

## Mid Canterbury Junior Tennis Report 2015-16

It is my pleasure to present the Annual Junior Report for 2015/2016 season. It has been a busy and very interesting season to put it mildly.

I'd firstly like to thank all the volunteers who gave their time to help me and Mid Canterbury Tennis in my first year as Convenor. Your help and experience was invaluable to all. I hope those who have helped will be able to continue and new faces appear to help lighten the load.

This year we had 23 teams playing Junior Interclub. Unfortunately that was down on past years and really we can only hope that as we put extra time and emphasis into junior coaching and try to get more club participation we can grow these teams and head back into the thirties or more – my target for this year is to try to improve numbers to have 26 teams minimum 2016/17.

We had two Challenger teams in this years' Canterbury Interclub – one boys, one girls. These teams performed very admirably and showed we in Mid Canterbury have good strong players to push our Canterbury counterparts.

We have had good numbers of Junior players in Senior competitions in Canterbury Interclub; from Premier- Womens- Div 1 mens & ladies and other divisions of Interclub. These players have definitely proven to be playing consistently at very high levels.

Hot Shot although very popular has got kids interested in tennis but where they went after that seemed to be a bit cloudy, so we have taken it on board that we need much clearer pathways from this to where and how children progress, with the goal to be playing Interclub. These steps will be clearer as we progress through the schools programme and Andre spreads the word on information available – clubs – coaching etc.

Ace was again running up to end of Term 1 – and a break from Term 2 has allowed the Ace committee to sort sponsors & squads with new coach. Their report will explain more details.

Tournaments; again this season we ran our same Tournaments and especially the Labour Weekend Tournament was a great success with slightly higher entries from the previous year. Again thanks must go to the Ashburton Trust for their generous sponsorship. The other Tournaments were run efficiently and had no issues – sadly numbers were down slightly on some of these – again something we will work on to try to increase participation.

Junior Reps; we went through the season unbeaten – against Malvern, Ellesmere and South Canterbury. Sadly the North Canterbury game was rained off and the calendar didn't allow for any rematch.

Also we had a large number of players selected for Canterbury Country squads – with some teams having 75% of the age group from Mid Canterbury.

We also have several players travelling to Christchurch each week for regular squad coaching under the Canterbury Teams umbrella.

Browning Shield, although a senior rep team, was riddled with Juniors and to be honest without them and their enthusiasm I don't believe we would have stood a chance. They made the team what it is and hopefully they can all be available again next season.

Wilding Challenge was held again this year and the team was mainly from Mid Canterbury this year coached by Matt Meredith beat all before them and won the final 7 – 5. All eight of the boys in the team were from Mid Canterbury and three of the five girls also.

Coaching this season started off with a wee bump in the road for Term 1. We won't go into details I think everyone is aware of the circumstances. After consultation with Canterbury Tennis, we organised Matt Meredith, the Canterbury Coach to coach squads on a Friday night. These sessions were popular and although cold once 9 pm came along I think all will agree the kids were the winners, they really seem to take a lot away from these sessions.

I would like to take this time to thank Chris Anderson for her efforts over the past 11 years, her hard work hasn't gone unnoticed.

Also welcome to Andre – looking forward to working with you to help increase our junior participation.

Katherine McDonnell – your help was invaluable and I can't thank you enough.

Lastly – Ace, the Junior Committee, Club delegates and volunteers, thank you and if re-elected look forward to working with you all again.

So that's enough waffle from me – lets go forth into 2016/17 with a purpose to continue to fine tune and grow Mid Canterbury Junior Tennis

Kind regards

Peter Leonard  
Junior Convenor