

CLUB NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2023

News since the last newsletter in April 2023:

Nivek and Thierry Smith:

Nivek and Thierry continue to get great results in the junior tournaments that Laura and Mark are taking them to, they also enjoy taking part in senior club activities where they get to play with and against players that they would not normally get to play.

We are very proud of their achievements and that they remain members of our club.



Membership Numbers:

Our year on year membership numbers are down slightly, the numbers that we see and the feedback that we have received suggest the following reasons:

- **Juniors:** The change of Coach and moving from a fully subsidised Junior programme to a co-pay programme has had an effect, however:
 - Junior Numbers continue to grow which is great – but they are down versus the FoC programme that we used to run
 - Acknowledging the change of coaches - the Juniors love our new Coach Bodin Aleksic (who works with Sven van Touw/Core Tennis)
 - **Note:** If we have anyone interested but the membership is cost prohibitive/unaffordable, they can in the strictest confidence contact the club and we can provide assistance – we don't want any junior that wants to participate let cost be a barrier
 - **As a footnote:** Core Tennis also coach at the following clubs: Paeroa, Katikati, Waihi, Paeroa – and they are organising inter club activities. They are coaching in excess of x 120 juniors now
- **Families:** We changed up our Family Memberships in the last membership review and this has impacted on the numbers. The committee have reviewed this and agree that families should be incentivised vs. penalised – so new family membership packages have been developed which we hope sees more families become members
- **Senior Members:** These remain pretty consistent – we would love to have more of the 20 – 50 year old demographic join (parents of Juniors, friends of current members). We are trying very hard to keep our senior membership costs at an affordable level

The Courts:

- The courts continue to be a bit more problematic re algae/moss/general condition than previous years because of the weather events that the beach has experienced
- We have had some working bees to try to manage these issues, but we have some ongoing work that we need to undertake to manage some of the severe water flow issues and the impact that these have had on our courts
- The weather has also had an impact on our ability to spray as we normally would – so we apologise for the condition of particularly courts 3, 4, 5 & 6. Courts 1 & 2 get the most play on them, so they are not too bad. So please play on the other courts as well please – the wear and tear helps (as does more regular spraying).

The relatively new Website, Membership Database, Court Booking and Gate System:

- The feedback that we are receiving is that the relatively new system is working well. When I am at the club and guests arrive – no one appears to be having any issues – so that's good. Guest revenue is also ahead of previous years.
- Just a reminder that Membership renewals will be coming out shortly
- We are looking at making access on to Courts 1 & 2 easier by removing the padlock and getting a new keypad operating

The Ball Machine:

- We have had the Ball Machine repaired recently, so it is fully operational again
- It is crucial that everyone that uses the ball machine knows/understands the following:
 - It uses special balls, these are only to be used when using the machine – please please don't mix them up/use them for anything else
 - When you have used the machine – please plug it in and recharge it
 - If there are any issues with the machines operations – please let the club know immediately

Senior Tennis:

Our Tuesday and Friday tennis numbers continue to be really strong with most of the courts being used. Thanks to Michelle and Robert for leading these really important club days.

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

To close:

We have our AGM Tuesday 22nd of August at the club @ 7pm, you are all welcome. Also, if anyone wishes to put their hand up to assist us on the committee please let us know urgently. Thanks.

Please support our generous Local Sponsors: L J Hooker (Gary Always & Steve Bowen), Reside Construction (Marlon & Jane Cosmas), Orizen Tires (Grant Wenzlick), Owens Flooring (Bill Owens), Leisure Construction (Mark and Laura Richardson), The Flat White Café – without them – we couldn't do what we do.

Our committee focus continues to be:

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

Thanks again for being a member – we really appreciate it.

Note: We still have numerous Junior racquets sitting in our community (that we offered to new members when they joined) – if these could be returned that would be great/or we can come and pick them up too