

Mid Canterbury Junior Tennis Report 2017-18

It is my pleasure to present the Annual Junior Report for 2017/2018 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 third 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 21 teams playing Junior Interclub. This number is slightly up on the last two 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 24 teams minimum 2018/19.

We had one Challenger team in this years' Canterbury Interclub. The team 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- Women's- Div. 1 men's & ladies and also div 2 and our div 4 mens team which won the grade, we also have juniors playing in our own senior Interclub. These players have definitely proven to be playing consistently at very high levels.

Hot Shots again very popular, has got kids interested in tennis with the goal to be playing Interclub. These steps are clearer and as we progress through the schools programme and Andre spreads the word on information available – clubs – coaching etc. we should see some more growth for the hard work that has been put in there.

Ace was again running – and seems to be running smoothly. The ACE 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 – numbers were on a par with last year – again something we will work on to try to increase participation.

Junior Reps; – we had a pretty good year and performed admirably but it shows we have some work to do to get the commitment of our players to have our best teams on the court every rep game.

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. This team again showed the strength in the 10s and below age with all five of the boys in the team were from Mid Canterbury. The team ended up winning this grade.

Also this season welcomed Andre to his 2nd year of coaching and I think you have done a sterling job with coaching your enthusiasm is infectious and I am looking forward to continue working with you to help increase our junior participation.

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

Phil Crozier your help along with Tony Bros has again made my job really enjoyable, and look forward to continuing that work

Debbie your help getting the junior's minutes taken and out is really appreciated.

Lastly – Ace, the Junior Committee, especially Tim Parsons and his team for their tireless work running the ace programme. 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 if I've forgotten anything or anyone please forgive me – and lets go forth into 2018/19 with a purpose to continue to fine tune and grow Mid Canterbury Junior Tennis

Kind regards

Peter Leonard
Junior Convenor