

TENNIS WESTERN B.O.P (Inc)

ANNUAL REPORT AUGUST 2025



Tēnā koutou katoa.
(Greetings to you all)

It is my privilege to present the 2024 / 2025 Annual Report on the activities of Tennis Western BOP.

The format of this report differs this year in that it is accompanied by a draft three-year Strategic Plan that is now required as part of the requirements of being a Regional Tennis Organisation (RTO).

The primary objectives of Tennis WBOP are to:

- provide organisational excellence, promote and support clubs and their membership, promote game development and protect and grow Tennis WBOP assets
- promote, develop and advance the sport of tennis by providing access to facilities and services to members by supporting affiliated clubs and their programmes.

By and large I think that Tennis Western BOP has had a reasonable year in an environment when increasing costs in almost every facet of daily life, force most families to make savings wherever they can, including their sports involvement.

National

After consultation, Tennis New Zealand (TNZ) has gained consent from the regions to centralise the administration of tennis more firmly under a more corporate leadership structure. You will have seen this in the requirement for all clubs to adopt a “national constitution” that outlines its obligations to TNZ’s processes. There were a number of challenges to this step from associations before a new TNZ constitution was accepted on the basis that future issues could be sorted out as we went. Since then, TNZ has expanded its range of resources that are helpful to club administrators and players and it is keen to bring the digital communication mediums to a level at which they enable an easier and more accurate exchange of information. The portal is a step forward and the most recent aid for tournament planners is Match Point that replaces Match Hub. New staff have been appointed to respond specifically to the needs of clubs. I appreciate that TNZ is determined to capture the numbers of people who play tennis for its funding purposes: I am concerned, however, that there will be a rise in the required administration levels for club volunteers and that some aspects of club independence might be compromised.

Currently, TNZ has not accepted our RTO constitution, although a meeting with the TNZ CEO and a TNZ Board member on Tuesday 12th may reach an understanding. The essential difference in my opinion, is the potential level of control over member clubs that I believe the RTO constitution requires. Tennis Western Bay, since its “rebirth”¹ has worked on the principle that the clubs set the agenda for the Executive Committee to implement not the other way around. I have, therefore, sought to keep the essence of our constitution by modifying some clauses and adding others, that comply with the TNZ needs. TNZ wants national conformity. I will, however, do whatever it takes to keep Tennis Western BOP safe.

¹ Refers to the withdrawal from Waikato Bays and the re-establishment of Western Bay in 2017.

Another national issue that is a threat is the projected change to the Online Casino Gambling Act that in essence will impact on our ability to seek grants from the proceeds of gambling . While this has yet to be discussed at executive level, Tennis Western BOP is likely to recommend a submission to be made against the law change.

Regional

Waikato Bays now exists under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and is no longer an incorporated society. The MoU contains the essential aspects of the previous rules while the objectives remain the same. Waikato Bays will continue to manage the regional ball contract (Tecnifibre) and to be involved with the regional and national teams' events. It is currently chaired by Sean Davies from Tennis Eastern and includes Jason Fargo (Waikato), Margaret Green (Bay of Plenty) and myself.

Tennis Western BOP has formed a limited partnership with Bay of Plenty to enable it to share its voice on national issues. Bay of Plenty is a Local Tennis Partner (LTP) as it does not meet the population threshold to be an RTO. The strategic plan indicates the manner in which we work with it.

Local

- It is pleasing to see the continued growth in club member numbers. That the total was up by 5.7% this year reflects an outstanding effort by clubs using Love Tennis and their own recruitment events. Congratulations.
- There is an ongoing effort to improve on the interclub competition structure and it seems that the Manager and the Interclub Committee get more things right than wrong. In some cases a thin support for the Residentials perhaps reflects too many events in sequence, so there is a plan to shift this to a more suitable time in 2026.
- Junior numbers in most clubs continue to be strong and the promotion of green ball players into more competitive events has led to the inclusion of some of them into the development squads. There have been some strong junior performances at regional and national level and the recent selection of Kristiana Hutchesson in the NZ Under 11 team that competed in Australia, is a moment to celebrate. She has set the bar for others to follow.
- The Junior Development Programme (Pathways) has been going for four years now and is scheduled for a review. Viv McCashin has started work on this.
- Warwick continues to be successful in securing grant money to keep the operational management in good health. His success, among other things, allows for the subsidisation of costs for representative team members and coaches. The junior development review may well bring a fresh look at this as well.
- Gerald and Kevin have taken major steps forward in the implementation of the Tennis Western BOP Vision which they will explain tonight. While these are first steps they are big ones and there is a rightful sense of achievement that they can be proud of.
- Gerald and the Papamoa Tennis Club team are already preparing for the next version of the Eves. Each one has improved on what went before . There is still space for members of other clubs to help out with the multitude of tasks that arise.
- The Annual Prize Presentation was another enjoyable event. Thanks for your work Susa and to Casey and the Otumoetai Club for the hosting and entertainment.

Finally, I want to thank the other members of the Executive for their unselfish commitment to the organisation of tennis in our region. Meeting attendance is always high and their willingness to offer ideas and to deliver honest opinions, is valued. In particular I want to recognise the contribution of Andrew Karl, who is stepping down this year. His love for tennis has taken him through many forms of support, as a player, a parent of players, a committee member, an “architect “ of development training, a leader of Tennis Western BOP, a volunteer organiser at ATP tournaments in Auckland and as a strategist for regional team selections. He is always one of the first to step forward to help and

has a genuine intent to do his best for tennis. While he will no longer attend meetings, his advice will be on call when needed. Thank you Andrew for all that you have done. It is much valued.

Noho ora mai
(Stay well)



Robert Naumann
Executive Chairperson
11 August 2025

