for a supper at end of the evening works well for me

The fun had with your mates against other teams & the good spirit that seems to pervade most of the games

The good tough Competition

# 1) Club Members Survey

The grading list is open and easily accessed for viewing.  
The grading system is first class.  
The grading system is so good that you almost always end up with very even games  
The high level of competitors  
The interclub internet information is superb.  
The level of competitions is good -  
The level of information/quick access on the internet for interclub is excellent now.  
The level of squash that is being played at these tournaments is of a high standard.  
The new electronic systems for the draw  
The online results/draw is working well  
The online results has improved visibility and ease of putting these in  
The organisation in terms of knowing which games is happening where and when is working well  
The people playing in them  
The points go towards your grading list points.  
The set up is clear and precise so you know where you need to be and at what time.  
The social aspect is really good and everyone seems to get on great  
The social aspect of the meal after the matches  
The spirit that the competitors bring to the competition.  
The team format  
The team lists and scorecards on the Squash Auckland website are excellent. You can actively follow the progress of the comp.  
The website  
They all get people more actively involved in squash The more tournaments and interclub games played the better for squash as a sport  
They enable one to get a regular competitive game thereby maintaining your level of squash  
This email  
Time slot (moon 7pm)  
Times played pretty good not too long to wait  
Timing  
Timing  
Timing  
Timing  
Tournament controllers are always at a high level  
Tournament schedule  
Travel  
Trying new things but accepting feedback whether it is positive or negative  
Variety for all grades  
Variety of competitions.  
Variety of games and players

# 1) Club Members Survey

Variety of players

Variety of venues

Variety, women in squash, catering for all levels of squash

Variety of competition

Venues

Venues are on the whole still good standard

Venues available.

Very competitive, fair

Very friendly teams - excellent social event

Very hospitable hosts

Very much enjoy playing with all the teams in the Masters division at the same venue

Very social environment

Visibility

Visiting different clubs

We like every at the same venue ever week as see your mates from other teams and can cheers this on

Week nights meaning weekends are not committed

Weekly competition

Well administered

Well advertised

Well advertised in advance.

Well advertised via website and through our club committee.

Well established

Well from a Masters perspective the social side

Well informed of when they are on by posters & internet

Well organised

Well organised

Well organised

Well organised

Well organised

Well organised

Well organised

Well organised

Well promoted

Well promoted.

Well run

Well timed event notices

Well tried & proven system

Well-established format

# 1) Club Members Survey

You get to play people you normally might not.

You get to travel around different parts of Auckland that you wouldn't normally visit

You play as part of a team

You play people from different clubs

## How do you feel Squash Auckland could improve their competitions? Why do you say that?

A little bit more advance warning of the start dates of the interclub programmes.

Add a few more incentives for those that don't generally play in competition to get involved & play. Have senior one day tournaments. Have tournaments just for the junior senior (ie beginner players)

Adopt the masters approach of all teams playing at same venue

Already up to standard.

am ok with everything

atmosphere, need to promo squash more to the general public

Auckland squash got the draw mixed up and sent lots of teams to the wrong venue on the first night, this was not acceptable. The timetable was changed without giving notice to the captains. Disaster!!

Better advertising. Also, the draws for these could be loaded on your websites.

Better communication of how they work. e.g. in the Auck Super Champs as a Grade E2 player I was wasted by young 16 to 17 year old kids who were graded below me but who clearly were several grades above me. I didn't enjoy it and I don't think they did either. Need more 'weight for age" type comps - if you know what I mean!

Better promotion to get more players Better prizes to attract more players

Better referees and Scorers

Better time management, ie games start when they're supposed to

Boots on the ground to have a real presence. posters and internet all well and good but representatives of auckland squash need to get out a lot more and make themselves known to players at every tournament. It is a time consuming exercise but its a simple method of putting the brand out there and providing the platform for increasing recognition that an organisation does exist, initiating the start of what could potentially be a very good series of conversations.

By looking at distance between clubs. Also by not having two teams playing at home at the same time so players can use more than one court if they want. Games would be over sooner allowing visiting teams to get home earlier. We didn't get home from one game until 1am on a Monday night!

By reducing travel distances via having a northern league. Also making sure there is no American scoring bought in.

By taking action on this review and listening

Cheaper fees. Recession not good.

Cheaper. one game per day zero tolerance for lateness/no-show

Competitions provide high quality squash and high quality entertainment. However, 99% of the attendees of tournaments are people playing in the tournaments and/or their partners. We need to encourage public outside of the squash circle to come and watch, enjoy the game and spread the word. We need to improve venues to move to this next level. This is I believe the most important thing Squash Auckland and Squash NZ for that matter can do. Drive the public towards squash as a great sport to watch and participate in rather than just squash players who by the way already know. ;-)

Consult with NZ Squash so timing does not overlap. Think of other clubs besides Herne Bay / Remuera and North Shore and don't break the rules to suit them. Be more flexible and not so hard headed. People

# 1) Club Members Survey

outside of the "core" group have great ideas. Show a presence at events as the majority of squash players do not know who the members of Squash Auckland are. Let the club members know what 'Towards 2020' is about. Most members have never heard of it. Be more organised etc when sending district teams and supply the teams with decent uniforms including juniors instead of being the laughing stock of NZ. Look after our top district players and representatives so that they are willing to play for us.

Could be longer & better finals format.

Could look at competitions for ungraded and more social players

Doing a good job

Doing a good job.

Doing well

Don't be so anal about every little detailed rule in the B2 super champs - there isn't even a national event so relax a little.

Don't have inexperienced E graders refereeing B / C grade games. Difficult for all parties. More emphasis on higher graded players to assist with lower graders in terms of refereeing.

Draws to come out sooner. Not to have American scoring

Encourage more players. Many social players feel that interclub is serious but masters is social and senior could be made so. I dropped out of seniors because of too many juniors who can't drive etc

Extend the winter competition finishing in August is too early. It could run later & still have time for spring pennant

Felt that there could be better management of juniors playing in senior competitions. Have had several games against juniors this year where they have cried during games, thrown rackets, slammed doors and generally behaved in unsportsmanlike like manner. I feel that it is important for Squash Auckland to promote sportsmanship and teach this at an early age. This behaviour can be very off putting for senior players and I feel may discourage people from playing in these tournaments.

Fire more info at us via email, either direct or through the club

For interclub I would like to see a masters style where clubs all travel to the same location I think the atmosphere would increase again in leaps and bounds and would help clubs promote their tournaments as you make better connections between clubs

Format all interclub by the Masters system.

Generally content, would be nice to get more funding for an improved prize pool.

Get rid of the meal components as it is a hassle (organising and preparing) and makes the night go too late. A social drink is preferable

Hard to say I think they are doing a good job at senior level, can't comment at junior level

Have all players sitting a referees test/exam

Have an incentive for interclub teams to win the fixtures they play on any particular night. You can do this by saying that the winning team on the night gets 2 points added to their "games" tally on the score sheet. So if Team A and Team B draw 8 games each, the points winner will have an additional 2 points added to their game score to reflect a 10 - 8 win. This will make interclub matches more competitive and where potential mismatches occur will make the player likely to lose put in more effort in the knowledge that any additional points he/she may get could influence the overall result of the fixture. Over the past couple of years I've seen players give in too easily on court, but that sort of incentive makes sure that they don't "let the team down". Also, if all interclub matches move to one night, then it might be a good idea to have 3 players in a team.

Have men & Women play on separate nights, as it is a mission for squash playing families with young children.

Having shorter competitions, so you don't have to waste your whole weekend hanging around a squash club - it's a major reason why I don't play in many tournaments. Interclub needs to be improved also.

# 1) Club Members Survey

Spend all evening at a cold squash club to often only play a 20 min game of squash. Need less people in the teams, mixed mens/womens teams & reduce the distance in travelling for some clubs.

How protests are handled.

I feel that in some instances that squash Auckland should be watching out more for player conduct in some competition levels. At times not only junior but senior behaviour especially in terms of marking and reffing games as well as on court behaviour can be a let down. This behaviour should be stopped at which ever level. At one tournament this year when queried why there was only one person marking the game I was asked what grade I was, when I said E grade I was told that your grade and ability isn't I'm important for marking!! I was shocked. Regardless of grade we all pay the same entry fee and deserve to have two confident markers.

I only have one criticism and that is the way the team grading (points) is worked out Only the top 5 players are considered for the grading on a points basis and that means the remaining ones, the number of which can be between 0 and 4, are ignored, for example if the top 3 or 4 cant play for any reason. This can and has caused problems. I would suggest a grading system where the average number of points of all players is used and then compared.

I think that the number of teams that move up or down a division should be assessed on a case-by-case basis. In some cases, the two-up and two-down rule that has applied in the past does not work well. This occurs when (as in the female division now) there are not as many teams as before so they difference between the teams can be substantial and therefore lead to very different grades playing each other.

I would like to see the senior interclub format to try the masters format whereby 1 whole grade goes to a single club. This would generate far more social interaction within a grade.

In Senior interclub in the womens grades only one team to go up not two as the standard between divisions is too extreme

Increase and promote doubles. Because this shall enable past retired players to come back and play.

Interclub can sometimes be a bit inflexible. The main aim is to get people playing and sometimes restrictions hinder that. Refereeing should have a marker and ref. Would lift the overall referring standards.

Interclub is dependant on the individual club entered some are better than others. (especially in regard to default)

Interclub is difficult if you are a C1 as most of the time you are playing for no points or to lose 40 points. This makes it not very enticing to join for this point only. You go for the social part of things but ultimately you are there to win points.

Interclub needs a North/South split. The Travelling times are too long. People are time poor and having to drive through Auckland's rush hour to get to a venue does not make sense. I would rather do something else and I think a lot of people are doing something else.

It would be good if we could have formal referee training. This is one area that people seem to lack knowledge - myself included

It's all good to me so far.

Juniors who have been playing for a number of years should not be going through F grade and playing against raw beginners. They should be put straight into the bottom of E grade. It is very disheartening for beginners to come up against grossly undergraded juniors and is one of the reasons for the extremely low retention of adult beginners in Auckland squash compared with other regions. I have also been playing in another region this year where there is a much lower proportion of experienced juniors playing senior interclub and it is a much more pleasant experience.

Just feel the late playing times during the week is a negative unsure what can be done other than two courts per team, meaning the use of more clubs on a weekly basis and overall earlier finishes

Lateness of interclub

Let team know were they are playing after rounds have finished

# 1) Club Members Survey

Look to create a web based tool set for planning, scheduling, creating the draws and allocation of times for all events. Include a members based system for nominating yourself for entry into the events.

Lower graded players, in particular f grade players should not be given the responsibility of reffing much higher graded players

Make sure every team starts on time. Home teams are getting there 10 mins late, changing time, warming up we are starting 30-40 mins late & getting home after midnight.

Make sure masters do not play more than one game a day and do not start before 11 am on weekends. Reason is the masters are too old !!

Masters - runs too late, too much travel and the whole dinner thing is annoying

Masters playoffs need to be played as they were last year, not sudden death as was the case this year

Masters playoffs would be better having points over 3 rounds, than a knock out (if time permits). Senior interclub would be better having the whole division at a club (like Masters), and having final playoffs. The finals (top four / bottom four) are the most competitive, so it's good to play the close teams again. Sometimes during the rounds there can be quite a gap in ability between the top and bottom teams of a division, so it's good to repeat the close ones (top four/bottom four).

MASTERS: If you are a woman, you don't expect to be put into a women's draw as you want points to count for your masters grade. We don't to play other women as it doesn't count.

Meals after the matches are completed (for Masters Interclub) should be replaced by snacks while the games are taking place.

More engagement at the planning stage of tournaments to help promote and increase the profile of all tournaments. Use of the "free advertising" (e.g. results in NZ Herald and SAuckland website) to get interesting info out to a broader audience. Squash is getting skinned by sports like petanque and bowls when it is so easy!!

More events possibly with more promotion to ensure good numbers of participants.

More for our juniors

More local competition to cut down on travel.

More Masters competitions would be good.

More notice of draws, dates for entries to be in. Update grading list more often

More promoting of squash More sponsorship available for players Listening to the players & what we want

More promotion around the open interclub, to get the clubs in behind the top teams. This will both strengthen the clubs involvement and grow the knowledge about the game/interest in the game

More promotion. Just more advertising. Do it.

More regular updates to results and status

Move the clubs around more

My kids would love to play in a junior interclub comp using the masters format. I also wonder whether open interclub can follow the masters format and have all teams at one club.

Need to look at running more regional (north, south, central, west) competitions like ladders and leagues so that people can play in their own time rather than be tied to all night on Mon/Tues in a team. This will help to get the courts used during off peak. All results should go on the grading list. Consider going to three man teams rather than 4 man teams for interclub and having two rounds per night starting at 6 and 8pm rather than 7 and 9pm

Need to monitor clubs controlling Auckland Competitions - the draw for the Auckland masters Champs was a disgrace

# 1) Club Members Survey

No more division is masters where there is a bye team. It spoils the overall social aspects. It also makes competition results less accurate. Generally bye team situation is a most unattractive part of masters competition.

Not enough experience to give a reasonable feedback

Not having juniors play with seniors because I get sick of there attitude & crying, performing on court & nothing is done about it to teach them good sportsmanship

Not very keen on the play off. A team winning all year should take the pennant with our draw, the leaders by 25 points all year, didn't get into the finals

Nothing to say

OK

Organisation, sometimes games don't start on time or games are very late at night - like 10pm. Not very practical time for playing squash!

Our Masters team was forced to play in division one which was far to high and we were out of our depth this resulted in players not wanting to play and no interest in our team competing in the Spring competition. I played at one and often had to play somebody with 500+ points above my own.

Play men competition on one night and women on another night. This means couples with children can play. At the moment our club has 10 players unable to compete in interclub because they are down to play on the same evening. Also introduce a finals series for each competition. Makes it more interesting and something to play for if you are not in 1st place Regionalise from C1 and below divisions. Travelling for over an hour on a weeknight is stupid if you have to do this for a normal round game True home and away fixtures. If you play a team away in the first round, you should get them at home in the second round

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE can we have more competitions for ONLY people (aka ADULTS) who are 18 years & over... there are NOT any competitions we can enjoy for just SENIOR level members, (Junior members have a lot of tournaments around Auckland & NZ - that's great but what about us...please have some tournaments/competitions that caters for our age group 18 + years).....I believe if you want to grow Squash as a sport in Auckland or around NZ then let the women play women & men play men...Have 1 superchamps for juniors and 1 for seniors...don't mix the two. Juniors cry a lot & their maturity level low (have some squash rules about their behaviour on court because crying during the game, throwing tantrums, swearing @ their parents & also parents can do this to the refs or umpires is not the way) ...puts people off wanting to sign up to a club and puts us senior members off wanting to enter tournaments that are available because Junior players have entered..

Please try to have it a bit more geographic-friendly. I know from raising this issue before that there's resistance to doing so...but I know one of my team from last year isn't playing this year solely because we had the misfortune to travel to Franklin three weeks out of about six...and while others may not drop out altogether they seem to mysteriously have something 'on' on the nights playing away. PS. not bagging the guys at Franklin, they're great hosts. But I'm sure they wince a bit too, when they see they have to travel up to Red Beach. Getting home at 1 or later in the morning in the middle of winter seems pushing the spirit of competition a bit far. Having played in Hawkes Bay and Gisborne I've had to travel hours to play before. but if it's avoidable in Auckland, with so many clubs, isn't that a better way to go?

Possibly some lower grade tournaments only - I realise scheduling is difficult, however...

Previous round robin finals worked better rather than the "sudden death" of this last season.

Prizes, we like prizes!

Promote the competitions. A lot of people are not aware events are on.

Provide "hands and feet" support to organising events

Provide some better guidance on marking/refeing. The standard is fairly poor currently, need to give to juniors particularly so they have confidence to ref. Changes to rules have occurred which people still don't know about, so maybe a quick reference guide could be sent to each club?

Reduce number of competitions in a given month.

# 1) Club Members Survey

Reduce travel by taking into account clubs location when doing the draw

Reduce travel time by arranging games in central venues when teams are far apart (or give the option)

Maintain the current scoring system, OR if point-a-rally is used, make it 1st to 15 for B1 and below.

Referees need major work, majority of players really don't know the difference between a let and a stroke, basics need work immediately, even top players hesitate, and they can easily be persuaded otherwise.

Regionalise the interclub to minimise travel

Reinforcing protocol of on court behaviour - e.g. disgusting behaviour by superchamps players should earn conduct warnings - brings the sport into disrepute. Encouraging good sportsmanship off court - educating of juniors in adult competition

Review the format and type of competitions offered. Consideration needs to be given to shortening the length of the competition to say 6 weeks max. The season often too long especially in masters

Reward the top teams at the end of the main rounds eg after 14 rounds of Masters, there is no reward for finishing first. I suggest you get points which carry into the playoffs, eg 3 for first, 2 for second and 1 for third or similar - but this won't work with the knockout format. I think there should be some reward for consistency over the main rounds

Run competitions all year round to give squash players the chance to keep up with the game

See previous comments about prior tournament organisation/planning

Senior interclub could improve the refereeing!!! It can be terrible at times, There are a few reasons: 1. Bad habits in refereeing are passed down to the new members of each team. 2. Two referees should be used, some teams are having one person do ALL the marking and reefing. 3. Clubs need to give all club captains a list of basic rules and stroke and let calling and make sure they tell them the importance of having all interclub team members read and understand them!! 4. Good refereeing, even par refereeing makes for a far more enjoyable experience!! Thanks

Senior interclub should be playing a home and away two round system instead of the bizarre grading round idea

Should be PAR scoring B grade up ONLY, as these games do and can go longer. As for travelling to Kumeu from Manurewa on a PAR scoring for 15 min or less, say no more ?? Masters on PAR scoring will also not go down well as we got to get our breath. You're looking at 55+ that cannot run for every shot, so have to let a few go and rely on hand in hand out..

Should have a results webpage; currently relying on teams to monitor results and standings

Shrug . . . time to do a bit of work reminding people that tournaments and interclub are a great way of keeping their sport up and meeting new people. This is what sometimes motivates me.

Some complaints about the travel - usually from those in central clubs who don't like driving to outlying clubs like mine. When numbers permit, try to regionalise divisions - but not at expense of evenly matched teams. It's worse to travel over an hour and not get a decent game.

Someone visiting each club and going over the rules particularly concerning lets and strokes. When and why each is given during a certain playing scenario

Split interclub south of the bridge and north of the bridge because of travel times

Standard of marking and ref. needs improving. Better meals from certain clubs. Time is a problem - maybe start at 6 or 6.30 - ends too late, come home at 12 having started meals at 10:30! There must be more to aim for rather than a miserable little pennant flag!!! For example, when I played in S.A. we would have an end-of-year celebration evening (not a piss up!) at a large venue with a good guest speaker where all clubs in Cape Town would gather to receive floating trophies (smallish cups) for the winning teams. This created a sense of unity and enthusiasm which is sadly lacking in NZ Squash. Another idea from way back then was to choose rep. sides from each level, eg. Masters, A,B,C,D,E,etc teams who would then play corresponding teams from say Wellington. I know it is done in some levels of club competition but this would be a city or regional thing which would engender enthusiasm. Perhaps the greatest problem is that NZ squash administrators seem to be too casual or devoid of ideas! I have just returned

# 1) Club Members Survey

from the Schools' National Tournament in Palmerston North and could not believe that a NZ Schools' team was not selected after the wonderful week-end where everyone was enthused, a tournament team was named and what will they do - NOTHING! Surely the way to go is to encourage these youngsters to play at a higher level and playing against an Australian and NZ Under 20 Team, for example, is one way to enthuse them. Or is it just too much work for certain dull administrators? Excuse any sarcasm but I am in charge of squash at Auckland Grammar and love to see boys reaching the highest possible levels.

Stop bugging about with them. And if you do POINT A RALLY you might as well all go home because half of us will stop. SERIOUSLY.

Stop changing the competitions - playoffs/no playoffs relegation/no relegation, 9 points/13 points. Encourage us to pass marking exams (from C on?)

The club and sport environment is always changing and the best thing squash Auckland can do is try and increase the number of people playing the sport, maybe some more competitions or give it a go days could see more people get involved.

The draw we were in for Super champs had only 3 teams in so we played only 2 games. A few years ago we played 5 or 6 games and it was much more fun!

The gap between open and masters competition is worrying alongside the disparity in standard between players at the same level in each competition.

The only improvement that I can think of would be to provide the tournaments with official referees so that there can be no arguments in regards to the quality of referees. This may not be required at the less serious competitions (Interclub etc.) but would be very beneficial for competitions such as the Auckland Super Champs.

The only issue I have found is the length of the day for Masters. I leave home at say 8AM, stay at work till 6.30PM, leave for IC and return home between 11PM and midnight. Can Masters start at 6PM? Would this work for the majority?

The prospect of eating late at night, while most enjoy, is not particularly healthy! Not sure how this could be changed, but a really late finish can become quite off putting to some participants and has actually deterred some colleagues from competing this year

The standard of Referees needs improving rather than just whoever is available. Promoting competitions at a squash player level rather than leaving competitions to be promoted by the hosting club or just providing a calendar which is often misplaced - more promoting would help

The venues for round 2 of senior winter competition weren't swapped, so club hospitality isn't reciprocated. Too wider difference in grades eg C graders shouldn't be playing E graders - no one enjoys their squash!

The weakness that we have in our senior interclub competition is a lack of a strong captain, as it is mid week everyone is busy etc etc. I don't see this Squash Auckland's problem however it is symptomatic of today's busy life styles. If there was an improvement to be made by SA I would ask creating a structure that would be/is easier on people not harder

The younger interclub players don't know the etiquette eg buying opponent drink, teams defaulting or not having enough players

There should be more separate competitions for juniors of all grades & seniors. Currently there are junior competitions only for F grade & below. Juniors in Auckland especially D, E graders do not get fair competition in Open tournament. They get easy wins against some senior players & so their points rise but they hardly get very close competition & so when they play against juniors from other districts they struggle.

Thinking outside the box. For example the Masters winter interclub should have had 8 teams; however a number of the groups had only seven due to having an odd team submitted. By thinking outside the box the odd team could have been split between the other teams from that club and there would not have been a need for groups of seven.

This is only my second year playing. It seems like Pennants are not really valued. They should be the driving force to encourage strong competition.

# 1) Club Members Survey

This year not enough teams in our division so we ended up with a bye. It upsets the competition in masters having to have a bye in the draw. Hard to get a running total each week if one team is not playing.

Tournaments spoilt by lack of numbers entering leads to small and unbalanced draws

Try not to clash with NZ camps, because it's too hard to do both.

Try not to have odd number of teams playing in a competition. Seems odd to have teams away due to a 'bye'. Its takes away the social side of it. I'm not keen to play Super Champs again. Having to mark/ref away from where you are playing is very disjointed and takes away the team emphasis. I found it very unfriendly and what's with the winner not buying the loser a drink??! Where is the sportsmanship in the game?

Try something different - like a Saturday league

Try to get away from byes in Masters as part of the attraction of that comp is all teams together at one venue. when a team is missing for the night they miss out

Try to get more players playing

Try to put clubs in similar geographic region in same division.

Use common sense when organising divisions. Use common sense when moving teams up and down the divisions. Grade people correctly. Don't give favouritism to certain clubs Be more lenient on timing of entries into competitions

We need to reduce the travel; this will encourage a lot more ex players back, and make it a bigger competition.

Well, for a start, one of the biggest issues with interclub is the huge diversity of grades within teams, which often results in miss-matched opponents in interclub matches. The way interclub is running there are heaps of teams that range from e-grade to c-grade within one team. I know this is definitely true in the woman's division 4 at the moment. Our team is made up of two c-graders and 5 d-graders, and our top players have generally been playing d1s and d2s (this is only in the second round). On going from that, I think Squash Auckland should perhaps change the structure of interclub or use discretion when shifting the teams at the end of round one of winter interclub. Round one of interclub was fine because the teams were very evenly matched within our division; however it's not fair for F graders to end up playing D2s or C1s to be playing D1s. The matches a very unevenly matched because of the huge divide between the division in ability level and the two winning and two losing teams moving either up or down a division. Over-all I think the structure of interclub (particularly womens interclub) needs to be addressed, as it has led me and another woman in our club to change to the mens division for spring so that we can get tougher games. The huge range in ability within and between the womens divisions needs serious attention because I feel that it might lead to fewer women wanting to play (which is the last thing we want!).

When doing the draws, especially when regrading after round 1, look more closely at what moving up or down may mean to some players. For example, in the new draw, our B1 has ended up playing mostly C1 players, occasionally low B2. Myself (fluctuating between top C1 and bottom B2), have mainly played C2. This also puts people off, when playing players more than 300 points below (or, 300 points above), and may well make them decide not to play the next round...

With some young players coming up it can be hard for them when refereeing tight games, maybe a requirement for all players to do a referee course (simple) if playing competitively

## ONLY IF YOU SAID YOU WERE UNHAPPY WITH THE TIMING AND/OR LOCATION/S OF ANY OF THESE COMPETITIONS:

Why aren't you happy with the timing and/or location/s? Specifically what would suit you better?

## 1) Club Members Survey

### Re the timing...

Cousins Shield/Mitchell Cup is slightly more social on a long weekend however availability of players is also key.

Nationals is too late in the season, it needs to be brought forward.

Perfect.....back in the right time slot

Put it back on the long weekend!

The timing of Junior open clashed with Australian Junior series

Timings were changed & not communicated early enough. People travelling to the venues should be communicated by email as well as by phone.

### Re the location...

Awesome in Hamilton

Far away every time

NZ Secondary College the venues are too far away and the options given to schools are not enough.

# 1) Club Members Survey

## Squash New Zealand Competitions

### What is working well about the Squash New Zealand competitions?

Accessibility

Active participation from squash no with clubs

Affordability

All issues were dealt with accordingly in a fair and equal manner.

At Masters level, you get more variety in terms of player ability attending.

A variety of different squash players to challenge

Can't think of much

Consistency

Efficiently run

Encourages continued involvement with squash

Excellent competition in masters age groups

Friendly

Friendly atmosphere

Generally good standard of draws

Generally well organised

Good atmosphere

Good competition

Good competition.

Good PR

Good tournament control

Great community atmosphere

Includes all districts

Interaction with fellow masters

Involves many opportunities for all grades

It attracted a record no. of entries and catered for all levels - min. 4 matches per player.

Juniors

Looking after the players was at high level

Lots of tourneys

Motivate younger masters to keep playing through the age groups.

Nope

NZ Masters competition was the World Masters Champs last year - a real showpiece for Squash in NZ

OK performance

Organisation

Participants and organisers were friendly and easy to get along with

Promo

# 1) Club Members Survey

Promoted well.

Referee levels bad for the game

Select clubs that are able to provide effective organisation.

Setting a schedule that allows for maximum participation especially from juniors.

Social

Social.

Standard of play and ethics on the courts was great - if a player was behaving badly they are pulled into line fast so not to ruin the good values of squash

Superchamps finals the host club goes out of their way to make the event a success and everyone welcome

The atmosphere at the NZ Secondary Schools competition was both competitive and friendly.

The NZ Secondary Schools was organised in a professional manner with all aspects organised with plenty of time for planning and arrangements to be made by participants.

There are a small number of volunteers (residual of the numbers years ago) who continue to give the sport a huge amount of time and effort

There is a loyal base of male players who continue to play and support the sport no matter what is going on in the background

Tournament control is exceptional

Very friendly

Very helpful

Well attended

Well established

Well organised

Well organised

Well organised.

Well structured

## How do you feel Squash New Zealand could improve these national competitions? Why do you say that?

A SNZ rep at each tournament would be great. Just to fly the flag and keep players personally informed of general squash matters coming out of SNZ.

Advertise more widely in the community, get community involved

Better funding especially at the top level for our professional players

Better prizes!!

Better promotion. People do not realise the events are on.

Better representation, referees much to be desired, no direction needs better leadership, someone who can relate to all levels & promote more top caliber of refereeing

Cheaper

Encourage Squash Auckland to properly recognise masters age groups in its Auckland Masters Championships

Go back to basics and get those right. Engage with the hosts and contribute in a more collaborative approach. Similar to the Squash Auckland comments.....promote, profile and use the results/website

## 1) Club Members Survey

effectively. At the moment Squash New Zealand dumps the national titles on clubs they consider competent who try to raise sponsors and make the business case work. It would be easier for all if the national titles were promoted jointly and the regional and national body worked hard with the clubs to build better events....

Greater exposure, greater info output regarding promos.

I think squash no sometimes concentrates too much on developing players at the elite level.

Increasing the number of entries allows more flexibility to organise better draws. Just need to work out how to promote events better to achieve this.

More advertising

More exposure, so more ads in newspaper or media

Not enough experience to give a reasonable feedback

Promote lower & junior grades

Promote some of the Open tournaments as a series, with overall rankings based on series results. Review A grade grading list to establish it is working efficiently and is not flawed. Review draws, same people playing same people when the same people enter tournaments over and over again.

Super Champs - poor communication from Organisers of C grade competition draws were late and no itinerary was given. Same old problems where districts are not lodging results in a timely fashion and skewing teams for super champs. Very disappointing

The communication part of the nationals was a little slack. I understand that they need to wait for grading lists but due to needing to taking time off work for these events it would be good to know what times you could be playing so you can organise your work and family life earlier then two weeks prior to the event.

## 2) Club Managers & Administrators Survey ...

### Re Club Competitions

#### What is working well about these Club competitions?

Friendly welcoming atmosphere

Happy with the amount of tourneys in the calendar

Henderson B Grade - good prizes, well organised, easy to manage the draws, understand playing times and enjoy playing.

Herne Bay Open. There were a number of highly ranked players in the draw down to very new F graders.

Herne Bay tournament. Well communicated, seeking entries, reminders and advising when to play

I visit a lot of Clubs in competitions. It is difficult to be too critical of a Club tournament as in many cases they are volunteers who are doing it and in this day and age it is not a volunteer world anymore. So overall they do well under the circumstances.

Junior one-day competitions are friendly and non-threatening.

Key People organising the draw and making sure games are kept running on time as much as possible

Manurewa B grade was well controlled

Plenty to choose from - Open to most grades

Socialising

Tournament draws clear, easy to read and understand. The grades in draws fair, no huge differences in one draw.

Tournaments well run by club volunteers

Women in squash - great incentive to get new women into squash

A relaxed format to introduce new players

Entries becoming easier online

Good communication - everyone knows where and when they are required to play and mark.

Good communication regarding playing times

Herne Bay Open. There were a large number of players who entered who had never played a tournament before - they thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

I feel Clubs lack in marketing. In Akld we are lucky to have Squash Akld's support however it's a double edged sword. Most Clubs find it difficult to get help within their membership. It's a 24/7 world. I'm not a negative person and you are asking me to be positive in this case.....when I know it's reality!

Keep to time stated

One day competitions suit families

Playing times were well displayed

Providing well for Juniors

The tournaments have been well run and controllers are very friendly.

Chance to play different opponents

Game notifications getting better

Good prizes are always a hit with the kids

Herne Bay Open. There is a dedicated team of volunteers supported by the general squash membership who ran the tournament.

Nice club atmosphere and facilities

## 2) Club Managers & Administrators Survey ...

Social environment is generally good

Support staff and caterers are on hand at all times as well as bar staff

The people who do the draws and do tournament (board) control do a darn good job.

### How do you feel these Club competitions could be improved?

Court allocation and stopping people playing outside the tournament times as sometimes they ring each other and play at other clubs which defeats the purpose of hosting a tournament. Although I can understand the need for flexibility to try and get the numbers. More refereeing evenings throughout the season for lower graded and new players to learn. The lower grades shouldn't really be refing matches higher than their own grade.

Encouraging juniors to play in open tournaments if they are D/E/F grade.

Herne Bay Open. Ensure the date of the tournament allows for NZ ranked players to attend.

I only entered the Herne Bay competition. I don't know about others - maybe if they communicated with me more I would enter and then I could comment on them.

Manurewa B No Improvement needed

Maybe some better communication of start times for junior 3 day tournaments.

Not knowing the inside info of a club it's a difficult one to answer. Most Clubs lack in Sponsorship and Marketing. A Club is as good as their 'drivers' or their executives.....

Only problem found is that in some smaller clubs there is difficulty getting a draw of evenly graded players. Draw may go across 3 different grades. Not sure how to improve...perhaps 2 or more smaller clubs combine for one tournament.

Organisers should stick with the dates of the tourneys as advertised.

We could all use the same tournament entry forms, etc. also pre-payment of fees online would be good from club point of view. Do Squash NZ need to get more together with accepting results generated by the various programmes clubs use?

## Squash Auckland Competitions

### Do you have any suggestions regarding the timing and/or venues of Squash Auckland competitions?

#### Re the timing...

Hi, I do not believe Sunday is a good time to be holding new junior player competitions, as this day is often the only time many people and families have free, with a full on and busy week ahead. If parents and children are interested and/or committed to playing squash would we/they not prioritise activities to make time for training and competitions any other day of the week, or is this arrangement of junior squash on a Sunday simply a convenient solution, that unfortunately, neglects the nurturing and encouragement of those who are the future members of our clubs in New Zealand, and in doing so not giving adequate support to what we generally consider an awesome sport that promotes good health, and provide world class competition.

I think this side of the season went well.

I would be interested in the option of just playing and then going home (ie not dinner)

Interclub... Main issue with our club is that mens and womens is on the same night, we have had members who can't play as their spouse is also playing and they have children.

## 2) Club Managers & Administrators Survey ...

It has been mentioned to me by club members where both partners are playing senior interclub that it would be good if the ladies played on one night and men play on the following night ie ladies Monday night and men on Tuesday night as some find it hard with getting babysitters

Not sure about the short autumn season for Senior interclub. also, not answering this question, but I notice over the last couple of years that it is often the lowest grade that gets stuck with the odd number of teams and byes - maybe this should be shared around more

SuperChamps-later in the season

The timing seems fine to me

There should have been a week break from interclub and masters interclub to allow for the absence of the various teams representing Auckland at the Super Champs competition. This year one entire masters team (Henderson MS09) has been taken out of the masters interclub for a week. Not very fair to them and it must affect other teams throughout the country as well.

### Re the venue/s...

Good viewing, good vibe, not too old & dingy

I have no problems.....

Need to have major district tournaments at a Centralised Club eg Eden Epsom, Remuera, Herne Bay. I think it would attract more entries

Senior Interclub - too far apart. Too much travelling

The venues are fine.

Venues are ok.

Venues ok.

### What is working well about these Squash Auckland competitions?

Caters for different grades

Everyone knows when they are playing and games are kept to time as much as possible

Get to play people close to your level (thanks to the grading list)

Good variety

Grading comparability

On line input of results is awesome

On-line entry great. Also posting results. Well done for this innovation Squash Auckland.

Promotion

Communication

Draws turned out quickly (I notice that a failing of tennis is that team entry close offs way b4 competition starts - this is hopeless. No problems like this with Squash Auckland).

Friendly, meet the same people each week

Good promotions

Management thru interclub team captains seems to work well

Player history top notch

Social

They have good support behind the scenes to ensure everything runs smoothly.

Participants enjoy themselves

## 2) Club Managers & Administrators Survey ...

Response to queries/protests is quick and easy to understand

There just don't seem to be any mistakes in the way the tournaments are promoted or administered

Well organised

### How do you feel Squash Auckland could improve their competitions?

Better prizes

No improvement required Masters Interclub.

One way would be to offer interclub team captains a template eg Excel for scheduling team player's times etc (maybe it's available and I just haven't looked)

Possibly a bit more focus on the lower grade, beginner players

Would like to see more competitions for adults - ie something along the lines of Eliminations but without the Juniors - there is already quite a few junior only fixtures and not much for the average adult player apart from club tournaments. Members would like to see a reduction in the costs charged to Club for interclub. Most Clubs try to recover some running costs and that on top of what Squash Auckland is charging per team is getting quite expensive and we are struggling to get members to play interclub because of the cost on top of paying their subs.

Yes, by rising the age of Masters so that more people play interclub for longer. Some children seem to be a bit young to be playing in tournaments and can't cope with the pressure so act out on court.

## Squash New Zealand Competitions

### Do you have any suggestions regarding the timing and/or location/s of Squash New Zealand competitions?

#### Re the timing...

Would prefer that the Cousin Shield/ Mitchell cup was played on Queens Birthday weekend as it used to be.

#### Re the location...

No comments

### What is working well about the Squash New Zealand competitions?

Tradition

Something for all grades

### How do you feel Squash New Zealand could improve these national competitions? Why do you say that?

Improved officiating, better referees

### 3) Casual Players Survey...

Would you be interested in joining a Squash Club?

**IF YES: Why do you say that?**

Used to be a member - good socially and for fitness  
Get to know people, play regularly, improve my fitness  
To play with others  
I would like a grading  
Meet people at my beginner level  
To make friends  
Great way to play other people of all levels  
I'd like to get graded so I can improve  
Because it offers cheaper rates  
Discounted games  
Keen to join but fees deter me

**IF MAYBE: Why do you say that?**

Dollar benefit  
Depends on court. Depends when social game nights are  
Don't know how much time I can commit to it  
Cost, frequency of play  
Currently just enjoy playing socially with my partner  
Depends on financial commitments  
Convenience of location  
Used to play a lot when younger and was a member then never thought about it  
Depends on costs & times  
Depends on savings on court hire  
It would need to solve the problem of finding similar skilled players  
Location, time to play  
Other commitments  
I like being able to play casually, not having to turn up at the same time each week  
Depends on price and the conditions of joining  
Don't know if I play regularly enough  
Time is a factor  
Would like to improve my squash skills  
Have just returned to playing after a 15 year absence  
I like doing different sports and belonging to a gym

**IF NO: Why do you say that?**

Too busy - work late 4 nights a week

### 3) Casual Players Survey ...

Keeping it casual suits me  
Too many commitments  
Haven't got enough money  
Only want to play in winter  
Already joined a tennis club  
Happy as is  
Not now at age 82  
Only wish to play friends socially

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Would you be interested in taking in part in squash competitions with other players of a similar playing ability as yourself?

#### IF YES: Why do you say that?

Casual bashes  
Competition is a good way to get better  
Every now and again  
For fitness purposes  
Good way to meet new people  
I like to win  
I now feel I'm at a stage where I could play others (currently only play my sister)  
I would meet people who have the same playing ability  
improve my skill and meet other people who I could play with socially  
It's the perfect way to get better skilled  
Meet new people and challenges  
To improve

#### IF MAYBE: Why do you say that?

Enjoy it, but not my thing  
For fun  
Have to get to a fitness level - never enough time  
I like the competitive aspect of it but only want to play casually  
Lots of other stuff going on  
Love to play someone at the same level as me, but not sure re time commitment  
Other commitments  
Would prefer a social comp

### 3) Casual Players Survey ...

#### IF NO: Why do you say that?

Don't want the commitment

I just like playing with friends

Like it to be fun