

TENNIS WESTERN B.O.P (Inc)

ANNUAL REPORT AUGUST 2024



Tēnā koutou katoa.
(Greetings to you all)

It is my privilege to present the 2023 / 2024 Annual Report on the activities of Tennis Western BOP.

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.

This season has again been challenging as our association has had to manage a number of issues created by other major organisations. The Tauranga City Council and Tennis New Zealand have certainly proposed changes to the status quo that have required that we defend our ability to deliver a good quality of tennis to current and future players.

National

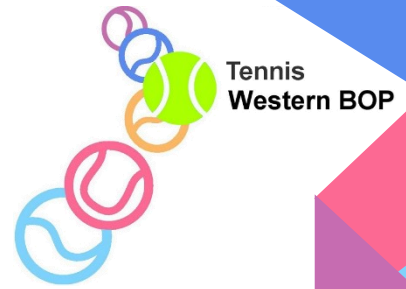
Tennis NZ wishes to centralise the administration of tennis more firmly under its leadership. Since 2017 it has introduced a number of delivery strategies to support its Change Plan such as Club Spark, Love Tennis, Regional Chair's Forums, Book a Court, Tournament Planner, the World Tennis Number, increased the number of ITF events available for hosting and enhanced the resources accessible to clubs and to coaches. There has been a good deal of helpful and relevant information provided. Where issues have arisen this year is in the Roles and Responsibilities Review. It has sought feedback on proposed changes to the Tennis NZ structure and voting (including geographical boundaries), a centralised constitution, future fees, a charges model and collection system. Most of the discussion about this has taken place at regional and association level. A challenge to these changes has been made by a collective of larger associations (including Waikato Bays) and alternative proposals have been offered in relation to the composition of the Tennis NZ Board, individual membership, system-wide membership, digitalisation and who should vote. Tennis NZ has welcomed this feedback and will publish an adjusted Change Plan in August. ¹ It remains to be seen as to what the final outcome will be but Tennis Western BOP will keep its focus on the ability of clubs to decide their own futures and keep clubs aware of "progress" through the Delegates' Meetings.

Regional

The Waikato Bays AGM produced a change in personnel with retirements and designation changes as the cause. Bay of Plenty's Debra Dowling (Rotorua) has retired from administration and is replaced by Margaret Green (Taupo) as Chair.

¹ A draft has already been issued prior to a presentation to associations.



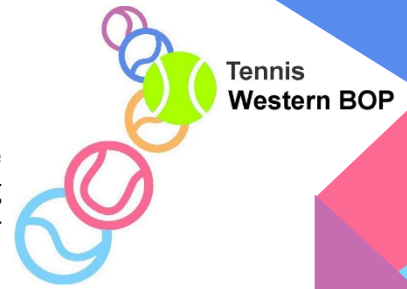


Kathy Mayling (Waikato) is the new Regional Chair while Sean Davies (Napier) is the new Tennis Eastern Chair and Sarah Tod Shand has now become the Tennis Eastern Manager. The status of Tennis Waikato Bays in the Tennis NZ structure has yet to be confirmed as it does not have a membership of clubs. Equally, Bay of Plenty has only four clubs rather than the six that is required for regional status (1000 members) so is likely to join with our association on national matters.

Local

- The move by the Tauranga City Council to “re-develop” sports facilities was a major challenge to the continued existence of some clubs. While Tauranga Lawn and Mount Maunganui in particular, had to work through the physical implications of courts redevelopment and sharing facilities, all clubs faced a financial challenge caused by the Council proposal to change the land lease charges. Most clubs were looking at an annual increase of more than \$25,000. All the affected clubs responded strongly to the challenge and most made submissions to the Commissioners. We are grateful to Rochelle Seager (Sport BOP) for her support and advice plus the templates that she provided for our appeals. Eventually common sense at smaller meetings achieved an outcome we can all live with. It was pleasing to see the willingness of the clubs to engage in a common strategy.
- Congratulations are due to Tennis Western BOP regaining the RoseBowl after an absence of a few years.
- The Vision Document for Tennis Western BOP has been a useful start in the development of the Papamoa Centre as a future Centre of Excellence. A small committee is working steadily to develop future options and to build the relationship with the City Council and other external parties that will be required. The change of name from the Papamoa Tennis Charitable Trust to the Western BOP Tennis Community Trust will also assist this relationship. Thanks to all involved in this venture for their time and effort.
- The Junior Pathways programme continues to evolve. The early signs of its success came with better performance of the two younger age-groups in the intra-regionals. Unfortunately, the loss to our association of several top players in the age groups immediately prior to the Nationals, impeded the performance of the teams. Andrew and Susa have done a lot of work to lead this programme and this setback will tax their abilities to get back on track.
- The inter-club competitions at all levels provide good tennis. The premiere level is still a work in progress however and some other ideas are now being considered regarding future possibilities.
- Congratulations to Warwick Brew for winning a national Te Tohu Hāpai award at the Tennis NZ Annual Honours Ceremony. All who know Warwick will be aware of the huge number of his waking hours that he devotes to this sport.
- The number of junior tournaments continues to grow. Thanks to the clubs that have promoted and hosted these for the younger players. A key aspect of their success is to make sure that they are scheduled through Susa to avoid clashes on the Tennis Western BOP calendar.





- Thanks also to those clubs that continue to see the importance of the Delegates' Meetings as a means of sharing ideas and discussing proposed changes. Your voices need to be heard so that your Executive can make informed decisions on management matters.
- Our region continues to grow in numbers. While there have been some fluctuations such as with Te Puna losing its clubhouse, club promotions like Love Tennis are successful in bringing more new people to tennis. Obviously the growth of the suburbs like Papamoa is a major factor.
- The Tennis Western BOP Prizegiving was a big step away from what had gone before and having it as a part of a tennis quiz challenge was very successful. This will be continued in 2025 as a model with changes made according to the feedback received. Thanks to the Otumoetai Club for its comprehensive hosting and support of the new approach.
- The loss of Darryl Going is a reminder of how short life can be. The impact on tennis that he made and the manner in which he achieved it, reflected a man whose love for people was genuine and caring. Arohanui Darryl.

Finally, my thanks to all of you who have supported tennis at any level during the last season. Your efforts in making sure that all players, especially juniors, could continue to get coaching and match play, made a big difference to their ability to cope with the new challenges in our society. Thanks also to the Executive Committee for its stewardship of Tennis Western BOP. As the Manager, Sussa carries a challenging load in delivering the mechanics of all competitions and in lifting the quality of the support available to clubs. We appreciate the time that she has to spend finding solutions to situations that have emerged (especially the rain) and in negotiating access to courts to allow competitions to be completed.

Noho ora mai
(Stay well)

Robert Naumann
Executive Chairperson
12 August 2024.

