

## Mid Canterbury Junior Tennis Report 2018-19

It is my pleasure to present the Annual Junior Report for 2018/2019 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 fourth 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 24 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 26 teams minimum 2019/20.

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. We also have juniors playing in our own senior Interclub. These players have definitely proven to be playing consistently at very high levels.

Also Jake Parsons was selected for NZ tennis where he played in Australia in a teams event representing NZ in the 12 yrs grade.

We have also had other juniors winning tournaments outside Mid Canterbury and Canterbury with Riley Breen winning the Southern junior open in Dunedin for the 10s boys and also the 11ys boys both age groups singles and doubles.

Hot Shots was 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 Jack 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 and we were lucky to secure sponsors for each tournament and again have had confirmation that 2 out of 3 of these will again sponsor this coming season.– 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 team again showed the strength in the 10s and below age group with all five of the boys in the team from Mid Canterbury. The team ended up winning this grade.

Coaching:

This season welcomed Andre to his 3<sup>rd</sup> year of coaching and I think you have done a sterling job with coaching. Your enthusiasm is infectious and I am really saddened to have lost your services due to your health issue, and I wish you and Debbie and rest of your family our very best wishes with your fight.

On that note I would like to welcome our new coach Jack Tiller. Jack is an outstanding young coach and we are very lucky to have secured his services and I look forward to working with you.

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 I look forward to continuing that work.

Debbie, your help getting the junior's minutes taken and out is really appreciated and I'd also like to thank Lucy Ellis for stepping in and taking over the role of Junior Secretary.

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 2019/20 with a purpose to continue to fine tune and grow Mid Canterbury Junior Tennis

Kind regards

Peter Leonard  
Junior Convenor