

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Sunnyhills Annual General Meeting 2022

At this time of the tennis club year, it's hard to find motivating anecdotes when it's cold and uninviting outside. But despite it being middle of winter we have lots to celebrate. We haven't had a lockdown in over six months... that's got to be a bonus. But I always like to set the scene for our very important AGMs. This year is about "Connecting". This has many meanings. Being at the tennis club is about connecting with others in order to play a game, talk tactics or catch up for a drink or cup of tea. Our Club mission statement has "connect" included. It's all about how to, who with, and what is a relevant connection.

Last week Laura, Gabriel and I attended a Tennis NZ "hui" with attendees from across the north island. The two main sessions were "*Is your club meeting the needs of your community*" and "*coaches and clubs, club culture, working together*". Yes we did learn a few new pointers and we certainly made connections with others doing the same as us. It was a good reminder that as a club we are on track. The work our committee put into the Strategic Plan has definitely helped to keep our focus.

*(slide)*When we reflect upon the initiatives from our three year strategic plan, we have achieved so far:

- More activities for juniors – table tennis, basketball and holiday camps
- Expanded our social media presence on Facebook and launched Instagram to target and engage younger members
- Clubrooms have been hired for private functions
- Subsidized coaching for adult beginners and new members

Further initiatives we hope to work on in the next 12 months include:

- Implementing an online court booking system
- Migration to a new database that will give us additional functionality – Club Spark
- Expand social play and tournaments for juniors and seniors
- Upgrade clubroom facilities – including a bar for futureproofing should we wish to become a licensed premises
- Providing a place where members feel connected to each other and the wider community

Right now our club and its membership are looking very good. We had growth of about 13% across the membership - mostly with juniors and social. The club currently has 287 members. Of course there is always room for improvement so if you have any ideas please do not hesitate to make those suggestions known. David will give you the detailed analysis of our financials.

Interclub resumed this year with competitions prior to Christmas being interrupted. Some very good results all round. Mens Open 1 came 2nd to Mission Bay, Open 6 were 2nd equal to Westend, Women's Open 1 2nd also to Westend, and Supermens came 2nd

equal. Juniors had some great results also. There were 9 teams entered. 2 of which were winners of their grade and another 2 were runners up in their grades.

Other highlights for the junior season were the fantastic uptake coming back to coaching after term 4 lockdown. Tennis being one of the safest sports to play enabled the kids to get back out there on the court well before returning to school or other sports and activities. Michelle and Amanda were able to run the junior Marbles tournament this year and also had 26 juniors play in the Singles Club Champs across 4 draws. This takes great organizational skills! At the Junior prizegiving this year we were lucky to have the continued support of Janet Hepi (nee Fisher) in sponsoring a junior through the Jasmine Hweh Scholarship. Samantha Suphanthavong was the lucky recipient. Sam increased her ranking from S8 to S6 and won 3 out of 6 tournaments she competed in this year. A star in the making.

Midweek ladies has approximately 35 members. Which is an indication that there is still good interest for ladies to be playing midweek, both socially and at interclub. It was decided to require vaccine passes for midweek, having a few ladies who had health issues. This decision enabled continued safe play for all involved, which was very welcomed. Midweek farewelled a few treasures this year, Kate Back returned to Korea with her husband James and Gill Summers moved to Nelson with her family. We also gained a few, such as Joanne Cadogan, Rebecca Meiring and Jeanine Pickford through the coaching sessions offered. As expected some of the Midweek social calendar was disrupted. We hope to see the return of the private court tournament, champagne breakfast open day and our legendary Christmas party in the coming year. Soup day still went ahead in winter last year – enjoyed not only by Sunnyhills ladies but also from Howick and Pakuranga tennis clubs. Midweek entered 4 interclub teams – 1 in Championship 1 grade and 3 in open grades. And this winter we have a “newbies” team entered including 2 ladies from Pakuranga and 3 ladies as first time interclub players. Good luck gals. 9 partnerships entered the Midweek Club Champs with a win by Anna O’kane and Maryanne Wright over Elizabeth McWilliams and Lorrene Coe.

What an active membership we have. Its great to see. We will celebrate the senior achievements with prizegiving to follow.

Before I finish, I acknowledge Graham Windross. Graham has been a dedicated supporter of Sunnyhills through his sponsorship of the Women’s Zealandia Caro Bowl team. As you may know the club committee decided not to continue our entry into this competition. The decision came after considering the amount of time, effort and financial support the club had to put in and what it really gained for our club. So instead, Gabriel and the junior convenors put together a proposal for a junior development programme, which we see as more beneficial for the club membership going forward. And we have secured sponsorship from Graham to implement this programme.

Please join me in also thanking the senior committee, who we owe our gratitude to for keeping Sunnyhills the club we all love and enjoy. Liz Lombard and John Macnaughtan

senior club captains, Laura Beattie club secretary and Midweek ladies, Amanda Pritchard and Michelle Johnson, junior conveners, David Gate Treasurer, Michael Peterson Vice President and Duncan Miller, thank you all for your input this year. Also, thanks again to Gabriel for all he does for our club and developing a sound Coaching team for the Club. We do have a couple of committee members standing down and we are in need of new committee volunteers. Its not an onerous task when we all work together. Any nominations?

Thank you for coming along today and we look forward to seeing you at the Quiz night coming up on 13th August and also at the Love Tennis /Open day planned for Sunday 11 September.

Remember:

**Sunnyhills strives to be the heart of the community
Play it / Love it / Connect.**