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## Squash Auckland

### J Grade Interclub Continues to Grow

What started as a regular competition between the J grade players of two North Shore clubs – Belmont Park and Devonport – has now grown to encompass clubs from across the Auckland region.

In term 3 of 2007 the JETS (Junior Emerging Teams Series) interclub tournament started as a competition between J grade players of Belmont Park Racquets Club and Devonport Squash Club.

Involving 6 teams and 35 players, the event took place on a Sunday morning as a way to provide J grade players with an opportunity to play regular competition.

Since then the event has seen exponential growth. In term 3 of 2009 there will be 13 clubs, 25 teams, and over 130 J grade boys and girls participating across the Auckland region.

The number of J players competing now represents 34% of the total J grade players in the Auckland region.

The next stage in the events development is the staging of an inter-zone playoff, involving the top two teams from each zone.

It is proposed to run this event in late September to determine the regional champion.

### Franklin Meer Cats Victorious in Term 2 Sth Jets

At the end of the latest round of matches in the Southern JETS competition the Franklin Meer Cats team Sam Szeli (J3), Rhys Jones (J2), Frazer French (F), and Nathan Summerscales (J3) were victorious with a total of 31 points won over the 4 weeks. Runners up were the Papakura Panthers with 25 points, followed by Waiuku, 21 pts, Franklin Dyno-Mites, 19 pts, Franklin Tigers, 18 pts, and Maramarua, 11 pts.



Franklin Meer Cats JETS Team members from left to right. Sam Szeli, Rhys Jones, Frazer French, Nathan Summerscales

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*“Over 90 Intermediate students participated in one of two Auckland squash zone days.”*

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*“Browns Bay triumphs once again in Northern Jets interclub competition”*

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*“Research suggests that girls in sport perform best, and are happiest when participating in a group”*

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## Intermediate School Squash Days a Huge Success

The month of June saw the running of two Auckland intermediate school squash zone days.

In the Northern region 5 intermediate schools (Northcross, Takapuna Normal, Wairau Park, Belmont, and Murrays Bay) comprising 15 teams and 60 players took part in a squash zone day at the North Shore Squash Club.

In an effort to encourage as many children as possible to play the entry

rules were relaxed to allow ungraded players to participate.

Over the course of the day 40 matches took place with Northcross Intermediate emerging victorious.

A week later, over on the eastern side of town the Howick squash club hosted teams from 4 intermediate schools – Remuera, Sommerville, Buckland Beach, and Mission Heights.

The event involved 9 teams of 33 players from across the 4 schools. Again players of all grades and abilities were encouraged to participate.

A spin off from this event is the entry of 4 Auckland schools (18 students) in this year's AIMS games squash tournament.

In 2008 there were no entries in the squash event.

## Browns Bay Victorious in Northern Jets Interclub

Congratulations to the Browns Bay Buccaneers who managed to retain the Northern JETS interclub title for another term.

In a tense playoff for first and second to determine the premier team for term 1 The Buccaneers defeated the Minor premier Browns Bay Rebels 8 – 6 in a tense and exciting final played at the Devonport Squash Club.



Browns Bay Buccaneers winning JETS Team: Nathan Henderson, Tom Henderson & Jarrod Von Driel

## Girls Perform Best When in a Group

As an individual sport we continue to face challenges in recruiting and retaining girls to play squash.

The problem - according to research conducted by the Norwegian Tennis Association - is not the sport itself, (feedback from school girls participating in

school/club squash partnership programmes is overwhelmingly positive) but its lack of opportunity for social interaction among participants while playing.

In contrast, girls soccer - which continues to experience exponential growth both here and

overseas - offers valuable lessons in how group activity can help squash to recruit and retain girls in the sport.

Refer to the following link to read more on this topic.

<http://www.tennisplayandstay.com/serve-rally-score/girls-tennis.html>

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## Discovery Squash Beginners Programme launched

This month sees the launch of Squash Auckland's latest participation programme – Discovery Squash.

Designed to provide easy access to squash for beginner players – male and female, young and old – Discovery Squash follows on from the successful Women in Squash programme launched in November 2008.

The programme is available to all affiliated clubs and user pays facilities.

The timing and delivery of the programme is at the participating facilities discretion.

Posters and flyers are available from Squash Auckland.

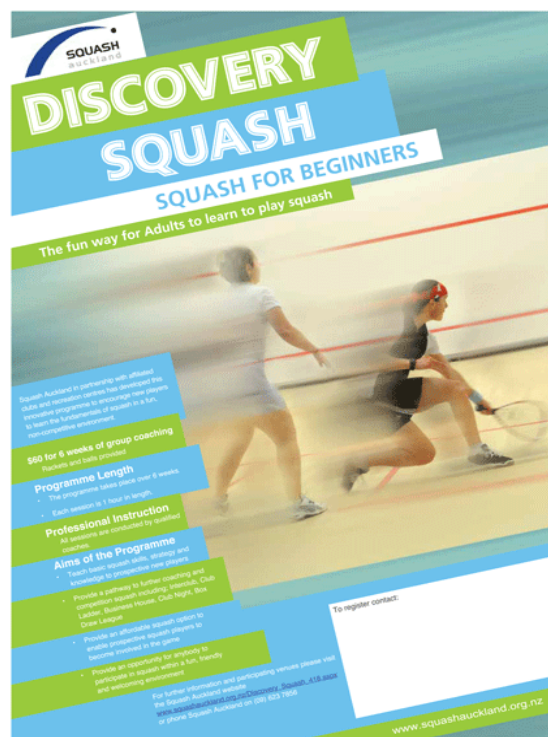
If you would like to run a Discovery Squash programme at your club or centre contact:

Steve Hodges, Development Manager at Squash Auckland

DDI: (09) 623 7856

Mob: 021 484 713

or email: [development@squash.auckland.org.nz](mailto:development@squash.auckland.org.nz)



## The Pathway to New Participant Membership

Recently I gave a presentation at the Squash Auckland Club Development Day on how to successfully recruit new participants into club membership.

Here is a brief overview of some of the key points of that presentation.

There are 4 key steps to a successful new member recruitment and retention strategy. They involve offering programmes that incorporate the following elements in order:

1. **Try** - Offer non-members and members alike the opportunity to try the sport by;
  - Supplying equipment
  - Offering a short introductory programme at low to medium cost
2. **Learn** – Provide coaching opportunities from qualified coaches
3. **Play** – provide opportunities for new participants to play regularly with people of a similar level.
4. **Compete** – Provide competition opportunities that meet the needs of the new participants.

Take into account:

- Their ability
- The time they have available to participate in competition.

Remember not everybody has the time, confidence, ability, or motivation to play interclub or 3 day tournaments. Offer other competition formats for today's time poor sports consumer.

*"Focusing on fun, skill development, individual needs and maximum participation will encourage people to stay involved and achieve success at all levels in line with their choices and potential, thereby reducing dropout rates and enhancing physical activity involvement across their lifespan."*

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*“Three new level 1 coaches join the ranks of the Squash Auckland coaching fraternity.”*

## Coaches Pass Level 1 Qualification

On Saturday July 4<sup>th</sup> seven Auckland coaches attended an assessment day at the Panmure Squash Club. At the end of the day 3 coaches had passed and will now be awarded the SNZ Level1 coaching qualification.

Congratulations to Lui Syder – Eden Epsom, Peter Ridge – Devonport,

and Michael Blanchard – Titirangi on passing their respective assessments.

Their success brings the number of Auckland coaches qualified since February 2007 to 29. Twenty four have passed the level 1 qualification and 5 have passed the level 2 qualification.

Squash Auckland is

committed to increasing the number of qualified coaches in the region.

If you would like to become a qualified coach check out the Squash Auckland website for upcoming course dates.

[http://www.squashauckland.org.nz/Coaching\\_125.aspx](http://www.squashauckland.org.nz/Coaching_125.aspx)

## Squash NZ Unveils New Coaching Strategy

After significant consultation Squash N.Z recently unveiled its draft proposal for a new national coaching strategy.

The report highlights the need for a nationally integrated strategy incorporating

recommendations from SPARC.

If implemented the new coaching framework will see a departure from the current 2 tiered vertical coaching qualification to a more user friendly modular format that will allow prospective coaches

to enter the framework and study units relevant to their coaching interests.

To view the proposed strategy, follow the link below.

[http://www.squashnz.co.nz/myfiles/FINAL\\_DRAFT\\_SQUASH\\_COACHING\\_STRATEGY.pdf](http://www.squashnz.co.nz/myfiles/FINAL_DRAFT_SQUASH_COACHING_STRATEGY.pdf)

## Maramarua Mini Squash for Kids, Easy to Learn, Fun to Play

In term 2 Maramarua Squash Club participated in Squash Auckland's school/cub partnership programme.

Two schools – Maramarua Primary and Mangatawhari Primary – attended a 5 week mini squash programme run at the Maramarua Squash club.

35 students attended the sessions coordinated by

Daniel Hair.

Over the 5 weeks the students undertook a series of skills sessions, assessments and fun games.

All the students were assessed for their mini squash awards. All students achieved the 1 and 2 star awards with 17 children going on to achieve the 3 star awards.

All students were asked for their opinion about the programme via a feedback survey.

Key results:

- The average rating for the programme was 9.6/10
- 30 thought squash would be good as part of PE in school.
- 26 indicated they would like play squash at a club.

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*“Mini Squash programme rates 9.6 out of 10 among South Auckland school students.”*