

Seating for Final Gala Dinner

If you have not booked a specific table for the dinner, you need to do so at Event Headquarters, Christchurch Squash Club. Each seat is allocated, it is not a first-in first served. You cannot just sit where you want.

Playing times

It is important to check your playing times for Friday and Saturday. Due to players withdrawing, times continue to change. If in doubt, ring Event Headquarters ph 374-6536.

Holy Grail "Big Night Out" tonight

Holy Grail, Worcester Street (near Cathedral Sq) starting at 6pm. Bring your squash identification for special "squash" prices.

2009 World Masters Games

Put October 10-18 in your diary for next year for the World Masters Games in Sydney. 25,000 athletes are expected, including 600 squash players. Squash will be played at two venues and there will be an Open A and B division in all grades. Go to www.2009worldmastersgames.com.au or see Carin Clonda here in Christchurch at the courts over the next couple of days.

Argentina Masters Open next year

Before Sydney, you might want to warm up at the Masters Squash Open in Puerto Madryn, Patagonia, Argentina. Puerto Madryn is like Kaikoura - the home of the whales and August is the perfect month. The tournament is for six days in August, 2009.

Photos available on Saturday

Photos from this week's events can be purchased on disk on Saturday at the ground floor reception at the Christchurch Squash Club.

Stuart Davenport - same but different

Outwardly, twenty-one years after exiting the world stage, little has changed. The mannerisms and gait are still the same and even the hair is still dark. There are a few extra lines on the face, but only a few, and the weight looks in tact - in fact, 95kgs compared with 93kgs in his playing days.



Committeeman Ed Post, left, with Stuart Davenport before their match yesterday.

But while things haven't changed much outwardly, lots have changed in Stu Davenport's life. There is his Danish wife Lene, three children aged 14, 9 and 3 and his business of importing paper and furniture which he has been doing for the last five years.

"It's true I didn't play squash for quite a few years after I retired, but I now have one game a week. I'm into my tennis and mountain biking, still do some running and have taken up yoga.

"You could say that I'm blessed in that I'm still basically injury free, having finished when I was 26. I have been talking to some of the players that I used to compete with and who carried on much longer like Rod Hayes and you hear the long list of injuries that they have suffered. I feel pretty lucky.

"We were pretty primitive in the way we looked after ourselves in those days. We were probably the last generation of players that did not stretch, although Ross Norman was ahead of his time in this respect and you didn't take fluids during a match for fear of an upset stomach. I always used to wonder why I could wake up with a headache the day after a particularly hard game," he said.

Davenport has only been back in Wellington permanently since 2002. He spent three years in Spain after he stepped off the world stage, living in Madrid and leading a semi-professional lifestyle of playing tournaments around the country where there was prize money on offer. He has also lived in Denmark.

"The kids play a lot of sport so I'm just another dad on the sideline these days, and it's great!"

Event HQ phone number is 374 6536.

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