



CLUB FORUM NOTES 28 NOVEMBER 2017

Tennis Central Region Inc. (TCRI) Club Forum

Date and Time: Tuesday 28th November 2017, 6pm

Venue: Renouf Tennis Centre, Brooklyn Road, Wellington

Attendees: Carly Chang, Hayley Underwood **Manawatu Lawn Tennis Club**; Bill Clarke, **Vogelmorn Tennis Club**; Greg Ratcliff, **Ngatitooa Tennis Club**; Keith Willett, **Johnsonville Tennis Club**; Peter Browne, **Karori United Tennis Club**; Steph Walker, **Miramar Tennis Club**.
Mel Jansen, Flo Perret, Tennis Central

1. **Welcome**; Special mention to Hayley and Carly who travelled from Manawatu Lawn Tennis Club to attend the Forum.

 2. **Action points from previous Forum**
 - a. **Club Spark** – Bevan, Wellington Club enquired as to whether Club Spark provided for members to be able to pay their membership fee in instalments.

Jamie of TNZ had advised that ClubSpark can manage monthly payments.

 - b. **Tennis balls** – Tom Binns, Tecnifibre, was been invited to present at forum to clubs and answer any questions.

Tom Binns gave a brief presentation on the quality of Technifibre balls (they are manufactured by Bridgestone) and, in response to a query on their bouncing qualities, mentioned that the balls ideally should be released from their containing cans 24 hours before they are used so that the pressure in the balls has time to equalise with the ambient atmosphere. However, it was generally agreed that prior opening of ball cans would hardly ever happen outside the major tournaments.

Tom said that the balls are being made available through retailers only with no direct wholesale sales to clubs. The price is then over to the retailers to set as they see the market permits but Tom said that the wholesale price has remained fairly steady.

Mel requested that when clubs are applying for funding for balls, it is preferred that quotes are obtained from local retailers since they were prepared to support TCR and local clubs with various promotions.

 - c. **LED lighting** – Titahi Bay's recent conversion to LED lighting

The Titahi Bay club was invited to make a presentation on its conversion project to the forum but they wished to have more technical information before being asked the questions that people
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will have. However, the club would be very willing to send a representative to the next Club Forum and present the basics on retro fit brackets, pole loadings, and suitable LED colouring to match existing bulbs etc.

- d. **Club/Coach Taskforce** – Tennis Central has extended an invitation to anyone from the tennis community interested in joining a taskforce group to assist clubs and coaches find ways together to grow their membership; to increase the numbers of coaches available to clubs and so benefit both the clubs and their members. That greater availability would be likely to increase memberships as well. There was some discussion as to how this might be achieved, bearing in mind that coaches needed to have some assurance of steady revenue in order to train, obtain qualifications and coach at one or more clubs. This would not be easy to achieve, especially in winter months when tennis activities slacken off.

Mel mentioned that TNZ has a new coaching development manager from whom she expected great assistance in encouraging current coaches to gain qualifications. She mentioned that a JDC coaching course would be held 7-10 February next year with the objective of having a number of unqualified coaches gain an international qualification. The fee was \$1750 but passing it gave a coach a level 1 ITF qualification. So far, 12 local coaches had expressed interest and were looking to enrol on the course. TCR is assisting the course by making WRTC courts available at no cost and passing on a subsidy to coaches.

There is the possibility that a club might offer to subsidise the training of its local coach or coaches conditional on an undertaking to stay coaching with that club for one or two more seasons. This may be worth considering since not only do clubs need more coaches, they need coaches of proven capability.

There was a general consensus that the task force should have the objectives of increasing the number and capabilities of coaches working at clubs.

3. **Update from Tennis Central**

- a. **First Aid Courses for Clubs** – would there be interest in running these?

Mel asked if clubs would be interested in having some members trained in First Aid with a view to obtaining a two year valid certificate. It was agreed by forum attenders that coaches, especially those working with children, needed to hold such certificates as a condition of employment. It was agreed that TCR would promote the possible running of a course to clubs and their members to gauge interest.

- b. **Wellington Open** – great tennis on display, tennis enthusiasts can get together and book a table

Mel provided forum attenders with flyers advertising the Wellington Open for club noticeboards. TCR is keen to get club members along, especially to the finals; these are held indoors, entry by gold coin donation and tables can be booked.

Regarding promotion of relevant events to the tennis community, discussion was held on how it was frustrating that TCR information was not being passed from club officers (sent via Promato) through to members. There are real benefits for members of clubs in subscribing to No Strings Attached newsletter, in order to receive up-to-date information of interest to them on a whole range of topics. TCR thanked KUTC for supplying their email database for the sole purpose of import to No Strings. 102 members had been added from a 300+ list. Subsequent to the Forum, lists have also been supplied by Ngatitoo and Manawatu Lawn Tennis Clubs – thank you! TCR would encourage other clubs to follow suit.

c. **Tennis Hot Shots Christmas Tournament**

Requested clubs promote this tournament to junior club members. A great day is planned with a visit from Santa too!

d. **Club Spark** – Update on Renouf Tennis Centre transition and TNZ pilot

Mel provided an update on where WRTC was in moving to the use of Club Spark for bookings of its courts. It is likely to be transitioned in February 2018. Jamie Tong, Tennis NZ will look to present to all clubs early next year, possibly at the next club forum or as a separate event.

e. **JDC Course** – going ahead 7-10 February. Can clubs financially support their coaches onto this course? Brief discussion on the compilation of TCR's current coach list and the qualifications that coaches hold. This is a work in progress between coaches, TNZ and TCR. It is hoped that a finalised list be available next year for clubs. Of interest to some clubs was what level of qualification their club coach currently holds, if any. Subsequent to the forum, several coaches have approached TCR about upskilling after discussions with their clubs.

f. **Tutorials** – entering interclub results

Flo Perret has developed an on-line tutorial for team managers and others who are entering junior Interclub results. He demonstrated this to the forum. Clubs can promote this to junior team managers who are experiencing difficulties with this weekly task. It is hoped that other 'tutorials' on a range of topics be introduced in the future.

4. **New items from clubs**

Mel reported that no other items for discussion had been received.

5. Any other items for discussion

- It was suggested that there might be scope for a “Club Champion of Champions” tournament following the holding of club championships throughout TC’s Region provided the latter were completed by a specified date. That might take some organisation and would certainly demand a venue with an ample number of courts but could be of interest and it would certainly give an opportunity for the clubs in “the provinces” to try their champions against the city club champions.
- Mel asked if there might be support for a club workshop conference that might be held over a weekend with differing topics being covered in depth in defined periods so club people could come and contribute to what interested them. Examples may well be recommendations from the task force referred to above, club constitutions, strategic planning, promotion of clubs, Love Tennis, LED lighting of courts, tournament running (Tournament Planner), use of ClubSpark, attracting and retaining volunteers, health and safety, ConfigureRankings, etc. The workshop might include a networking dinner and special presentations from people of interest. This is only a concept at this stage. Viability would depend on the topics, their number, and the interest in such a concept.

Club Forums in 2018

Mel mentioned that TCR intended to hold a further four forums at regular intervals in 2018 but possibly starting in March rather than in April. Dates will be advised in the New Year.

Special thanks to Peter Browne, KUTC who kindly assisted with these notes.



TCR staff would like to wish clubs a very Merry Christmas and look forward to working with you all in the New Year.