

Queensland 2000

The year 2000 has been a very special year in more ways than one. Whilst 2000 will be remembered by everyone as the start of a new millennium, the introduction of the GST and the year the Olympics returned down under, it will also be remembered in Queensland Squash circles as the year the Q Open returned.

Whilst not as grand as in years gone by, it was great to see the return of what was once considered a most prestigious event after 4 years in the wilderness. When one looks at number of participants and the quality of the open fields, the Q Open was considered the most successful State Title in Australia in 2000.

The 2000 Open winners were Stewart Boswell and Robyn Cooper. Thank you especially to Steve and Lisa Walton who made the event possible. Thanks also to 6 times winner Liz Irving, who travelled from the Netherlands to compete. Thanks to Geoff Hunt and Rod Martin for using the event as a final hit out for our AIS stars before embarking on another international assault.

During the year Q Squash formed a strategic alliance with Steve Walton from Inform Connection and together, we hope to make the Q Open the best event on the Australian Tournament Calendar in the future. We have also introduced a very successful Junior Graded Circuit to Brisbane and we look forward to hosting the Australian Selection Series for juniors in Brisbane from 13th to 23rd April 2001.

The Q Squash Inform Connection Brisbane Junior Graded Squash Circuit began on 13th August with 59 players competing in a terrific event at Brookside. On the 22nd October 82 competitors invaded Upper Mt Gravatt and on 26th November 53 players took the court at Deception Bay. Schoolies week spoilt numbers at the final event but the format has proved very popular with players and parents. The 3 age events conducted in Brisbane earlier in the year averaged 44 competitors. Six events are planned for 2001.

Our Junior team travelled in force to Perth but could only manage to secure one individual title and finish runner up in the Teams event to the all powerful NSW Team. We are certainly getting closer and lets hope 2001 provides a change of fortune.

Kasey Sinclair won the 13YAG title at the expense of fellow Queenslander Peta Hughes. Both players displayed exceptional squash beyond their tender years, in what was arguably the most entertaining final of the Championships. Kasey won a titanic battle 9-4, 4-9, 10-8, 4-9, 9-6.

Kasey won the prestigious MC Hazel Trophy for the second year running. She became the first female player to win the Award in consecutive years. A great honour and fantastic achievement.

In recognition of performances by Queenslanders at the Australian Junior Championships the following achievement medals were awarded: Josh Muir (Oakey) received the **Austin Adarraga Achievement Medal** and Kasey Sinclair (Rockhampton) received the **Kay Barclay Achievement Medal**.

The Queensland Junior Championships were conducted in April in Toowoomba. The Championships were extremely well organised by the Southern Region and it was great to see our sport exposed on the back page of the Toowoomba Chronicle and WIN TV showed highlights on their news program.

2000 saw many of our past champions, coaches, referees, administrators and volunteers recognised for their valuable contribution to Queensland Squash over the last 30 years. They received an Australian Sports Medal. This medal was issued for the first time in 2000 to commemorate Australian sporting achievement. Many of the Brisbane based recipients enjoyed a small ceremony at Sports House in late November. Well done and thank you for your efforts. Whilst always valued and appreciated, they have now been appropriately recognised.

On the coaching and development front, it was once again a very frustrating year. As a result Robyn Cooper resigned in November 2000. Robyn made in roads but the structure and process of gaining coaching accreditation is less than ideal. The system of attracting new players and nurturing their development needs to be completely reviewed before we pursue her replacement.

Q Squash took a bold move in 2000. The constitution was completely replaced by the Model Rules from Consumer Affairs and in February/March 2001 we will see all our members given a greater say, when they vote for who they wish to be on the Q Squash Executive Board.

Our State Government continues to support our sport well. Their financial contribution is critical and very much appreciated. The State Government has just confirmed it will support Q Squash in 2001 with the same level of funding as it provided in 2000. The State Government also contributed significantly to the development of a new facility at Moranbah.

I would like to thank my fellow Directors and all our volunteers for their contributions in 2000. I would also like to thank Bev Wise for her loyalty and achievements with the conversion of our Membership database.

Q Squash kept membership fees at 1999 prices. We absorbed the GST and removed the administration fee. A new fee structure will be introduced at some stage in 2001. Thank you to all our member clubs who supported the State Body throughout the year.

Finally, I would like to recognise a number of VIP, who have worked tirelessly at various stages in 2000 to ensure squash in Queensland progressed:

John Arcidiacono, Muriel Atherton, Kay Barclay, Mark Forster, Noel Forster, Geoff Hunt, Bernard James, Kaye Kidd, Jan McDonald, Anne Turnbull and Danny Woolbank.

To Steve Derbyshire and Keith Ledger, I thank you for your guidance and support.

Kim Schramm
Executive Director