

WAIHI BEACH TENNIS CLUB

President's Report for the Waihi Beach Tennis Club 2022-2023 Financial Year

Tēnā koutou, welcome to the AGM for the 2022 – 23 Financial Year.

It has been another solid year for the club even in the difficult circumstances that we have tried to operate in (meaning further pandemic disruptions, climate related issues, bereavements of special members, a fundamental change to how we coach juniors and have a co-pay vs. FoC offering et al).

Membership numbers are at 155 vs. 162 the previous year, and in general terms they are the same as five years ago (and they have varied over the years from a high of 173 in 2021 to 130 in 2020). Whilst not fantastic – we accept this under the difficult circumstances that we have been trying to operate under (noting that 50% of Tennis WBoP clubs lost members vs. the previous year).

Our Junior Programme has shrunk vs. the previous year, but still looks strong and continues to now grow month on month (it is rebuilding with a new coach and model), our real ongoing challenge is to engage those potential members in the 20 – 50 demographic (or the parents of many of the juniors).

Membership costs & membership numbers in a small community are always “top of mind” for our committee, it is clearly a fine balance (acknowledging that we are still the cheapest tennis in the region).

Without **Sponsors & Club Supporters** like we have, quite simply the club could not survive. We have been incredibly fortunate to have such wonderful financial support from our sponsors and supporters. In particular we would like to publicly thank: Gary Alway for his/L J Hookers generosity – they are our major sponsor, alongside Gary/L J Hooker, we also thank the following for their ongoing year on year generosity: Steve Bowen - L J Hooker, Marlon and Jane Cosmas - Reside Construction, Grant Wenzlick - Orizen Tyres, Bill Owens of Owens Flooring, Mark and Laura Richardson – Leisure Construction, Andy Kennedy – The FlatWhite Café, Hope MacLean and Mike Hope - Coast Signs, The Friday/Sunday crew – Paul Weaver, Ronnie Arthur and Bill Young, & Gael Dunstall – they all provide in excess of \$10,000 worth of sponsorship support to our club! We simply cannot thank you enough. Please support them & their businesses in our community!

Courts and Clubrooms:

Our Club members continue to maintain the courts and clubrooms very well – this has been more challenging than in the past because of the extreme weather that the beach has experienced. We have had less play than normal because of this and the algae and moss situation has been the worst that we have seen it. Numerous working bees have tried to combat the spread, but it is very difficult to manage.

These working bees that have been very well attended and the mid-week crew continue to do a sterling job with much of our day-to-day repairs and maintenance. Again, we thank everyone for this very regular hard work.

The new website, membership, booking and gate system have been successfully implemented – we thank Paul Weaver and Kevin McLoughlin for leading and implementing much of this.

Summer Tournaments: We continued to have good numbers of entries for our summer tournaments (the draws were full), the Tournament committee (made up of Laura Richardson & Kevin McLoughlin) ran the tournaments very smoothly and the guest feedback was positive.

Fast 4: This was programmed in, but was postponed because of a weather disruption – this will be rescheduled.

Juniors: The new Junior programme run by Core Tennis (Sven van Touw & his team) has continued to deliver very good results (i.e. re general participation and by bringing a new technical focus).

We have a solid core of regular Junior Members/Junior participants, and we also have a brand-new group of members who have come through our partnership with the Waihi Beach School and numbers continue to grow. We still have that old issue of competing with other winter sports and tennis being a #2 or #3 in their sports preference.

Nivek and Thierry Smith continue to progress really well in their own focussed elite activity, having had very good results in regional tournaments; Nivek also helps coach our juniors (as did Leo Cosmas).

Midweek Tennis (Tuesday and Friday mornings): This continues to be a lot of fun. Thank you to Michelle Lunny, Robert Bailey and the other members who make Tuesdays and Fridays what they are, the members appreciate this leadership and the social engagement

Week-night tennis: This has continued to be well patronised. Karl Rogers and Adam Knight have very generously “picked this up” and we thank them for that.

Financial Position: Thank you Robert Bailey for managing the financials (and everything that goes with this) as our Treasurer, we cannot thank you enough!

Day to day Administration: Thanks again to Kevin McLoughlin for his dedication to maintaining our database and communications with members – thanks Kevin – an unsung hero that operates quietly behind the scenes!

The club Balance Sheet continues to look very strong (for future investments/capital expenditure) and we continue to be prudent in how we spend our money. We have not had any success with Charitable Trust Grants this year (vs. previous years where we have been very successful), our balance sheet is strengthened however by hiring part of our facility out to a wedding in February 2024 and receiving a full down payment for this (they will be using courts 5 & 6).

Focus over the next twelve months: The committee have approved one key project to focus on that we hope will provide some “future-proofing” for our club and its members – this will be our focus over the next twelve months outside of day to day making the club a place that people want to play at/be a part of.

Our grant fundraising and our project planning in the coming year will focus on lighting all six courts so that they can all be utilised more all year around. This is a very large +\$100,000 project.

We have previously designed, priced and unsuccessfully applied for grant funding for 2 x new showers; these have not been forgotten, they are on the committee’s project schedule as is our thinking about AstroTurf replacements that will be required in the next five years.

Outgoing Committee Members: This financial year bought a close to Marlon Cosmas’ time on the committee, we appreciate the time that Marlon, Jane, Leo, Ella and Polly put into the club – it was very much appreciated.

The Loss of Life Member Yvonne Wicks – the years Presidents report could not be complete without mentioning the deep loss of Yvonne Wicks – we cannot under estimate just how special Yvonne was and what she meant to our club and community, she is missed every day.

Lastly, I would like to thank our hardworking committee – **the Committee (made up of):** Vicki McGechie, Michelle Lunny, Simon Phillips, Marlon Cosmas, Kevin McLoughlin, Paul Weaver & Robert Bailey. The club would not survive without people like you!

The club members (and I) appreciate all of the time and effort that you (and your family/whanau) have given to our Waihi Beach Tennis community over the last twelve months. You’ve again had to make numerous pragmatic decisions that have always had our members/guests’ best interests in mind – so thanks very much for everything.