



CLUB FORUM NOTES 13 March 2018

Tennis Central Region Inc. (TCRI) Club Forum

Date and Time: Tuesday 13 March 2018

Venue: Renouf Tennis Centre, Brooklyn Road, Wellington

Attendees: Graeme Ebbett (Titahi Bay), Janice & Laurie Laurenson (Ngatitoo), Peter Browne (Karori United), Steph Walker (Miramar), Peter McArthur (Kilbirnie), Keith Willett (Johnsonville), Lisa Pallister (Wairarapa Association), Reuben Leung Wai (Manawatu Lawn Tennis), Richard & Alexandra Rumbal (Tawa), Flo Perret (TCR), Mel Jansen (TCR)

CLUB FORUM AGENDA

1. Action points from previous Forum

- a. **LED Lighting** – Graeme Ebbett, VP, Titahi Bay Club gave a presentation on the trial installation of a LED floodlight at his club in place of a metal halide lantern (see attachment). He explained that the club's existing lanterns were about 15 years old only the club's assets were subject to a coastal environment with a high rate of corrosion of anodised aluminium and mild steel so there was anticipation of early failure of the lanterns and/or their control gear. Consequently the club had been investigating replacements, specifically LED types since these were reputedly much more efficient.

As there are now many LED luminaires for floodlighting on offer, he had put in considerable effort to source a LED lantern of similar intensity to the club's existing metal halide lanterns and would fit inside the housing of the and retain a measure of weather protection. The LEDs in the lanterns purchased sit in seven arrays with 60 LEDs / array and are mounted in an aluminium frame. There is a need to specify the LED lens angle since this determines the spread of the light from each LED. This point is something that we need to follow up with the designer of the proposed LED lighting

The angles of the frame may be moved inside the housing by brackets and rods to enable it to be pointed to the optimum point on the nearby court; it was found to considerably increase the illuminance on the court in front of the new lantern (measured to be of the order of 450 lux) near the end of the court.

Titahi Bay has long runback areas and lighting poles sited on the fence lines and at the court centres so the fence line lanterns are some distance from the courts themselves. Nevertheless, from the trial conversion, it appears that the replacement of the existing "innards" by the new LED frames should provide increased illuminance levels on the courts.

The LED frames are also reputed to have a long life in terms of operating hours but it is likely that corrosion of the frames and array housings may force replacements before there is noticeable deterioration in illumination levels. That remains to be borne out over time. At the

present time, the intention is to progressively replace the existing metal halide lanterns as they fail rather than proceed with wholesale replacement. This is considered to be a policy that is affordable for the club.

Peter Browne, KUTC passed on to the forum attendees the information he had from AK Consulting Ltd regarding its new blog at blog.sportslighting.co with some articles that will provide useful background information. Peter also outlined what KUTC had done to date in arranging for lighting designs to be carried out at their courts using EWO R series R2 and R1 LED lanterns to replace our four 1500W CCMV and two 1000W CCMV lanterns and three metal halide lanterns, but pointed out the very considerable costs involved should the club decide to implement both of the designs.

Mel Jansen proposed that TCR might set up its own LED blog site to enable the exchange of information among clubs on LED lanterns and conversion designs. In view of the very considerable costs involved with conversions that are not gradual this could be useful. There appeared to be considerable interest in the subject.

Reuben Leung Wai, Manawatu Lawn Tennis Club who attended the meeting said that his club had been quoted \$130k to illuminate 10 courts with LED lanterns that were fully controllable by computers as to light intensity output so one might anticipate the use of various illumination levels to match planned activities. He will make full details available to Tennis Central for circulation to interested clubs.

- b. **Club/Coach Taskforce** – Mel reported that the formation of this group had been put on hold due to lack of interest by clubs (only a couple of clubs interested). Instead efforts have been put into new Coach Forums, the first of which was held on 8 March and reportedly very successful. TCR is also pursuing the offering of coaching courses and extension courses, the latter including the running of a successful business, administration and marketing through the new Coach Development Manager, Patrick Landy (TNZ).

Mel listed the numbers of qualified and unqualified coaches of whom TCR is aware are operating in the Region and efforts are being made to increase the number of coaches who are partially or fully qualified. She pointed out that clubs possessed the power to put requirements in their contracts with coaches and coaching companies as to the qualifications they require to coach at their particular club. (At a previous forum it was also pointed out that clubs could offer to subsidise attendance at coaching courses.)

Peter Brown, KUTC raised the question of the number of coaches to serve the demand for coaches in the region to adequately service the clubs that want coaches – since this was one reason for setting up the Club / Coach Taskforce. Mel advised that TCR will actively look to promote tennis coaching to teenaged juniors at central tournaments and clubs and encourage them to start on the coaching pathway. It is hoped that head coaches and coaching businesses will also actively look to promote within their networks.

- c. **Club/Coach Conference**– Mel mentioned that her earlier proposal to hold a two day conference at which all sorts of topics of interest to clubs and coaches might be progressively raised and discussed had not been progressed further due to other work pressures but it had not been forgotten.
- d. **First Aid Courses** – Tennis Central will look to hold further courses in the winter months for volunteers, coaches and club members as demand dictates.
- e. **JDC Course** - Mel reported that 10 participants had now completed the 2nd block course of 4 blocks.

2. Update from Tennis Central

- a. **Club Spark** – Mel reported that TCR would be delaying the introduction of Club Spark to book courts at WRTC due to some details that still needed to be finalised. Considerable testing was still required to be undertaken also to ensure the transition is a smooth one for customers. She demonstrated that the ClubSpark booking system was very easy to use for users on both the court booking and coaching modules and was an exciting new initiative.

It was also recognised that the ClubSpark booking system would have advantages for clubs that wished to hire out their courts for play by non-members (casuals) since it will eventually be linked to club gate access. Currently being investigated by Tennis NZ.

Mel also demonstrated the ClubSpark module designed for coaches and said that the coaches at the Coaching Forum are keen to use the system as soon as it can be made available to them. See pilot coaching business currently utilising CS <http://www.caldertennis.co.nz>. The module operates similar to court booking in that time and place with a coach may be booked and paid on-line and the coach can manage participants remotely on their phone.

Mel was aware of KUTC's ongoing issues with their pilot use of Club Spark and asked Peter Browne to comment. He shared all bullet point comments that had been made by KUTC to TNZ. Miramar and Tawa clubs also expressed a view that in their 'initial starts' on the pilot, CS had not met their needs. Mel said that TNZ had recently recruited an IT specialist with a view to work closely with both pilot clubs and CS, to ensure appropriate enhancements were made for the benefit of all users. There was no date yet confirmed for a national rollout but Mel advised the meeting that following the conclusion of the pilot, TCR needed to be assured that the programme would meet club's needs before promoting a full roll-out to clubs. TCR will hold another meeting specifically on CS for clubs and coaches, when that stage is reached.

- b. **Champion of Champions Competition** – Flo Perret outlined TCR's plans to have a competition in which club singles champions would compete over a weekend to determine an overall victor. At this stage, it was proposed to involve Wellington and Kapi Mana clubs only but he had received expressions of interest from clubs outside that area. Details have been sent to clubs.

- c. **Premier interclub finals** – These will be held on the indoor courts this coming Saturday and have in the past attracted a good crowd from the members of the clubs involved and anyone else interested in seeing some good tennis. The Premier Women’s final is between Paraparaumu and Khandallah.
 - d. **Tennis Central Awards evening** – This is scheduled for Saturday 26 May and is a popular event for clubs and nominees. Clubs should start considering worthy people for the Volunteer and Coach of the Year categories from within their communities. If entering the TCR’s Club of the Year category, it would be timely to ensure club websites are up-to-date. Online nominations will be circulated to clubs soon.
 - e. **NZTUA Course** – Mel mentioned the Umpires Association course for court supervisors and line umpires and the fact that people who are qualified as such are in great demand for employment at tournaments from grand slam downwards with all expenses paid. TCR is seeking people who would be able to act as umpires, supervisors and line umpires for its own tournaments and would like to see interested people apply to gain such qualifications. There is an opportunity perhaps for students and retired people, and those with a general interest in tennis to broaden their tennis experiences for their personal benefit as well as the good of the tennis community.
3. **Wellington Seniors Tournament** – TCR will be holding a tournament at WRTC for senior players over the weekend of 14-15 April. Entries are now open online. Factsheet and manual entry will be distributed to clubs.
4. **New items from clubs**
- a. **Court hire using club credits** – Stephanie Walker from Miramar asked why it was not possible to use the club’s affiliation credits to hire courts at WRTC when Midweek interclub matches have been rained off earlier the same day. She said that her club could not see why this was not possible when the indoor courts were not being used and it was not a peak time and the levy procedure states that the pro-shop have discretion over times available.

Mel advised that a TCR Levy policy* and Midweek rules** were in place to prevent this particular use of club credits, even when the use of the credits was properly authorised by the club’s secretary. The levy is interpreted to be applied to provide times for clubs that will not dilute current court revenue. (Days of rain are the strongest revenue streams). Instead, court hire for any interclub matches transferred to WRTC on the same day of any match has to be paid for in ways other than using club credits.

MIDWEEK RULES ** “Indoor court bookings will not be accepted before 8am on the Monday and Friday of the scheduled contest and must be made by phone only to the proshop ph 04 3846294”.

LEVY POLICY ** “Objectives of the levy contra usage are to offer additional value for their levy paid at times that will protect existing revenue streams i.e. we know when it rains indoor courts become valuable. This includes during scheduled mid-week and interclub.”

Flo advised that clubs could also use their levy to enter business house teams throughout the year in the four competitions or to hold functions at the centre.

The matter was left for Mel to make enquiries as to the drivers for the policies and the possibility of changing them.

- b. Janice Laurenson, Ngatitooa enquired as to why Kapi Mana clubs were not invited to participate in Tennis Central’s midweek competition. Mel and Flo were unable to provide an answer to this question and would make enquiries with the midweek committee.
- c. Janice Laurenson, Ngatitooa also enquired what the rules provided for in terms of players playing for more than one tennis club over multiple competitions. (Technifibre/Midweek). Were these players in fact members of each of the clubs they played for? TCR to investigate the rules in the various competitions and report back.

5. Any other items for discussion

There were no other items for discussion.

Mel thanked the attenders for coming to the forum and closed it at 2030 hours.