

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



2016 has been both a challenging and exhilarating year for all concerned with squash in the Canterbury Region.

Firstly, following on from the work done by in 2015, the board needed to closely manage the finances to ensure we achieved our budget and halt any further deterioration in our financial position. This I'm pleased to say we did achieve with a very small operating surplus. However, it did come at a cost for all the clubs we represent as we were not in a position to deliver any programs during the year. Towards the end of the year we could offer clubs the opportunity to submit for funding that was available and I'm pleased to say that we could provide approx. \$17,000 to clubs to run programs, mainly targeted at juniors, for the first part of 2017.

Dependant on new funding it is our intention to support more programs in 2017 to assist clubs in their development and the development of the sport.

As part of the cost reductions, paid staff at Squash Canterbury was significantly reduced to one administration person for 20 hours per week. This meant a significant change to the level of service we could provide. Thanks to Kim (now on maternity leave) and Karen for your continuing efforts under reduced hours to ensure everything is completed.

I sincerely thank those people who helped throughout the year and freely offered their skills, knowledge and time to ensure that we were all able to play and enjoy the game we love and have allowed us to operate with reduced staffing.

The board set out at the beginning of the year to achieve 5 major objectives, which I'm pleased to say we succeeded: -

1. Breakeven budget
2. Review/update interclub competition
3. Success on court at District Level
4. Advance Squash HQ (still work in progress)
5. Regular, inclusive and open communication

Further details for these can be found later in the report.

During the year, the board made the decision to renew the lease for Squash HQ for a further period (details are still being finalised by CCC). We see this as a strategic move to boost the facilities available in this area of Christchurch for a growing population. It is our intention going forward to ensure these facilities provide a valuable base, while not becoming a financial burden.

Squash in Canterbury is in a very strong position on several counts, we have world class players in Paul Coll and Megan Craig, our Representative teams continue to do us proud along with some up and coming players. There are some extremely committed and apt club committee people and individuals who continue to put their heart and soul into the game, with Paul Growcott and Adam Odering being recognised at the Squash NZ awards night - thanks to you all.

Our challenge going forward is to find ways to get more people on the courts.

Lastly my thanks go out to the committed board members; Mike, Vaughan, Scott and Lawrence who have given numerous hours of their time and supported me throughout the year. I would like to make a special thanks to Michael Taylor who is standing down from the board for the time and effort he has given, especially through some difficult and demanding periods. Also to all those volunteers who too, have given their time freely - thanks. You make the sport possible.

Yours sincerely
David Hawes
Chairman