

# Upper Hutt Tennis Club



Submission for the Upper Hutt City Council

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Draft Annual Plan 2014-2015

## Introduction

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The Upper Hutt Tennis Club (UHTC) supports the Upper Hutt City Council in its plan to establish tennis courts at Maidstone Park under its 2014/2015 draft annual plan. The plan shows commitment to sport in the community and expands an already very active and popular sports hub. The council has invested significantly in the development at Maidstone Park over recent years providing modern first-rate facilities for football and hockey that will serve those sports and the community for many years. As the council looks to invest in tennis, it is essential to consider and understand the specific needs of tennis and how this opportunity provides for the exciting revitalisation of Tennis in Upper Hutt, now and in the future.



This submission is about revitalising tennis and realising the potential for the growth of tennis within the Upper Hutt community and the value that tennis will bring to the Maidstone Park sports hub and the city of Upper Hutt. Upper Hutt Tennis Club has a vibrant and long history of tennis in the community. *See Appendix 1*

We are willing to make a financial contribution of \$150,000 towards the development of tennis at Maidstone Park, in order to achieve the goals in our own strategic plan and to benefit the local community.

## Vision for the Tennis in Upper Hutt

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The UHTC's vision for tennis over the next 20 years is based on the success of other like-minded tennis organisations in New Zealand. In line with our strategic outcomes, our purpose is to support, strengthen and promote tennis in our community. Our vision for the future is more kids and adults enjoying tennis and having a life-long love for the game. *See appendix 2 in pdf attachment for our Strategic Plan*

- A first rate tennis facility located at Maidstone Park that supports a quality tennis experience for all participants.
- Allowance for expansion of the facility to support planned growth, to include but not be limited to; more courts, flood lighting and ultimately covered courts.
- A vibrant, well managed club with a membership of over 400 people, a mix of boys and girls and men and women and catering for all ages and abilities.
- The club providing a range of leagues, competitions, tournaments and events that meet the needs of both competitive, social and casual players and the wider community.
- To establish a full time resident professional coach based at Maidstone Park providing coaching for juniors and seniors from basic to advanced levels for members of the Club and the community.
- Greater links between the UHTC, schools, colleges and other like-minded sports and community groups.
- A growing partnership with Upper Hutt City Council, Tennis Central, Upper Hutt Tennis Association, local business and the community.
- High visibility of activity creating an inviting view of tennis.
- Management and governance structures which match best practice standards as defined by Sport NZ or similar.



*“The future of Tennis in Upper Hutt will be a partnership involving the Upper Hutt Tennis Club, Upper Hutt City Council, Tennis New Zealand, Tennis Central, Hutt Valley Tennis Association, Schools, Colleges, Coaches, Administrators and Volunteers, Trusts, Sponsors, Sport Providers, Sport Wellington and the Upper Hutt Community”.*



The new tennis facility at Maidstone Park will consist of up to eight tennis courts to support year round tennis, including but not limited to summer and winter coaching, tournaments, business house competitions, junior and senior interclub, mid-week, seniors, parent/child fun days, leagues and casual play.

## Why Invest in Tennis?

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Tennis is one of the most widely played sports in the world. A quality tennis facility at Maidstone Park will enhance the perception of Upper Hutt amongst the entire tennis community in the wider Wellington region and will be visually pleasing to citizens of Upper Hutt. It will draw people towards tennis, both young and old and will be a good fit with other sporting codes in the park. Tennis is moving towards pay-as-you-go activity as evidenced by the popularity of mid-week business house tennis and other programs at Mitchell Park in Lower Hutt, and also the Renouf Tennis Centre in Wellington and this will be part of future planning. A quality facility will enhance the persona of sport generally and the city of Upper Hutt will be better for having quality tennis courts and facilities.

The population of Upper Hutt is circa 41,500. Once the existing tennis courts in King Street are lost, the only club courts in the Upper Hutt area will be the four courts at Pinehaven. This translates to a ratio of one court to over 10,000 people which compares

to;

- 1/3230 for Wellington
- 1/3562 for Auckland and
- 1/2067 for Christchurch

Masterton, with a population of around 18,000 people, has a tennis facility with 11 courts. This is over and above the courts available at local schools and colleges. In Lower Hutt, Mitchell Park has 13 courts and the Lower Hutt Club 10 courts.

Now that the King Street courts have been sold, Upper Hutt is not well served with tennis courts, having only four courts at Pinehaven. Furthermore, the Pinehaven courts are out of reach for most people of Upper Hutt due to the distance from the population hub. Maidstone Park is very central to the Upper Hutt population it serves and is an ideal venue for sports. Given the population of Upper Hutt, it is imperative that the community has a modern tennis facility with the capacity to meet current and future needs.

## The Opportunity

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The sale of the current courts has provided the UHTC with significant funds to invest with Council into the future of tennis at Maidstone Park. Council will already have seen the success the development of the football and hockey fields have had for local clubs. Upper Hutt Hockey immediately expanded by one men's team once the turf was opened and this year has seen many local people who play for clubs outside of Upper Hutt return to bolster the size and competitiveness of the club

News of the sale of the King Street tennis courts has rallied tennis players, clubs and organisations from around the Wellington region, who have provided support and advice. The UHTC committee is working on refreshing its strategic plan with help from Sport Wellington, Tennis Central and the Hutt Valley Tennis Association aimed at re-vitalising all activity.

The Council, through Activation, is promoting a range of sports in local schools and recently launched its 'Alive' programme aimed at getting more people active and involved in sport. A quality tennis facility with enough capacity will enhance these Council programmes.

The Club committee is developing its Strategic Plan based on the establishment of new courts and improved visibility of the game once relocated to Maidstone Park. This includes upgrading its management and governance structure, expanding its sources of income, and appointing a full-time professional coach to be based at the new facility. Tennis NZ is also implementing programmes to increase participation such as;



Launched in October 2013, Tennis Hot Shots is New Zealand's starter program for primary aged school children. Its core philosophy is 'learning through play' which means that playing the game, or modified versions of the game of is, is the central feature of all sessions. Tennis Hot Shots consists of four components: coaching, community play, schools and tournaments making it a complete junior tennis program for New Zealand children. There is already engagement with local primary schools; Fraser Crescent School, Birchville School, Pinehaven School, Silverstream School, St Joseph's School and Trentham School, totalling over 2,000 children already participating in this programme in the Upper Hutt Region.



The Cardio Tennis Program is an on-court fitness program designed to appeal to a new market of tennis players as well as those already participating in Tennis. Cardio Tennis is a great way to exercise and a way to meet new people. Led by a qualified coach, Cardio Tennis sessions are generally an hour in length and set to fast-paced music. Launching in October 2014, Cardio Tennis caters for participants of all abilities and fitness levels.

These combined initiatives, bode well for tennis locally and will require the necessary infrastructure outlined as a foundation on which will allow local tennis to grow.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> In considering the future for tennis in Upper Hutt, the UHTC has taken advice from many who have widespread experience and has also looked at some successful models. See Appendix 3 for club success stories around the area.

## Maidstone Park Tennis Centre (The New Home of Upper Hutt Tennis)

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The UHTC currently has four tennis courts and clubrooms at its site in King Street, Upper Hutt. The courts are surfaced with Astroturf, are well lit for night tennis and completely enclosed for security purposes. The facility supports a membership of 120 junior and senior players. Members consist of a variety of age groups and levels of ability, a good mix of social and competitive players and it is common for members to join as a family.

The Upper Hutt Tennis Club Steering Committee has determined a picture of the ideal investment in tennis at Maidstone Park considering current and future needs of tennis and the wider community. NB;

Presently the Upper Hutt City is serviced by just one other Tennis Club - Pinehaven.

- **Courts:** Eight courts should be created with at least 6 being marked for tennis only. Four courts is the absolute minimum needed to cater for Hutt Valley Interclub competitions, and six courts is the minimum needed to meet professional coaching needs in summer.
- **Court Surfaces:** The preferred court surface is for a mix of four astroturf courts and four synpave hardcourts. The mix of the two different surfaces will meet the needs of a wide diversity of players. Astroturf is favoured by the older players while synpave better suits the younger players and is also preferred for coaching.
- **Fencing:** Fencing at the appropriate height, will minimise tennis balls going out of court, will provide protection from hockey balls, security against vandalism and controlled access for public on a 'user pays' basis. A windbreak should also be provided, primarily as a visual barrier, a sponsor is most likely to provide this. Consideration should also be given to including a gate in the boundary fence, large enough to let a tractor in; this will help with maintenance and allow for temporary viewing stands on to the courts for an exhibition match.
- **Lighting:** To enable evening tennis such as business house during summer and winter, interclub team practices after working hours and also year round coaching and casual play.
- **Car parking:** The combined hockey and football car park is already well utilised. Additional car parking needs to be considered close to the courts especially considering delivery and collection of juniors as local schools will be encouraged to participate both within and outside school hours.
- **Club rooms:** The provision of clubrooms that supports the social aspects of the game including viewing, food and refreshment, changing rooms including showers and toilets, and a storeroom for club equipment, such as tennis balls, squeegees, ball machine as well as Club Coach equipment/balls etc. Tennis would naturally be happy to share these rooms with other codes. Please note it is intended that coaches run their classes indoors when it is wet and this will call for sufficient room for players to receive instruction, view videos and we are also keen to have at least two table tennis tables on site for such occasions.
- **Shared Facilities - Security:** The UHTC is naturally interested in working with other sporting codes to share and maximise the facilities, (especially the clubrooms and storage facilities) in the best interests of the community and the shared investment made by all. That said, given the new strategic direction and drive of UHTC it won't be long before the tennis courts are at full capacity meeting the needs of its members and casual players alike. Having a full-time professional coaching operation on site will on the one hand provide for increased servicing of

members and increased membership, while on the other provide for improved facility security and mitigate vandalism.

## Financial Commitment

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The UHTC can contribute \$150,000 towards the development. The UHTC is keen to discuss a financial plan with UHCC and other potential partners. The goal is to develop facilities that meet the needs of tennis medium and long term while maximising the investment in common areas such as car-parks, storage sheds and clubrooms.

## Benefits to Upper Hutt

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Like Council's investment in football and hockey, there will be an increased participation in tennis resulting from the presence of a brand new facility, increased visibility and a commitment from the tennis community to revitalise the game. Tennis is a sport for life and can be played across the widest age range and ability. It is gender even, giving equal opportunities for all to participate, enjoy and achieve. Tennis has a strong social emphasis yet also caters for competitive play at all levels. This dovetails nicely with other Council's initiatives, 'Alive' and 'Activation' that actively promote sport in schools and the wider community.



The benefit to community pride in Upper Hutt having a quality sports hub, whilst intangible, is an important aspect of any Council investment. The vision of Upper Hutt being a vibrant city with contemporary social and sporting facilities is essential to attract families to the city and business investment in the local area.

## Summary

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The Upper Hutt Tennis Club wishes to seize this unique opportunity to reposition tennis in the community as a vibrant sport and one that will be available to all. A 'new home' located in the premier sports hub at Maidstone Park, combined with a new energy, commitment and strategic direction for tennis, (see strategic plan attached) along with renewed and increased partnerships with organisations of complementary interests will all go a long way towards UHTC realising its new vision, while at the same time meeting the community's needs and the needs of the Upper Hutt City Council.

UHTC looks forward to working with Council and our other partners to maximise this opportunity and ensure that tennis and the community's needs are met.

The Upper Hutt Tennis Club would like to present an Oral Submission to UHCC in support of our written submission.

The Steering Committee, Upper Hutt Tennis Club

Des Riley, Upper Hutt Tennis and Bowls Club Board Member, Tom Clegg, Dave Yorston, James Murphy, Dick Werry, Mark Curr, Reilly Logue, Mel Jansen

## *Appendix 1:*

### History of Upper Hutt Tennis Club

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Originally tennis in Upper Hutt was played on courts at local residences. Tennis players also had the use of a court at the residence of James Greenwood in King Street, adjacent to the present tennis club courts.

Pre-World War I tennis was played on courts at Maidstone Park which was developed by Phillip Davis. There was a problem with the ground being swampy and in the late 1920s the tennis club planned to build a pavilion in Pine Avenue. About that time the local bowling club was in financial difficulty and the two organisations got together and the tennis club paid the outstanding debts and moved into the bowling club's King Street facility. The Upper Hutt Bowling and Tennis Club was formed in 1928.

For approximately 70 years, the bowling and tennis clubs ran their sports independently on the privately owned King Street land. In 1994, the two clubs merged into the one incorporated society, to enable them both to upgrade and extend their playing facilities.

Memorabilia includes a printed invitation card to the tennis club silver jubilee in 1935-36, which means the Club dates from around 1910 and has celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. During this time, the Upper Hutt Tennis Club has existed independently without Council funding.

The Tennis Club has had two members represent New Zealand at Wimbledon, which is the ultimate mecca for all tennis players. In 1939 we were represented by Mr Neil Edwards and in 1967 by Mr Kevin Woolcott, who went on to be New Zealand's First National Tennis Coach.

## Appendix 3:

### Success stories

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#### Karori United Tennis Club (KUTC);

KUTC is one of four Tennis Clubs serving the Karori catchment of approximately 15,000 people. Over the past 15 years it has been seen as a “best practice” Club which has on three occasions received the Wellington Tennis “Club of the Year Award” Despite having just **three floodlit courts**, its membership stands at approximately 400; a good mix of junior and senior members. The key to KUTC’s success has been its highly motivated volunteer committee, an onsite resident professional coaching operation (presently two fulltime and one part-time coach) and a desire to engage with the community it serves, providing tennis 6am - 10pm, 7 days a week - year round.

#### Masterton Tennis Centre - Revitalised

The Masterton Tennis centre has ownership of 11 courts in the centre of town. In 2011, Masterton Tennis Centre had an aging and reducing membership with no junior programme and no overall plan for the future. The club worked with Sport Wellington Wairarapa and their local association to develop a plan and target a brighter future for the game in the region. The Initial goal was 15% annual club membership growth; actual growth is beyond 150%. The club started with 47 members, at the time of writing there are nearly 150 members at the Masterton Tennis Centre. The club goal of 50 junior members was achieved in 13 months, rather than the 4 year term originally specified. Volunteerism at the club has grown hugely and there is a tangible improvement in the experience of club volunteers - this is evidenced by strong testimonial feedback. Junior volunteerism has gone from 0 members to a full junior group of 8. There was an initial goal of 50 people ‘trailing’ the club during the year- this was surpassed on day 1 of the 2012/13 season as around 180 people attended the club open day. Second year attendance at the club open day was 135. Keys to this turnaround can be simplified to can be simplified to: A strong club spirit, a ‘game plan’ which provides for the needs of all players, coaches and volunteers, best practice in governance, operation and finance, targeted engagement of new and existing members.



#### Miramar Tennis Club -

Miramar Tennis Club has 6 plexi-pave courts with 4 newly floodlit courts, designated car parking, a two storey clubroom with a dedicated coach office and a great core membership. The catchment population in the Miramar area is 8,500 people, and they currently have 285 affiliated members. In 2010, they had 340 member and won the prestigious Tennis Central Club of the Year award for all tennis clubs in the Central Region (to which there are over 90 clubs). They have had a full-time coach with at least 5 assistant coaching staff since 2009. From the months of October to April, they see over 300 children take part in junior coaching after school. They have a dedicated club committee, and they support and help facilitate a weekly “club night” for all junior members and their families during the summer months, and they usually see around 60 people on those Friday nights.



# Our Strategic Outcomes

- A strong, agile and growing Club, consistently delivering and meeting members and stakeholders needs
- An organisation that has respect and admiration in the community it serves

We need these Partners to help us achieve our Outcomes

## Our Key Priorities

1. A Club spirit that makes our members proud
2. A 'game plan' that provides for the needs of all members
3. Engagement with all of our stakeholders
4. The provision of first class facilities
5. Financial sustainability
6. Best Practice – Governance, planning and operations

Hutt Valley Tennis Association  
 Upper Hutt Community  
 Upper Hutt City Council  
 Tennis New Zealand  
 Tennis Central  
 Sport Wellington  
 Sport Providers  
 Administrators  
 Coaches  
 Sponsors  
 Volunteers  
 Trusts  
 Schools

### Our Values:

**T**eamwork; to be supportive, passionate and encouraging

**E**xcellence in all that we do

**N**etwork; to be inclusive and keep our members and stakeholders engaged

**N**urture the game with purpose and innovation

**I**ntegrity; to treat our members and stakeholders with respect

**S**ervice the needs of our members and the community

## Strategic Plan 2014-2017 (Draft)

**Our Purpose:** To support, strengthen and promote tennis in our community

**Our Vision:** More kids and adults enjoying tennis and having a life-long love of the game



## Our Outcomes

**A 'Game Plan'** that is modern and inclusive – leading to increased membership, participation and enjoyment

**A Communications Plan** – leading to increased support, understanding and satisfaction from our 'partners'

**A Financial Plan** – leading to a strong and sustainable future

**Better Facilities** - leading to greater enjoyment for all

**A Governance Structure** – that leads to a more professional organisation

To the Upper Hutt City Council  
Copy: Upper Hutt Bowling & Tennis Club Inc.

14 October 2013

Dear Sir/Madam

**Re: Upper Hutt Tennis Club relocation to Maidstone Park**

The Hutt Valley Tennis Association comprises an association of the nine Hutt Valley tennis clubs, of which Upper Hutt Tennis Club is a long-term and valued member. The Association manages the Mitchell Park Tennis complex, and all junior, senior and other interclub competitions, and tournaments. The Upper Hutt Tennis Club has been an associated club for around 90 years and has a rich history, including nurturing Davis Cup and Wimbledon players.

Junior and senior interclub is strong throughout the Valley, with multiple teams playing at all levels. In addition, the Club also hosts Premier Regional Interclub matches, which involves players from as far afield as Palmerston North and Wairarapa. Upper Hutt Tennis Club has two teams playing at this level.

As with all such competitions, any reduction in Clubs or Teams would have a disproportionate impact on the viability and vitality of the game of tennis across the whole Valley and even the region.

Our Association would therefore like to stress the importance of the continuation of the Upper Hutt Tennis Club as an essential ingredient supporting the overall health of the game of tennis in the Hutt Valley.

We understand that Upper Hutt City Council is presently evaluating a possible relocation of the Upper Hutt Tennis Club to Maidstone Park, and we are further advised that there is considerable concern amongst Upper Hutt tennis players that the facilities may not meet standards required for the future viability of tennis in Upper Hutt. The purpose of this letter is to confirm for Upper Hutt City Council what we believe to be the essential elements for a successful relocation which will support and enhance tennis in the Hutt Valley.

1. A minimum of four flood-lit tennis-only courts (i.e. only marked for tennis).
2. Secure setting, so that the courts can only be accessed by those who will respect them.
3. Provision of a clubhouse, with toilets and kitchenette / common room.

Like tennis clubs in the valley, the Upper Hutt Tennis Club has historically received a very low level of ratepayer support, and this should be contrasted with other sporting codes such as cricket and rugby. Our request is that the Upper Hutt City Council regard this relocation as an opportunity to secure a valuable community facility, which will secure the future of tennis in Upper Hutt City.

Yours sincerely

**Jan Milne**  
Chairperson, Hutt Valley Tennis Inc.

28<sup>th</sup> April 2014

To Upper Hutt City Council Re Draft Annual Plan 2014-15



Dear Sir/Madam

**Letter of Support for Re-Location of Upper Hutt Tennis Club to Maidstone Park**

We are writing in support of the plans to support the ongoing activities of Upper Hutt Tennis Club (UHTC) at Maidstone Park. Tennis Central considers the UHTC an important component of both the Hutt Valley Tennis Association (HVTA) and the Tennis Central Region (TCR).

The UHTC strategy and plan is aligned to Tennis New Zealand and TCR's strategy for increasing Tennis participation. TCR is committed to work alongside the UHTC, UHB&TC, HCC, HVTA and Sport Wellington to rebuild UHTC to the vibrant Community asset it was in the past.

UHTC members have over many years participated strongly in Interclub events and tournaments run by both HVTA and TCR. In addition, there have been a fair number of Representative Senior and junior players from Upper Hutt club amongst both HVTA & TCR teams.

TCR Upper Hutt Catchment area is a strong opportunity for the re invigoration of tennis. With the TNZ and TCR strategy of rolling out the Hot Shots programme to extend this from primary schools to include clubs, along with a new initiative to promote Tennis in secondary schools will extend tennis to about 7,500 school pupils in the Upper Hutt catchment area. TCR are committed to facilitate the continuity and extension of these Tennis programmes in the Upper Hutt schools to encourage the success of UHTC at Maidstone Park.

We understand that the sale of the land where the courts were located was a requirement to reduce debt and ensure the sustainability of both Bowls and Tennis in Upper Hutt. The early relocation to Maidstone Park is an important element to maintain the continuity of the long standing UHTC.

We are aware there has been some discussion to use netball markings as well. Both HVTA and TCR are reluctant to schedule Premier and Divisional Interclub matches on courts with mixed sports markings, and strongly support unique tennis court markings for 4 courts.

Yours Faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ian Miller", is written over a blue horizontal line.

Ian Miller

Honorary CFO

[finance@tenniscentral.co.nz](mailto:finance@tenniscentral.co.nz)



24<sup>th</sup> April 2014

Dear Sir/Madam

**Re: Upper Hutt Tennis Club relocation to Maidstone Park**

I am writing this letter in support of Upper Hutt Tennis Club and The Hutt Valley Tennis Association.

The Upper Hutt Tennis Club has a long history in the Hutt Valley and has developed a strong tennis community as a result of their long involvement with the sport, and especially with junior and senior interclub. Their support of tennis in the area is clearly evident as they regularly field multiple teams at all levels of play. The club also acts as host for Premier Regional interclub matches, as well as fielding teams at this high level of competition.

Upper Hutt Tennis Club has shown a great commitment to tennis in New Zealand having been an associated club for around 90 years and working closely with The Hutt Valley Tennis Association and the Tennis Central Region in that time.

It has been brought to our attention that Upper Hutt City Council is evaluating the possible relocation of the Club to Maidstone Park. The elements listed below are ones the Club feels are vital to ensure a successful relocation and to help secure the future of tennis in Upper Hutt City. I support these elements wholeheartedly:

1. A minimum of four flood-lit tennis-only courts (i.e. only marked for tennis).
2. Secure setting, so that the courts can only be accessed by those who will respect them.
3. Provision of a clubhouse, with toilets and kitchenette / common room.

It is essential that Upper Hutt Tennis Club is able to continue to have a strong presence in the area, providing a safe, fun, competitive and community minded leisure opportunity for local people of all ages and abilities.

Yours sincerely

Jamie Tong  
National Participation Manager  
Tennis New Zealand

24<sup>th</sup> April 2014

To Upper Hutt City Council – Re Draft Annual Plan 2014 - 15

From Sport Wellington

### **Letter of Support for Relocation of Upper Hutt Tennis Club to Maidstone Park**

Sport Wellington is a Charitable Trust serving the Greater Wellington Region with our prime responsibility being to promote and support sport and recreation throughout the region.

Our Vision; *“Everyone in the greater Wellington region has a life-long involvement in sport and recreation”*.

A few weeks ago we were approached by Tennis Central and the Hutt Valley Tennis Association to assist the Upper Hutt Tennis Club with their transition from Exchange Street to Maidstone Park. Since that time there have been many conversations with all three parties as well as Sport Wellington representation at meetings.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that Sport Wellington will be working alongside the other parties to assist the Upper Hutt Tennis Club re-establish itself in its new home at Maidstone Park.

Sport Wellington is an avid supporter of Sports Hubs and is keen to see the Upper Hutt Tennis Club join the various other codes at Maidstone Park.

Having worked very closely with Wellington Hockey and the National Hockey Stadium Trust establish a new artificial turf at Maidstone Park last year has provided us with ‘first hand’ experience of the location and the onsite sports and facilities all of which equips us well to meet the challenges this project is likely to offer.

In the short while in which we have been working with the Upper Hutt Tennis Club (volunteer) Committee we have been impressed with their energy and commitment to this project and their vision for a better future for tennis and look forward to working alongside them and other partners to bring about the best possible result for tennis and the community it serves.

Yours sincerely



Kevin Wilson  
Sport Development Manager