



Chief Executive Newsletter

Issue 6

July 2010

Greetings

Superchamps 2010

The district eliminations are done and dusted for 2010 and the winners now have their sights set on the national finals in September.

Congratulations to all the teams that have made it through to the finals. There have been some great stories about the rivalry and intensity of the competition. Many of the matches have gone right down to the wire and the atmosphere in the gallery has probably been better than a seat at the football World Cup.

It is a fantastic event that brings out the very best in club spirit and competition. Few sports have competitions where players of all grades have the opportunity to become national champions. Superchamps creates that chance and it is great to see many of our clubs actively promoting and encouraging players to take part. Lets hope that we can build on that for next year.

A special vote of thanks to the districts, clubs and volunteers who do all the hard work behind the scenes to make it happen.

Good luck to all the teams who have made it through to the finals this year.



Cousins Shield / Mitchell Cup

This year the event is being held from 23 -25 July at the Hawkes Bay Squash Rackets Club. With 12 men's teams and 8 women's teams entered it promises once again to be a great contest.

Top seed for the Cousins Shield is Re-muera Rackets Club and North Shore 1 in the Mitchell Cup.

Good luck to all the teams and thanks to Jacquie and the organizing team who are looking after the event.

Mid Year Presidents Conference 2010

Earlier this month the presidents from our 11 districts that represent squash in New Zealand met in Auckland for their mid year conference. The agenda covered a range of topical issues and I thought I would take this opportunity to summarize the meeting outcomes.

T2020 Update

Neil McAra, chair of SNZ, presented a review of the SNZ strategic plan and a progress report on the activities that are part of T2020.

The presentation included an outline of proposed changes to the structure of the organization and the strategy behind those changes.

The key outcome from the discussions were-

- Importance of district input
- Districts wanted an assurance that they will be adequately resourced
- Need for regionally based staff to deliver programmes
- Club strategic plans must focus on the future

Affiliation Review

Board member Tony Johnston reported on the findings of the affiliation review advisory group. This included a review of the current SEM system and two alternative proposals.

After considerable discussion about the merits of each proposal the key comments were-

- Clubs question what they get for their levies
- SNZ needs to capture income from commercial and casual players
- SEM system is fair and well accepted

- Clubs returns need to be accurate and honest

The meeting unanimously agreed to continue with the current SEM system.

Events

Warren Patterson from the board gave a presentation on the national events calendar. The strategy behind the proposal was to have more players involved, avoiding clashes and more events on the calendar. This included events like a champion of champion series and a national player series.

There was general support for a managed calendar and coordinated events.

SIT

The meeting was updated on progress with the SIT project by Jim O'Grady. This included a review of the modules that had been released to date -

- Membership database
- Grading system
- Tournament results entry
- Interclub—online entry and results

The next module to be released and currently being trailed at Squash HQ in Christchurch is the online web booking. Once this is operating it will be connected to an access and security control system. That will be followed by online payment and pay for play options.

Work is also underway on the competition management module which will allow online tournament entry and payment, varying draw types, live web results and grading updates.

High Performance Coaching

Anthony Ricketts, SNZ High Performance coach, gave an update on the preparation and development of the World Junior Men's Team and the Common-

wealth Games Team. Both teams had been selected and were progressing well in their preparations for the events later in 2010.

Dave Clarke outlined his progress with the SNZ Coaching Framework and presented some of the resource material that is now available. He also gave an overview of the Coach Force strategy and how it is already working in Bay of Plenty and Canterbury, with potential partnerships being negotiated with Northland, Southland and Central.

Funding / Development

A proposal for district funding in 2011 was presented to the meeting. The key concepts were -

- \$\$\$ pool similar to 2010
- Contestable funding
- Allocations not linked to SEMs
- Applications by April 2011
- Interim funding agreements remain in place to April 1, 2011
- Funding not guaranteed on historical basis

Further detail was provided on the scope of the proposed roles within SNZ and the relationships with districts. Comments included -

- District and national plans need to be aligned
- Districts were looking for standardized reporting templates and guidelines
- Recognition needs to be given to district requirements
- KPIs need to be robust and realistic for proposals to be effective
- Districts wanted a closer working relationship with the national office

Regards
Jim O'Grady

