

2017 Presidents Report

Well another year has gone by and we are here to celebrate the achievements of our fellow members.

Officially the year starts from the 1st April but here at Matamata squash we never really have a break. Normally from the end of spring interclub we have a rest until biz house starts. But this time we trailed something new and started a summer league with 3 people per team which ended up running very smoothly and kept members interested with 8 teams playing this filled in Tuesday nights until Biz house started.

We had good numbers for Biz house with 21 teams two rounds Tuesday and one round Wednesday.

This year's open was well supported with 115 entries with Zac Millar and Amanda Landers-Murphy winning it for the second year in a row. It was also the first tournament that our new club captains Matt and Warren had run. For those of us that have had the pleasure know what a daunting task it is, and congratulate them both on the job they did and have done for the whole year.

Our next tournament for the year was our masters & Juniors held at the end of April with numbers down a bit with 50 entries probably caused by holding while school holidays still on. So, we have planned not to have tournaments when it is school holidays.

After this was our B-Grade tournament held in the middle of June which also clashed with field days

But managed to have good numbers with 90 entries which also produced good crowd numbers for the PSA tournament held at the same time with the support of a number of local sponsors. It was our intention to have this as an annual event but with the number of conditions that squash nz wanted to put on us and the main organizer not going to be around we have decided not to carry on with this event.

We have once again hosted a weirder one-day tournament with numbers been very short which is not a good sign because the future of squash is in the hands of today's juniors.

We also this year hosted Thames valley secondary schools competition which was a big success and it has been indicated that they would like to hold it at our club again next year.

Interclub this year has produced a mixed bag of results.

Winter had 6 men's teams producing 2 winners and one runner up, 2 ladies' teams producing 1 runner up.

Spring had 4 men's teams with 1 winner and 1 runner up and 1 ladies team who came runner up.

This year the club entered two teams into the super champs competition a men's c and a d team. It was the first time that all grades played at the same venue. It provided a good atmosphere and we could support all our teams but sadly the goods were not produced. Also, with the number of graded women playing this year we did not have enough for a team so a number of them joined forces with other clubs to make up numbers.

Club Champs this year was played at the end of July as planned so members were still active and had good numbers as per last year when it was in October. I know you can't always please everyone so if you have any better ideas for club champs then tonight is a good time to bring them up.

As most of you know that we hold a calcutta competition every year and for those of you that don't know, that rock that is on the trophy is the very rock that used to hold the door open at the old club so when we move to where we are now one of our members (life member) Kerire McKinley who sadly is no longer with us grabbed the rock and the rest as one would say is history. So, I know some of you feel a bit hard done by from the handicap system but please!! there is a deeper meaning to this competition than winning. So, for next year with this in mind let's make it an event for Kerrie to be proud of his club.

Club nights this year have been a bit of a mixed bag with numbers down some nights only 20 members so it's a bit of a struggle to understand what is going on with squash, memberships are at about 98 which is down on last year. We have a lot of new members but have lost a lot of members that have not returned. We try to encourage members with different events and fun nights so please feel free if you have any suggestions on how we could improve member involvement.

Last year we talked about spending some money on an upgrade to the bar area. After getting some quotes back for this it was decided that if we went ahead it would leave the club in a position that there would be no money left as a contingency if we needed to repair anything. And been a council building if we had to move then it would be money that we would not see again. So, it was decided to spend a bit of money to spruce the club up a bit with the purchase of new tables and chairs for the lounge. Also carpet behind courts 1,2 and 3. Hopefully working with the council this year to upgrade all court lights to LED.

In my eyes the club will only be successful if we have 3 things in place.

Firstly Members

If we don't have a strong membership we don't have a club. So, thank you to you for belonging to this great club.

Second Committee

If we don't have members that put their hands up and give up their spare time in their busy life to be on the committee then the club would not move forwards. So, thank you to those of you on the committee and to those of you that are stepping down. Also to those partners of committee members who forgo things because squash is on, Thank you. Also, to members that always help out in the kitchen and other areas thank you.

Lastly Sponsors.

Without sponsors we would not be able to run our tournaments and also, we would not be able to operate our club without our subs been the lowest in the Waikato. So, thank you to all of our sponsor and may your sponsorship continue for many more years.

Hope you all have a great night and enjoy the rest of the year.

Robb Adamson