

Notes from Claire Williamson, Club Manager March 2013- July 2015

Outgoing Office Holders:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the two outgoing office holders in 2015, Adam Thompson & Sheryl Carpenter, along with Sam Crawford, who stepped down in March, all of whom I have worked with closely for my two and a half years as Club Manager.

In 2013 I was pleased when Sheryl decided to take on the role of Tennis Chairperson after a chat we had a few weeks before the AGM. She brought a strong club-oriented approach to the role and was always focused on the members and making their experience at the club the best possible. I feel Sheryl grew into the role throughout the two years, particularly in running meetings and managing the volunteers on the committee, as well as tournaments, club days and as a valued part of the Management Committee. Her support in organising the new tennis coaching format with Play Sport was fantastic, and along with our other volunteers she was a driving force behind the resurfacing of the new tennis hard courts in 2014. As a person she was wonderful to work with and we took a very collaborative approach in solving problems and challenges. Thank you Sheryl for your support and dedication to the club, it has been very much appreciated by myself and all those you worked with closely. We look forward to your continued involvement as a Club Member.

Adam Thompson took over the Presidency in 2012, and his first duty as Club President was to appoint myself as the new Manager. Thank you Adam for your faith in my abilities right from the start, and for your unwavering support over the time I spent as Club Manager. He was only every an email away and a valuable source of logical advice whenever it was needed. We shared an attitude to “get things done”, and many of the small and sometimes bigger improvements in the club have been a combination of our ideas, trial and error and ultimately many successful outcomes. Adam’s business mind also suggested the streamlining of many club processes, which has led to the Club Manager’s role being able to achieve more for the club and its members, as well as a positive bottom line over the past two years. Despite an extremely busy professional and personal life, Adam always made the time to discuss any issues that arose and was supportive throughout my time at the Club. He has been a huge asset to the Club over the past three years, and although he is stepping down as our President, I’m sure we will continue to see him out on the squash court and in the bar for a few years to come!

Sam Crawford also stepped down from the Squash Chairperson role in March, after being appointed as the Squash Director for Squash New Zealand. Sam has been a keen player and committee member from the time he joined the club, and his year as Squash Chairperson saw many positive changes, along with a big year of successful tournaments and events. In particular Sam put a huge amount of effort into the Club’s hosting of the B Grade Superchamps in 2014, which was heralded as one of our most successful events, and certainly the biggest. Organising an event of that size with its associated logistics is a big undertaking, and Sam did a fantastic job with the communication, research and ensuring all the teams had a great time in Cambridge. As Squash Chair he was also excellent at liaising with managers at the National and Local level and very organised at meetings, and at the end of 2014 he established committee member roles which made the running of meetings much easier. I would like to thank Sam for his hard work in the Squash Chair role, both in supporting me and helping to grow the squash side of the club. He is now a member at Eden Epsom in Auckland, but still prefers to wear his Cambridge gear on court!

Outgoing Thoughts:

I really couldn’t have asked for better people around me during my time at the Cambridge Racquets Club. Although the role itself was very satisfying, the people made me love coming to work every day,

and not mind some of the long nights I spent at the club working on some new project! The number of people who always put their hand up to help at tournaments, with fundraising, at events and with day to day maintenance and improvements was wonderful, and I feel as a collective we achieved a lot during the few years I spent in the role. Some of my highlights include;

- Completing the new club website
- Resurfacing the tennis hard courts
- Building a strong junior squash programme and increasing the number of young people involved in squash
- The changeover from Progressive Tennis to the Club-run Play Sport tennis coaching programme
- Building our reputation for hosting excellent National, Regional and Local squash tournaments
- Increasing club membership and member interaction with the club and it's programmes and events
- Working with the Grants Manager to increase success of Grants in 2013, 2014 & 2015

My hope is for the club to keep growing in membership and programmes, and over the next few years to carry out some of the much-needed maintenance projects in the building and on the courts.

To every single member who supported me during my time at the club – thank you. It never went unnoticed, and I feel privileged to have made some amazing friends during my time there.

The Cambridge Racquets Club has all the charm and community spirit of a small country club, but the strong membership base and competitiveness of a club in the city. We are lucky to have so many wonderful volunteers who continue to give their time, even in today's busy environment.

2015 (July 15' – Current) Manager's Report – Wayne Peterson

I would like to thank the Management Committee for giving me the opportunity to take on the Cambridge Racquets Club Manager role. I recently joined the club in July of this year, replacing Claire Williamson as Club Manager, as she moves onto new exciting career challenges.

Firstly I'd like to acknowledge the outstanding work that Claire has done during her term as Club Manager. Claire, Adam and the management team have set in place strong business procedures and operational processes that have set the foundations for the club to continue to move forward, both financially and as a strong successful club.

In the short term that I have been at the club I have meet a fantastic group of people who have gone out of their way to make me feel welcome and help share their passion for the club and the local community.

We have had another busy and successful year, with several major projects underway or completed, as well as the success of hosting two Regional Squash Events.

The highlight was this years Concrete Waipa Squash Open, which received a record 143 entries. With the help of the many club volunteers and squash committee members the event was a great success. Special thanks to Leamington Squash Club for co-hosting this years event, and Tournament Control maestro Steve McMurray for filling some big event management shoes and ensuring that everything went smoothly throughout the entire event.

Another highlight was seeing the completion of the Men's Changing Rooms renovations, which was a massive task.

Project leader Mark Higgin was able to rally the "clubs troops" and complete a total revamp of the men's changing room, it was a complete team effort. Thanks to everyone involved for making time in your busy schedule. The club can be truly proud of the finished product and the modern shower/toilet facilities that club members now enjoy.

The clubs Junior Squash and Tennis coaching programmes are in a very strong position, with near full training sessions in both codes. Lindsey Walters from Progressive Squash and Pete Hoyland from PlaySport Tennis offer our junior players excellent coaching programmes that cater for all levels of junior players. As a result our club junior membership is very strong and experiencing good growth.

The club farewells some key people from the management committee.

Adam Thompson steps down from the Presidency role after three successful terms of implementing business structural changes that sees the club in a strong financial position, as well as overseeing a number of major club capital projects. Adam is still one of the most passionate squash players in the club and never misses an opportunity to have a hit or train! He has enormous amounts of energy and enthusiasm for the club, and this is infectious when you are around Adam.

Tim Fitzpatrick will be stepping down as the clubs accountant. Tim has done some major work behind the scenes with the clubs accounts and the way they are reported.

The reporting, budget and financial tools that Tim has helped to implement have set the foundation for excellent accounting practices for the club to move forward and manage finances.

Sheryl Carpenter has been a diligent Tennis chair for the past two seasons. Although I've only recently had the opportunity to work with Sheryl, it is obvious to me that she has a passion for ensuring that tennis remains a strong entity within the club. All ways a team play, it has been a pleasure to working with Sheryl.

Allan Grant has brought an outside business perspective to the management committee, and his ability to be a neutral sounding board for ideas and suggestions has helped the committee to better structure the business systems and procedures of the club.

It has been an absolute pleasure to work with the above committee members. Collectively this team have all of "Club IP" and knowledge on how to successfully run and operate the Cambridge Racquets Club.

They can all rest well assured that the foundations have been laid, and the club is in good stead for future development and growth.

I look forward to working with the new incoming Club President and Executive Committee Members to carry this forward momentum on, and to build on the excellent work that their predecessors have accomplished.

Wayne Peterson
(Club Manager)
18/11/15

