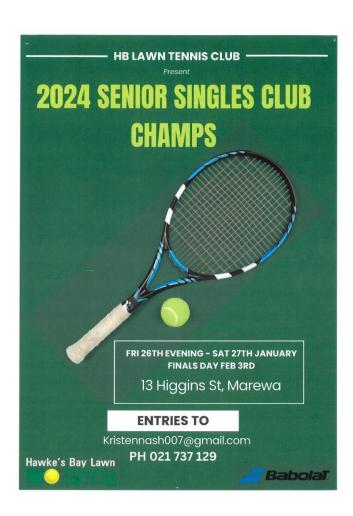




Hi Everyone,

I am back on board the mighty leisure cruiser "HBLTS" for 2024 and normal service is resumed. Huge thanks to the voluntary crew that have been navigating around the, relatively calm, waters of Christmas and New Year. We do have plenty of activities coming up for all passengers to enjoy so let's get into it.

In Tennis...



I did mention this in my last newsletter before the break, so hopefully you took note of it then. If you didn't then you may be surprised to learn that you only have one week to get your entry in and mentally prepare yourself for the Club Champs Singles competitions starting next Friday night and into Saturday, 27th & 28th Jan. I believe the plan is to get through all the rounds on those two days and then have the finals played on the following Saturday, 3rd Feb. That does make sense. The easiest way to get you entry straight into Kristen is by using this handy entry form link.

Business House Tennis resumed last night and many players just easing themselves back into it or, at least, that's one of the excuses I was hearing in the bar. The other excuse being the heat of course. Ultimately though, the better teams in each division start their ascent to the top with the rather obvious exception of BNZ. The A Grade title holders are dumped on the bottom of the table by, in form, Continuous Spouting and I am sure our champs managed to get through the full range of excuses at their disposal. A notable 23-12 victory for Pint Club over a pretty good, NOW team. Could Pint Club be the B Grade team to watch out for this year?

Saturday tennis gets back into 'full swing':

Tennis Accelerator, 10am – 11am. \$10 per person

Cardio Tennis, 11am - 12pm. \$10 per person

Giulio will run two sessions. Please note that Andrew will restart his open Tuesday and Thursday evening Cardio

Sessions next week 6.30pm (not the 10am sessions due to holiday programme operating)

Club Day, Saturday 1pm – 3pm. Open to all tennis members.



The Holiday Programme starts next week as per the details above. I am sure if you speak to Andrew nicely he will be able to squeeze your little darling(s) in.

shandtennis@gmail.com

In Squash...

No newsletter is complete these days without the name Michalakis being mentioned somewhere and this week the spotlight is back on Olivia. She has been awarded (somewhat belatedly) the club's **Robin Johnson Cup of Excellence** 2023 for her incredible year of squash. Here is her bio:

Olivia is one of the youngest Junior Girls within the Eastern community at only ten years old and is already showing true dedication and commitment to the sport in areas beyond her age.

- Is the current F grade woman's Champion 2023
- Represented Eastern at the Central Challenge.
- Came runner up at 2023 NIJAG
- Was the winner at 2023 New Zealand Nationals
- Was the winner at 2023 Auckland age group championships.
- Was the winner at the 2023 Eastern Open Age Group Championships.
- Has confidently joined the Ladies inter club league.
- Shows true dedication, promise and potential for future squash achievements.
- 2023 Eastern Junior Sportswoman
- 2023 Oceania Champion U11 Girl

Not only that, Olivia does weekly Voluntary Coaching Sessions of beginner Juniors at Lawn and Tennis. Catering to 25 children, Olivia runs and dictates her own small squash group and coaching session. She has excelled in the roll, showing promising leadership skills and endless enthusiasm as she aspires goodwill within the sport and helps to develop the next round of youth.

She had the initiative to encourage 15 peers from Puketapu school to part take in the weekly coaching sessions. Olivia is showing signs of influencing the community with the personal goal in mind of having a successful Aims Games team at school for future years. There is truly no stopping Olivia she puts her heart and sole into her squash journey.

(I must say that I don't remember including a bio like this for previous trophy winner Conner Fahey though I am sure his squash credentials are no less impressive)

Squash Club Day is still on hiatus for the summer holidays. Organised play will begin again first Saturday in February.

The next round of the summer intra-league will start on February the 7th, text Dino on 022 040 7259 if keen to enter. It will be 6 - 8 weeks long so ideally need to be free every Wednesday over this timeframe. Arrive at the club at 6.00 for a 6.15pm start.



The new Squash Levels grading system to be put in place for the 2024 season. To find out more about Squash Levels head to https://thefuture.squashnz.co.nz/new.../new-grading-system

In Petanque...

JOHNNY MAXWELL MEMORIAL MELEE

H.B Lawn Tennis Petanque are hosting a one day doubles melee tournament in memory of Johnny Maxwell.

FORMAT

Drawn partners each round.

Doubles or triples depending on entry number.

5 rounds of timed games – 50mins + 1 end.

Lunch-time sausage sizzle provided



Date? Saturday January 27th

Where? 13 Higgins St.

When? 8.30 for 9.00 am start

Cost? \$10 p p (paid on the day)

Text entries to Margaret on 021 168 0632 or enter name on club notice board.

The John Maxwell Memorial Melee to be played at the club on Saturday 27th Jan has now fulfilled its maximum number of entrants. Please all be at the club for 8.30am so we can do the melee draw ready for play at 9am sharp. We can't do the draw without everyone being there. \$10 cash entry fee to be paid on the day. A group of 20 odd from John's family will be at the club to play on the day.

On the Petanque noticeboard are also the entry forms for the various club champ events. These each have separate closing dates so if you want to play please ensure you enter your name onto the relevant form early. The start times are to be confirmed nearer the play date, once we know the entry numbers:

Shooting competition 10th Feb

Singles Competition 10th Feb

Doubles Competition 2nd March

Triples Competition 6th April

All club champ events close for entries one week prior to the play date above. Let's see who comes out of the woodwork to play this year.

Wednesday afternoon pétanque is still available from 1pm – some players play all afternoon and then have a game or two in the evening as well. The kitchen will reopen on Wednesday 17th Jan with the business house tennis restarting. Yay pétanque, food and bar!

That's all for now. See you at the bar

Gary.