

# CROSSCOURT

FEBRUARY 2009; Newsletter of the Lower Hutt Tennis Club Inc ; Club House Tel: 569 6872,  
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## GENE - OVER AND OUT!

It is time for me to go. For those of you who have not heard my family and I are moving to Fiji to take up a coaching position that has been offered to us through the ITF.

I would like say thanks to everyone for supporting me over the past 12 years or so, particularly John Donaghy, Jackie Clarke, Roz Read (and the tues morning group!), Elizabeth Josephson, Kevn Garner, as they have been involved as long as I have (most longer). I have been very lucky to get to know so many amazing people, to watch kids grow in to adults, and to be able to be part of their lives. I don't think we will return to Wellington this time, but as they say, never say never. It has been a privilege to get to know all of you, keep in touch. Gene.

## FROM TRUDI:

It is great to see the sun has finally started to shine, which makes for great tennis weather.

The New Year has started with some awesome tennis viewing, and some very late nights.

This year will see some changes in the club. Gene has taken up an opportunity for coaching in Fiji, and will be leaving us on 25 February. We are working through our coaching needs at the moment with Gene, and will let you all know when decisions have been made on what's happening. Gene has been a big part of the club infrastructure for many years, and he will be missed. We wish Gene and his family well for their new adventures, and I know that many already have plans for visiting.

## Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February - Fall in Love with Tennis on Valentine's Day

This is the theme for the national tennis open days, which we are participating in. Come along for a hit, and a relaxing afternoon, and tell all your friends to come down and give tennis a go. Open day is from 1.00pm – 5.00pm, and looks like it will be lots of fun.

### Club Grounds

We try to ensure that our courts, lights, and grounds are in a good condition, but we don't always know when something isn't working. If you are at the club and you see there is a problem, or would like to raise an issue please email us so that we can fix the problems.

Our lights are now up and working, and we will be working towards tiding up the courts where the trenches were done, and fixing up the cracks.

### Saturday Club Day

Saturday Tennis Club day will officially start with the Open Day, and then every Saturday from 1.00pm onwards. This is a great day to play tennis with different people, and to meet other members of the club. Structured games will be run, for all members of all abilities, so come along and give it a go.

It would be good to have an indication of those that are interested in Saturday tennis, and what would make you come down and play.

Unless we get this feedback from our members, we can't ensure we are meeting your needs, so please take the time to let us know what you would like to see happening so we can do our best to cater for everyone's needs. So if you would like some singles games, a casual hit around for practice, or some doubles matches, let us know.

## TENNIS CLUB CONTACTS:

President – John D	Ph: 577 0098
Chairperson – Trudi A	Ph: 477 2214
Secretary – Graham N	Ph: 569 2914
Treasurer - Jackie C	Ph: 568 7976
Midweek – Trish	Ph: 566 0392
Junior Interclub – Kevin	Ph: 569 7452
Junior Club – Elizabeth	Ph: 971 4408
Night League – Aarno	Ph: 565 3733
Senior Interclub – Sylvia	Ph: 569 3998

## JUNIOR CLUB:

Interclub began last Saturday in glorious conditions- everyone enthused and generally teams did very well. Some of our teams have moved up the grades and we have entered a new U12 Boys team.

Friday nights continue to be well supported with many teams having all their members there. It is great to be able to practise and socialise together.

Rounds 1 & 2 of the junior club champs have been progressing slowly over the summer holidays however a weekend is still to be set aside to complete these games in the next month.

Sunday mornings are still well attended and the 1 hour coaching sessions mean more time on the court and less time spent standing in a line. Remember to come earlier or stay after your coaching session and use the spare courts and volleyboard to practise.

Prizegiving will be held on Friday 26 March and the final Sunday session will be on 28 March. Children are asked to bring a plate of food to share to the last session and the club provides drink. We will remind everyone nearer to the time. - Elizabeth

## SUPPORT FROM OUR COMMUNITY TRUSTS:

We would like to thank the following community trusts for their support of Lower Hutt tennis club.

We have received grants from Pub charities for \$3,000 to cover the cost of tennis balls for all senior and junior interclub, \$4,000 from Lion Foundation for junior coaching and \$1000 from Pelorus Trust for junior coaching. - Jackie

## COURT USAGE (Etiquette)

Doubles on court will take precedence over singles at all times. In the event that there are no vacant courts & Members are waiting to play, those playing singles must invite 2 of those Members waiting, to join them, or vacate

the court at the end of the set, or after fifteen minutes, whichever first occurs.

After 5pm weekdays & during weekend afternoons senior members have precedence over juniors for all casual play & for use of astrograss courts.

Scheduled interclub matches & any organised Club play will always take precedence over casual play.

If you are not a member (for example a parent playing with a child who is a member) you have no rights and must pay a visitors fee please!

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#### **NIGHT LEAGUES:**

The Monday league is running every calendar month, currently with 8 teams. The Wednesday league with the current 11 teams runs till 31-March, with the next one starting in mid-April. Please Contact Adam for Mon and Aarno for Wed to be reserve players, or put your name in for the next leagues.

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#### **TENNIS CLUB MEMBERSHIP FEES:**

There are reduced membership fees coming into the second half of the season. So if you have some friends who have been thinking about joining then please let them know!

<b>MEMBERSHIP FEES AS OF 1/1/10:</b>		
<b>TYPE:</b>	<b>NORMALLY:</b>	<b>NOW:</b>
<b>SENIOR</b>	<b>\$210.00</b>	<b>\$135.00</b>
<b>VETS (OVER 35)</b>	<b>\$185.00</b>	<b>\$120.00</b>
<b>MID WEEK</b>	<b>\$185.00</b>	<b>\$120.00</b>
<b>STUDENT</b>	<b>\$160.00</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>
<b>COUPLE</b>	<b>\$380.00</b>	<b>\$245.00</b>
<b>FAMILY</b>	<b>\$540.00</b>	<b>\$310.00</b>
<b>CHILD</b>	<b>\$110.00</b>	<b>\$60.00</b>

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#### **PRESIDENTS INTERCLUB:**

4 teams were entered into the Hutt Valley Presidents competition this season, with Alex Bridger's team of Alex, Ros Read, Mieke Wensvoort, Tony Green and Zelma Foo representing us in Division 1, coming 4<sup>th</sup> with Wainuiomata in the pre-Xmas draw.

This unfortunately relegated both those teams to Division 2, where the other 3 Lower Hutt teams had started.

The team of Gerald Burns, Owen Norriss, Sue Anderson and Kathy Maguren won the Division 2 pre-Xmas section and have been promoted to Division 1 along with Glen Iris for the post-Xmas section. An expected close battle between Gerald's and Alex's team in the playoff did not eventuate due to an unfortunate misunderstanding with reserves for that match and Alex's team was not able to field a full team. Dick Werry, Pat Clegg, Kathy Brabin and Margaret Walker continued their long standing partnerships in Division 2 and finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place, just one point behind Glen Iris. John Farrell captained a brand new team combination of himself, Aarno Korpela, Michael and Lesley Phoenix and Andrea McCarty. This new team quickly challenged the opposition and the management by reading the rules and interpreting them as being able to field all their 5 players in the 1<sup>st</sup> match! This was an interesting interpretation but no advantage to the team.

The post-Xmas draw will include playoffs between the 2 divisions as well as within each division to obtain overall positions. Gerald Burns – Presidents convenor.

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#### **SENIOR INTERCLUB PRE XMAS RESULTS:**

For the first time in the history of Lower Hutt Tennis Club all Regional 1, 2 & 3 Women Grades were won by Lower Hutt Club Teams. This reflects the strength and depth of womens tennis in the club. The Mens Reg 1 team fought hard to remain in the top 4 of their grade. Reg 1 contest their cup rounds and the other teams play promotion/relegation to the grade above them.

The Div 1A mens team finished in the top 2 of their grade winning eligibility to play Promotion/Relegation in Reg 3 grade. The other Division teams performed very well and will now contest post xmas Hutt valley Tennis Championship round.

Regional teams started back in their competition on the 30th January and the Division teams started on the 6th February. All results of Wellington Regional tennis can be found by following this link

<http://www.wellingtontennis.org.nz/results.cfm#seniors> and local HVT Division tennis through this link

<http://www.tennis.org.nz/InterclubCompetitionGradesList.asp?cnID=632>.

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#### **HOW THINGS CHANGE:**

After 60 years playing tennis, and an association with the LHTC for nearly 50 years I have a few memories of tennis in past years at the Club. But things have changed - some good and some bad!

##### Good things

Better technology - racquets, balls, & shoes

Better courts - astro, plexi and lighting

Tennis on TV

The Australian Open

##### Bad Things

Hitting angles, drop shots and lobs a lost art.

Reading the game and the ability to adjust your play has been lost.

Strategy has lost out to "power"

Thinking about aspects of the game of tennis lost

Kids don't come down after school to hit on the volley board.

Club members do not want to volunteer.

Less social interaction.

No Saturday tennis.

Tennis losing out to other sports.

I have never tried to list these things before.

On balance I think I preferred tennis 20 years ago with a wooden racquet, on a Saturday afternoon, and having to wait out 20 minutes waiting for the next round.

I am off to the French Open in May this year. Does anyone have any tips? I have about 50 books about tennis and 15 antique tennis racquets if anyone wants to start a collection.

Long may the sun shine on our courts. John Donaghy

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**YOUR COMMENTS PLEASE:** To make comments or give feedback email [info@lowerhutttennisclub.com](mailto:info@lowerhutttennisclub.com).