**LIGHTHOUSE CINEMA PRESIDENTS TENNIS Round 3, Sunday 19th February, 2017**

Round 3 of this competition was the final chance to separate the men from the boys. In this round, teams seeded equally on the ladder, were pitched against each other. In several matches, this proved a valid assumption, as tight matches ensued.

We now enter the Semi-Final phase of this post-Christmas competition with two rounds remaining. In the next two rounds, it will get a bit harder for the teams that finished 1st or 2nd in their pool. At the same time, those teams that finished 3rd and 4th can relax a bit as they face lesser opposition from their opposite pool.

To be noted: The next two rounds count as Round 4 and Round 5 in the competition. As such, point s will be carried forward from Round 3.

The “summer of 2016/2017” continued. Steady overnight drizzle had given way to a calm morning with high overhead cloud. An ideal day for Tennis on the astroturf surface at Mitchell Park but not so for the Plexipave Courts at the Maungaraki Tennis Club where play had to be transferred at late notice to the Avalon Club.

In Division 1, Pinehaven 1 (Margaret Young) carried on their winning way making Wainuiomata 1 (Antz Rivett) look quite ordinary on the scoreboard but not before Wainuiomatsa put up some steely opposition. Wainui’s Darren McVey and Ray Short did well to beat Pinehaven’s previously unbeaten pair of Ramon Supit and Derek Murray. Recent fill-in but now an established Wainui team member, Jenny Mae Keall, is showing the benefit of her husband Lance’s coaching, playing with confidence at the net. Pinehaven won overall 5-1.

Avalon (Jeff Guppy) suffered their second defeat post-Christmas but look to be a team for the future. Playing Maungaraki 1 (Audrey Daly) on their home courts, Avalon found themselves locked at 2-2 after the first 4 sets, but marginally ahead by 32 games to 31. With two squash players, Paul Barnett and Jeff Guppy at the helm, they must have been pleasantly surprised. Maungaraki ‘convincingly’ won the last two sets 9/7, 9/8 to win overall 4-2 and 49 games to 47. We welcome Paul Barnett, Christine Michael and Brenda Hood to Presidents Grade.

A decision on whether or not to include Joe Easthope in their line up against top seeds Upper Hutt 1 (Lauren Riley) proved a masterful stroke for the Lower Hutt 1 team (Jacky Albert). Although losing to the strong Upper Hutt 1 pairing of Simon Osborne and Mark Hurly, Joe turned the tables on Simon winning the two mixed doubles 9/7, 9/7 to give his team a 4-2 win and elevate them to No. 1 spot in their pool. Lower Hutt 1 now have the slightly easier run to the Finals, playing the second finishers in Pool A.

Petone 1 (Kathryn Young) versus Lower Hutt 2 (Alex Bridger) rounded out pool play in Division 1. Petone look to have lost their mojo this season. One time champions, with virtually the same team, they now languish in fourth spot in Section B of Division 1. In perhaps their biggest win in a couple of seasons, Alex Bridger’s Lower Hutt 2 side found themselves locked 2-2 (25 games to 25) at the two-thirds mark.

At this point, Petone’s Donna Campbell’s knees ‘locked up’ providing Lower Hutt with an easy 9-1 set,. Instead of persevering with an attacking game, Petone’s Barnao and Young reverted to a steady defensive game which allowed Bridger and Mickell back into the game. Debbie Mickell was the rock of the Lower Hutt 2 side, time and time again returning ‘winners’.

In Division 2, Section A, Maungaraki 2 (Souradeep Gupta) put their title aspirations back on track after a hiccup in Round 1 when several regular players were unavailable. Back to the regular line-up, in Round 3 they completed a relatively easy 5-1 win over Wainui 2 (Roland Nock). Thank you Marilyn Awhitu for turning out at short notice for the Wainui side.

Maungarauki 3 (Paul Olsthoorn) had their biggest win in the past couple of season, turning back Lower Hutt 3 (Owen Norriss) 5-1. The win projecting them into 2nd place and now facing the cauldron of the Top Four in Division 2. 36 year old newcomer Taka Hurly proved her diminutive weight in gold, winning 3 out of 3 sets.

Upper Hutt 2 (Estelle Marshall) looking every part a Division 1 side in Division 2, were too strong for Petone 2 (Carol Eckersley) as expected, winning 6-0. Their core trio of Terry Connolly, Pita Silao and Estelle Marshall would need to be available for the remaining 2 rounds to ensure continued success.

In the final Division 2 match, Pinehaven 2 (Terry Poynter) ensured that Lower Hutt 4 (Kathy Brabin) had an early finish. Lower Hutt 4 can look forward to a couple of easier matches in the bottom four of Division 2.

Final placing after 3 rounds of Pool play:

**Division 1, Section 1**

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| --- | --- |
| **1** | Pinehaven 1 (Margaret Young) |
| 2 | Possibly Wainuiomata 1 or Avalon or Maungaraki |
| 3 | Possibly Wainuiomata 1 or Avalon or Maungaraki |
| 4 | Possibly Wainuiomata 1 or Avalon or Maungaraki |

**Division 1 Section 2**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1** | Lower Hutt 1 (Jacky Albert) |
| 2 | Upper Hutt 1 (Lauren Riley) |
| 3 | Lower Hutt 2 (Alex Bridger) |
| 4 | Petone 1 (Kathryn Young) |

**Division 2, Section 1**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1** | Maungaraki 2 (Souradeep Gupta) |
| 2 | Maungaraki 3 (Paul Olsthoorn) |
| 3 | Wainuimata 2 (Geoff Inglis/Roland Nock) |
| 4 | Lower Hutt 3 (Owen Norriss) |

**Division 2, Section 2**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1** | Upper Hutt 2 (Estelle Marshall) |
| 2 | Pinehaven 2 (Terry Poynter) |
| 3 | Petone 2 (Carol Eckersley) |
| 4 | Lower Hutt 4 (Kathy Brabin) |

**Round 4: First Round of Play Offs –** **Sunday 5th March**

Division 1 TOP FOUR:

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| --- |
| Pinehaven 1 vs Upper Hutt 1 |
| Wainui/Maungaraki 1/Avalon vs Lower Hutt 1 |

Division 1 BOTTOM FOUR:

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| --- |
| Wainui/Maungaraki 1/Avalon vs Petone 1 |
| Wainui/Maungaraki 1/Avalon vs Lower Hutt 2 |

Division 2 TOP FOUR:

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| --- |
| Maungaraki 2 vs Pinehaven 2 |
| Maungaraki 3 vs Upper Hutt 2 |

Division 2 BOTTOM FOUR:

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| --- |
| Wainui 2 vs Lower Hutt 4 |
| Lower Hutt 3 vs Petone 2 |

**For HV Tennis Association**

Paddy Wells, Dick Werry, Carol Eckersley, Paul Olsthoorn, Estelle Marshall.