

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 25 October 2012

Starts....

EYLES SET TO BE A HIT!

Squash NT welcomes former World Champion, Rodney Eyles to Darwin for the Squash NT Awards and Gala Night to be held Friday 26 October 2012. Eyles has an extensive list of career highlights, culminating in his induction into the Australian Squash Hall of Fame in 2008.

Elite junior athletes from the Squash community will take part in a dedicated coaching session with Eyles from 5:00pm to 6:30pm on the 26th, designed for Eyles to share his experience at the elite level, where he attained a wealth of titles to take him to a career-best World Ranking of 2.

This session is a prelude to the Darwin Squash Centre Gala Night and Squash NT Awards, which is to be hosted by Darwin Radio Personality, Ed Cowlshaw.

Eyles is the Guest of Honour, and will be on hand to entertain guests and present the 'NT Coach of the Year Award'. Other accolades to be awarded on the night include; 'Junior Athlete of the Year', 'Administrator of the Year' and 'Volunteer of the Year'.

The Darwin Squash Centre is a \$4M indoor sports facility with 12 squash courts. Six of the courts have moveable walls to form four doubles courts or can open to have the floor area of three squash courts, making it a true multi-purpose indoor sports facility. The facility also features a conference room available for all groups, with a full IT / AV fit out throughout the centre, outdoor BBQ area, members lounge, a bar and more.

This weekend is a full calendar for the centre with the NT Teams and Doubles and NT Junior Classic tournaments to take place on Saturday 27th October and Sunday 28th October. Rodney Eyles will also host a session for up and coming juniors on Saturday from 9:00am – 11:00am.

This will be the first time in the Northern Territory that Doubles have been played on International standard sized courts. The tournaments will bring together the squash community with participants coming from Katherine, Gove, Alice Springs and Darwin as well as the Squash Australia Board and various Executive Officers from Australian State Squash Bodies visiting Darwin.

Guests will be formally welcomed to the centre at the Gala evening by Judi Hoare of Squash NT and President of Squash Australia John Lee.

Ends...

For further information, please contact **Karina Gray, Director, Starwin Management** on 0402303867 or karina@starwin.com.au.

See Attachment A for Rodney Eyles Career Highlights**See Attachment B for John Lee, President Squash Australia Background**

Attachment A

RODNEY EYLES – CAREER HIGHLIGHTS



Rodney Eyles was an athlete in the inaugural AIS squad from 1985. He was on the PSA Tour for 16 years and held the position of President from 1996-1998.

The pinnacle of his career was reached in 1997 when he became the World Open Champion. Rod gained a highest World Ranking of 2 in his squash career and attained a wealth of titles including:

- World Open Champion (1997)
- Australian Open Champion
- Australian Junior Champion (1985 and 1986)
- Commonwealth Games Men's Doubles Silver Medal (1998)
- World Mens Team Champion (1991)
- US Open Champion (1994 and 1996)
- French Open Champion
- Hong Kong Open Champion
- Hungarian Open Champion
- Italian Open Champion
- Mahindra Open Champion
- North American Open Champion
- Tournament of Champions, New York (Champion and Finalist)
- British Open Finalist
- Qatar Open Finalist (3 times)
- Pakistan Open Finalist

After retiring from the World Tour, Rodney coached up and coming players in Italy, Hong Kong and the USA before returning to the Gold Coast and establishing the Rod Eyles Squash Academy (Top Star Promotions Pty Ltd) to focus on the development of juniors, seniors and professional squash players. In 2009 Rodney managed the Australian Mens Team in Denmark, was the Manager and Head Coach for the 2010 Australian Boys Junior Squash Team in Ecuador, and the Manager of the successful Australian Squash Team at the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi.

In February 2012, Rodney was the Head Coach and Manager of the Under 21 Australian World Cup Team in Chennai, India and the in July 2012 was the Head Coach and Manager of the Under 19 Australian Boys Team at the World Junior Championships in Qatar.

In 2010 Rodney joined the Squash Australia Team as an AIS Consultant Coach before becoming the National Talent Development Coach in 2011 to present.

Rod was inducted into the Australian Squash Hall of Fame in 2008 and the Queensland Hall of Fame in 2005.

Attachment B – John Lee, President Squash Australia background

I have been playing Squash since 1965. I have always greatly enjoyed the game, and continue to do so.

I was asked to join the Queensland Board in 2006 as Vice President, and continued in that role until I was asked to stand for the position of President of SA.

I have served on many community Boards and committees over some 40 years, and believe that service to the community is one of the great rewards one is blessed with in life.

I have practicing as a Barrister for 30 years, and have held positions as a director on a number of companies, both Public and Private. I am a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management, and a Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. I serve on the Board of the Australian Commonwealth Games Association Inc, and the ACG Foundation. I am the Australian delegate to the Oceanic Squash Federation, and the World Squash Federation Ltd.

I have 3 children, all of whom secured scholarships to USA Universities on the basis of their tennis playing abilities!