

Appendix to the e mail titled Major Tawa Squash Club project and the funding for it

This appendix to the recent e mail titled "Major Tawa Squash Club project and the funding for it" provides additional information to the reader.

1. *Background*
2. *The need for a 4th squash court*
3. *The proposed design*
4. *The funding of the project*
5. *Council approval*
6. *Recent Club Achievements*

1. Background

In early 1965 three gentlemen came together with a common purpose which was one of forming a squash club in Tawa. On 11 May 1965, following a public meeting, the Club came into existence. About 70 people attended that meeting and most of those present on the day, joined the Club as paying members.

Following this public meeting one of the three gentleman referred to above approached the then mayor to discuss the opportunity of building a squash facility. The Mayor very willingly offered to provide the land to enable them to build the facility.

Construction of two squash courts then commenced and the club opened its doors in 1967 with the Mayor officially opening the facility by hitting the first squash ball. This was then followed by an exhibition match between the national squash champion and a leading Wellington squash player.

A much-needed third court was added in 1974, along with extensions to the lounge area. Until about 14 years ago, when the position of a paid Club Manager was created and an appointment made, the Club was run entirely by volunteers.

The Club presently has 3 squash courts, and a very comfortable and spacious lounge and bar facility for the enjoyment of largely members although this is hired out on a limited basis to the local community. These facilities are available for use by members seven days a week, subject to the club's own commitments. The construction of a 4th court was considered many years ago but was never really progressed beyond the stage of drawing up plans.

The Club is one of the most progressive clubs in Wellington with many operating improvements made in the last several years (Refer 6.1 below). It has been formally recognised as such by being awarded prestigious awards at a Wellington regional level as well as at a National level which are detailed at paragraph 6.2 below. This included being recognised in 2018 as the NZ Squash Club of the Year and the Sport Wellington "Sports Club of the Year" - the first Wellington Squash club to ever receive either honour. Its reputation as a very welcoming, family friendly Club with a great atmosphere has grown over the years.

As at 2019, the Club is the largest Squash Club by membership numbers of all Wellington Squash Clubs, although with 3 squash courts it is one of the smallest as regards the number of courts.

The Club is located right in the middle of Wellington's Northern Corridor which is one of the fastest growing areas in the region. Its catchment area extends from the suburbs of

Newlands/Johnsonville in the South to Whitby/Aotea/Titahi Bay in the North and incorporates Tawa and Churton Park.

2. *The need for a 4th squash court*

This additional court was something that was considered many years ago but never really progressed beyond the stage of drawing up plans. In more recent years, as Club activity has continued to increase, members have experienced severe congestion with the booking of squash courts at peak times. Furthermore, this also curtailed the ability of the Club to continue to grow and improve facilities for members coupled with a few other related secondary issues that arose. A variety of options to address the significant main issue of court congestion were considered and some trialled but none of them, either individually or collectively, provided an effective long-term solution.

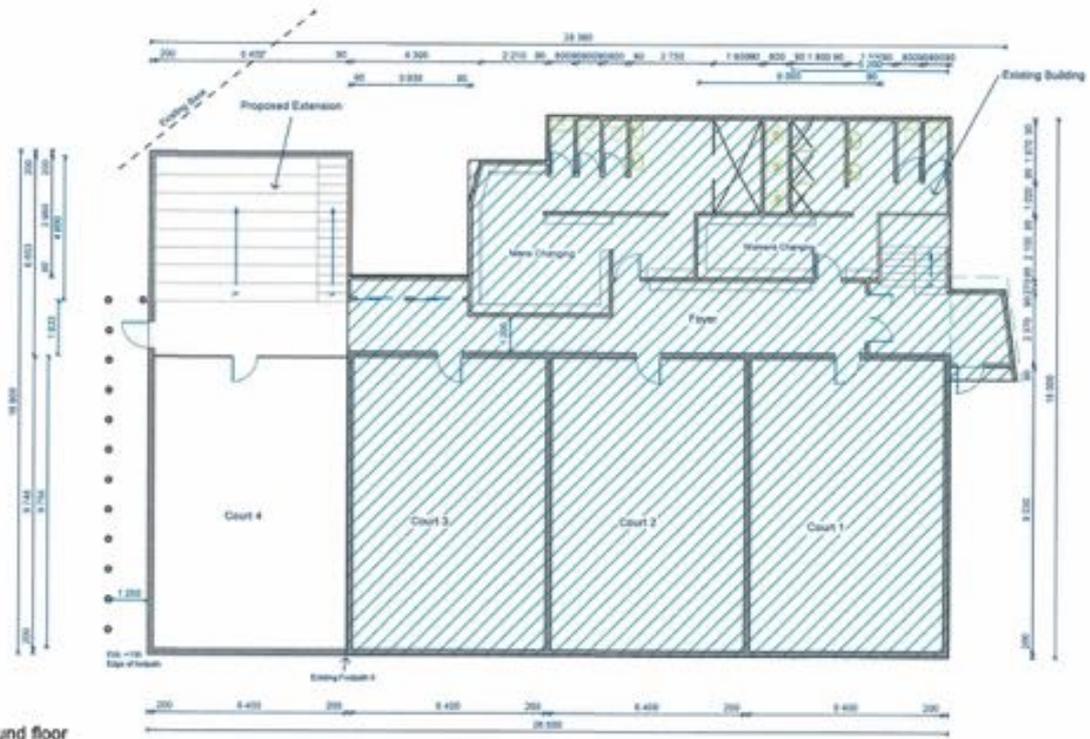
In view of this, a decision was finally made that the most appropriate way of effectively addressing this main issue was to construct a 4th court as an addition to our existing facilities. This would also enable the Club to address at the same time the related secondary issues that had arisen.

The pace of the project did slow down last year due to Covid, but we are now fully on stream and working with much gusto to progress this as quickly as possible even if some activities on the critical path are outside our control. This is particularly so, as we have been allocated hosting rights of the NZ Masters Squash Tournament and Teams event in late October this year (supported by Mana Squash) provided the 4th court is completed in time. Otherwise, we will co-host the event with Mana who will then have all the final matches played on their premier glass back court. Whilst this is an exciting proposition and a catalyst for prompt action, we will work through the required project plan in a methodical, efficient and considered manner such that the best outcome for the project is achieved without placing any aspect of it at risk.

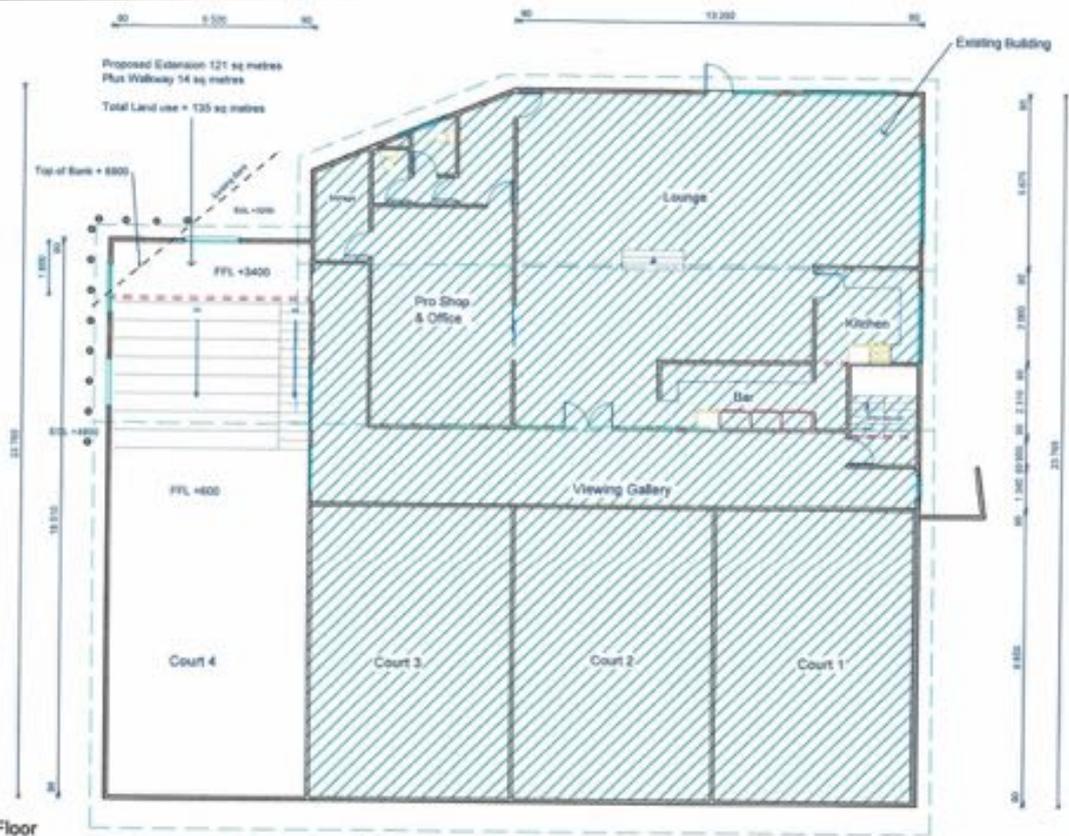
3. *The proposed design*

Some of the features of the 4th squash court to be constructed as an addition to our existing facilities are as follows:

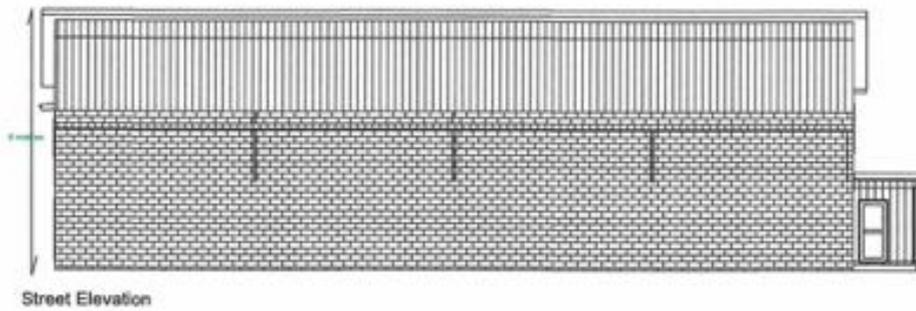
- It will be an extension to our existing building at the southern end of the Club.
- There will be some excavation that will be required along with timber retaining walls to support the excavated bank.
- The ground floor walls would be concrete block and the upper level would be timber framed, with cladding to match the existing building.
- The new squash court will be a modern glass back court with seating and viewing capacity for 60 plus spectators.
- Access to the court and the bottom of the viewing area will be from the existing ground floor foyer. Access to the top of the viewing area would be through an existing store cupboard, duly converted, on the first floor.
- Stairs and bench seating will connect the ground and first floor, creating the viewing area.
- An egress door would be installed on the ground floor at the new southern end of the building from which a pathway along the excavated bank will lead to the footpath.
- The plan drawings are shown below:



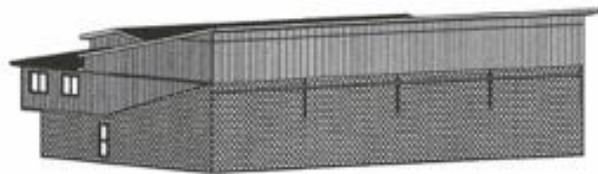
Ground floor



First Floor



Perspective views



4. *The funding of the project*

The cost of constructing a 4th court is estimated at \$ 380,000 excluding GST.

A sub-committee of the Club's management committee comprising 4 existing Club committee members was formed for the purpose of identifying, securing and then ensuring funds are available for utilisation when required, as the construction progresses. The Club through careful management of its funds over the last several years has accumulated reserves of over \$100,000 for this specific purpose. Therefore, the sub-committee is working on securing funding for the

remaining approximately 75% of the cost of this project and are working through the different funding sources that they should consider and then approach.

We will be approaching former and current Club members, many of whom are likely to be keen to make a financial contribution due to their former or current fond ties with the Club. In addition, and very importantly, there are many funding trusts, some of whom have provided us in the past with financial support for different projects of ours, that we are eligible to apply for funding and will thus approach them too. We have also identified other organisations and businesses as potential funders whom we will make contact with and are continuing to work through other options as well. We feel confident of securing the required funding to complete this project given the level of support shown up to now.

5. *Council approval*

There were three different stages of Council approval that had to be obtained in order to be able to commence construction of a 4th squash court as an addition to our existing facilities.

The first two stages which have already been approved were

- a) submitting for Council approval a detailed proposal and then making a presentation to them, for the use of the Council owned reserve land to construct an additional squash court as an extension to our existing facilities, and
- b) submitting to Council for their approval, a resource consent application for the construction.

We are now awaiting Council approval for the third and final stage after,

- c) submitting to Council for their approval, a building consent application for the construction.

Once this final building consent application is approved, we will be able to progress the construction of the 4th court.

6. *Recent Club Achievements*

6.1 Some selected improvements to Club facilities & operations

In the last several years the Club has made many beneficial and significant improvements to its operations.

Some of the more significant ones only, are noted below:

- **Appointing a Club Manager**
The Club is the only squash club in Wellington with a full time Club Manager. This decision was made some 14 years ago and has resulted in the activity at the Club significantly increasing over a period of time arising from the ability of members and their families to socialise to a far greater extent and much more frequently in a family friendly environment than was the case before. The appointment of a Club Manager has also enabled new programmes to be introduced for the benefit of not only members but also for those in the community.
- **Running tournaments (refer 6.3 below) including innovative ones very effectively which are now regularly oversubscribed.**
- **Implementing a digital scoring system (iPads and Electronic Score Boards) for all 3 squash courts - a first in Wellington – for the convenience of spectators to enable them to view the scores throughout a game.**
- **Installing a video camera to stream tournament games from court 2. This enables a game being played on that court to be streamed to the members lounge area to enable that game to be viewed by those who may have been unable to secure a satisfactory position on the viewing deck to view the game.**

- Replacing lights on all 3 courts with LED lights. Whilst this involved an initial cash outlay a part of which was received as grants from applications submitted to funding trusts, it has resulted in superior court lighting, reduced electricity costs and a significant reduction in the need to replace court lights – something that had to be done reasonably regularly in the past and wasn't a particularly easy task given the height of the ceilings and the poor accessibility to the court lights
- Installing CCTV cameras at the Club, inside and outside, to improve security.
- Replacing an online booking system from many years ago with the "Hello Club" on line booking system which has superior functionality. This includes a touch screen booking, "waitlist" and court light control system. It also has significantly improved reporting information to monitor and where relevant, make improvements, as needed. This also enables, where system access is granted to this functionality, for the doors to be opened and the court lights turned on remotely.
- Non-structural but significant improvements to the utilisation of the floor layout in the Lounge and Bar areas to make it more conducive and comfortable for members including the creation of space for a pro shop.
- Upgrading our bar and lounge area to 21st century specifications.
- Installing 3 vandal proof security lights for the safety of our members in the car parking area at St Francis Xavier School next door.
- Installing 4 heat pumps and 3 extractor fans to improve the humidity and temperature in the squash courts and the lounge and bar areas.
- The complete re-roofing of the Club facilities for the first time since it was built.
- Upgrading our entranceway for positive first impressions
- Purchase and install a defibrillator adjacent to the courts

6.2 Awards received

The Club has over the last few years won many prestigious awards both at a Wellington Regional as well as at a national level.

These are detailed below:

- 2018 New Zealand Squash club of the year. National award by Squash New Zealand.
- 2018 Wellington Regional Squash Club of the year. Regional award by Squash Wellington.
- 2018 Wellington Regional Sports Club of the year. Regional award by Sport Wellington (covering all sports clubs in the Region)
- 2017 Wellington Regional Squash Club of the year. Regional award by Squash Wellington.
- 2017 finalist in the New Zealand Squash club of the year. National award by Squash New Zealand.

6.3 Squash Tournaments held

The Club holds several squash tournaments each year some of which are held annually whilst others are dependent on the success of our applications to host the tournaments. We work well with other clubs and have co-hosted tournaments in the past with other squash clubs, in particular the Mana Squash Club.

The squash tournaments that are / have been held are as follows:

Tawa Open/Senior tournaments – held annually

- Tawa Women's Open (Thursday -Saturday in early March)
- Tawa B Grade and Below (Thursday -Sunday in late March)
- Tawa Open Tournament (Thursday -Sunday in mid May)

- Tawa Masters Tournament (Thursday -Sunday in mid-June)
- Tawa Club Champs (Thursday -Saturday in late September)
- Tawa Doubles (Friday -Saturday in mid-October - our first official one was held last year)
- Tawa Xmas Ham and Turkey tournament. This is a unique tournament that is so popular that we decided to allow an increase in the number of entrants and extend the period of time over which it was played. (Tuesday -Sunday in early/mid December)

Regional/National ad hoc tournaments based on the success of our applications to host, have included the following:

- Wellington Champion of Champions (2014-2016)
- NZ Finals Champion of Champions (2014)
- Wellington Regional Superchamps Women's D Grade and Men's B grade 2014
- Wellington Regional Superchamps - E & B Grade 2015
- Wellington Regional Superchamps - B Grade 2016
- Wellington Regional Superchamps - E Grade 2017
- Wellington Women's 800 series - one of four clubs to host it in 2017 and in 2018

National tournaments allocated to Tawa

- NZ Superchamps Finals - E Grade (Wednesday - Saturday in late Sept 2019)
- *Nga Hau E Wha* – National Maori Tournament, Labour weekend 2018

Tawa Junior tournaments – held annually

- Tawa Junior Open (Thursday – Saturday the timing of which varies each year)
- Tawa Club Championships (Friday -Saturday in September)

Regional/National Junior Tournaments - held annually

- Regional Head Series (Sunday in mid-March)

Ad hoc tournaments as per success of applications to host

- North Island Junior Championships co-hosted with Mana Squash Club (2018)

Other

- In addition to the above, our Club initiated a Wellington regional club challenge and sponsored a shield which is presented to the victor – the Ma Hribar Challenge Shield.
- The Club has been allocated hosting rights of the NZ Masters Squash Tournament and Teams event in late October 2021 (supported by Mana Squash) provided the 4th court is completed in time. Otherwise, we will co-host the event with Mana who will then have all the final matches played on their premier glass back court.