

# CROSSCOURT



Newsletter of the Lower Hutt Tennis Club Inc  
Club House Tel: 569 6872, 67a Totara Crescent, PO Box 45020, Lower Hutt,  
[info@lowerhutttennisclub.com](mailto:info@lowerhutttennisclub.com)

MAY 2008

## FROM THE EDITOR:

Winter does not mean the end of tennis! The mini Roland Garros (sponsored by the French Bakery La Boulangerie Martiné), and mini Wimbledon tournaments are coming up, please remember that the Monday and Wednesday night leagues continue all year round (and it really is not that cold, before you start to say it!), there are two different types of winter interclub competitions to enter into this winter (see details below), and the juniors continue on a Friday night from 5.00 – 6.30pm, so apart from the temperature the club is continuing to be a hot place to play!

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

**THE MINI ROLAND GARROS –  
SPONSORED BY LA BOULANGERIE MARTINÉ,  
HIGH ST, LOWER HUTT:**  
SATURDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2008, STARTING AT 1.00PM.

**THE MINI WIMBLEDON:**  
SATURDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> JUNE 2008

**ATOMIC TENNIS TOP DOG TOURNAMENT:**  
18<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2008

**FOR ALL OTHER CLUB EVENTS PLEASE CLICK  
ON THE LINK:**  
<http://lowerhutttennisclub.com/calendar.htm>

## AUSSIE OPEN TOUR 2009:

At the moment Atomic Tennis are fundraising to take a squad of players to Australia in January 2009. On this trip the group will play matches against a couple of clubs in Melbourne and attend a few days of the first week of the Australian Open. Please support the Mini Roland Garros, and Mini Wimbledon fun tournaments as money raised from these is going towards the trip. We will also be running a one point tournament, sweepstakes on the French Open and Wimbledon grand slam tournaments, selling some chocolates, a tennis athon, and other fun events to help us raise some funds!

## ATOMIC TENNIS:

Over the winter, Atomic Tennis are offering a starter tennis program for the absolute beginner junior player. This program costs just \$3.00 per half hour session (\$12 for the four weeks) and is a great fun way to get your child started in tennis.

**ATOMIC FITNESS:** An adult mid week tennis workout, involving lots of moving, running, hitting balls. All shots are from the coach, so all levels of players can play at the same time. The workout

## TENNIS CLUB CONTACTS:

President – John D	Ph: 577 0098
Chairman – Sylvia	Ph: 569 3998
Secretary – Graham N	Ph: 569 2914
Treasurer – Graham C	Ph: 568 7976
Club Captain – Adam	Ph: 566 6234
Midweek – Ros	Ph: 938 1951
Junior Interclub – Kevin	Ph: 569 7452
Junior Club – Elizabeth	Ph: 971 4408
Night League – Linda	Ph: 568 5292
Senior Interclub – Ora	Ph: 566 6868
Atomic Tennis – Craig	Ph: 569 6872

sessions run Monday and Friday mornings from 9.30 – 10.00am with coffee in the shop afterwards! Improve your fitness while hitting tennis balls, and a great alternative to going to the gym.

Atomic top dog tournaments are continuing through the winter, the next tournament is on Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup> of May at the club, these are not just for junior players, they are based on your top dog ranking, so open to all ages.

## THE 2008 MINI ROLAND GARROS 24<sup>th</sup> of May:

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the fun doubles tournament to celebrate the beginning of the French Open grand slam tournament. This is also a fundraiser to help the Atomic Trip to Australia in January. Entries can be placed on the list at the club, or emailed to Gene on [admin@atomictennis.com](mailto:admin@atomictennis.com). You will be drawn a partner and will play for great prizes from the French Bakery in High St. For more info check the website [www.atomictennis.com](http://www.atomictennis.com).



*La boulangerie Martiné  
French bakery*

527 HIGH STREET, LOWER HUTT. PHONE: 5695986

## FROM THE CHAIRPERSON:

What a wonderful summer season we have all had to play our beloved sport of tennis. I hope you all had a great enjoyable season and can look back on some memorable moments when you blasted that ball back over the net for a winner. The

management committee and sub committees have all been working hard this year to ensure all your needs have been catered for however if you want to give us some feedback on anything in particular that you would like to see staged or done please don't hesitate to let us know. I know some of you would like to see the lights improved well that project has been moving along and we will be able to give you all an update in our next newsletter. To get value from your subscription don't put your racket down but instead join us for continued winter leagues, fun Saturday events, a bit of coaching or interclub, as it is well known there is normally no wind and temperature is invigorating. Catch you all down on the courts, Sylvia

## **INTERCLUB RESULTS 2007/2008 SEASON:**

### **PREMIER 1 (USED TO BE REGIONAL 1):**

The Lower Hutt Women's team consisting of Lower Hutt clubs rising star Amelia Harris, Julie Scott, Hannah Baxter, and Carmel Sheehan were crowned champions of womens Premier 1 competition the Katrina Miheare Cup!! Winning by a margin of 10 points over the second placed super rich club Thorndon.

On the men's side The Anthony Adams Cup is the top 4 teams of the competition playing off for the title. The Lower Hutt mens team of Daniel Baxter, Jake Gardiner, Simon O'Leary, Robert Kwiatkowski, Thiem Ngyuan, under the management of the ever green Evan Baxter came in third place in the Anthony Adams Cup (or as Ora refers to it the Anthony Hopkins cup!) with 23 points. This season Thorndon were the champions with 32 points.

### **PREMIER 3 (WHAT USED TO BE REGIONAL 2):**

Unfortunately the men's premier 3 team of captain Hamish Murphy, Gerard Farrell, Thomas McCabe, and Ethan Atwell, finished the season in 5<sup>th</sup> place in the promotion for Premier 2, losing some close matches (and a player due to injury from a tree...you know who you are, Gerard Farrell!). However after winning the pre Christmas round, and with such a young team the future is bright, and Premier 2 glory beckons at the end of next season!

On the womens side, the premier 3 team of Ros Read, Isobel Kerr, Emma Clarke, Suzzana Shirtcliff, and Captain Brenda Scully came in 8<sup>th</sup> place in the promotion tournament for the Premier 2 grade. Placing in the top four in the pre Christmas competition to gain a place in the promotion round! Well done!

### **HUTT VALLEY DIVISIONAL INTERCLUB:**

The mens div 1 team of Trevor Dine, Andrew "the big forehand" Guadin, James Murphy, and Bruce Day ended in 2<sup>nd</sup> place behind Glen Iris (the arch rivals of LHTC!), this means an upward move to Premier 3 for next season!

The mens div 2 team of Alistair Basalaj, Srinivas Ramadani (a.k.a Ram), Clive Jepson, and Adam Bishop, finished the season in third place behind Avalon (2<sup>nd</sup>) and Muritai (1<sup>st</sup>).

The mens div 3 team of Grant Archibald, Micheal Anderson, Vazeer Ahmat, and Arno Korpela finished in 5<sup>th</sup> place overall!

## **JUNIOR CLUB TENNIS NEWS:**

Another successful season finished for the junior club with prize giving on Friday 11 April. We managed to have perfect weather for the final fun tournament and as usual the highlight of the night was prize giving, then supper! Some very competitive tennis has been played this year amongst the interclub teams. Atomic Tennis also introduced some mini tournaments for players from local clubs and the enthusiasm of our new coach Craig meant everyone that entered got plenty of games against those with similar rankings. Everyone came away with sponsors' products and the lucky ones got prizes from the pro shop.



I would like to make specific mention of the winner of our PLAYER OF THE YEAR CUP - **Jasmin Maaka**. Jasmine plays in the Girls A grade interclub team and she was awarded this cup for her enthusiasm for the game, her commitment to her team and her interclub results. We are very lucky to have a fantastic group of junior players who show respect for their fellow club members and opposition while remaining competitive on the court. Thanks must go to Gene for nurturing our players from a young age to show respect & humility both on and off the court. In my books a great attitude is just as important as a great serve!

## **JUNIOR WINTER TENNIS**

This will be held on Friday nights from 5 to 6.30pm during terms 2 & 3. The cost is \$65 and it begins on **Friday 16 May**. All age groups and abilities are catered for coaching as well as match play on offer. Those that continue playing over the Winter months are better prepared for interclub trials come September. Enquiries to Elizabeth ph: 971 4408.

## **WEDNESDAY NIGHT LEAGUE:**

Congratulations to the winners of the last league who were Jack Ng, Amanda Hall, Michelle Dolan and Tim Russell. They were well ahead of the two teams that came in second. It was the first league in a long time where we got to play every night - no play was lost due to bad weather.

The new league starts on 7 May and will run through to July. There are 10 teams this time round so all play will be on Wednesday night. If anyone wants to be added to the reserve list please ring Linda on 568 5292.

## VETS TEAM TOURNAMENT 2008

Lower Hutt Team members win 3rd title.

The Rebel Sport/Health2000 Senior Mixed Teams Event was staged on the 12th and 13th April for the third year in a row.

The event has increased in numbers to 10 teams, coming from Auckland, Tauranga, Rotorua, Napier, Wanganui, Masterton and Kapi Mana, a total of over 60 players all over the age of 35!

Gordon Tetijens was back again as a player and VIP to present the prizes. With new sponsors on board and more fun team prizes to win the weekend was a great success.

For the third year running our very own Red Barons of Julie Scott, Carmel Sheehan, Leonie Campbell, Andrew Chuah, Jason Kane, Mark Battersfield and Dave Leesberg proved too good for the visitors. They won the Major prize but were pushed all the way from some excellent players.

## JOHN DONAGHY – TENNIS HISTORY PART ONE:

**EDITORS NOTE** – John has very generously given me some of the tennis history that he has created and experienced. For those of you who do not know him, John is always full of ideas and energy to make the game of tennis bigger and better and is one of the main reasons for the club having the great facilities and tennis playing options that it has today. He has been involved in running the club for a long time, and to me this is a very interesting read about the history of NZ tennis from a great servant to the sport and the club. Enjoy this great read...

I left Wanganui in 1957 to go to VUW in Wellington and my family shifted down the same year I joined the Lower Hutt Tennis Club and began a long association with the club.

When I joined there were 6 asphalt and 4 grass courts. Between the grass and asphalt was the present wire netting but also a hedge the same height as the fence where the balls always got lost. The asphalt was mixed with sawdust which did make the courts a little softer to play on but the surface did not last as long and we were lucky if a pair of tennis shoes lasted the season.

On a Saturday and Sunday afternoon we would sit out on the grass and would have to wait sometimes up to 4 rounds before we played a round. There would regularly be 80 – 100 people at these afternoons. We could go and play in between on the asphalt but everyone preferred to play on the grass.

The grass courts usually opened for play at Labour weekend and could not be played on if wet. Each season they were shifted half a court sideways because of the wear at the baseline from where people served. Wooden racquets were all there

was. I remember getting a Dunlop Maxply (I still have it) with a 5 inch grip as the theory was it a bigger grip gave you more control.

We learnt to take advantage of all the conditions; we learnt to work out a strategy for each opponent; it was a serve and volley game and skill was more important than power. The American twist was a great serve on grass spinning in two directions.

I look at today's kids wasting all that power and making so many mistakes when the skilful placing of the ball could more easily win the point with less energy.

During the week we would find time to get to the courts to practice. If there was no one to hit with then the volley board was a great opponent and I remember spending hours practising my serve so I could place it where I wanted to on the court – I still can!

I was never a top player and usually played in the second team. After interclub we would go to the Kings Cross or the Bellevue and would often be there when the girls in their ball dresses were arriving with their partners for a quick drink before leaving for the ball – this was 6 o'clock closing days!

In 1959 I became the Treasurer - it was all hand written records in those days - and I remember the difficulties in balancing the soft drink account. The kids all knew how to get the bottles from the machine without paying. I can't remember how many members we had but most of them came to the club on club days. I know I helped repaint the interior at least twice.

The kitchen was where the ladies is now and the current kitchen was the men's changing rooms, toilets and showers. Everyone stopped for afternoon tea and biscuits which cost 2 shillings (20cents). I can remember helping organise dances at the club for the intermediates and young adults. There was always a large group in the 18 – 25 age group at the club. We would regularly go away in the Christmas holidays on a tennis camping holiday. Usually Martinborough first, then Hawkes Bay, then Gisborne - barbeques, hot sun, lots of tennis, lots of fun. To be continued...

### A BIT OF TENNIS TRIVIA TO FINISH!

**DID YOU KNOW THAT:** Irishman Jon Pius Boland, who won the tennis title at the inaugural Modern Olympics in 1896, has not figured in the game's history ever before he struck gold at Athens, and was never known to have played a single competitive tournament even after his Olympic success. Truly a one time wonder!



FOR CLUB NEWS GO TO:  
[WWW.LOWERHUTTTENNISCLUB.COM](http://WWW.LOWERHUTTTENNISCLUB.COM)