

Queensland 1999

Q Squash performed strongly in 1999. Armed with the highest funding from the State Government in many years, Q Squash embarked on a mission of communicating with its members and planning for a better future.

Our communication system was greatly enhanced when Q Squash launched itself into cyberspace. Sunshine Networks created the Q Squash Home Page and continue to enhance it. Email facilities allowed Queenslanders to bridge the communication gap. Now, people scattered across Queensland, have the opportunity to hear things first hand.

Q Squash (Brisbane Region) engaged the services of former World Number 12, Robyn Cooper to be the Brisbane Regional Development Officer. This has been a very positive initiative with many clubs benefiting from her experience and excellent coaching skills. Robyn will bring her enthusiastic approach to a part-time State role in 2000.

A State Planning Workshop and four Regional Planning Workshops were conducted. It was the first time in a very long time that people interested in the future of squash got together and actually discussed issues. A four-year plan for the State and the Regions was developed.

As a result of these interactions, Q Squash placed its affiliation system under the microscope. A tiered system of membership resulted. The new membership system promotes unity.

In June, the Q Squash (Brisbane Region) Junior Sub-Committee presented the 1999 Queensland Junior Age Championship at Wavell Squash Centre. The event was extremely successful. To recognise some of their achievements, our junior champions had their photos promoted on the web site and on the 2000 Tournament Calendar.

In July, Neil McNamara resigned as President of Q Squash. Neil's contribution to rebuild the State body after its demise in 1996 was outstanding. Steve Derbyshire was subsequently elected President.

Steve has been a Director and Treasurer of Q Squash since 1997. He has been operating his own very successful insurance practice since 1983. Steve brings a fresh approach to what Q squash is all about:

"The members are the heart of squash ... we must rekindle their support and involvement. Together ... we are Q Squash."

Q Squash hosted the 1999 Spring Valley Australian Junior Championship in October. A record number of players, 266 to be exact, from 5 countries took part in the 9-day event. The highlight of the championship was the appearance of the 1999 World Junior Champion, Nicol David from Malaysia. Sixteen year old, Nicol won the 19YAG in fine style.

Whilst the spotlight was on Nicol, Michael Arcidiacono was quietly destroying his opposition. Michael was crowned 17YAG Australian Junior Champion! It was the star Queenslander's second Australian Championship. He won the 15YAG title in 1997.

The Q Team performed well above expectation with a solid 2nd place finish in the overall teams event after being seeded 4th. The 17YAG team won their event. Congratulations to Brad Freeme, Matthew Bartholomew, Lisa Camilleri and Kirsty Knight. With solid second place finishes in the 13YAG and 15YAG, the Queenslanders were back! Their spirit shone through.

2000 promises to be a very exciting year. Q Squash will reintroduce a Queensland Open in August. It will be the first Q Open since 1996! Zone Championships will be introduced to bring prestigious events to the country. Q Teams will be selected to represent our great State at the Australian Youth Championships (19-21-23YAG) in Melbourne in April and the Australian Junior Championships (13-14-15-16-17YAG) in Perth in July.

The Queensland Junior Championships will be held in Toowoomba in April. A 23YAG event will be introduced for the first time.

Finally, I would like to recognise a number of VIP, who have worked tirelessly at various stages in 1999 to ensure squash in Queensland progressed:

John Arcidiacono, Muriel Atherton, Kay Barclay, Noel Forster, Colleen Freeme, Kaye Kidd, Allan Leighton, Jan McDonald, Neil McNamara, Carol Thomas and Marg Tracey-Patte.

Kim Schramm
Executive Director