

**Hutt City Squash
Newsletter April**



NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2020



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2020

Committee

HUTT CITY SQUASH CLUB

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Hutt City Squash Newsletter April

Presidents Update (Rodney)

Welcome Everyone; It is with great honour that I'm writing my first report as President, I follow a great line of previous presidents from both Mitchell Park and Fraser Park, (and Corey Love, HCS's First President) who have lead the way, built our great community and shown that with a positive focus, Squash can be a fun and awesome sport to enjoy, either socially or competitively. It's through this commitment and dedication we have one of the great clubs in Wellington, and dare I say, NZ.

Whilst we are a new club, in a new facility, the previous committee and the new committee have made great strides in getting the club up and running, developing our theme, colours and pride. Through the commitment of the committee, and you the members, the vibrancy and atmosphere at the club was building nicely. Then came along COVID-19...

These are unprecedented times with challenges on everyone, 5 weeks of court closure (to date), postponement of events, social gatherings and our ability to play and enjoy the sport(s) we enjoy. We know at time of writing this report that we have several more weeks to go and while we do not know for sure when we will be back, I can assure everyone the committee is working very hard behind the scenes to ensure when the **GO** is given we will be ready to open the doors, get members back playing.

The committee have met and we unanimously agreed that members **will not** be penalised through their membership for this season, there will be no increase in subs for the 2020/2021 season. We are also looking at offering members different subscription options for this season to help bridge any financial challenges, this will include options to either restart your year to the new open date, enabling pro rata payments to offset the lost time, different automatic payment options, perhaps new membership types, etc. We will share this information and options once we get a confirmed open date for the courts.

As the club is a shared facility in a complex owned by the Hutt City Council (HCC) we need to ensure we get permission and advice from both Squash New Zealand (SNZ) and HCC on when Squash can commence, and what commencing looks like in our complex, it might be different to the rest of the clubs in the area with HCC directives in play as well.

Aside from membership options, we are looking at what the season look likes, sadly we already know a number of tournaments and events, both locally and nationally have been postponed or cancelled for this year, in particular the Senior teams Nationals Champs, originally scheduled for our club has been Cancelled, a lot of work had been done already by the tournament convenor (Corey Love) it is a blow to lose this event for this year, but understandable. The Cousins Shield (Men) and Mitchell Cup (Women) are also victims, alongside our Easter B and Below Tournament. When we can restart tournaments and competition is unknown, but we continue to work with Squash Wellington and Squash New Zealand to follow their advice and protocols around commencing Squash.

When I decided to stand for President this year, my theme and mission statement to the committee for this season was to focus on the members and to ensure we provided improved communication, facility updates and services within the facility. This includes the introduction of this newsletter, notice boards and signs going up around the courts and frequent updates of our WEBSITE and social media pages to ensure they are current so that members can comment and ask the Committee anything about the game and the club.

We will shortly be sending a quick Survey out to all members asking you to tell us what is working, what is not, and we heard some feedback at the AGM but would love our members to keep us updated on what is important to **you**.

Below are detailed reports from the 2020/2021 committee showcasing some of the work done to date and some of the planned events in flight, this is the start of the club reaching out to you the members, give us your feedback and comments.

Stay Safe, look after your family and be kind

Ngā manaakitanga, Rodney Walker - President

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Club Captains Update (Sam/Kent)

We had a promising start to the year with a lot of activity at the courts, teams were beginning training for Super Champs, tournaments and interclub.

The Hutt City Doubles 2020 held in March kicked things off with a great turnout. 36 teams were entered which included a strong Open division, two mixed divisions and also a womens division, the results are:

Open Div:

Winner: John McKesser & Campbell Webster

Runner Up: Paul & Jonathan Barnett

Mixed Div 2:

Winner: Dayne Farr & Damian Sua

Runner Up: Rodney Walker & Rusty

Mixed Div 3:

Winner: Chris Barnett & Andy Cooper

Runner Up: Bryan & Ann Smith

Womens:

Winner: Maiden-Lee Coe & Samantha Douglas

Runner Up: Jessie Ward-Thomas & Ellen Verry

Along with doubles we had a fantastic number of teams entered in Autumn interclub with 4 womens teams and 5 mens teams. With only two rounds before we went to Level 4 lockdown we are looking forward to picking up where we left off when we get the all clear from Squash NZ, Hutt City Council and Fraser Park Sportsville.

A big congratulations to both Diana Galloway and Campbell Webster who both have worked and trained hard as a result both were selected for the WSF World Junior Championship 2020. A fantastic effort!

Juniors Update (Alissha)

My name is Alissha Canning and I have taken over the role of Junior Convener for Hutt City Squash. I am really excited to be part of the committee and hope to meet you all soon.

Amidst all of the uncertainty of Covid-19 it is still our hope that we can run our junior program this year. We have been working with Evan Williams and Matt Green as to what this will look like and what options are available to us.

We would like to take this chance to gather information around your child(ren) and where they stand when it comes to the junior program this year. We would really appreciate it even if you are not looking at enrolling your child(ren) that you fill in the below so we can see the full picture of where our members are at and tailor the best possible program.

This program is suited for all abilities from Beginner to Advanced

<https://forms.gle/FnC8m3xeVav1inHcA>

All the best and stay safe!

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Membership Update (Laura)

New members

A very warm welcome to our 16 new members thus far in 2020:

- Bruce Chase
- Matiu Chase
- Michael Campbell
- John Channer
- Greg Rudings
- Russell Hooper
- Wendy Malherbe
- Brian Davies
- Shane Robinson
- Geoff Watson
- Lucas Malherbe
- Ian Breedon
- Innes Hutchison
- Ian Breedon
- Chris Totton
- Fred Glover

Membership status

Many memberships came up for renewal at the end of March. The Committee is currently reviewing membership options due to the Hutt City Council mandated closure of Fraser Park Sportsville.

The committee would like to thank members for their patience on this matter and are aiming to give an update in the next couple of weeks.

Facilities Update (Rusty)

Hello Club Upgrade

As you are all aware we have had some issues with the lighting system in the complex, to address this problem we are funding an upgrade to Hello Club which will tie in the booking of courts to the lighting system, the upgrade features are:

- Instead of the current old touch screen to activate lights, there will be a new, large 23 inch touchscreen mounted on the wall
- Instead of scanning your tag, you will get a unique pin number which you can use to log in at the touch screen
- If you have any existing bookings for the day, you will be able to select those and easily turn on the lights for the court of your booking
- If you don't have a booking, you can still turn on the lights for any available court and choose from one of the available playing modes (e.g. play, visitor, practice)
- If you want to play longer, you can easily extend the time of their session via the touchscreen as well
- Bookings can now also be viewed and created via the touchscreen
- Upcoming events can be viewed via the touchscreen as well
- Events can automatically turn on lights for the relevant courts
- The upgrade future proofs the club for things like NFC which will allow the use of smartphones, however, this is not expected until the end of 2020

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 situation has meant this work has been delayed, but once the complex is opened up again then we are opening to start work. This will firstly involve some electrical work, testing with lighting system, etc. We will keep you all informed in regards to progress.

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Social Update (Rachel)

Inhouse

The club raised \$705 from the last 2x rounds of inhouse in 2019 to go towards our bar leaners, thanks to all those who participated. We've looked at the bar leaner options from the company that Fraser Park Sportsville selected, and found that they were too expensive, so are looking at other options.

The current inhouse was started and had 40 athletes competing, with at least 6 or 7 people who've never played in-house before, before it had to stop due to COVID-19. Original plan was to have 2x 10 week inhouses run in terms 2 and 3, but this will be put on hold till we are back.

Club gear/uniforms

We've been showing off the uniforms recently and have managed to get 2 new people to buy HCS gear, if you want to purchase any we have the following in stock (but can take orders):

- Singlets:
 - 2x size 10 ladies
- T-shirts:
 - 1x size 16 kids
 - 1x size 14 kids
 - 1x L
 - 2x M
 - 3x XL
 - 1x XL
 - 1x XXXL
- Hoodies:
 - 1x XS
 - 1x S
 - 4x M
 - 1x L
 - 2x XL
 - 2x XXL

We are taking some interest in setting up a new club ladder and I am working on a display which people can update and include contact details etc.

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General Updates

Facebook – For those of you who haven't already, please like our Facebook page (see link below), we will be posting a lot more on Facebook for both our Club activities and squash related information from NZ and around the world.

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Keeping your squash skills honed - With the COVID-19 lockdown there has not been a lot that can be done squash wise, except perhaps some ghosting or some fitness sessions or some weights (if you have the equipment). Some players are using garage walls, or sides of buildings (near their place of residence) to keep their squash skills honed. An example of this is our own Evan Williams, have a look at the video below, it is very impressive.

The Hutt City Squash Club Committee for 2020

President:	Rodney Walker
Secretary:	Gary Aukett
Treasurer:	Bryan Smith
Club Captains:	Sammantha Douglas / Kent Hawkins
Junior Convener:	Alissha Canning
Social Convener:	Rachel Aukett
Membership:	Laura Ryan
Facilities:	Russell Hasselberg