

Tennis Chairperson's report

2015 has been a year where the focus has been on the playing side of tennis following the completion of the huge fundraising efforts for the hardcourt resurfacing last year. Members have enjoyed playing on the 'new blue' courts, and events such as the Open Day have become regular annual events. The coaching programmes set up in 2014 by Play Sport have continued successfully this year under the direction of Pete Hoyland.

We farewelled Club Manager, Claire Williamson, in June and welcomed our new manager, Wayne Peterson. Thanks to both Claire and Wayne for the support and enthusiasm this year. Claire left the club in good stead, having implemented the new coaching regime, and reorganised office procedures, grant applications and committee management. We are more than pleased that Wayne comes with a wealth of experience running the Whangamata Sports club and is also a tennis player. Wayne has come to grips with the job quickly and has already driven to completion several major jobs eg new gate signs, men's changing room refurbishment, and patio tennis notice board.

Also a big thank you to our small committee: *Anne Spelchan, Jos Moore, Wendy Portegys, Tracey Howell, Graeme Martin and Mike Wood*. Special thanks to Wendy for running junior tennis, but who is standing down this year. We are always, however, in need of new committee members.

Also thanks to *Mel Lyne* for once again convening the Midweek Interclub, and for organising the Xmas Midweek Tournament here at Cambridge. And thanks to *Mark Hammond* for organising the Premier Men's Interclub team.

It was great to see our Junior Club Championships resume this year. And thanks to *Wendy Portegys* for convening this event.

Firsts this year

Interclub Muster Night – which proved very popular with both men's and women's teams and an efficient way to sort and select teams, with assistance from Pete Hoyland.

Tournaments

Xmas MidWeek Tournament held 1 December 2014 was most successful, with 44 players and sponsored by Shelley Tweedy & Associates. Requests were received for it to be re-run and hosted by CRC again this year – scheduled for 30 November 2015.

Racquets Festival Fun Teams event 28 February. Enjoyed by 12 players (3 teams). Prizes donated by Noel Leeming were appreciated.

Beerescourt Winter Series hosted at Cambridge on Sunday 31 May, 12 July and 23 August saw some awesome tennis from some talented players in the region – and our own Paddy Cameron on one occasion back on a break from his US scholarship.

Hot Shots tournament 8 November.

Club Championships

Senior Club Champs ran from 19 April till 2 May, with a great entry of 80 players. Thanks to the organisation of Anne Spelchan.

Congratulations to our new Club Champions: Diane Moss and Tony Dikmans

Junior Club Champs held 14 March, had a good entry of 17 players in 5 age groups. Winners were presented with their trophies and certificates at the Senior Club Champs prizegiving.

Congratulations to the new Junior Champions:

Maddison Hawira 10 & Under Girls
Hayden Waddell 10 & Under Boys
Mandi Portegys 12 & Under Girls
Liam Frederiks 12 & Under Boys
Mandi Portegys 14 & Under Girls

Interclub 2015/16

This season we are pleased to again field both Women's and Men's Regional Premier teams, managed by Tracey Bowell and Mark Hammond respectively. We have also fielded a Division 1 Women's team, also managed by Tracey and four Midweek Women's teams convened by Mel Lyne.

There are currently 2 Premier Reserve Men's interclub teams.

We have 1 Junior interclub team, pulled together at the ultimate moment thanks to Pete Hoyland and Wayne Peterson.

Club's policy on interclub team selection and use of pool players was reconfirmed by Management and Tennis committees with regard to selection only done by club appointed co-ordinators and priority always given to CRC members.

League nights

Once again, Anne Spelchan and Jos Moore have continued to run both Summer and Winter ladies leagues on Thursday evenings:

Winter League ran from 7 May till 10 September with 48 players, 17 members and 31 non-members. The late finish (scheduled for July) was due to the wet weather. *New World Ladies League* (summer): 15 teams of four plus extras – over 80-85 members and non-member players - running 12 weeks from November till end of March.

Men's Summer League run on Tuesday evenings by Graeme Martin is going well – with 16 doubles teams. The standard is very good and we have some new players from other clubs which is encouraging.

Club Sessions

Monday nights continued throughout the year, with an average of 6-8 players in winter and 10-12 in summer convened by Cathrine Scott. Thank you Cathrine.

Wednesday mornings have continued strongly right throughout the year, attended by an average of 12 players.

Junior Club night on Friday nights during the summer term were held, and thanks to *Keeley Portegys* for very capably running these and helping the smaller kids with practice ball routines. We are planning a family oriented Friday night club session in Term 4.

Tennis Open Days

Held on 24 January – but had a disappointing turnout put down to the long weekend and school holidays. However the Open Day held 26 September was well attended with all courts in use,, plus demo racquets provided by local Babolat rep. This resulted in 11 new children signed up for coaching programmes, and 2 adult social tennis memberships.

Maintenance

The astro courts had a pre-season professional clean by Turfcare 5 & 6 January, involving spraying for moss and clearing excess sand. The astros required further moss spraying after the wet winter, and thanks to Jim Farrelly and Graeme Martin for doing this work. Thanks also to Neville Hollands for installing mesh along the edge of court 7.

A general working bee was held 27 June clearing leaves and debris prior to spraying of astro courts, removal of expired court sponsor signs, and cleanout of tennis storeroom. Thanks to 15 or so members who worked hard. Also thanks to those who tidied the courts prior to Open Day 25 & 26 Sept.

Public court

The Waipa District Council arranged for it to be waterblasted and also repaired the net.

Coaching

Sadly, popular coach Matt Jones left coaching in December, with Andrew Sheedy, Lauren Plant and Andrew Crosthwaite covering the gaps so that the coaching programme could continue.

The coaching team for 2015/16 season comprises: Pete Hoyland, Director of Coaching, Sam Burgess, Head Coach, who joined us from the UK in September, Nicola Blake and Andrew Crosthwaite, Development Coaches.

Club Sponsors

Thank you to all new and continuing club sponsors. In particular local sports shop *Cambridge Sports World* who have continued equipment and restringing services for members with discounts applying.

Thank you to club champs prizes generously donated by court sponsors *Dantes, Angels, Simply Divine, Carters* and *Mitre 10*.

Thank you to *Linda Webster* for arranging and sponsoring the court scoreboard numbers and Home and Visitor letters.

Six courtside benches were installed in February, and thanks to the sponsors of these:

The Portegys Family, Webb & Wood Accountants, Caro&Co Insurance Specialists & Hugh Robinson, S & P Carpenter, Jocelyn Moore, NT Wealleans Ltd.

Regional Tennis Restructure

In September three of the four sub-regions of Tennis Waikato Bays region decided to withdraw from TWB and become financially and otherwise independent. As a result, this has left our own sub-region, Waikato-Thames Valley in a situation where changes to the organisation must be made. A managed transition to a new setup is currently being worked on by a representative Local Advisory Group. CRC is now reviewing the benefits it gains from the affiliation fees we pay.

Sheryl Carpenter
Chair, Tennis Committee
Cambridge Racquets Club
November 2015