

FEBRUARY 2011

Hello everyone, welcome to our February Newsletter.

### This month we're covering...

- Women's Chelsea Cup - off to a good start for Belmont
- Inaugural Waitangi Parent & Child tournament a success
- Important dates for your diary, including...
- Club's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations
- News from Mark and Manu
- Club Security, a reminder about locking up
- Lost Property, we're about to donate it to a good cause
- Club Clothing
- The latest Squash and Tennis World Rankings

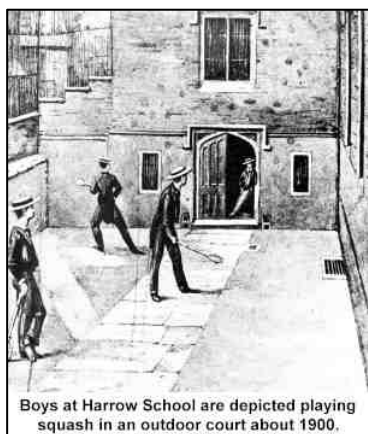
But first....

### PRESIDENT'S RAMBLE

I'm a firm believer that learning to play a game is important, but *knowing* something about its origins is also important *and* interesting. Starting with this newsletter, I will include a little piece of information about the history and development of tennis and squash to help with this goal.

**The history of tennis** dates back several thousand years. The game was first created by European monks to be played for entertainment purposes during religious ceremonies. To begin with, the ball was hit with the hand. Soon the leather glove came into existence. This was soon replaced with an adaptive handle for effective hitting and serving of the ball. Thus was born the first racquet.

In 1874, Major Walter Wingfield acquired the patent rights for the equipment and rules for the game which bore close resemblance to the modern tennis. His version of tennis courts and the rules of games underwent a number of changes and amendments to become the modernized version which is played today.



Boys at Harrow School are depicted playing squash in an outdoor court about 1900.

**Squash developed** from a game called *racquets*, which was itself a modified version of *fives* in which a ball was hit against a wall using the hand. Racquets originated in prisons but became popular throughout the UK during the 18th century, probably because it simply required a wall, ball and two racquets. The game was especially popular at Harrow School in London and, as boys impatiently queued up to wait their turn on the only two racquet courts available, they improvised, practicing on any available wall with old balls.

Reputedly, one area in the school grounds, known as "The Corner", was particularly popular. With two side walls and a front wall with a buttress, this was effectively an enclosed court. Alleyways and buildings in the vicinity presented other architectural quirks, including drainpipes, chimneys, ledges and window frames, which sent the ball off on odd trajectories. This street version of racquets required fast reactions and split-second decisions, and the boys who played it modified the standard racquet by shortening the handle and used a softer ball which did not bounce so predictably or ricochet so quickly. This may have been a rubber ball or a punctured racquets ball. Either way, it *squashed* against the wall on impact, rather than bouncing back. This was a key element of the game, and

### COACHES' CORNER



**Manu Yam**

[www.squashcoach.co.nz](http://www.squashcoach.co.nz)

Jets Junior Interclub Team Training starts on the 28th February.

Girls Team 3.45 - 4.30pm  
Boys Team 4.30 - 5.15 pm

Open to all members of the Belmont Club Jets teams

#### Coaching Tips:

To prevent injuries, warm up properly by doing dynamic exercises before you play and more importantly to prevent soreness, cool down by stretching properly after the match.

Manu 021 886 583

[manu@squashcoach.co.nz](mailto:manu@squashcoach.co.nz)

**Mark Nielsen**

[www.smashtennis.co.nz](http://www.smashtennis.co.nz)

Mark is currently playing tennis in Japan and will be back on the 16th February.

Interclub coaching has started - it would be great to see more team members turning up for their training on time and ready to play tennis. Remember, training with your team helps not just you but the whole team, so make the most of it!

After-School lessons have started for the term. It's not too late to join (provided there are still spaces in the day of your choice).

Book via [www.smashtennis.co.nz](http://www.smashtennis.co.nz) or contact Debbie on 021 131 4415 [debbie@smashtennis.co.nz](mailto:debbie@smashtennis.co.nz).

It is great to see so many children out there playing tennis and improving every week while having lots of fun!

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gave rise to the name *squash*, though the sport was initially known as baby *racquets* or *soft racquets*.

This more compact version of racquets took off, and purpose-built squash courts were a feature of Harrow by the 1860s. These were roughly a third the size of the racquets courts. By the late 19th century, squash was popular in public schools and universities throughout Britain, and in 1908, a squash sub-committee of the Tennis and Rackets Association was formed to oversee the sport.

Bye for now and remember, as Geoff always says, early is on time and on time is late!

Graeme Norman  
**President**

### **WOMEN'S CHELSEA CUP**

The first round of Chelsea Cup was on Friday 4th February and our team made a fantastic start to the competition with a 7-1 win over Milford. A large crowd was on hand at the Club to watch some exciting, high quality tennis, and the team all commented later how great it was to play in front of such large, home support.

Our Chelsea Cup Ladies are first equal with Campbells Bay so they will need your support for the next match this coming Friday (18<sup>th</sup>) at Campbells Bay club, it could be a tough one. Show your support by wearing anything lime or purple or both.

For the following game at home against Takapuna (25<sup>th</sup>) we are expecting another great crowd at Belmont. No need to worry about dinner, we will make you our famous 'Belmont Gourmet Burgers'. So bring your friends, your pompoms & enjoy an evening of entertaining tennis.

**Sponsorship** - There's still an opportunity for a sponsor to donate \$300-\$500 towards the girls' outfits. Advertising can be attached to their tops. Please contact Debbie Timmins for more information ([debbietimmins@xtra.co.nz](mailto:debbietimmins@xtra.co.nz)).

### **WAITANGI DAY PARENT AND CHILD TENNIS TOURNAMENT**

A fantastic morning was enjoyed by around 40 parents, would-be-parents and children at the inaugural Parent and Child Tournament. Over 2 hours of fun was enjoyed by all, with everyone getting plenty of court time and a number of children impressing with their skills and competitive spirit.

The winners were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Natalie Sheridan and Henry Pyc
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Simon Booth and Ellie Thompson
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Pam and Emma Clark

Thanks to Mark Nielsen for sponsoring the tournament and providing the spot prizes.

Many thanks to Cathy Coleman, our Club Manager, for arranging the event and putting on a great spread at the end of the play.



Graeme Norman and daughter Sienna  
(photo Olivia Clark)

### **Club Security**

This is a gentle reminder to all our members to please check the **windows / sliding doors / side gate / main doors** are locked and the **lights are off** when you leave the Club.

Should any damage or theft occur as a result of someone getting easy access to the clubhouse, we will not be covered for insurance and any loss will come out of the Club's funds.

### **Lost Property**

Next Saturday morning (19th Feb) we'll put all the lost property we've collected over the last few months on display.

Apart from the expected tennis and squash clothing items, there's a bike helmet, a number of umbrellas, drink bottles, shoes... the list goes on!!

Anything that doesn't get reunited with its owners on the day will be donated to a good cause.

### **Club Clothing**

Look smart and stay cool in the Belmont Park club kit this year.

Tracksuits, sweatshirts, caps, t-shirts, hoodies or shorts – we have everything available to keep you fitted out on and off the court!



Club Clothing for our squash and tennis players is available to purchase from Cathy at the club.



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### UPCOMING EVENTS AND DATES TO NOTE IN YOUR DIARY

Last Saturday morning Junior Tennis Coaching started again at the Club. This programme runs through until 2<sup>nd</sup> April so make sure you get down to the club and watch your children learn how to play and enjoy the game.

Delissimon (Monica Williams) will also be on hand with food and coffee, including some sensational apple and rhubarb muffins and awesome chocolate cupcakes.

Jets Squash Teams have been selected for the Club and their 1<sup>st</sup> round is on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>. The Term 1 season runs for 7 weeks.

Some other important tennis and squash dates to note include:

- Masters squash tournament – 25th to 27th March. Entries are open and can be emailed to [admin@belmontracquets.co.nz](mailto:admin@belmontracquets.co.nz). Further information will be posted on the club website shortly.
- Junior Disco – Saturday 2nd April
- Junior tennis club championships – 6th to 10th April
- Senior tennis club championships – 10th to 17th April

### CLUB'S 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

On 14th May we will celebrate the Club's 75<sup>th</sup> season. A programme for the day and evening is being formed and more information will be advised in coming newsletters. Make sure you write this date in your diary as it will be a memorable day.

Such a day (and night) will need *lots of help*, so if you would like to contribute with time, money OR BOTH, please contact Cathy at the Club.

One area we are keen to focus on is the Club's history, so if anyone has photos, stories, articles, etc that may help us to piece together the Club's origins and development, please again contact Cathy.

### FEEDBACK, COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS?

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter! Your feedback and comments are always welcome, so please let me know if there's anything you'd like to see included in coming newsletters or on our website.

Inge Wisselink  
Communications Officer  
021 64 68 68  
[inge.wisselink@tvnz.co.nz](mailto:inge.wisselink@tvnz.co.nz)

### World tennis and squash rankings as at 14 February.

Just this week Kim Clijsters became the WTA's number 1 ranked player, 256 weeks since she was last there in March 2006!

#### World Tennis Rankings Men

- 1 Rafael Nadal
- 2 Roger Federer
- 3 Novak Djokovic
- 4 Robin Soderling
- 5 Andy Murray
- 340 Artem Sitak (NZ)

#### Women

- 1 Kim Clijsters
- 2 Caroline Wozniacki
- 3 Vera Zvonereva
- 4 Francesca Schiavone
- 5 Samantha Stosur
- 250 Sacha Jones (NZ)

#### World Squash Rankings Men

- 1 Nick Matthew
- 2 Ramy Ashour
- 3 Karim Darwish
- 4 James Willstrop
- 5 Amr Shabana
- 52 Campbell Grayson (NZ)

#### Women

- 1 Nicol David
- 2 Jenny Duncalf
- 3 Alison Waters
- 4 Omneya Abdel Kawy
- 5 Rachel Grinham
- 14 Joelle King (NZ)