



THE

SWAN

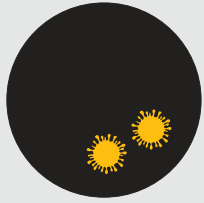
SQUASH WA NEWS

MAY 2020



PANDEMIC

SQUASH CENTRES REMAIN SHUT



COVID-19 PANDEMIC UPDATE

SQUASH CENTRES REMAIN SHUT

What are the symptoms of coronavirus?

You can check your symptoms using the healthdirect Coronavirus (COVID-19) Symptom Checker.

<https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/symptom-checker/tool/basic-details>

Common symptoms of COVID-19 include fever (any temperature over 38C) and a cough.

Some people also report a sore throat, shortness of breath, fatigue, aches and pains, headaches, and a runny or stuffy nose.

4 May 2020: For those lucky enough to live in Western Australia, the two-person rule has been eased to a 10-person limit, indoors or out.

People there can now have up to nine of their mates around for that most Aussie of activities: a barbecue (with social distancing).

On 1 March, Australia reported the first death from COVID-19: a 78-year-old Perth man, who was one of the passengers from the Diamond Princess, and who had been evacuated and was being treated in Western Australia.

Some good websites if you are interested in tracking the pandemic:

<https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-03-17/coronavirus-cases-data-reveals-how-covid-19-spreads-in-australia/12060704?nw=0>

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/coronavirus-covid-19-current-situation-and-case-numbers>

What has happened in just 2 months:

Covid-19 Stats

as at 5/3/20

CASES:

World: Over 95K

US: 159

Australia: 59

Western Australia: 1

DEATHS:

World: Over 3K

US: 11

Australia: 1

Western Australia: 1

Covid-19 Stats

as at 6/5/20

CASES:

World: Over 3.7M

US: Over 1.2M

Australia: Over 6.8K

Western Australia: 551

DEATHS:

World: Over 250K

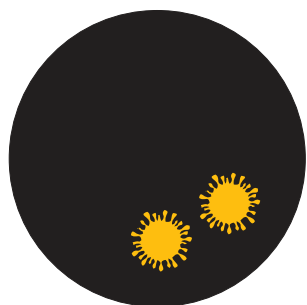
US: Over 71K

Australia: 96

Western Australia: 9

EDITORIAL

© WA Squash - May 2020
ISSUE 50



Welcome to the 50th edition of the SWAN!

Not exactly the right time to celebrate such a milestone but at least it is one bit of good news.

This is a very different edition with very little squash action to report.

Thank you to Dean Williams for making every effort to ensure the SWAN continues during what is a tough time for all of us.

Loved seeing a Flashback to 1973 and a picture of Anne Richards.

Dean has also written a fabulous story about Life Member Bill Lawton.

Most importantly "Dean's Diary" examines the past and why Australia did so well previously. The pathway was way different in the past and I do see a lot of merit in trying to get back to that formula.

Lets face it honestly. Australia is not a World force any longer. We seriously have to change the "recipe" otherwise we will keep getting the same old results we are getting now.

Now is time to change. Lets emerge from Covid 19 with a fresh start!



WORLD
RANKINGS

1 May 2020

WA MEN:

	TM:	HWR:
David Ilich	246	210
Damon Macmillan	306	298
Tim Cowell	404	178
Mike Corren	490	38
Tye Harland	512	365

WA WOMEN:

	TM:	HWR:
Pascale Louka	321	250

TM: This Month
HWR: Highest World Ranking

At local taverns, pubs and bars, people drank from pint and quart-sized containers. A bar maid's job was to keep an eye on the customers and keep the drinks coming. She had to pay close attention and remember who was drinking in 'pints' and who was drinking in 'quarts,' hence the phrase 'minding your P's and Q's'.



WA
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TRUE SPORT⁺

Be a True Sport

The way we play together shapes the way we live together

#HaveFun

It's healthy, it's a game, it's sport
– enjoy it! Have fun training
and competing at all levels.

#GiveBack

Volunteer, embrace
opportunities to give back
and thank those involved
with bringing you the game.

#BeSafe

Ensure participants
are safe on and off
the field.

#PlayFair

Be honourable –
do the right thing on
and off the field.



#BeHealthy

Look after the physical
and mental wellbeing of
yourself and others.

#BringYourBest

Bring your best to every game
and enjoy the challenge – win,
lose or draw.

#ShowRespect

Demonstrate mutual respect
for everyone – team-mates,
opposition, clubs, community
and treat others how you
want to be treated.

#IncludeAll

Invite everyone to participate
and make sport meaningful
for the whole community.



Department of
Local Government, Sport
and Cultural Industries

Share your stories about the true value
of sport and recreation @TrueSportWA





Dean Williams

ADMINISTRATION

Dean's Diary

It's been a month since our historical "COVID -19" edition of The SWAN (huge congrats to Kim for this iconic cover) and we are no closer sadly, to getting a resolution on when squash courts can re open.

WA Squash have written to The Minister of Sport and we received a very quick reply back saying that indoor sports like squash are still prohibited. We will certainly keep trying.

Like all of you looking for projects to do in these strange times I decided to get out all my old squash magazines, programs, draw sheets, photos and newspaper articles. I began to think why is squash in the state it is in and what happened to get to this point. I have been a firm believer in the systems of the past and quite outspoken about the new methods to try and produce champions.

To the people who are not aware of what happened for over 40 years, the pinnacle was representing your State and going to the Australian Titles held every year in a different State. Each State that held it would put on an amazing 2 week festival of squash with press, TV, radio, etc. It was also the biggest fundraiser for the States and generated great enthusiasm with coaching seminars, refereeing seminars, guest speakers, dinners, etc .

There were 4 player teams for Men and Women and 3 player teams for under 19 boys and girls. This all stopped in 1989 when Perth held the last "carnival" which was played at WAIT Squash Centre (The HQ of WA Squash Association which later became Curtin Uni).

So for the past 30 years a player over 19 could not play for his or her State as no team competition was played!

We focussed on the juniors and started under 11, 13, 15, 17, 19 championship. Now at first look you would think that's a good thing, get more juniors playing under age events. Sadly, that's not the case, as too much emphasis was then placed on winning a minor title and not a longer term view of what it takes to win after turning 19.

The stats are shocking to see when you delve into who won an under 15 title 7 years ago and are they still playing ?? The older system had it right because the emphasis was on playing for your State as an under 19 rep which meant all the age groups fought so hard to get into that 3 player team for a trip of a life time to see the great players play in the Australian Titles.





Dean Williams

ADMINISTRATION

Dean's Diary

When you see the names that played in the U19 team event at an early age you would know that by the time they were 18 not only did they win the Junior title but found themselves to be very solid players in the senior ranks. Take Rhonda Shapland from Qld, she first represented Qld as a 13 yo, was beaten quite soundly by the older girls due to lack of power, speed and of course experience but at the age of 15 she won her first of 4 Junior titles and by the time she was 23 she was the 1981 World Women's Champion and went on to be one of the all time greats.

Geoff Hunt came to Perth in 1962 as a 14 yo and played in the final of the junior boys where he lost to Bob Pratt from NSW. He played for the Victoria Mens team a year later and the rest is history as they say.

Steven Bowditch came from Darwin and we both played as 14 yo's in Sydney in 1971 in our first Australian Carnival. The competition was fierce and we played young men who were fit and strong at 18 but the losses did not deter anybody as it was a pathway to a dream of winning the Australian Junior Title. As it turned out Steven Bowditch was the person I beat to win my title in 1974.

Steven went on to have a great career and the highlight was when all the professional players boycotted the 1981 ISRF World titles in Sweden, he won it by beating Craig Blackwood from NZ in the final.

The key to this format was the desire to improve each year and then test yourself against the best once a year. No short term underage titles to worry about, just the dream of being picked in your State team. Juniors will always have seniors to play against and improve.

Australia did have a few successes with the AIS program from 1983 which has ceased sadly but we now find ourselves with no one in the Mens top 100. The ladies are very similar and our under 19 teams now think its quite good if we make the top 10 nations in the world. It is vital for the game that we have top World players who generate publicity, promote the game, keep the sport of squash in people's minds and above all be a positive role model for up and coming players.

We still hear of Geoff Hunt, Heather McKay, Sarah Fitzgerald, Rodney Martin, Chris Dittmar and even Ken Hiscoe. Why don't we hear what David Palmer, Rachel Grinham, Cameron Pilley or Ryan Cuskelly did??





Dean Williams

ADMINISTRATION

Dean's Diary

Sadly, until things change with how the funding is done from Squash Australia we are seeing a steady decline in our world rating which will not be very attractive for any press.

It is so simple to change too. Its controversial but that has never stopped me before.

If you want me to put my ideas down for the next edition of the SWAN, I would like to hear from you via your club President who will then pass on to me.

Stay safe and take care If you have anything at all that you would like to put in to the SWAN please let me know on deanwilliams1956@gmail.com

On the following page I have copied an article written by Vic Hunt which might interest some readers.



Now there's a famous face besides the legendary DARDIR! Yes it is our very own World Masters Champ **Anne Richards** (nee Harries) with Ian Clarke in 1973. Dardir came over to Perth with the NZ boys team in that year and did a coaching course. Check out the old racket!



HOW IT ALL BEGAN

By V. N. HUNT

Most of us who play squash are so involved in the technicalities of the game that we rarely give thought to how and why the game developed.

The records are not very informative and one has to theorise somewhat on the final evolutionary stage of squash rackets.

The first reference in writing to squash appears in an 1890 book on badminton. The author wrote: "There are now in England several houses with a more elaborate 'squash' court attached, built indeed like a smaller hard ball court." He forecast a future popularity of the game.

The hard ball game to which he was referring was undoubtedly the game of rackets.

Squash had to wait until as late as 1920, however, before any historical record was commenced.

The first year of consequence was 1922 when a men's and women's championship was played in London. Six clubs were listed as SRA members in 1922 and growth was slow, for the next decade saw only a total of 16 clubs affiliated.

Up to 1926 scoring of the game was counted up to 15. This was considered too high, the rules were changed, and games limited to nine 'aces.'

Although courts of today's size were being built during the twenties it was not until 1933 that the dimensions were made officially standard by the SRA.

But at this stage of our story let us turn back the clock again to "genesis," as it were.

Squash rackets development must be looked at against the background of games played with hand and ball.

The history of these games dates back to France of the Tenth Century when Jeu de Paume, or hand ball, appears in written works.

In England, games of hand and ball were recorded in the Twelfth Century under the name of fives. The derivation of this name is argued but the most likely is based on the bunched fingers and thumb of the hand.

Two or more players participated and corners of yards and any suitable area bounded by walls and building structures were used.

Games with gloves, bindings of skins, sticks and short handled bats led to the development of the strung racket and tennis, the game known today as Royal Tennis.

Relative to the small populations of the day tennis found very wide favour among the middle and more affluent classes. The first organised playing place in England was made at Hampton Court under the direction of Henry the Eighth. This 140 feet long area served as a model for most courts made thereafter.

In recent history eighty-two of these huge "court-yard" courts were located in the world. It is thought that there were nearly as many as this in England during the hey-day of the game.

Then came a decline of interest and many courts were converted for use for the growing art of the theatre.

The high cost of playing led then to smaller, more convenient and improvised courts and the advent of 'rackets.'

Rackets courts were varied in size and court yards, monasteries, schools and other high walled structures were utilised. Early courts were of such sizes as 80 by 40 feet, 60 x 30 feet and were finally standardised at 50 x 30 feet with a wall height of 30 feet.

The first reference to rackets was in 1800 when writings describe its being played in Fleet prison.

Concurrently with the playing of rackets and tennis was the growth of an infinite number of forms of 'fives' or hand ball and other racket games.

Even in the last decades many unique forms of fives and rackets have been discovered in British public schools. Two famous games of this type were Eton Fives and Rugby Fives.

With the main exception of Rugby Fives most of these hand and racket games made extensive use of hazards. These are structures like steps and wall projections used for deflection of the balls in play.

As the nineteenth century progressed the game of 'rackets,' like its forerunner, tennis, yielded to mass demand for a cheaper sport.

This was helped by the large size of courts and the expense of accoutrements. For example, one hundred balls were required in a seven game match which even the gentry found of high cost.

The stage was set then for a cheaper more compact game.

It will never be known exactly when and how the modern form of squash rackets was first played but two factors are significant.

First, a Rugby fives court has a remarkable similarity to the modern 32 by 21 foot squash court. It was 28ft. long, 18 foot wide and had four walls; the front wall was 15ft. in height and the side walls sloped to the back one of six feet. In addition, it had a sounding board or 'tell-tale' of two feet, six inches in height at the foot of the front wall. It was played, however, with gloves and a bound ball with a core of cork.

The second factor is that the game of rackets used a convenient long-shafted, small-headed racket; and the rules of the game are the same in many respects to modern squash rules. In fact whole sentences and paragraphs are word-for-word identical.

It seems obvious that at some point of time, someone stood on a Rugby fives court with a "rackets" racket and a new game was born. The substitution of a "deader" or "squashier" ball for the hard rackets ball probably was inevitable and thus made complete the transformation of two games into one.

We all know, and all of us have played a role in, the rest of the story. We have seen the importing of the game throughout the world by British servicemen, its introduction to Australia in the late twenties, and its enormous growth here in the last decade.

If the origin of squash is not entirely clear in detail, there is no doubt about its future.

The forecast of the writer of 1890 has come true; and it is my belief that squash is destined to become the widest, most universally played, ball game in the English speaking world.





HOW WAS YOUR ISO?

Living in the country, we had it really good - 10 acres to run rampant on, plenty of bush trails to go walking, go-carts, the pool table, games of stingers (the table tennis game where you get to whack balls at people, poor Caitlin ended up very red and spotty) our endless campaign to convince Mum and Dad that there is value in Tiktoks and of course, Netflix.

Yet us kids still managed to get at each other's throats, had some altercations, a few door slams, and tantrums ... I can only imagine how difficult it must have been in the cities!

We (Brennan, Caitlin and yours truly) were so excited when Dad announced he had managed to get us some court time!

Like gamers on red bull, we eagerly stepped out to our (closed) local courts brimming with anticipation, only to be burnt when he distributed a whole pile of tools and paint tins.

We should have guessed when he said to wear old clothes, Yep, nothing but chipping out old plaster, rendering (learnt that word!) and endless sanding. Wax on, wax off was his popular catch phrase and I haven't even seen the silly movie.

Dad was always amazed at our ability to get more paint on us than the walls, but it was kind of fun and super rewarding bringing the damaged front walls back to life and covering the patches with a fresh lick of the white stuff.

It was quite weird, spending so much time on court, getting familiar aches and stiffness, but never hitting a ball (well not many anyway).

Although I didn't get into it, I could see the appeal of street squash and congratulate Squash Australia on the initiative and hope many of you had a fun time joining in. We just can't wait to get back and be the first to put some dirty marks on our lovely white walls!

For those of you trying to keep up your studies ... I get you. If you were like me, you probably hit procrastination station wayyyyyy too many times and did not achieve everything you were supposed to but with the restrictions starting to ease its time to try and find that old squash body and put this other one back in the cupboard.

Do you remember when you first started playing squash or coming back to squash after some time away? Do you remember how sore your butt was? Do you remember the soreness when you went to sit down?



**I remember it all too well and
I'm not a fan!**

So we need to keep moving and do some squash-like movements whilst we are unable to go on court. Perhaps some lunges or perhaps do some ghosting. (Try the free Squash Ghost app).

How many times per week did you play squash? Can you exercise at home or the park for this same amount of time?

This is also a great time to do the exercises you were given for any injuries sustained and an opportunity to strengthen your core.

Perhaps you are looking for something to read, how about the Rules of Squash: <http://www.worldsquash.org/rules-of-squash-2/> or perhaps the history of Squash: <http://www.worldsquash.org/wsf-information/squash-history/the-history-of-squash-in-10%c2%bd-chapters/>

Here is a great article from the Squash Australia website from their Athlete Wellbeing & Engagement Manager, with many helpful tips: <https://www.squash.org.au/w/blog/squash-australia-sarah-roder--maintaining-mental-health-during-social-isolation>

Stay safe and remember to make your bed each day!

LIFE MEMBER PROFILE

Bill Lawton

WA Squash has a fantastic history spanning 70 years since the Association was formed in 1950/51. In this time wonderful volunteers and ambassadors for squash were honoured with Life Memberships. Whilst we are dealing with the current situation, I thought I would ask some of the Life Members to go down memory lane and let the current generation know why they were honoured. Our first is **William (Bill) Lawton**.

At age 12, Bill was learning how to play tennis and, as his sister had started playing squash, he wandered into the local squash centre in South Perth. One of the members, Steve Demetrio, showed him some of the differences between squash and tennis. He loved playing and the court owner, Ken Meuleman offered to let him use the vacant courts after school to practice. With Ken's encouragement Bill entered and won the State Schoolboys under 14 Championship in 1964 and he was hooked. In 1966 he won the under 16 title. That year saw Steve Wall win the under 14's and Bob Meuleman win the under 18's.

In 1967 he was invited to join the State Junior Team (U/19) for the Australian Championships in Adelaide. In those days it was a three player team, Bob Meuleman (South Perth), Peter Fynmore (Squashway) and Ray Cooper (Scarborough). At number four, Bill was there only as an emergency and to gain some experience. On reflection, that experience of meeting and watching players like Ken Hiscoe, Geoff Hunt and Heather McKay was extremely inspirational. The Captain of the men's team was Frank Taaffe, a fabulous player and long-time mentor of Bill's. That year the ladies team included Margaret Court, one of the greatest tennis players of all time.

Bill played in the State Junior Team at the following two Australian Championships in Perth (1968) and Melbourne (1969) and then in the Men's Team at the Championships in Sydney (1970) and Hobart (1971).

After five consecutive Australian Championships Bill (aged 22) began a career as a professional coach and didn't represent WA again until 1980 when the Australian Championship were opened up to Professionals for the first time. That tournament at the Gold Coast was very exciting as it reunited all of the best players in the country.

Geoff Hunt defeated Dean Williams in that final. As Geoff had turned professional in 1971 this was the first chance that Geoff got to play, so after an 8 year absence when Geoff had already won 6 British and 4 World titles he was able to add to his 4 Australian Amateur Titles.

WA fielded Junior Boys and Girls teams as well as Mens and Ladies so Bill was able to watch a number of his pupils compete, as well as play himself. His tournament was cut short however when he ran into a rampaging Len Atkins from South Australia. Bill had dodged Len's elbows quite successfully for most of the first game and led 7-3, when Len managed to break two of Bill's ribs,

LIFE MEMBER PROFILE

Bill Lawton

so he spent the remainder of the tournament in the gallery.

The 1960's and 70's had seen huge growth in the squash industry with a great many centres being built and more and more people taking up the game. It was this rapid growth that offered Bill the opportunity to coach.

The 70's and 80's saw tremendous growth in the sport itself. WA Squash Rackets Association boasted an excellent Junior Development Program initiated by Harley Williams (Father of Dean) and carried forward by Barbara Wall and later John Durbridge, with excellent committee support, and through the Squash Court Owners Association the National Cheezels Championships were conducted during the entire year.

This competition started at grass roots with each participating centre in Australia holding small tournaments for Under 14, 16 and 18 Boys and Girls. Winners advanced to zone and regional finals, then state finals and ultimately state winners travelled to the eastern states to compete in the National Finals. This provided a pathway for young players to progress through under age and on to State and National Juniors (U/19) and ultimately, senior level. This type of pathway is vital to any sport in providing incentives for young players to strive to improve.

Bill is proud to say that many of his pupils travelled this path and collected a number of state and national titles along the way including a world junior championship, when Robyn Friday won here in Perth in 1983 at the Squash Headquarters at Curtin. Some were also invited to train at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra.

While many went on to write their own success stories and in some cases pursue a career in squash, he also gained much satisfaction in seeing players, young and old, simply achieve the improvement they were seeking, whether it was an increase in ranking or pennant grade or just making contact with the ball for the first time.

Not long after Bill started coaching, he was approached by a fellow Cambridge member at the time, Alan East. Alan was a well-known sports writer with the West Australian Newspaper at the time and wanted to take up the opportunity to lease the Swan Districts Squash Centre. Bill agreed and thus was born a partnership and lifelong friendship.

Alan would run the courts in the day until his shift at the Newspaper started and Bill would work at night. Bill coached for a couple of hours (after a day's work as a draftsman) before his shift at the courts started. Needless to say, life was a bit hectic and as his coaching numbers grew (he was still finishing off his career as a draftsman) he began coaching full time. After they sold Swan Districts Alan and Bill went on to run other squash centres independently (Morley, Cambridge and Oxford)

LIFE MEMBER PROFILE

❧ **Bill Lawton** ❧

and remained very close friends until Alan's recent passing. In his spare time Alan began producing the WA Squash News. They were later both granted life membership to the WA SRA.

Alan and Bill held one of the first Open Tournaments in WA in the form of the Swan Districts Open and attracted Dean Williams who had embarked on a life as a touring professional and was making his way up the world rankings. They were thrilled that Dean supported the tournament and he became its inaugural winner.

Their first major sponsor was Angove Wines but subsequent events were named The Sandleford Open. The tournament was a great success but not without some controversy. It seems the SRA had yet to fully embrace Open Tournaments and sponsor's advertising material was not approved on the tin because it was within the playing area. Alan and the then President of the SRA, Ken Legge, had a monumental argument resulting in Bill and Alan having to play the final on an adjacent court to the gallery court.

Reflecting on Bill's life in Squash brings dozens of stories like that flooding to his mind but for him it's the long-standing friendships with team mates and opponents alike that form the enduring legacy of Squash in WA.



Bill & Donelle Lawton

WA MASTERS UPDATE

By Janis Haswell

I hope everyone is managing social isolation in true squashy fashion, and staying fit and well. Who would have guessed we would find ourselves in this pandemic situation when the New Year commenced?

In the meantime, another month has passed and we are doing remarkably well as a community, a State and a country in terms of controlling the Covid-19 virus on our shores. We have to take heart from that.

Glenn Hitch, President of WA Squash, and Dean Williams WA Squash Manager have both been working hard, contacting relevant Government officials to lobby to have squash centres back up and operational. Glenn has been in contact with Mick Murray MLA Minister for Sport and Recreation to seek a time-frame for the reopening of indoor sports and recreation facilities. Unfortunately, the Government's decision for these centres to remain closed stands for the time being.

Dean and WA squash administration have been dealing with financial and other issues relevant to paid up competition players in an attempt to find a workaround plan that will be satisfactory for all, given the uncertainty of the time-frame for the requirement of indoor centres to remain closed. We appreciate the efforts being made on behalf of the WA squash community, and hopefully we will see some positive news from the WA Government soon.

The WA Masters committee is remaining positive, planning social events for the members in the months to come. One of these is a celebration to mark WA Masters 40th year, a great achievement for Masters and a really good excuse to kick up our heels and celebrate in style. More information about the event will be conveyed to members as rules of social distancing restrictions allow timing and other details to be confirmed.

Stay positive everyone, we're doing well here in the West. I know we're champing at the bit to get back on court, but in the meantime, use this hiatus to get some of those things (I know) we have all put aside to play more squash. Hope to see everyone back on the courts as soon as possible.



**DON'T FORGET TO PROMOTE
WA MASTERS TO YOUR SQUASH FRIENDS!**

***THE SOCIAL AND PHYSICAL BENEFITS AND FUN
OFFERED BY BELONGING ARE INVALUABLE.
AND YOU ONLY NEED TO BE 35 TO JOIN THE FUN!***

THE BACK WALL

WA SQUASH BOARD

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Treasurer: Neil Butler

Secretary: Deb Hoffrichter

Board Member: Carsten Frederiksen

Board Member: Leigh Kaye

Board Member: Katy Scott

Board Member: Raelene Marriott

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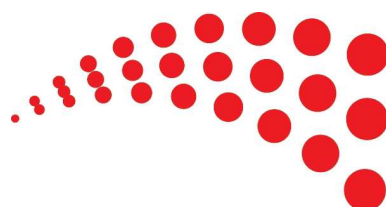
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Treasurer: Terry Brookes

Social Events: Chris Farley

Committee Members: Ray Bell, Sharon Gilgallon
and Ed Jennings