

Mid Canterbury Tennis Charitable Trust

2016 Annual Report

The 15th season since the development of the Ashburton Trust Tennis Centre has just been completed – doesn't time fly!

This also meant that the five year court sponsorship contracts were also up for renewal and it has been heartening to have all but three sponsors renew their contracts at a slightly increased rate. Hopefully this illustrates that they see value in being associated with such a high quality tennis complex and it also gives the Tennis Charitable Trust some surety in the medium term with their financial planning. We welcome Stuart Tarbotton Contracting as a court sponsor. We also welcome Terrace Downs Resort who have taken up an advertising spot on the end of the spectator stands. The Carr Group and Ashburton Guardian have not renewed their contracts but we are grateful for their support over the years. Sparrows Mens and Ladies Fashions also didn't wish to renew their advertising at the eastern end of the courts and this space has yet to be filled.

The court resurfacing planned for this season was completed in early January with the two bays at the eastern end next to the Hospital resurfaced. There was some discussion over the colour to be used with a suggestion that the increasingly used blue colouring may be used. However the trustees felt that initiating a change of colour with those particular courts was impracticable and that if any change was to occur then the front bays would be a more logical starting point. It is my view that care should be taken with any colour change as the advertising policy established with our initial court sponsors stipulated only shades of green could be used, to protect the unique ambience that the complex is lucky enough to enjoy in the domain.

Normal maintenance took place during the season but the annual programme of spraying the courts and surrounds with a Moss and Mould killer was again deferred as previous spraying has proved effective in keeping the courts in good condition for this season. However it is planned to have this work done early in June following the autumn leaf fall. This should give another two years of protection.

The Leafguard on the main pavilion has been replaced as there had been some deterioration – and being situated along Oak Grove, gutter leafguard is a necessity! The courts proximity to Oak Grove and the Hospital presents an ongoing leaf, seed and nut problem in the latter part of the season. The court clearing has been a joint operation with the Management Committee.

Following the death of Eric Bryant, a benefactor that provided the initial impetus to develop the Tennis Centre, his niece, Caroline McIntosh and her father Eric Drewitt donated \$16,000 to recognize his contribution. It was agreed with the donors to use the donation to expand the paved area in the outdoor seating area and erect a fence/seat separating it from the grassed area. This generous gesture was acknowledged at a short plaque unveiling ceremony just prior to Christmas. This also prompted the trustees to renew the seating and tables in that area, replacing those built 15 years ago, but which were becoming tired and unsafe! The new Macrocraft furniture looks great, is very durable and judging by their weight – burglar proof! Improved lighting to that area was also installed.

It is planned to touch-up the paint on the top rail of the fences and on the spectator stands. It is also planned to dig soak pits in the domain to reduce the likelihood of water build-up under the courts at the south eastern end.

Thanks to Gary Hunt, Chris Thomas, Cynthia Christie and Chris Anderson for their work in maintaining the Centre to a high standard. Reg Donaldson continues to prove invaluable in his quiet attention to the nets and anything else that requires his expertise.

Sponsors

I would like to acknowledge and thank the businesses and individuals that continue to support the Ashburton Trust Tennis Centre. Their ongoing support is vital to the viability of the Centre. It is important that, in return, we strongly support these businesses with our custom.

Finances

The Charitable Trust has recorded a loss for the year after depreciation of \$1,041 (2015 loss \$22,303). This improved result was assisted by the Bryant donation and the renewal of the 5 year Court and Net sponsorships. The cash position declined to \$48,370 (2015 \$59,384), principally due to the court resurfacing required this year but remains at a satisfactory level. David Bishop's budget projections for the next 10 years indicate that our planned maintenance programme is achievable but we should be aware that major capital work would require outside funding.

The Trust has received a commitment from the Allan family through the Advance Ashburton Charitable Foundation to donate funds each year for the promotion of tennis in Mid Canterbury and this will also assist the Trust in maintaining the Tennis Centre.

Trustees

I would like to thank the trustees for their ongoing support – everyone making a significant contribution in their various ways - David Bishop, Gary Casey, Gary Hunt, Phil Crozier and Neil McCann. Special thanks are again due to David Bishop for his diligent financial management – having been treasurer for the Trust for something like 13 years and with the Mid Canterbury Tennis Management committee before that, he continues to give outstanding service– a selfless and invaluable contribution.

Phil Crozier and I are standing down from the Charitable Trust this year, so it's very satisfying to welcome Cynthia Christie and Gretchen Hart to the Charitable Trust. Since our legal representative on the Trust, Kurt Reed, resigned we have not had a qualified legal person on the Trust and with Gretchen and her firm Russell Moon and Fail being involved and so supportive of tennis it is now very appropriate that Gretchen has agreed to become a trustee. As most of us know, Cynthia Christie has done sterling service as President of Mid Canterbury Tennis for a number of years so it is also appropriate that she has now also agreed to become a trustee.

Phil and I were inaugural trustees. Phil will continue to do all the things he does so magnificently in the operational side of Mid Canterbury Tennis – run the bar, team organisation and the myriad of other things he does so brilliantly, so happily nothing much will change with him!

As for me, my interest won't wain but it is time for me to step back from the trustee's role – and with the very capable trustees we have it will be a seamless transition.

Thanks again to everybody else that contributes so willingly in ensuring that the Ashburton Trust Tennis Centre continues to be a vibrant place and a tennis facility of the highest order.

Jack Allan

Chairman
20.05.16