

WAIHI BEACH TENNIS CLUB

CLUB NEWSLETTER APRIL 2023

News since the last Newsletter:

Yvonne Wicks Passing:

As you will know – our Club Legend, Life Member, Patron, Committee Member, Singles and Doubles Club Champ, Junior Tennis extraordinaire, money collector etc etc sadly passed away 24 March at 83 years old.

There have been so many great stories about Yvonne shared both at the service and since. Of course we will all miss her dearly (clubs don't have members like this very often). We hope that a bit of Yvonne rubs off on everyone.

We thank the Wicks whanau for sharing Yvonne so generously with us – or was it Yvonne telling them that she was going down to the tennis club no matter what? Probably a bit of both!

New integrated Website, Membership Database, Court Booking and Gate System has been implemented:

As you would have seen, we have our new integrated Website, Membership Database, Court Booking and Gate System installed in March.

The committee made the decision to implement this for several reasons:

- Future proofing our club (old systems, wear and tear on the courts, not everyone paid to play)
- The club had a website that used older/less efficient software and it did not integrate with the membership database (so two separate systems) – this made it more labour intensive than an integrated system
- ClubSpark is a system offered up by Tennis NZ that integrates the club membership, court-booking/gate system, social media, communications to members etc etc
- FYI, for some background - the club collects somewhere in the vicinity of \$2,000 - \$3,000 per annum through the honesty boxes from players who are not members. The estimation is that no more than 50% of non-members that play on the courts actually paid via the honesty system
- Whilst having a gate system will probably stop some of those players who played but didn't pay (because they will choose not to pay via the new system) – the committee feel that we will still at a minimum double our non-member income per annum simply through those that will pay
- Tennis NZ subsidised a considerable amount of the install, and the committee feel that the "payback" will be very short (1 – 2 years maximum)

- The Committee would like to thank Reside Construction (Marlon and Jane Cosmas) for their expertise and labour, Paul Weaver and Kevin McLoughlin for their Project Management and assistance with the installation

** Noting that courts 1 & 2 are dedicated to Members Only – no external or non- members can book these two courts.

Team Tennis:

The summer Team Tennis has come to a conclusion. Karl Rogers and Adam Knight ran this officially for the first time. The feedback has been amazing, they have implemented a new system that has enhanced attendance – so well done to Karl and Adam and everyone who participated. We have only had positive feedback.

Club Champs:

The Senior Club Champs have been concluded. Unfortunately because there were no players for Laura Richardson to play against in the Women's Singles we cannot have a the winner added to our Honours Board (there will be a gap), the same applied to the Mixed Doubles – Mark and Laura Richardson had no opposition – so again really unfortunate.

Men's Singles: Winner – Josh Boyes (beating John Alexander)

Men's Doubles: Karl Rogers & John Alexander (beating Grant Wenzlick and Josh Boyes)

It was awesome to see some of our Juniors stepping up into the Senior Club Champs and doing so well.

Congrats to all of the winners/participants.

Core Tennis/Our Professional Coaches:

Sven and Afke completed Term 1's Junior Programme – it is awesome to see:

- All of the new younger members
- All of the more established Junior Members adapting and changing their technique/game strategy with the new coaching initiatives
- Thanks to Nivek Smith and Leo Cosmas for their Assistant Coaching too
- We had numerous sessions with groups from the Waihi Beach School coming up to the courts for an hour of "Introduction to Tennis" – this was really well received

Lastly, as planned - Afke has finished her time with Core Tennis (Sven has another Coach to replace Afke); on behalf of the club we would like to thank Afke for what she brought to our junior and senior coaching. Afke gave us her years of senior European coaching experience – and this was really appreciated. Completely different (in a good way) to anything that we have experienced before.

After seeing a lot of Aotearoa/NZ in her time off, Afke was heading off to a nice little break in Asia before heading home to the Netherlands. Sven will update us accordingly on Afke's replacement.

Core Tennis has recently added Whangamata to their clubs that they coach at– so we now have a growing local network inclusive of: Waihi Beach, Waihi, Paeroa, Whangamata & Katikati.

Senior Tennis:

Our Tuesday and Friday tennis numbers continue to be really strong with most of the courts full (some people having to stand down because of this). Thanks you to Michelle and Robert for leading these really important club days.

These members had Core Tennis helping them out for several sessions – and this went very well. We intend to continue this if we can.

Juniors:

We have had Nivek Smith and Thierry Smith both playing regional representative tennis in the last few months and having great results too. Well done guys, you train really hard and deserve the results. Well done also playing in the Senior Club Champs. We are very proud of you representing us.

As per the Core Tennis update – our new member numbers continue to be very sound (which is great) and we have a strengthening core group of older juniors really honing their skills.

Like any sport, we are coming into the time of year where there are multiple other sports competing for time, we'd love for tennis to be higher up our families priority list – but we have to pragmatic about it as well.

When I look back over the years we have had so many very talented players defer to their #1 sport of: Netball, Rugby, Football, Surfing, Inline Hockey, Gaming etc – we'd love you to come back and join us.

At worst if you don't come back – can you bring back the racket that the club provided you free of charge ☐☐? Thanks.

To close:

We have our previously weather postponed Fast 4 coming up on May the 13th – we thank our Sponsors: L J Hooker (Gary Always & Steve Bowen), Reside Construction (Marlon & Jane Cosmas), Orizen Tires (Grant Wenzlick), Owens Flooring (Bill Owens) – without them – we couldn't do what we do.

Lastly FYI - our committee focus is:

- Flood lighting all courts (a mega project that will be hundreds of thousands of dollars)
- Getting the feasibility for the above undertaken first
- Continuing to focus on developing our Juniors and Junior Programme

Thanks for being a member – we appreciate it.