Returning for the first time in a decade to the squash calendar was the Briars club championships. The championship was open to all players from the past 25 years and with it came many faces that had formerly put on the maroon and gold for Briars squash. These included (from the current team) Mick “Alphabet” Jaroszewicz, Alex “AJ” Jaroszewicz, Tony “Ports” Porter and Richard Inman. Making their returns were Greg “Macca” (back from surgery), Annie “Gizmo” Gleason, Tony Jimbo Gee and Paul “Jonesy” Jones.

The day kicked off with each of the matches being pulled out of a hat and as usual Ports was nowhere to be found until after his scheduled match began. There was a great fun atmosphere around the courts and Jonesy’s young ones along with Ports’ later could be found on every court hitting a ball, most of the time at someone else.
Alpha reaching for a Jimbo cross court drive ...lost cause!!!

The first round saw 'Jimbo' cruise past Alpha showing why he used to be one of the top players in Sydney, AJ flaunted his youth before Macca and Gizmo showed Jonesy that the front of the court is a mighty long way with a superb display of drop shots and short game.
AJ dangerous boast from the back ....watch out Macca..or was it a drive return??

So with Gizmo electric and disposing of Jones Mate that left Ports to disposed of Rich. The Inman decided to get his own back in the plate and Jonsey Mate was the target again for a torrid hiding with Jonsey limping off injured thigh prior to the end of the match.

Macca had lost his first found to AJ and in the plate faced Alpha. This was a swings and roundabout affair with Macca winning the first 15-13 then to lose the next 2 make a comeback in the 4th for a 5th set that Alpha finally triumphed. Not bad from Macca as just recovering from his back operation. Rich had to leave early and the final in the plate was then the decider Macca v Alpha with Alpha triumphant.

The old f*rts ...still can play a bit
The Macca special ....RHS drop ..BIT HIGH THAT ONE!!!

The semis pitted Jimbo against the youngsters AJ and he had him on the ropes for the first part of the game by controlling things at the back but AJ continued to prove just how hard he is to beaten and used his superior fitness and agility to come through with a 3-0 win. Ports was up against Gizmo and got a quick wakeup call after losing the first game due to Gizmo’s pin point accuracy with the drops and lobs. It was an anxious first few games but Ports got up 3-1 showing his ‘never die’ attitude. And so the stage was set for the number 1 & 2 seeds to finally face off after plenty of banter all season.
Gizmo on the attack

Tony took off to a flying start winning the first game 15-8 leaving the youngster still in 1st gear and took the second game in similar fashion. Approaching the strong point of Ports’ game (the third game) would AJ be able to fight his way back into the final? The 3rd was a hard fought battle which saw both Ports and AJ lead at one point or another and top squash from both players. It was the youngster however who came up with the goods, winning 15-13 through good build up play at the back and capitalising in the front of the court.

Gizmo and HER trophy... Ladies Sydney State 1 .....she has won it 27 times .she should keep it!!
AJ took control of the 4th taking an early 6-2 lead but Ports hit back and closed the gap at 9-8. He was not strong enough though and AJ took the fourth 15-11 bringing it all level at 2 games each. The fifth was a gripping display of athleticism and precision as each player went point for point with the other bringing the game to a tie break at 15-15.
AJ took the first lead but was unsuccessful in capitalising and it was the Kiwi who took the second opportunity but was also unsuccessful. He didn’t need to be told twice though and Ports won the next two points smashing home a winner to bring this epic to an ending in just over 72mins: 15-8, 15-13, 13-15, 11-15, 18-16 proving why he deserved to stay at #1.

The trophies shown are perpetual trophies and will be played for again by the whole club in next year’s club champs with a pool of 80 players to compete from elite to junior level.

The Junior Club champs were postponed due to injury and sickness of both players and these will be played in the next week couple of weeks. Watch this space for all the latest squash action from Briars@Thornleigh squash.

Congratulations to Tony Porter the 2014 Briars Club Champion, AJ runner up

Good luck to all players in the upcoming Spring Pennant season starting 11 August; we have 11 senior and 6 junior teams competing. Go Briars@Thornleigh squash.
Yours in Squash
AJ
Web Master And News Editor