

**TEAM MANAGER'S REPORT
2015 TRANS TASMAN TEST SERIES
NAPIER, NEW ZEALAND**

It is with much pleasure that I present the following report on the on-court results and official off-court activities of the Australian team that participated in the 2015 Trans Tasman Test Series and the 2015 New Zealand Masters Individual Squash Championships.

PREAMBLE:

The following nominations were submitted by the members of the Australian Masters Squash Association (AMSA):

Men			Women	
Over 35	Nil		Nil	
Over 40	Craig Brann	NSW	Janelle Scobie	Qld
Over 45	Tony Whackett	NSW	Sarah Nelson	NSW
			Kylie Hammett	Qld
Over 50	Warren Miller	Vic	Sue Hillier	WA
	Dale Robbins	Qld	Sue Williams	Qld
Over 55	Kelvin Smith	Qld	Mary Sceney	Vic
	Jim Mobbs	Qld		
Over 60	Michael Brown	Tas	Gaye Mitchell	Tas

On 19 April 2015, the AMSA announced the team to defend the Vic Belsham Trophy:

Men			Women	
Over 35	Craig Brann	NSW	Janelle Scobie	Qld
Over 40	Jeff Bond	NSW	Sue Davis	Qld
Over 45	Tony Whackett	Qld	Sarah Nelson	NSW
Over 50	Warren Miller	Vic	Sue Hillier	WA
Over 55	Kelvin Smith	Qld	Mary Sceney	Vic
Over 60	Michael Brown	Tas	Gaye Mitchell	Tas

Unfortunately, due to a medical condition, Mary Sceney had to withdraw and was replaced by current Australian Champion Tracey Partridge from Queensland.

The Australian team arrived progressively in Napier, NZ on Saturday 10 October 2015, along with the New Zealand team to prepare for the 1st Test. The team was domiciled at the Deco City Motor Lodge in Napier.



Your Australian Trans - Tasman Test Team before the First Test

L to R: Garry Irwin (Manager), Back Row – Craig Brann, Tony Whackett, Kelvin Smith, Jeff Bond, Warren Miller, Michael Brown: Front Row – Gaye Mitchell, Sue Davis, Tracey Partridge, Sarah Nelson, Janelle Scobie, Sue Hillier

FIRST TRANS TASMAN TEST – 12th October:

With a very healthy and enthusiastic crowd of over 100 locals and visitors, the battle for the Vic Belsham Trophy began. An Official Welcome at the Hawkes Bay Squash Centre involving the players, team management, sponsors and visitors was held before the playing commenced. The Australian and New Zealand Managers then introduced their players. As in previous Series, all present sang their national anthems. sang the anthems to a high quality.

The match results were as follows (in order of play; Australian players first and Australian wins in bold):

35 Craig Brann defeated by Kashif Shuja 9/15, 2/15, 6/15
45 Sarah Nelson defeated Lisa Cowlard 18/16, 10/15, 15/11, 15/13
60 Gaye Mitchell defeated Freda Walker 9/15, 16/14, 15/12, 16/14
45 Tony Whackett defeated by Willie Bicknell 15/7, 9/15, 8/15, 10/15
50 Warren Miller defeated by Gary Duberly 7/15, 13/15, 11/15
35 Janelle Scobie defeated by Mickayla Kerr 8/15, 8/15, 11/15
50 Sue Hillier defeated Kathryn Mackay 15/5, 15/5, 15/5
60 Michael Brown defeated Lawrence Skurr 15/9, 15/11, 15/13
55 Kelvin Smith defeated Mark Waldin 15/10, 15/13, 15/13
40 Sue Davis defeated by Nadine Cull 11/15, 9/15, 11/15
55 Tracey Partridge defeated by Karen Walton 1/15, 11/15, 13/15
40 Jeff Bond defeated by Scott Gardiner 6/15, 8/15, 15/12, 15/12, 10/15

New Zealand secured a close win (7) matches to (5), 23 games to 16 and 476 points to 540. This gave New Zealand a 1-0 lead in the Series. The camaraderie and team spirit from the Australian team set the standard for the rest of the Series.

SECOND TRANS TASMAN TEST – 13th October:

The Second Test was again played in front of another enthusiastic crowd of approx 100 locals and visitors at Hawkes Bay Squash Centre.

The match results were as follows (in order of play; Australian players first and Australian wins in bold):

40 Jeff Bond defeated Scott Gardiner 15/9, 12/15, 15/7, 15/9
40 Sue Davis defeated Nadine Cull 16/14, 12/15, 15/10, 15/9
45 Sarah Nelson defeated Lisa Cowlard 15/12, 13/15, 12/15, 15/9, 15/11
45 Tony Whackett defeated by Willie Bicknell 12/15, 15/11, 15/9, 14/16, 16/18
50 Warren Miller defeated Gary Duberly 15/10, 17/19, 18/16, 15/13
50 Sue Hillier defeated Kathryn Mackay 15/4, 15/5, 15/11
55 Tracey Partridge defeated by Karen Walton 15/13, 15/13, 6/15, 10/15, 13/15
35 Janelle Scobie defeated by Mickayla Kerr 9/15, 15/17, 15/5, 6/15, 13/15
60 Michael Brown defeated by Lawrence Skurr 11/15, 8/15, 15/13, 11/15
55 Kelvin Smith defeated Mark Waldin 15/11, 15/8, 15/5
60 Gaye Mitchell defeated Freda Walker 15/10, 11/15, 15/8, 16/14
35 Craig Brann defeated by Kashif Shuja 8/15, 10/15, 9/15

Australia came back to win the 2nd Test (7) matches to (5), 28 games to 21 and 660 points to 597, therefore tying the Series at 1 all.

THIRD TRANS TASMAN TEST – 14th October:

After a free day on Wednesday, the Third and final Test was played in front of another enthusiastic crowd of approx 150 locals and visitors at Hawkes Bay Squash Centre.

The match results were as follows (in order of play; Australian players first and Australian wins in bold):

- 50 **Sue Hillier defeated Kathryn Mackay 15/7, 15/11, 15/1**
- 35 Craig Brann defeated by Kashif Shuja 6/15, 6/15, 10/15
- 45 **Sarah Nelson defeated Lisa Cowlard 15/6, 15/2, 15/12**
- 40 Jeff Bond defeated by Scott Gardiner 18/20, 15/11, 13/15, 15/9, 11/15
- 60 **Michael Brown defeated Lawrence Skurr 15/17, 15/8, 15/9, 15/6**
- 40 Sue Davis defeated by Nadine Cull 8/15, 3/15, 5/15
- 60 **Gaye Mitchell defeated Freda Walker 15/12, 15/12, 15/12**
- 55 **Kelvin Smith defeated Mark Waldin 15/8, 15/11, 15/10**
- 50 Warren Miller defeated by Gary Duberly 12/15, 15/5, 8/15, 11/15
- 35 Janelle Scobie defeated by Mickayla Kerr 16/14, 7/15, 12/15, 11/15
- 55 **Tracey Partridge defeated Karen Walton 10/15, 12/15, 15/11, 15/11, 15/12**
- 45 Tony Whackett defeated by Willie Bicknell (NZ) 15/13, 10/15, 13/15, 15/5, 9/15

Australia won the 3rd Test (6) matches all, 24 games to 21 and 571 points to 540, hence retaining the Vic Belsham Shield for another two years.



Garry Irwin (Australian Manager) accepting the Vic Belsham Shield from Wayne Seebeck (NZ Manager)

2015 NEW ZEALAND MASTERS SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS:

The next three days saw the conduct of the Championships with over (150) players from all points of New Zealand, along with the (2) Test teams, the Team Managers and many of the Australian supporters participating.

Continuing on from the positive results of the Test Series, the Australian team recorded the following results:

Craig Brann – NZ Over 40 Champion

Jeff Bond – NZ Over 45 Champion

Tony Whackett – unfortunately, had to withdraw due to an elbow injury sustained in the Test Series

Warren Miller – unfortunately, had to withdraw due to a calf injury sustained in the Test Series

Kelvin Smith – NZ Over 55 Runner Up

Michael Brown – NZ Over 60 Open Special Plate winner

Janelle Scobie – NZ Over 40 Open Special Plate winner

Sue Davis – NZ Over 45 Runner up to Sarah Nelson

Sarah Nelson – NZ Over 45 Champion

Sue Hillier – NZ Over 50 Champion

Tracey Partridge – 4th in NZ Over 55 Open

Gaye Mitchell – NZ Over 60 Champion

Garry Irwin – Over 55 C / D Grade – unfortunately had to withdraw after a hamstring tear in 2nd match



Your Australian Team with the Vic Belsham Shield and some of the NZ Individual Championship trophies that they won.

L to R: Michael Brown, Tony Whackett, Back Row – Garry Irwin (Manager), Jeff Bond, Kelvin Smith:
Front Row - Sue Davis, Gaye Mitchell, Sue Hillier, Janelle Scobie, Sarah Nelson, Tracey Partridge,
Craig Brann. Absent - Warren Miller

OFF-COURT ACTIVITIES:

Along with the main goal of defending the Vic Belsham Trophy, the Australian team attended the following functions:

- Informal Welcome @ The Thirsty Whale – 11 October
- Teams Luncheon @ The Mission Estate – 14 October followed a visit to Tamata Peak (by local personality Murray)
- Individual Championship Dinner Dance @ National War Memorial Function Centre – 17 October
- Trans - Tasman Test Teams Dinner @ The Thai Rest restaurant - 18 October

REPORT SUMMARY:

Overall, the trip to Napier, NZ was an overwhelming success for the Australian team. The provision of a 12 seater Mini Bus by one of the sponsors proved a god send for the team. It enabled me to transport players to and from our accommodation into Napier to enjoy local Markets, the Ocean Spas, the Art Deco Museum (where all viewed a video on the 1931 earthquake) followed by a bus tour around Napier viewing Art Deco architecture which is what Napier is famous for and enjoying local shopping. The bus also proved invaluable during the NZ Individual Championships with players sharing the driving of the bus in getting their fellow players between the two squash venues – Hawkes Bay Squash Centre and Hawkes Bay Lawn Tennis and Squash Club.

On an administrative note, the following comments are for future AMSA Administrators and Team Managers to utilise at their discretion:

- ❖ The appointment process of a Team Manager to be continued. This allows the players to concentrate mainly on their on-court responsibilities and performances.
- ❖ The support of all States and Territories (referred to as States) in regard to their nominations must be applauded and encouraged ie there were 7 male and 7 female nominations for the 2015 team. This shows the large number of quality players within our ranks. In saying this, I would also like to encourage states to keep an eye on all possible players to be considered for nomination for the next Series (2017 in Ballarat) to enable the Australian Selectors to choose from the best players available. I would also encourage the states to nominate all Australian Open champions from their state – the larger the pool of nominees, the better quality of players that the selectors have to choose from.
- ❖ Also, even though my tenure as Australian Manager now ends with this report, I will be having continuing discussions with the NZ Manager as to the possibility of including an Over 65 Male and Female representative for the 2017 Series. This age group is discussed each Series by the two (2) Managers to see if we can include them.

Finally, on behalf of the 13 Test Team players (including Mary Sceney) and myself, I would like to thank the members of the Australian Masters Squash Association for the opportunity to represent the Association and to contribute to the continued success of Masters Squash. I am certain that all Team members appreciated the support from the Association and their respective states and territories in assisting to defray costs incurred in representing the AMSA.

Garry Irwin
Team Manager
2015 Trans - Tasman Test Series
Napier, New Zealand
2nd November 2015