

# Tennis Seniors Auckland News

## - April 2021 -

Hi everyone,

Now that the summer interclub season is drawing to a close, it's time to start turning our attention to the upcoming Tennis Seniors season over the winter months. This short newsletter will give you a summary of what's been happening in the Seniors' world recently, and a rundown of future events.

### **Easter Teams Event**

This year's National Teams Event was held on the North Shore over the recent Easter weekend. Tennis Seniors Auckland had 10 teams totalling 52 players participating in the event, the largest entry we have made in many years. Congratulations to our women's 30+, women's 45+ and men's 60+ teams, who won national titles. Five other teams were runners up in their respective grades. This high level of performance was sufficient for Auckland to claim the John Mickell trophy, which is awarded to the association with the best overall results across all their teams. The last time Auckland managed to win this trophy was 2008, so a great effort from all our players. Photos in this newsletter were taken during the tournament.



*The Auckland teams celebrate with the John Mickell trophy at the prizegiving dinner*

### ***New Zealand Senior Player of the Year***

*The Trevor Withers award is presented to New Zealand's best-performing player of the past 12 months. This year's award was jointly won by Dave Meredith of Canterbury and our very own John Lawrence. John had a spectacular 2020 season, winning the triple crown of singles, doubles and mixed doubles titles at the National Championships in Hamilton. He has also represented New Zealand in numerous ITF World Championships events. John was presented with his award by Tennis NZ Seniors president John Dunbier at the prizegiving function following the recent Easter Teams Event. Congratulations John, well deserved!*

*John in action at the recent  
National Teams Event*



*Auckland women's teams at Easter after their "local derby" match*



## ***Dates for Upcoming Tournaments, Social Play and Interprovincial Fixtures***

*The dates for the coming Tennis Seniors winter season have now been finalised, so add these dates to your calendar now!*

*Opening Day Tournament* - Our annual opening day tournament will be held on Sunday 16 May at Mission Bay Tennis Club, starting at 12:30pm. This is a fun tournament that gives you a chance to play matches with and against a number of different people. The tournament will finish about 4pm, and will be followed by refreshments and drinks in the bar.

*Social Tennis Dates* - Because of increased participation last year, we have increased our social tennis bookings at Scarbro Indoor Tennis Centre to three courts this year. Social tennis will be held on the following SIX Saturdays, between 1pm and 3pm on the indoor courts at the Scarbro centre on Merton Rd. There is no need to book for these sessions, just turn up on the day, and our organiser will arrange some social doubles matches. The tennis is followed by tea/coffee and biscuits in the upstairs lounge.

29 May      12 June      26 June      10 July      24 July      7 August

*Interprovincial Fixtures* - Dates for our fixtures against the neighbouring provinces have been set as follows. These fixtures are normally played with a team of 12 men and 12 women, and generally run from 9am until about 4pm. Each player plays two doubles matches and one mixed doubles match. A survey will be sent to all members shortly, asking them to indicate their interest in playing each of these fixtures.

Thur 27 May	Hibiscus Coast	Away at Manly Park
Sun 23 May	Waikato	Away at Waikato Tennis Centre in Hamilton
Sun 13 June	Lower Northland	Away at Warkworth
Sun 27 June	Counties	Home at Mission Bay Tennis Club
date TBA	South Auckland	Home at Mission Bay Tennis Club
Sun 18 July	North Harbour	Away at Forrest Hill, North Shore
Sun 8 August	Northland	Home at Mission Bay Tennis Club



*Pavlina volleys ...*



*... and Pete stretches for the return*

### ***Comment re ITF Age Categories***

*Last year, the ITF (International Tennis Federation) altered their age groupings for Seniors tennis, introducing new 30+ and 90+ grades to accommodate increased interest from players in these age bands. Tennis NZ Seniors amended their constitution at their AGM in January to reflect this change, meaning the recent National Teams Event included a category for 30+ players for the first time. The Tennis Seniors Auckland committee has discussed this change, and feels that in the interest of consistency, we will also need to move towards allowing all players over the age of 30 to join our association. To this end, we will be proposing an amendment to our constitution to lower our age limit to 30 years of age at our AGM this year in August.*



*Pranil with a wonderful one-handed backhand*



*Women's 45 team relaxing after another win!*



*Following the Men's 40 vs 45 Auckland match*

*Looking forward to catching up with you all soon!*  
*The TSA Committee*