

## **Tennis (Ōtaki Sports Club) annual report --- 2023-24**

With significant growth in membership and participation, tennis at Ōtaki Sports Club had another successful season in 2023/24.

Tennis is now a 12-month sport at the club with social and competitive (senior and junior) tennis being played right through the winter.

And, for the third year in a row, the club was a finalist in the Club of the Year awards at Tennis Central (comprising of around 65 clubs from Taranaki down to Wellington).

### **Membership**

The club's tennis membership increased to 125 players during the past summer – a significant increase on the 95 players in the previous 2022/23 season, and up from a low point of 28 players in 2020/21.

And this winter, numbers have gone up again to 145 players, though those numbers won't be officially recorded until the end of the 2024/25 summer.

In autumn, we farewelled long-standing, former tennis club captain Gary Quigan, who has moved to Dannevirke.

### **Club champs**

The club champs are now an established activity on our tennis calendar, with the third annual senior champs and the second junior champs held this past autumn.

Congratulations to our 2024 winners:

- Men's singles champion: Callan Nikora
- Women's singles champion: Jackie Gould
- Men's doubles champions: Callan Nikora and Pātaka Moore
- Women's doubles champions: Jackie Gould and Hannah Grimmett
- Mixed doubles champions (the Whiterod whānau trophy): Callan Nikora and Emma Whiterod
- Junior singles champion: Xavier Nikora
- Junior doubles champions: Xavier Nikora / Angus Mecoy

### **Interclub**

Summer: Seven senior teams; eight junior teams.

Congratulations to the senior A grade mixed team for winning the pre-Christmas title, their third consecutive title victory in the grade.

Winter: two senior teams and three junior teams.

Congratulations to Ōtaki Kakama in junior B2 grade for their winter competition win and an undefeated season.

Winter training kicked off for a new junior 'Orange' league: younger children using soft orange balls on smaller courts with lower nets. Ōtaki has six teams in the league which starts this spring.

### **Junior coaching**

Our hired Hot Shots coaches, Nizar and Ed, did one term (term 3, 2023) and then left with no notice, leaving the club to take over their classes in term 1, 2024.

We had no capacity to take on their 5-7 year-olds, and had a large class of 8-10 year-olds. The sessions went well and most of those children have signed up again for coaching for term 4, 2024.

We still have no capacity to coach 5-7 year-olds.

### **Tennis committee**

This winter a tennis committee was started up to help manage the demands of a growing membership.

Six players, including the club captain, are on the committee. The committee members are all currently active in helping organise and manage activities in all areas of the club's tennis operations, and are having a very welcomed and positive impact in the club.

### **Summary**

Ōtaki tennis saw significantly increased growth in activity and participation in 2023/24, continuing the trends from the previous three years.

With increased support from players in helping run the tennis side of Ōtaki Sports Club, tennis is working to position itself to manage growth and increase tennis opportunities for our members and the wider community.

*Adam Shelton*

*Tennis club captain*

*October 2024*