

Australian Masters Championships

Great White threatens Gold Coast

Robyn Prentice

The 2019 Australian Squash Masters Championships (AMC) are set to commence on the 2nd of September with participation numbers at an all time high.

More than 570 over 35's squash players will drop into the Gold Coast to play off for the individual and team AMC over a two week period. Entries have come from far and wide across Australia and abroad from Japan, New Zealand, and the United States.



Travelling from the United States for the tournament is one of our own, and one of the best. John White, former World Number one, is returning to his home country and State of Queensland to compete for the Individual Men's 45-49 year Australian Title.

Nicknamed the "Great White" during his time on the Professional Squash Association Tour, John was known as the hardest hitter of the squash ball clocking up a record speed of 276 kph in 2004, a record that wouldn't be broken until 2011 by another Australian.

John isn't the only one in the family with squash talent. John was looking forward to settling some old sibling rivalry at this event as his brother David White, who manages the Nerang Squash and Fitness Centre on the Gold Coast, had also entered to compete in the same age group. David had thrown the challenge out to his brother as he boasts that the last time they played each other, 28 years ago, David was the winner.

Wondering where these talents came from? Lynne White, John and David's mother is a previous winner of a Queensland Masters Title and will be competing for the 65-69 woman's Australian title this year.



We usually hope the Great Whites stay away from the Gold Coast but not in this case.

- Born in Mount Isa in 1973
- Joined the PSA Circuit in 1991
- Runner up in the British Open and World Open in 2002
- Became World Number One in 2004.
- Won 13 PSA World Tour Titles
- Although Australian, John represented Scotland
- Retired from the PSA Circuit in 2008
- Currently, Head Squash Coach - Drexel University in Philadelphia

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All is in readiness for AMC

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The AMC will come together in September after months of diligent planning by a small group of enthusiastic and passionate Squash Masters to create the largest Squash Championships in Australia this year.

The QMSA was selected as the Host State by the Australian Masters Squash Association and commenced 12 months ago with the formation of the Organising Committee to bring together an event that is exceeding all expectations.

570 Masters Squash players ranging in age from 35 to 90 years of age will come together on the Gold Coast for two weeks of competition which takes in Individual Championships in each age group (2nd - 6th Sep) followed by the Interstate Teams Series (8th - 13th Sep).

Entries from most Australian states together with international entries from USA, New Zealand, Japan will bring together former International players, Australian and World Champions to showcase their prowess, competitive spirit and sportsmanship as they meet and share lifelong friendships and camaraderie built over years of Squash tournaments across Australia and the World.

The event has been assisted by a much appreciated grant from Gold Coast City Council together with many private sponsors: Ray White Holidays, Halcyon Greens Pimpama, Kuber Tax Solutions, CNW Electrical and Bank of Queensland together with a host of Gold Coast businesses who have supported the event with their generous donations.

Matches will be showcased at 3 Centres: Carrara Squash Centre, Nerang Squash Centre and Gold Coast Squash Centres. Matches will be live streamed during the event for those enthusiasts unable to attend.

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Co Chairs:

Robyn Prentice (President QMSA)

Helen Watkins (Tournament Director) &

Christine Goodman (QMSA Secretary)



DROP IN
GOLD COAST 2019

• AUSTRALIAN MASTERS SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP •

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Team Leaders:

Helen Watkins: *Tournament Director, Court Control
Merchandising*

Robyn Prentice: *Sponsorship, Event Coordinator, Media*

Christine Goodman: *Functions, Secretarial, Trade Show*

Peter Knauth: *Treasurer*

Cathy Aust: *Website & Social Media*

Marisa Zavattaro: *Registration Individual Prizes*

Deb Halpern: *Marketing Promotion*

Robyne Bamberry: *Team Prizes*

Shannon Anderson & Lee Conroy: *Raffles*

Wally Christensen: *Transportation*

Craig Stewart: *Photography*



GOLD COAST 2019

• AUSTRALIAN MASTERS SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP •



Back Row: *Wally, Shannon, Helen, Peter, Robyn*



Front Row: *Christine, Deb, Marisa, Robyne*

<https://amsc.australianmasterssquash.com.au/2019-home/>