

HAGLEY PARK TENNIS CLUB

March 2012

FROM THE PRESIDENT ...



Autumn has arrived as evidenced by the trees along Riccarton Avenue adjacent to the courts. It means the grass court season is coming to an end and the rows will be retired over the next three weeks. It also means it is time to top-dress the courts with working bees arranged for the 10th and 24th of March when we will do Rows 4 and 1. Do come along at 9:00 in the morning to help and to enjoy fellowship with other club members.

Recently your club hosted the Summer Premier League matches on two occasions. Each time there were six Mens and four Womens teams playing tennis of a high standard. At present our Women's Premier team is leading the competition and we wish them well for their remaining matches.

May I say thank you to all those players who represented the club in interclub competitions this past summer. **Special thanks to Janine Tyler**

our Junior Administrator who has done a great job in organising the junior teams and thus providing competitive tennis for many of our juniors.

Congratulations to Beth Williamson, who is featured later in this newsletter, and **Jamie Garbett** who each did well on the national level over the last few months.

The **court spraying** of the grass courts has been effective. It now a matter of keeping on top of the problem so you may well see the grounds manager out with a knapsack sprayer treating individual outbreaks. We have embarked on an enhanced maintenance programme to improve the conditions of the grass courts. The results should be evident by the start of the next grass court season.

Hagley Vets...

Our 37th annual Veterans Tournament was held on 28/29 January and again it was well-attended. It's a lot of work for a few so my grateful thanks go to **Merv Cronin** for again coordinating this successful event. Merv's team of helpers included **Frank Tay, Michael Ross, Merv Cox, Trevor Lau** and it was great to see juniors such as **Stephanie Jeffs** and her friend **Enya Englebrecht** taking charge of raffle sales, **Lizzie Thomson** was the BBQ chef and **Jamie Garbett** also lent a hand. The kitchen ladies – too many to mention - provided sustenance to the players. A terrific team effort resulted in a great weekend event for our club – Thank you all! Check out our website for a video clip of photos taken at the Vets – Thanks to our resident photographer, **Moody Shokry**.

Green Fees

At the risk of sounding like a stuck record....we again remind members to ensure that their guests pay green fees and encourage members to also approach players to ask for green fees.

Club Champs – Read our Club Captain's comment and come and have a go!

In signing off, I hope you enjoy reading the newsletter and catching on club and players activities.

May I wish you all great tennis and I look forward to meeting more of you as we enjoy our great facilities.

Alex Sutherland, President

Play Tennis, Get Fit, Have Fun!



Congratulations to Beth Williamson...

Beth was a quarter-finalist at the 18s nationals in December on the Northshore, where she lost to the girl (in a tight third set 7-6) who went on to win it. Beth won the 18s girls singles and doubles (partnered with Alice Batt) at the Canterbury Christmas Tournament held at Lincoln. She then went on to 16s nationals in Blenheim (pictured), where she lost in the semi-finals in another third set! And just recently, Beth lost in the semi-finals to Joelene Feneon at the NZMT 5 (Nz Money tournament) held at Cashmere.

Beth plays in our Premier Women's team and together with Michelle North, they provide some coaching and mentoring to some of our junior Challenger girls. And if you think all the above was not enough!!!!...Beth was also named Head Girl at Lincoln High School for this year which is a tremendous accomplishment in itself.

We are very proud and pleased to have Beth as a member of our club.

Social Weekday/Night Tennis

We have good social playing opportunities during the week with **Wednesday night social tennis** from 6-8pm and on Thursday nights - our resident coach, Mark Belcher runs **Group Coaching**. This is for adult beginners at 6pm and intermediate coaching training at 7pm. There is a fee payable for the group coaching.

Liz Rivers organises a relaxed and social **Tuesday morning group**. The standard is easy, the players are mostly women, but blokes are welcome too! If you are new to the club and want to meet other members and enjoy some social tennis, please just turn up around 9.30am on a Tuesday and introduce yourself to Liz. And if you are an existing member, you're welcome too – come and have a hit!

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.

Senior Interclub - Bryce Thomson

Inter-club is nearing completion. The Premier Women are leading their grade with more round to play. Semis and Finals will be the following two weeks. Congratulations to our Division 1 men who earned a spot in the final by tipping Country 8 sets to 7. They played Cashmere last Saturday but lost 4-2. Division 3 finished strongly but just missed out on having a go at the finals this season so we look forward to a Div. 3 finals next season. Overall it has been an enjoyable inter-club season in spite of Wilding Park being unusable.

The Club Champs will be played soon. It's all good fun so if you want to be in it – give me a call by this Thursday on 332 3222.

Junior Tennis – Janine Tyler

The junior teams are now well into the 2nd half of the season and our club is doing very well with: Girls 10s Div 2, Girls 11s Div 2, & Boys 9s Div 2 **coming first** in their grade. Friday Boys 13s Div 1, Friday Boys 13s Div 2, Boys 10s Div 2, Boys Senior Satellite Div 2, Girls Challenger 2, & Boys Challenger 3 all **coming 2nd** and following up **3rd place** are the Friday Girls 13s Div 1 & Boys 11s Div 2.

Mark Belcher is conducting team coaching in the lead up to the Finals weekend Friday 23 to 25 March.

All teams finishing the competition in 1st and 2nd place will be presented with Gold and Silver Canterbury Tennis Badges.

And...Parents!! IF you are interested in entering your child in the upcoming Canterbury tennis tournament in the school holidays - attached is the entry form and an information sheet.

From the Coach & Caddie (his ballgirl) - Mark Belcher



Christ College have a long standing relationship with our beautiful club. Thousands of boys have spent their high school years playing and improving their tennis with us. Many return to play after stints overseas. A highlight for college tennis this year is the national 14's title going to college boy Connor Heath. Below is a picture of some of the Christ College boys at coaching.

Parents of juniors are encouraged to get their players to the club as much as possible, perhaps help them practice and if you ever come to the club when I am there coaching I am more than happy to give some balls to you to help practice serving or for you to feed balls to your child.

Start thinking about making time to continue over winter (terms 2 and 3). Junior squads will be running and I will try to make the early times available to the younger juniors.

I'm considering running a "coaching for coaches" day. This is ideal for parents who want to assist a junior in his or her tennis or anyone wanting to help another player with their tennis, covering grips, how to feed balls, drills, basic progressions and more. This would be run on one morning or afternoon perhaps on a Sunday. Please register your interest with me anytime. Cost is \$30.

Don't forget to tune in to PlainsFM 96.9 Fridays at midday for "a Belch on Sport" or later on podcast at plainsfm.org.nz



Below are some club members who enjoyed playing at our Grass Courts Open Day last October.



Don't forget our Working Bee this Saturday...