

# Newsletter <Autumn-2013>

6 April 2013 (last day of Daylight Saving)



## Hello and Kia Ora Everyone

We have some things to celebrate this autumn, and this is the first.

### **Courts floodlights!**

Soon Riccarton Domain Tennis courts will be brightly lit during those winter evenings. Bryan is very happy to report that the club was successful in raising \$10,000 from the Canterbury Community Trust towards the floodlighting, and so it's only fitting that we acknowledge this by displaying their logo.



### **Canterbury Junior Championships**

Next, we can celebrate that Riccarton Domain is to host one of Canterbury Tennis's Junior Championships on Sat 20 – Wed 24 April (the first week of school holidays). This is for the 8's/9's, and so our team will have home turf advantage. Canterbury Tennis made the request because Wilding Park is still out of action.



Speaking of Wilding Park, you'll be pleased to hear that the Z Energy-sponsored Wilding Park Tennis Centre indoor courts will soon be re-opening! How exciting!



For, *Baseline*, Canterbury Tennis's monthly mag, click on the Canterbury Tennis icon.

### **End of Season Prize-giving and Family Day**

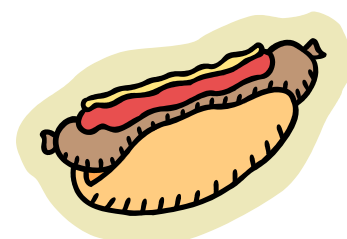
Our Club and Family end of summer finale is something to celebrate, as well as somewhere to celebrate all our successes and the increased level of participation in the club this season. So do come along – we're holding it on



**Saturday 13 April from midday**, even if it should

rain that day (which has happened for the past three seasons [fingers crossed farmers and gardeners!]). As well as cups and prizes for tennis, there'll be real live matches of social tennis for all throughout the afternoon;

and to give it a real bang, there'll be charcoaled bangers (that's a sausage sizzle, if you aren't sure).



## Riccarton Domain Coaching Announcement

Stephen Davies is again offering winter tennis for those keen to maintain their skills over winter. It's a case of you can have your winter sport AND tennis as well!

Coaching times will be finalised soon, but choices are:

One day among Monday to Friday (4pm – 5pm)

Saturday 11am – 12 noon

For the Monday to Friday, there will only be ONE afternoon of the week used, and this will be finalised according to the most commonly opted for day. And even then, this will only go ahead if there are sufficient numbers to make it worthwhile (4 – 6 children).

As for 11am on Saturday, if this proves to be too popular, then it may be necessary to create a 10am – 11am group as well, just to help keep the group sizes manageable and fun for everyone.



The price for 10 one-hour sessions is \$90.00 for one child; and \$160.00 for two or more children from the same family. Children will be grouped based on age and/or ability.

To find out more, please contact Stephen Davies, as follows:

email: [sbdavies@paradise.net.nz](mailto:sbdavies@paradise.net.nz)

Phone: 980 80 32

Cell: 027 6636 375



## Junior Interclub



[Boys 10s Division 1 Fridays](#) RDTTC was promoted to this division mid season, made the play-offs and reached the final, but playing away on an idiosyncratic surface proved a step too far – brilliant!

[Boys 13s Division 2 Sat](#) RDTTC was promoted to this division mid season and after struggling in the first two matches put together a three match winning streak.

However, they faltered in the last two matches – against the top two teams - and this cost them a place in the play-off finals but only by one point – very good effort lads!

[Girls 12s Division 2 Sat](#) If you were following RDTTC in this division, you'll recall they were trying not to get the wooden spoon when they went into the mid-season break. Well, Santa Claus must have given them wings because they came out after the break and won four of their six matches, ending up in a very creditable mid-table position, well above what might have been. Those wins included turning the tables on Edgware and South Brighton compared with the first half of the season, although both those clubs finished above them in the table and made the play offs – great fight back girls!



[Girls 15s Division 2 Sat](#) After a hard time in the first half of the season, RDTTC persevered and managed two wins from the four matches they are reported playing in the second half. But there are some missing results, so they might have won them too – well done girls!

Generate national tennis grading lists here by entering the search terms:

[Female & Riccarton Domain](#) [Male & Riccarton Domain](#)

## New Members

The season continues and we have lots of seniors and juniors to welcome. This is a list of new members who've joined since September:

### Seniors

Rachael van Wichen	Callum Clark	Maggie Breedt
Sarath Ramamoorthy	Dean Breedt	Paul Phillips
Reuben Wallace	Sugeeta Sarath	Winnie Wen

### Juniors

Aden Zhu	Alice Farber	Charlotte Boyd	Christopher Zhu
George McGuffie	Lexus Hanson	Ranuga Perera	Samuel McGuffie
Sahaana Sarath	Siddesh Sarath	Graves Sarath	Sarah Tatley

## Insights from President Bryan

### Fundraising

The Club has stepped up its efforts in this area – indeed, this is virtually a new venture for us, but it's something other tennis clubs have been doing for a long time.



#### Why do we need to do this?

The main reason is the young members' subscriptions. This is an area in which we have made a loss over the last few years. But we feel we must try to keep them affordable. We have received \$1,100 from the City Council Small Grants fund. Although this is a good start, we actually applied for about \$4000. So, we need to press on and source some more. Fortunately we are lucky to have Sarah Malin as our fundraiser as she has plenty of experience in this area.

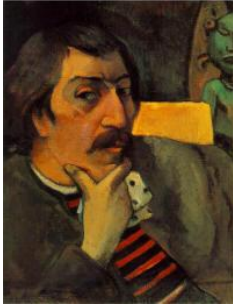
To give you some idea of the conditions out there in fundraising-land, it seems we are at the end of an era when sports clubs (and particularly tennis) have relied too much for too long on fundraising, particularly from the gaming sector. Pressure is increasing in this sector both in terms of declining gaming proceeds and in terms of these proceeds being applied on social needs instead of sporting ones. The earthquakes have also been a game changer, forcing rethinks because the patterns of funding and spending are undergoing drastic changes. Canterbury Tennis are now considering the long term needs of the sport in the province and trying to develop solutions.

It was indeed the earthquake that sped us up to the position that the Club is in now. Fortunately, the committee insured the courts in July 2010 – up until then, only the building was insured. However, instead of opting for repair, we have accepted a \$100,000 payout; and now the Club is working with FC Twente 11 (our neighbouring football club), where we are again fortunate to have access to another quality fundraiser in Eddie Cropley. The aspiration is to provide an Astroturf surface suitable for tennis and football. It is crucial these days that different sports collaborate to be successful in raising funds – going it alone will almost certainly lead to rejection from funders.



The \$100,000 will barely replace two courts; and in any case, we aim to have floodlighting and improved fencing. We recently applied to the Canterbury Community Trust for \$36,000 towards the floodlighting with the tennis club and the football club contributing equal amounts from their existing funds. This is exciting but also will involve a lot of work from your committee members, so just a quick note that anything that you can do to help run the club in other areas will be appreciated by them.

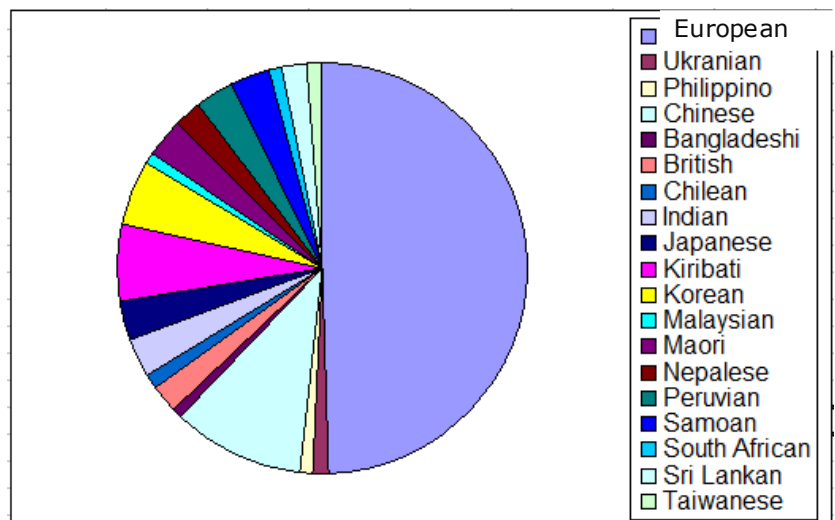
## Who are we?



One of the pictures we wanted to paint for the fundraisers was one of genuine community representation. Our coaches pointed out that we are a far more culturally diverse club than any of the others where they have coached. To get some firm numbers around this we have included ethnicity as one of the attributes we collect with your enrolment. I have analysed the results and was surprised at just how diverse we are.

I did the analysis and incorporated it into the pie chart you can see. NZers of

European (incl. British and Ukrainian) heritage (aka Pakeha) make up virtually 50% - but this is falling because of the sources of our new members (see the list above). The other 50% of the members are NZers descended from no fewer than 18 other heritages. Maori make up 3.1%; and 9.1 % are from islands in the Pacific, namely Kiribati and Samoa. 21.6% are from various parts of east Asia (China, Korea, Japanese Taiwan, Philippines and Malaysia). 8.3% are from the Indian subcontinent (India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh). 4.1% are from South America (Peru, Chile). And 1% are from South Africa.



These numbers tell me a lot about the Club that I am leading, and it's all good. It backs up the impression I have formed that the Club is a friendly and welcoming Club, where new people are made to feel comfortable and want to stay. I've noticed that not only do people of different cultural backgrounds join and stay. Indeed, 'word of mouth' gets around, and so others join as well. And I've noticed that when new members join and bring someone else along to the club, perhaps refreshingly the someone else is often from another cultural background. And if I look at the committee (which is as diverse as the club membership in general), I learn that we are letting the whole community participate in the running of the club and being involved.

This is quite a contrast to when I joined the Club. Then, it was ageing, very Pakeha, and only moderately friendly. And it was steadily losing members. Now, every week or two, we are attracting new members (especially seniors). The Club is getting younger and friendlier and larger; the players are getting better; and it is always a pleasure to come along.

## Prosperity

Speaking of prosperity, there is the little matter of everyone being up-to-date with their 2013 membership subscriptions.

*Payments can be made on line, Westpac Bank Acc. No. 03 1592 0062890-00 or the Treasurer Neil Swift 7 Hawkswood Place Avonhead Christchurch 8042 Ph 3584530.*



There are still several subscriptions outstanding and we would appreciate these being paid pronto. The rates for the 2013 Season have been \$170 for Full Membership – that lets you play socially all year round, and you get the newsletter! School and tertiary students get the \$130 concession (just show us your ID). And for Junior Tennis including weekly coaching over the summer, it's only been \$155. That's 50 cents a day or less.

Committee members will be in touch about any subs still outstanding, and if you are having trouble finding the money, then please talk to the committee member and we'll try to help out. In hardship cases, we can try and raise funds.

Apart from subs, we also don't want to see promising young tennis players having to give up the game because they cannot afford the price of a racquet, shoes or other costs. Anyone in that position should get in touch with Neil Swift, on [fishingneil@gmail.com](mailto:fishingneil@gmail.com) or tel. 3585430.

## ***Bed time story: The clubrooms that tidied themselves!***

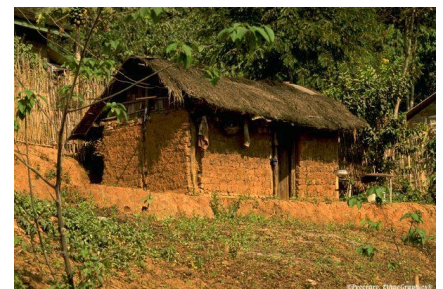
Once upon a time in a far off land where the trees grew tall and the days were long with sunshine and the scent of jasmine wafted on a gentle summer breeze, there sat nestled in a meadow amongst throngs of happy people swinging on swings and sliding on slides, playing tennis and cricket, and throwing Frisbees



that there dogs would jump high in the air to catch; in a land of fun and joyousness, laughter and frivolity, a land that new no bounds of happiness where you could write sentences that were very very long, with almost no punctuation and no one would ever tell you off for it, a tennis clubrooms, and not just any old tennis clubrooms, no a tennis clubrooms imbued with all sorts of mysterious and magical powers, the sort of which I

am going to tell you about just as soon as I finish this sentence of magnanimous proportions and infinite twists and turns. *[The editor offers a \$5 prize to the first reader to revise the punctuation in this sentence enough to make it crystal clear but still have it as one sentence.]*

It was a very popular clubrooms, and even though it was rather small many tennis players used it, young and old, tall and short, lean and portly, the quietly modest and the outrageously vainglorious, oftentimes going in there to have a cool glass of water on a hot day, to enjoy the shade, to eat a nut bar, banana or other healthy food, for they only ever ate healthy food (even I'm told, the portly), or just to admire the trophies in the trophy cabinet that the aspired to win some day. And cast aside, they, the wrappers of chocolate bars with almonds and hazelnuts and the fruit of the wondrous macadamia and upon their thirst being most suitably quenched by the cool and clearest water did they clutter the bench with dirty dishes in a particularly haphazard manner, sometimes believe it or not, for as far as the eye could see!



And as foretold above, we know the clubrooms was possessed with magic powers, for when the young and old, the fit and the feeble, the funny and the earnest people arrived for more tennis not 7 days after, the clubrooms had magically cleaned themselves. It was as if the bushes that surrounded the courts, the same bushes that harbour the tennis ball goblins who grab up any wayward ball never



to be seen again, also hid the pixie burrows, where secretly on full moons and sometimes on not so full moons as well, the pixies would steal out of their burrows and make themselves very very thin and slither under the door or through the window sash and tidy the clubrooms and throw out the rubbish and vacuum the

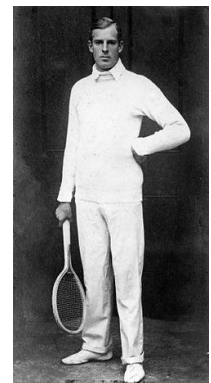
floors and do the dishes and then slink back to their burrows before the sun shrivelled their skin like parchment and blinded their eyes with brightness and so they could sleep off all the hard work that they had done.

All right - you got the point! If you have a drink, please wash and dry your cup (even if you are very young) and don't leave it for our resident pixies and please put your rubbish in the bin and if the bin is full then please empty it into the drum in the volleyboard enclosure. To Mandy and Heather, who have been doing a sterling job tidying up the clubrooms on full and not so full moons - Thanks ladies.



## Earthquake Recovery - Wilding Park Indoor Courts

The re-opening of these courts is a major milestone in the recovery of our regional tennis centre facilities – a real 'turning of the corner'. It has been made possible by completing interim repairs, whilst the Wilding Park Foundation Inc. and Tennis Canterbury Region Inc. navigate their way towards the full recovery of a regional tennis centre. Please be confident in the knowledge that these repairs have been effected to a quality detailed engineering evaluation (DEE) and the indoor tennis centre has been signed off by CERA for public use. These repairs have for the most part been funded by a grant from the Christchurch Earthquake Appeal Trust, for which we are very grateful.



The reinstatement of this facility is important for several reasons: it restores a vital income stream to help fund Canterbury Tennis programmes and competitions; provides an opportunity for sponsors to gain value from their investment in tennis; is vital to the year-round development of our aspiring talented junior players; provides additional playing opportunities to our clubs and their members; and not the least on perhaps a more emotional level, it restores some of the heart and soul of our game. Many great reasons to celebrate!

The courts will be available for play from Monday 15 April, and bookings open from Wednesday 10 April. Details of how to book courts have been published on the Canterbury Tennis website.



The reinstatement of facilities also includes the re-opening of the Pro Shop, to be run by Alistair Chapman and his Frontrunner Bush Inn team. Alistair will be well known to many of you, and we're delighted to have them on board.

The re-opening of the indoor tennis centre also provides opportunities to hold tournaments; reinstate midweek and business house competitions; and as an all year round training base for our Tennis Canterbury Player Development Programme.

Canterbury Tennis hope you'll enjoy having indoor tennis playing opportunities again, and they look forward to seeing you on court!

## Senior Interclub

**Division 3 Mixed** You'll recall at the end of the first half of the season, RDTTC were due to meet Edgeware in the run off for the wooden spoon. Well, they drew that match, and then on resuming after the break beat South Brighton and also thumped Edgeware, to finish fifth – good try seniors!



**Division 4 Mixed** You'll recall at the end of the first half of the season, RDTTC were playing for pride in the final round. Anyway, they kept going and finally got some points on the board in their last two matches – it's not the winning but the taking part that counts!

## Virtual Tennis: Keep playing even when you are not at the domain, through:

The Club Website:

<https://sites.google.com/site/riccartontennis2/>

The Club Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Riccarton-Domain-Tennis-Club-Inc/309672628242>



So, time to sign off and wish you a bright and sunny autumn

Hegnes Dixon

Webmaster / Newsletter Editor



>>>>>>>>>>>>>small ads >>>>>>>>

Racquet restringings: Stephen Davies can help you with this matter: Phone: 03 980 8032. The price is \$27.00 - \$35.00 depending on strings (Prince and Luxilon Big Banger strings). Normal turnaround is 3-4 days, but Stephen can do next day, if urgent.



Members can get a discount on all stock from this store, which is located at Bush Inn Centre next to Smiths City. Show your membership card (or just mention that you are a club member). Alistair has been a tennis coach so he can give you great advice on what to buy.

Members can get a discount on shoes only from this store, which is located at DressMart in Hornby. The discount is 40% off any type of shoes. Collect the Puma Sports Card from the clubrooms first.

