

NEWSLETTER : December 2013

FROM THE PRESIDENT ...



Our grass court season is well underway. Unfortunately the weather, while being good on most Saturdays, has not been cooperative and the courts are still soft. Regard this as a challenge and enjoy your tennis. I expect to open Row One for Saturday play early in December depending on the weather.

There are ongoing problems with the mower which is causing some frustration to our Grounds Manager. This is acknowledged and we thank him for his patience while we work to solve the problems. Our thanks go also to **Bruce Dunstan** who, as honorary assistant Grounds Manager, has mown and prepared the courts while David Taylor has been on leave.

Members will have noticed the weed problem that has recurred, particularly on Row Four. This is most disappointing and will need serious attention. It is intended to start a programmed sequence of spraying that will continue through to the autumn. Please understand if this is occurring

on the courts you prefer to play on.

Your committee is gearing up for the annual Veterans Tournament, our 39th, to be held on the 25th and 26th of January 2014. This is one of our major fund raising efforts for which we need your help and thus we are seeking volunteers to participate on the day. Please indicate your interest and support to either Merv Cronin (357 8445) as Tournament Chairman or to me (351 3340). In particular we need someone with computer skills who can act as understudy to Trevor Lau in making up the draws for the tournament, and who can then take over this task in 2015. Please contact either Trevor (021 749 732) or me to discuss the role.

We are concerned over security at the club house. A number of times recently the club house has been left open overnight, fortunately with no bad outcomes. If you are at the courts late in the day please make an effort to ensure all windows are shut, the lights all out and both doors locked. This will be a benefit for all members.

Concern has been expressed by members over the presence of dogs and what they leave on the courts. As a result, your committee has decided that dogs will no longer be welcome at the courts. Please cooperate and thus ensure the courts are always in a usable condition. There is a conditional exemption for the coach's dog. She must be confined to Row 2 and any indiscretions immediately rectified.

Christmas will soon be upon us. May I wish all members the very best for the festive season and continued enjoyment of your club and its facilities.

Canterbury Tennis Future Location.

Canterbury Regional Tennis has decided their long term future does not lie with our club and thus all negotiations over their moving to our premises have ceased. As a result we have relinquished all interest in the western bowling green and will not be developing hard courts there.

Alex Sutherland, President

Play Tennis, Get Fit, Have Fun!

FRIDAY NIGHT SOCIAL TENNIS & SAUSAGE SIZZLE



Keep the occasional Friday night spare for some Social Tennis and Sausage Sizzle (SS).

Advice will be via email with notice of a couple of days – to ensure good weather.

Other Social Stuff!

- **Wednesday night social tennis** from 6-8pm, organised by our resident coach Mark Belcher.
- **Thursday night group coaching.** Adult beginners at 5.30pm followed by adult intermediate level at 7pm. There is a fee payable to Mark for the group coaching.
- **Saturday afternoon** – we have our members' day. Hit off from 1pm with a cuppa around 3.30 then play on after that if you wish.
- **Mid week tennis** - give Liz Rivers a call on 359 5625.
- There's also an odd assortment (☺) of players who turn up for some relaxed, casual **Sunday afternoon tennis from 1pm** and they welcome anyone to join them for a hit.
- **Facebook Page** Please 'like' us on our Hagley Park Tennis Club FB page – you might see yourself!! We currently have 58 'Likes' on our page which is an increase of 20 in the last month! Items recently added are:
Photos: Premier Women 2012/13 Team, Men's New Senior Division Interclub Team Shirts
Articles: "Junior Player Of the Month" (Liam Barrett) with photo of Mark and Liam with his prize.
Jamie Garbett: Winner of Junior Masters 12s event, No. 2 in NZ team to compete in Australian Team Championships in Melbourne.
Caddie: Ball Dog Academy_Youtube Clip , Results of Canty Primary & Intermediate Championships

Junior Tennis – Janine Tyler

Junior Teams are now into the 6th round of competition.

Team Playing Order has been registered with Canterbury Tennis.

Teams currently top of their Division are:

Boys Challenger 2 and Boys 11s Div 1

Senior Interclub - Bryce Thomson

Inter club is well underway. Teams leading their grades are Prem Women and Div 3 Men. Prem Men are struggling with injuries and defections. In summary, we are managing to field full teams each week.

House Keeping Matters!

If you are the last to leave the club, please check to see that the clubhouse windows are locked and the main door is locked.

A Message from our Treasurer – Andrea Hughes

A very big 'thank you' to all those members who have paid their annual subs.

If you are one of the few who have not paid subs yet, please, honour all the other members and your hard working committee by paying yours as well. 😊

Div 5 Men looking dapper in Club T-Shirts:

Special thanks to committee member, Michelle Kelsen (**Elite Physiotherapy**) and husband Reon (**Canterbury Team Wear**) for their generous sponsorship of our Division 1,3,5 and Premier men's team t-shirts. Pictured below is Div. 5: L-R: Melvin Hellegado, Raj Patel, Charles Cole, Moody Shokry.



It's History!!

We want to share with our members some history of the club and its members. Given the upcoming Veteran's tournament, a story relating to it is timely.



Christina van Leeuwen was a very keen and loyal member of the Club for many years and a strong supporter of the Veterans tournament. The tournament was first held in 1975 when Club Patron, Brian Stedman was President and Brian often played with Christina. Christina passed away in 1993 and she requested of her funeral that donations be made to the tennis club to purchase a seat – now located on Row 5. Christina's family also presented the club with a memorial cup which is presented each year to someone who has supported our tournament. The most recent recipients were Rosie and Trevor Lau and it is now polished and ready to hand on. Christina's devotion

to our tennis club was such that she asked that her ashes be spread (buried) at the courts and she commented that "she could make sure she tripped up the opposition if they got a point!"

We have our 39th tournament on the last weekend in January. Please come along and play, or volunteer to help out and honour the memory of Christina van Leeuwen.

ANNUAL VETERANS' OPEN TOURNAMENT



Keep the last weekend in January free to take part in our Annual Veterans' Open Tournament. To be held on 25/26 January 2013 at our Club's grass courts.

- Come along and play, watch or volunteer some time to help.
- Entry forms can be obtained from the Clubrooms or the website www.hagleyparktennis.co.nz.
- Refreshments will be available throughout the weekend from the clubhouse and a BBQ will be held at the end of play each day.
- Everyone entered receives a gift, and a chance to win some great prizes in the lucrative raffle or from one of our lucky dip draws. Prizes this year include:
 - \$50 vouchers for drinks and dining at the Casino
 - One night accommodation and cooked breakfast for two at The Chateau on The Park
 - A return trip for two on the Tranz Coastal
 - A painting by Philip Trusttun .

We get lots of visiting players from other NZ clubs so it's a great opportunity to meet and mix with other tennis players during a fun and enjoyable weekend.



Note from Alex Sutherland to our Philippine Team Members

Dear Philippine Members,

May I express the Club's concern over the traumatic events that have occurred in the Philippines over the last few days. We are concerned that your families and friends may have been affected by the typhoon. I express our sincere sympathies to you all and in particular to those of you whose loved ones may be suffering.

Please make contact with me if there is anything that I could do that may assist.

We hope you will continue to enjoy your tennis at the Hagley Park Tennis Club.

Yours

Alex Sutherland

President

A note from Tony Ruiz, a member of the Philippine tennis community

Dear Alex,

First of all I want to thank you for your concern for the people who were affected by typhoon Yolanda and thank you New Zealand as well. As you can see I left Chch on the 19th of October and arrived on the 22nd of November. Practically I was in the Philippines when the typhoon took its wrath (the strongest storm in recorded history.) the northern part of my island was equally devastated as well leaving 9 dead people. but nothing could compare it to what happened to Tacloban City leaving 8,000 people dead including the ones still missing. as I watched the TV reports, I tried to numb all my feelings for I have relatives and friends living the island of Leyte (thank God they were all spared.) but the most humbling of all was the help and assistance that came from all over the world, who not only offered food and medicine but hope and acceptance. It was on that experience that I found my self worth as a human being. The real strength of the Filipinos was not during the typhoon but aftermath. For five days no help came from the government. I saw mothers looking for their children, and children looking for their parents, and the so many beautiful stories that resulted after this incident. We stood tall with dignity. All of them suffered so much yet complained so little. What did I learn from all of this... first, I found out that we Filipinos have the power to heal ourselves and second, that there must be a God who oversees everything. I left the Philippines with a heavy heart but full of love from the different countries that came to reach out to a needing people who knocked at the doors of their heart.

I'm proud that I'm a Filipino and proud of my heritage. As the saying goes, "my head is blooded but unbowed." we as a people has stood tall with our heads up high that we survived the greatest storm in recorded history. again thank you for your concern and THANK YOU NEW ZEALAND.

Forever I am grateful,

Tony Ruiz

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