

The Renwick Tennis Club welcomes the opportunity to make this submission as part of Marlborough District Council's Long Term Plan Consultation.

The past 12 months have been extremely busy for the club, in terms of both on-court activity and fundraising, with significant progress being made towards our ultimate goal of providing a professionally surfaced, four-court facility including a newly refurbished clubhouse with enhanced amenities. We believe the resulting complex will attract greater numbers of participants from the Renwick community and further afield, keen to enjoy tennis and social interaction in a safe and welcoming setting for families and individuals of all ages.

At April 30, 2021 we had 121 members, compared with 113 a year ago. Of this number, 54 are affiliated through Renwick to the Marlborough Tennis Association. Our presence in organized competitions continued to grow. We fielded 9 teams in the Association's President's Grade doubles competition, while our Premier Grade singles team won the Minor Premiership. Special group challenge matches were played against the Marlborough Tennis Club and the Rapaura Tennis Club. We introduced a reciprocal membership scheme to allow Rapaura members discounted membership of Renwick while their grass courts are closed over winter. As in previous years, we hosted a well-attended community-focused open day under the auspices of Tennis NZ's "Love Tennis". Meanwhile, our weekly walk-in club days continued to prove popular, offering social tennis to existing members and others from the local community keen to sample the tennis experience. Typically, we have more players attending than can be accommodated on three courts.

We ran a strong junior programme with Renwick fielding 23 players in Marlborough's primary school competition with considerable on-court success. Regular professional junior coaching sessions at our courts, for both groups and individuals, were well attended.

As noted in previous submissions, our fundraising efforts have been targeted at adding a fourth court so that we can accommodate our increasing numbers of players, both members and casuals from the local community. At the same time, we have been busy upgrading our clubhouse, adding water and sewage connections, and making general improvements both inside and out that have greatly lifted the appearance and effectiveness of the entire facility. We are grateful to the Council for helping us with the necessary planning permissions and support in these efforts.

**4<sup>th</sup> Court and Resurfacing Project: Total Cost Estimate: Between \$83,094 and \$99,240 (incl GST)**

To date we have raised \$71,000 towards this project through a combination of public fundraising, individual and corporate donations, sponsorship (including naming rights to the new court) and a \$10,000 pledge from the Marlborough Tennis Association. These funds enabled us to begin excavating soil and installing the new court in April, and we hope to have it available for play before the end of May. [A detailed breakdown of our fundraising efforts and project costs to date is provided separately, alongside our 2019/20 annual financial statements and income and expenses to 30 April 2021.]

Having four courts available will enable the Marlborough Tennis Association to schedule senior Premier Grade matches at Renwick for the first time over the upcoming summer season. This will provide a considerable boost to the Renwick sporting community, as well as freeing up valuable court space at the Marlborough Tennis Centre for the Association's junior coaching programme, which is facing mid-week court capacity constraints.

Our efforts are now focused on raising funds to resurface all four courts and provide the Renwick community with a first-class tennis complex offering a playing experience comparable to those of Rapaura Tennis Club and Marlborough Tennis Club.

Ideally, the courts will be resurfaced with a high-quality tennis-specific acrylic finish superior to the existing hot-mix finish. This hot-mix finish is common to many school and community courts across New Zealand and while adequate for social tennis, is not really suitable for serious play. We know anecdotally that the surface has been a factor in dissuading some players from joining the club and participating more fully in club activities.

We have obtained non-binding quotes for the resurfacing and estimate the total cost will be between \$36,225,000 and \$52,371.00 (incl GST). Any contribution from the Marlborough District Council towards completing our 4<sup>th</sup> Court and Resurfacing Project would be gratefully received.