**President’s Report October 2023 – October 2024**

The past year has been a successful one for the club, with our financial position continuing to strengthen, the number of activities continues to increase and there are plans to renovate our facilities.

**Club Highlights:**

**1. Membership**: As of 31st July, membership stands at 391, comprised of:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Code(s)** | **Senior** | **Junior** | **Totals** |
| Tennis | 158 | 64 | 222 |
| Squash | 104 | 20 | 124 |
| Both | 28 | 17 | 45 |

This is slightly down on last year’s membership of 409, and with economic conditions forecast to be tougher in the next 12 months we need to ensure we provide value to members to ensure our members want to remain part of the CRC family and encourage others to join as well. It has been pleasing to hear positive comments from members of other racquets clubs about the feel of our club and how well events have been organised.

**2. Facilities and maintenance:** Our club continues to invest in its infrastructure. The squash courts now have electronic scoring, which is more commonplace in many clubs. Resurfacing of tennis courts 5-7 was finally completed after a few delays and the Pickleball lines have been added to the public court which has been proving popular on a Tuesday nights during winter and adds another dimension to the racquets club. The awning over the deck, which was damaged in high winds, has been replaced.

At the 2022 AGM we established the Facilities and Maintenance Committee. The committee has been busy this year and with the support of the club funding was allocated to engage Paua Architects to come up with a concept plan to renovate the club. The focus is to keep the footprint of the club the same but to modernise the spaces and make the club accessible to all, you will hear more about this from the facilities committee chair. We are mindful that this is a large project and need to balance “the need to have with the nice to haves.”

It’s been very productive to have representation from the committee on the Management Committee to ensure that there is a good flow of information back and forth. My thanks to Peter Bryant and Carli Van Zyl for putting in so much time and energy into this project.

3.Events and Competitions: The talent within our club remains as strong as ever. Our members have continued to excel in local, regional, events,

CRC continues to host popular and successful events for both codes. In the past year, Squash members organised and hosted:

Singles and doubles summer sizzler, Women’s 900 one-day event, Cambridge Open, Hosted C grade Mens super champs, Waikato Doubles Champs, Werder junior one day. Meanwhile, tennis members organised and hosted: The Doubles Teams tournament, and have the annual Christmas tournament coming up. All of these events are important for the reputation of the club, provide opportunities for members to compete and participate, and they also generate revenue. I would like to extend deep thanks on behalf of the club to everyone involved in running these events. Last week Waikato Tennis Trust announced the winners for the Annual Waikato Thames Valley Annual Club Awards. Annabel Chapman was the Female player of the year, Suzie Halliday administrator of the year, Mike Causer volunteer of the year and Cambridge Racquets Club the club of the year.

CRC has been represented in interclub competitions for both codes in junior and senior competitions Thanks to all those players who represent the club, especially to those who organise and manage teams and drive juniors to matches.

4. Looking Forward: As the financial reports show, the club is in a healthy position, though there is a contingent liability literally hanging over our heads, that is a leaky roof. Though we are looking at a complete renovation this will take time, and we are looking into options for remedial repairs for the roof. The catch phrase for all business is sustainability, what does that mean for CRC? To me it is providing a fit for purpose facility and an inclusive, safe environment in which people want to belong. Well, run coaching programmes for youth and involvement with local schools will ensure CRC remains a place of excellence for years to come.

5. Appreciation: I’d like to thank: members of the Squash Committee, the Tennis Committee, the Facilities and Maintenance Committee and the Management Committee for their dedicated mahi; all of our members who volunteer for various roles and pick up all the jobs that need doing around the place; Bob our cleaner who keeps the place spick and span for us on a day-to-day basis, and finally, the amazing Suzie Halliday, Club Manager. Suzie, lives and breathes the club and just gets on with it, whether it is organising a tournament, business house competitions or applying for grants.

I have been a member of this club for over 20 years and in that time one of the biggest changes I has seen is that both tennis and squash has now been played all year. With squash there are now 3 seasons of interclub (autumn, winter, spring) and doubles is now played throughout the year including summer. With the excellent facilities we have tennis is played all year round (weather dependant) and it is great to see the codes mixing more at the bar. It is a privilege to have served as your Club President this year.

 Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou, thank you all.

Dave Kilbride, October 21st, 2024