

PRESS RELEASE

Exceptional Results for Whistler Squash

The Whistler Squash Club just finished its year-end Squash Tournament and although Whistler players were outnumbered they won most of the event. The most impressive wins came from the younger generation.

Whistler, May 17-19, 2016: The Whistler Squash Club hosted its annual squash tournament this past long weekend. Ben Thomas, Whistler Squash Club President, believes that "this was one of Whistler's most successful tournaments to date". The event had 45 entries, with the majority of players from Vancouver, Squamish, and Seattle. The feature event was a pro draw with 2x National Squash Champion Shawn Delierre from Montreal playing off against a touring pro from South Africa.

Shawn Delierre, a Canadian Pan Am team gold medalist, showed the crowd why he is Canada's highest ranked squash pro, playing shots that most people had never seen before. "It was a thoroughly entertaining match that consistently kept the fans engaged" according to Rob Eberhard, club administrator. His opponent, Tristan Elsele from South Africa was able to put up a good fight but finally succumbed to the onslaught of creativity from the Canadian.

One of the more impressive finalists in the tournament was a local grade 8 student Sage Eberhard who made it to the final of the Women's 'A' draw. She eventually lost to another local Holly Cox, who was originally trained in the UK but moved to Whistler to experience the lifestyle. Both Holly and Sage played an excellent match that was enjoyed by all. What made Sage's road to the final so interesting were her earlier matches against both Heather Lynskey and Sage's own mother Carol Eberhard. Sage had never beaten either woman before this weekend but was able to bring her game to a new level winning both her quarterfinal match and semi final match 3-0. The weekend before Sage had a breakthrough result at the BC Championships at the Hollyburn Country Club where she came 4th in the Women's 'A' division. Dara Sklar of Squamish won the Women's 'A' consolation final.

The Men's 'A' final saw two local rivals Ben Thomas and Rob Eberhard of Whistler battle it out in a close 5 game match with Thomas finally coming out on top. The Men's 'C' final was an all Pemberton affair with Matt McNamara playing off against Ben Day. In the end it was Ben's shot selection that overcame Matt's endurance. Another local Tim Ng won the Men's 'B' consolation final.

Quite possibly one of the most impressive finals was the Men's 'D' event featuring Mackenzie Bland and Adam Corless, two Whistler Secondary School students. They made the final after over coming some highly experienced players with their sheer energy and desire to run fast and apply physical pressure. After making their incredible trip to the finals, it was Corless who finally came out on top. What made their achievement so impressive was that both Bland and Corless started playing just a few months ago in the Whistler High School squash league put on by the Whistler Squash Club. This league was designed for players new to the sport and allows them to learn the fundamentals in a team environment.

The Whistler Squash Club is led by Ben Thomas (604-967-1103), Club President, and Rob Eberhard (604-902-2978), Club Administrator. The Club is a not-for-profit organization that runs out of the Meadow Park Recreation Centre in Alpine.