

Presidents Report 2023

Hello and Welcome to Sunnyhills Tennis Club 2023 AGM. In particular to our Life Members Betty Fyers, John Dowling, Jane Tye and Frances Bostock.

What a year so far. I would like to acknowledge the challenging start we have had to this year, being the second half of our season. It was difficult enough recovering from the last few years but to have had the recent weather events, this has added more stress to everyone's lives. I hope you have managed to stay safe and did not incur too much damage as a result. Luckily, we didn't sustain any damage to the club. The courts are looking in great shape. We get very positive feedback from visiting tennis players and spectators all saying what a great venue and its surroundings. This was emphasised during the Lavie Series held at the club recently. We had visitors from across Auckland coming to play and watch. Let us not rest these encouraging comments. The committee have embarked on drafting a maintenance/ improvements document for a plan to upgrade our clubrooms. It's been a long time since any capital expenditure has occurred, as you all well know but we do require some expertise on this. A builder/building or quantity surveyor or someone with expert knowledge on where to start would be very helpful. Roofing/ Joinery and flooring are all areas that need addressing before we can embark on the fun stuff like a new kitchen/bar area and bathroom fit outs. The time is now to focus on upgrading the club facilities whilst our courts are in their peak condition.

The club membership is looking strong. Overall, our numbers are up from 297 to 356 this year. Club spirit remains optimistic and positive. Since open day last year, it has been great to see new faces and meet fabulous locals who are enjoying playing at the club. We look forward to the end of winter and start of the new season. Kicking off with our Club open day and Love Tennis initiative on Sunday, 10 September. Keep a look out for further information about this day. As you will all know we have moved over to a new membership programme called Club Spark. Laura has spent hours transferring information over to this new programme. This year will see a more up to date enrolment system, which I'm sure will make joining up much more streamlined.

Our junior membership, under the very expert guidance of Michelle Johnson, together with Gabriel is going great guns. Some highlights for the year:

11 Junior interclub teams, (two up from last year), entered in the Pre Xmas competition. Two teams placing 1st and 2nd in their grade. Post Xmas 12 teams (up 3 from last year), out of which 7 teams placed 1st or 2nd in their grade. We had two joint teams play in the Junior Caro Bowl Comp. Samantha Souphanthavong joined Supreet and Ashpreet Kau from Howick Tennis Club and they took out 1st place. Alex Jessiman and William Drain from Glendowie took out 2nd place in the Boys Reserve Carobowl Competition. This was celebrated at the recent Junior prizegiving.

Unfortunately the Marbles Tournament wasn't played on Prizegiving day due to court unavailability however this will be held in Term 3. Prizegiving was an awesome opportunity

for the club to acknowledge our Juniors who had success in Interclub, Club Champs or were the recipient of one of our club awards. Janet Hepi, in her role as patron, has continued her support of the Juniors with the provision of the Jasmine Hweh Scholarship. This year's recipient was Andy Wu who is looking forward to the benefit of a private coaching programme to further his talent and skills. We look forward to seeing Andy's progress.

I have the results from Junior Prizegiving as follows,

Pre- Xmas – Premier Girls – 1st, Boys 16s Section 1 – 2nd

Post Xmas – JCB Girls – 1st, JCB Boys Reserve – 2nd, Boys 16/14 Section 1 – 2nd, Girls 16/14 Section 1 – 1st, Girls 16/14 Section 2 – 2nd, Sunday Beginner Boys – 1st, Sunday Boys 14 Section 2 – 2nd.

Our Juniors also competed in the local derby Charman Cup, and although didn't place high, the under 14's who played at Sunnyhills on the day showed some impressive talent.

Michelle J is looking forward to being joined by Cynthia Chen and a few other parents to help run the junior programme and convert the junior convenor role into a committee. As always, please make it known if you would like to be involved or are available to help out.

It's been great to see many of our juniors compete in the recent Lavie Tournament Series which we are new to hosting. This series is a combined effort between Lavie, Koru and ourselves. Our players have earned some really good success in the two tournaments held so far.

Of course we couldn't mention Juniors with acknowledging Gabriel and the coaching team who each week maintain a high standard of junior coaching, Thanks team.

Midweek also continues to provide a welcoming environment within our club. Numbers increased from 35 to 42. With some newbies playing interclub for the first time. At the same time we have seen a few of our ladies decide to hang up their racquets and retire from the game. Helen Davies, Betty Fyers and Margaret Dowling. However they continue to support us by coming along to social events which is fantastic. Wednesday mornings usually get around 2-3 courts in play and we even trialled a Thursday evening during summer months. Midweek are providing a subsidised coaching programme for beginners to encourage new ladies to join.

The midweek social calendar was in full swing again and with our most popular Private Courts Tournament players attended from Pakuranga, Cockle Bay, Howick and Karaka Tennis Clubs. I think this shows the camaraderie we are known for in the community. We also held a Pink Ribbon morning tea and raised \$1,400 for Breast Cancer Research. This camaraderie continues to be strong amongst our local clubs, our ladies have supported fundraising events at Howick Tennis Club and also the Totara Hospice Tournament at Cockle Bay Club in May.

Interclub teams are lower this year however our depth is still strong and our new team has been winning some of their matches after putting in the hard yards with extra practice and coaching sessions. Tennis Auckland also reported a downturn in teams entered, therefore resulting in a smaller number of grades. This makes the matches more challenging. Our best results were in the Lead-in Comp where our Open 1 team came second and our Open 3 ladies came third in their respective grades.

Midweek doubles club champs haven't yet been played but are tentatively scheduled for July.

Thanks Laura, for your continued leadership of our midweek ladies.

Senior interclub teams entries were similar as year before. A new combination Open Mens team, captained by Andrew Harsant and a relatively new team captained by David Nevin all competed well. We had three womens teams and a mixed doubles team although they were fraught with injuries and absences. Well done to the Open Mens 1 side who came a very close 2nd in their grade. They were only 2 points behind Pompellier and well ahead of the rest of the grade. Great Effort. Andrew's team competed in Open Mens 6 and came a very respective 4th equal. Well done. All other teams came middle of their sections.

As with midweek, senior club champs were not played this last year. Unfortunately John Macnaughton wasn't able to carry out Mens Club Captain due to other commitments. So Liz has been doing her utmost to continue managing the senior interclub teams. We hope to get a locked in schedule going this coming year to set out dates in advance for club champs and other related senior club events. And will welcome a couple of new members to the senior Committee which is very exciting.

With that in mind I would like to acknowledge our current Committee for their hard work this past year and the outgoing members, Wan Rivers, Duncan Miller, Liz Lombard. Thanks again. And a big thanks to the ones who are staying on, David Gate, Laura Beattie, Michelle Johnson, Frances Bostock.

An update to our strategic plan from last year:

- Implementation of new database to manage membership together with new website
- Offering flexible membership options
- Increased uptake of subsidised coaching for adults
- Junior coaching hours up from 180 last year to 190
- An increase of 58 juniors have joined the club since last year

Before I round up my report it gives me great pleasure make a special announcement. As you will all know Michael Petersen has been at our club since Adam was a cowboy.well nearly. Michael joined the club in 1996 with his wife Jenny and young family. It is still great to see Michael, Jenny and Morgan playing socially last summer. Michael has had many roles since joining the club, including treasurer and president. He was also integral in coordinating the initiatives for the new Health and Safety legislation changes. He worked tirelessly on refining the wording and interpretation of the Club Constitution, which was well overdue. More lately some of Michael's more important roles have been taking over the reins of Santa Claus for the annual junior Christmas party. They loved him turning up here in his red sleigh AKA "mustang". In fact, Michael has always been here for all events at the club, Wednesday social nights, hugely supportive of the Carobowl tournaments, junior events and of course, the working bees – man with the most power tools wins! But we would never schedule anything or ask Michael to be available for interclub on Bathurst weekend as he would flatly refuse. As we all know how much Michael loves his motorsport and fast cars. In fact, it was known when Michael was turning up for Wednesday night social tennis you could hear him coming from Botany (as quoted by Bruce) and often turned up in his orange shirt looking like a road cone (also Bruce's words). Last year Michael took over the full mantle of Quiz Master for the annual fundraiser and master he was. We hope to have you booked in for this year's event too. It was fitting that Michael received the Ann Macdonald Service Award last year and as it turns out he is now famous on the Tennis NZ website – which displays a photo of him, Bruce and Gabriel hard at work. Michael has also celebrated a milestone birthday this year and is recovering from major surgery. We are all very grateful for your commitment and dedication to Sunnyhills. It is with great pleasure we present you with this life membership.

Thanks again for attending the AGM. I will now hand you over to our talented treasurer David Gate.