

## Taupo Tennis Grasshopper Tournament a Success

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There is a special feeling experienced when, on a fine, warm and sunny day, you hear the sound of racquet on ball and look across our eight courts and see them filled with children and parents having fun. Yep, in my opinion, tennis is a true family sport.

As a person who loves to help people learn, and see results for effort, I sure enjoyed seeing how much growth there has been in the rallying ability of our Junior players. Fair play and sportsmanship were not forgotten either, resulting in enjoyment for all concerned.

Headed by Peter O'Dea (Bay Trust Coach Force Tennis RDO), Moira Peters (Club President, Coach and Junior Co-ordinator) and Andy Mellor, also helped by Mums and Dads who all jumped bravely into umpire chairs and risked being ostracized in the home, Taupo Tennis Club held a successful Grasshopper Tournament.

Sweeping the tennis world by storm, this tennis format has been especially designed with children in mind. Smaller racquets, softer balls, smaller nets and court dimensions means lots of rallying and more fun as they learn that tennis is a game of skill and tactics.

Playing everyone in their respective groups at singles, the winners were those with the most number of points at the end of play. Boys and girls were mixed together and age was no barrier to the level of your group. Rallying skill was what the day called for, and concentration.

Red Group (small nets), Winner - **Georgia Smith**  
Runner Up - **Matt Buckeridge**  
Third - **Titan Porteus**

Orange Group 1 (1/2 court) Winner - **George Wilson**  
Runner Up - **Cate Wilson**

Orange Group 2 (1/2 court) Winner - **Hugh MacLachlan**  
Runner Up - **Nathan Purdie**

Green Group (3/4 court) Winner - **John Clayton**  
Runner Up - **Josh Mc Dougall**

Apart from awards going to the two front runners in each group, there was special mention of Mia Bohan for 'shot of the day', bringing a comment from Peter questioning Andy's Australian coaching technique. Also special mention went to Boaz Mellor for being only 7 ½ and being more than competitive in the Green Group.

With the 1<sup>st</sup> season of tennis over, this makes next year's Club's events really exciting. The Flemming Family Parent/ Child Tournament is end of February followed closely by the annual Junior Club Tennis Championships in March. More than enough time to practice in the holidays and continue to improve before rejoining Moira's coaching programs at the club restarting in the new school term.

Keep an eye on the Taupo Tennis Website [www.taupotennis.co.nz](http://www.taupotennis.co.nz) for dates and the latest tennis news, and another eye on the court as Auckland hosts New Zealand's two biggest tennis tournaments, the Ladies ASB Classic, and the Men's Heineken Open. Until next year, keep the tennis balls bouncing.