



## **Combined North and North-West Team Victorious Over Southerners**

In May 2011 a group of North and North-West squash players travelled to Hobart to challenge the best players the South of the state had to offer. Despite playing away from home and in front of a vocal crowd supporting the locals, the underdog 'Northerners' overcame all the odds to cause upset after upset and come away victorious by one match.

The 'rebirth' of the North-South Challenge was the brainchild of Ron Mansfield, the President of the Devonport Squash Club. "For far too many years, the event had been placed on the backburner, as it was deemed that the North would not even be competitive," Ron claimed. "However, after seeing the quality of squash that has been played over the last four months in the ENZED Super Series here in Devonport, we thought it was about time that we challenged the South to back up their claims with actions. It was such history that made our win even more satisfying."

The Northerners were represented by Paul Brewtnall (Ulverstone), Jason Faulkner (Devonport), Rod Harker (Launceston), Nigel French (Devonport) and Mike Haybittell (Wynyard). Many of the matches were closely contested, demonstrating the skill befitting the best players the State has to offer. Of particular note, were the impressive victories by Paul Brewtnall and Jason Faulkner over the State Number One. Both players will be hoping to continue such form in the coming months as they strive to be selected for the National Team Titles to be held in The Barossa Valley later in the year. Throughout the weekend, spectators were entertained by attacking shots and rallies that demonstrated the high fitness level of all players - again proving squash as the 'healthiest sport'.

With the North and North-West currently holding the title, it is hoped that The Challenge will again become a biannual event, with a return bout on our home courts later in the year.