



# Regional Facilities Plan February 2022



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## Section 1. Executive Summary

### **1.1 Plan Outline**

The aim of the Squash Northland Regional Facilities Plan is to provide a framework for the development of squash facilities in the Northland region, identifying the priorities within each facility to support ongoing facility development to drive membership and participation growth in both club and community squash. Information obtained for this plan was submitted to the Whangarei District Active Recreation and Sport Strategy 2019 put in place by the Whangarei District Council.

This plan was initially compiled in early 2019 and will identify future development opportunities for squash in Northland and will be reviewed annually with updated participation numbers and a stock-take of current facilities. It will aid Squash Northland, Squash NZ, Whangarei District Council, Far North District Council, Kaipara District Council, squash clubs, funders, and other key stakeholders and partners to prioritise future investment ensuring the right facilities are provided, in the right location, and for the right reasons.

### **1.2 Current Squash Northland Overview**

The current distribution of squash facilities in Northland is adequate, excluding the current absence of squash courts in Kerikeri because of fire damage. However, due to the increase in demand of courts in particular areas, a number of squash facilities are now in need of additional squash courts.

Due to an adequate distribution and number of squash facilities in Northland, short-term investment, planning and resources should be focused on improving and expanding existing squash facility condition and utilisation.

Additional squash courts, LED lighting and glass-back courts are considered the best practices for squash facility upgrades as this allows for improved court quality (and availability for those in need of courts).

There are several cases highlighting the positive impact upgrading existing facilities (see Cromwell, Mount Maunganui, Otatau and Tararua case studies) can have on both a community and the game.

Reviewing the financial position of affiliated squash clubs, the majority are able to meet day to day costs of operation, however many struggle to meet repair, maintenance and development costs. Most clubs have a small cash reserve, however these are a small back up for little projects and would struggle to support the club through tough financial situations.

Squash court surfaces, walls and lighting were the most recognised court improvements needed across Northland squash facilities. Changing room upgrades and modernisation of the general facilities were also among the plans of many squash clubs' facility improvements.

Overall, improved squash facility condition and accessibility, greater promotion of the sport, targeted programming and more innovative facility management is needed. Growth of club membership in high participation and growth areas highlight the need for expansion of some existing clubs.

### **Covid-19 2020-2022**

It may be too early to ascertain the impact that the Covid-19 health pandemic over the last couple of years will have on our squash community in regards to membership and also financially, although so far there doesn't appear to be any major impact.

2021 brought another challenging year with Covid-19 disruptions and uncertainty but everyone was a bit more prepared this year, with our clubs showing great resilience and able to adapt quickly to protect members and put protocols in place when required. Club nights, tournaments, interclub and coaching all resumed quickly after ongoing lock-downs, vaccine mandates etc.

## Section 2. Introduction

### **2.1 Background of Squash Facilities**

With a history of a number of Kiwis achieving high levels of elite success in world squash and a number of current top level squash players on the world stage, growth of the game at a community level remains limited by a common criticism that most squash facilities are dark, old and cold. Until this perception is addressed the sport will struggle to grow beyond its current limitations imposed by factors outside its control.

This Regional Squash Facilities Plan is designed, with the help of Squash Auckland's Facilities Plan and Squash New Zealand, to aid our local clubs, Territorial Authorities (TAs), and Regional Sports Trusts (RSTs) to provide a framework for the provision and development of welcoming squash facilities within each region. From here, opportunities can be taken to optimise and expand existing facilities, using the latest in squash court technology, all in a collaborative way to better meet future needs and grow the sport in the Northland Region.

Data collected from consultations and research for this strategy will enable informed decisions to be made about whether investment in squash facilities are required to:

- Develop and expand existing squash facilities
- Increase court utilisation across all squash facilities
- Protect, retain and maintain existing squash facilities
- Rationalise facilities as part of a targeted reinvestment strategy into priority areas or projects;
- Improve existing squash facility conditions, accessibility and management

### **2.2 The Value of Squash**

Squash was voted the world's healthiest sport by the Forbes Magazine when judged across a broad range of criteria including cardio endurance, strength, muscle endurance, flexibility, calories burned and injury risk.

Squash is a non-contact sport that can be played all year-round, in all weather conditions, by any age, gender and skill-level. Squash can be practiced alone, or played as singles or doubles and provides many health and social benefits to participants whether they play it as a leisure or competitive sport.

Key health and social benefits resulting from squash participation include;

- |                                  |                                |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Develops agility               | • Boosts heart and lung health |
| • Sharpens hand-eye coordination | • Coaches social skills        |
| • Compels flexibility            | • Improves self-confidence     |
| • Pinpoints concentration        | • Ensures mental well-being    |
| • Imposes strength and fitness   | • Alleviates stress            |

A significant point of difference that squash holds is that it is gender neutral. It gives equal opportunities for males and females to participate, enjoy and achieve. A fair game of squash is able to be played between a male and a female. The professional PSA World Series events have equal prize money for the men's and women's draws and is one of the few sports in which women and men compete in the same event at the same time, under the same rules, scoring system, and size of playing area. In the 2018 season there was a significant milestone in women's squash when Saudi Arabia hosted their first ever professional women's tournament.

There is no restriction around age, and in the majority of club tournaments you could find a 12-year-old up against a 50-year-old. However, there are specific Junior, Senior and Masters tournaments both locally, nationally and internationally for the chance to match up against those of the same age category.

Squash is also one of the most widely played sports in the world. The World Squash Federation has over 145 National Squash Federations. Apart from various professional and amateur tournaments, it is also a Commonwealth sport while constantly attempting (so far unsuccessfully) to be included in the Olympics.

The recent squash success in the 2018 Commonwealth Games where the New Zealand squash team picked up 2 gold, 1 silver and 1 bronze highlights the current New Zealand strength on the professional squash stage. Joelle King picked up the most medals of the entire New Zealand Commonwealth team with 2 gold and 1 bronze and became the first ever New Zealander to win the female singles gold medal.

New Zealand has had a proud history of producing some of the world's best squash player's, however it had felt as though in recent years there had been a slight drought. Although, with Joelle King currently ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in the female world rankings and Paul Coll ranking at a career high of No 1 in world in the men's (as at 1 March 2022), it looks as though New Zealand is not only making a comeback on the world squash stage, but also making our mark there as well.

Northland Squash itself also has a proud history of producing top performing squash players. The most notable being Shelley Kitchen who reached a career high of 6<sup>th</sup> in the world and picked up 2 Commonwealth Games medals. Shelley was inducted the Northland Legends of Sport in 2017 and the New Zealand Squash Hall of Fame in 2018.

## Section 3- Context

### **3.1 Strategic Context- National**

‘Squash on the move’ is Squash New Zealand’s current strategic plan in place for 2016-2021. The five strategic outcomes Squash New Zealand aims to receive out of this strategic plan are:

1. Participation Growth
2. International Success
3. Welcoming Facilities
4. Financial Health
5. Unified Delivery

In terms of Participation Growth, Squash New Zealand’s goal is to reach 25,000 members by 2021, this being a 6,000-member increase over the 5-year period. Current membership numbers with affiliated clubs sits at 18,146. In comparison to most participation sports, squash facilities are essential to playing squash.

To increase facility usage in off-peak times, clubs are encouraged to have a casual play offer. There are now multiple different ways this can be done including; manual bookings on-site, or a fully automated system such as Squash New Zealand’s national database iSquash (<http://squashnz.co.nz/for-clubs/isquash-online-booking.cfm>) third party companies such as Pay2Play (<https://www.pay2play.co.nz/>). Social competitions which are run by clubs however don’t require players to be club members to participate, such as league nights and Business House tournaments are growing in popularity.

‘International success’ is a goal that speaks for itself. Over the 5-year strategic plan, Squash New Zealand has many goals surrounding international success. one key goal has since been completed successfully, with the goal of gaining 2 Commonwealth Games medal tackled successfully with 4 medals won. International success by New Zealand players is key to pride, provide inspiration for up-and-coming players, attract new players to the game and increases partnership opportunities.

The strategic outcome of ‘Welcoming Facilities’ involves improved facilities and court utilisation, improved accessibility and improved programmes. This would help attract more people to squash, as well as keeping people in the game.

With regards to ‘Financial Health’, Squash New Zealand’s aim is to be financially stable and commercially successful at all levels with sound governance, management and financial systems in place at Squash New Zealand, districts and clubs. Also that Squash New Zealand, districts and clubs can afford to invest in new initiatives.

“Unified delivery’ focuses on Squash New Zealand, districts and clubs unifying to deliver squash nationwide. This involves aligning strategic and annual plans, as well as Squash New Zealand and districts working well together at an operational level.

**Link-** [Squash NZ Strategic Plan 2019 - 2022.pdf](#)

### **3.2 Strategic Context- Regional**

Squash Northland's current strategic plan aligns closely with that of Squash New Zealand's. The five key Strategic outcomes are the same as those of Squash New Zealand, however made specific for the Northland region:

- Participation Growth
- National Success
- Welcoming facilities
- Financial Health
- Unified Delivery

Squash Northland recognises that a number of facilities are in need of more courts with recent membership growth and demand for court usage.

**Link- [Squash Northland Strategic Plan 2018-2021](#)**



## Section 4- Current Situation

### 4.1 Review of Regional Facilities (Supply)

Within the Northland Region there are 19 identified squash facilities (however Kerikeri Squash Club is currently not fit for use due to fire damage). There are a total of 42 squash courts, with 14 glass-back courts. 12 of these facilities are currently affiliated squash clubs.

#### a. Squash Facility Breakdown- Location Information

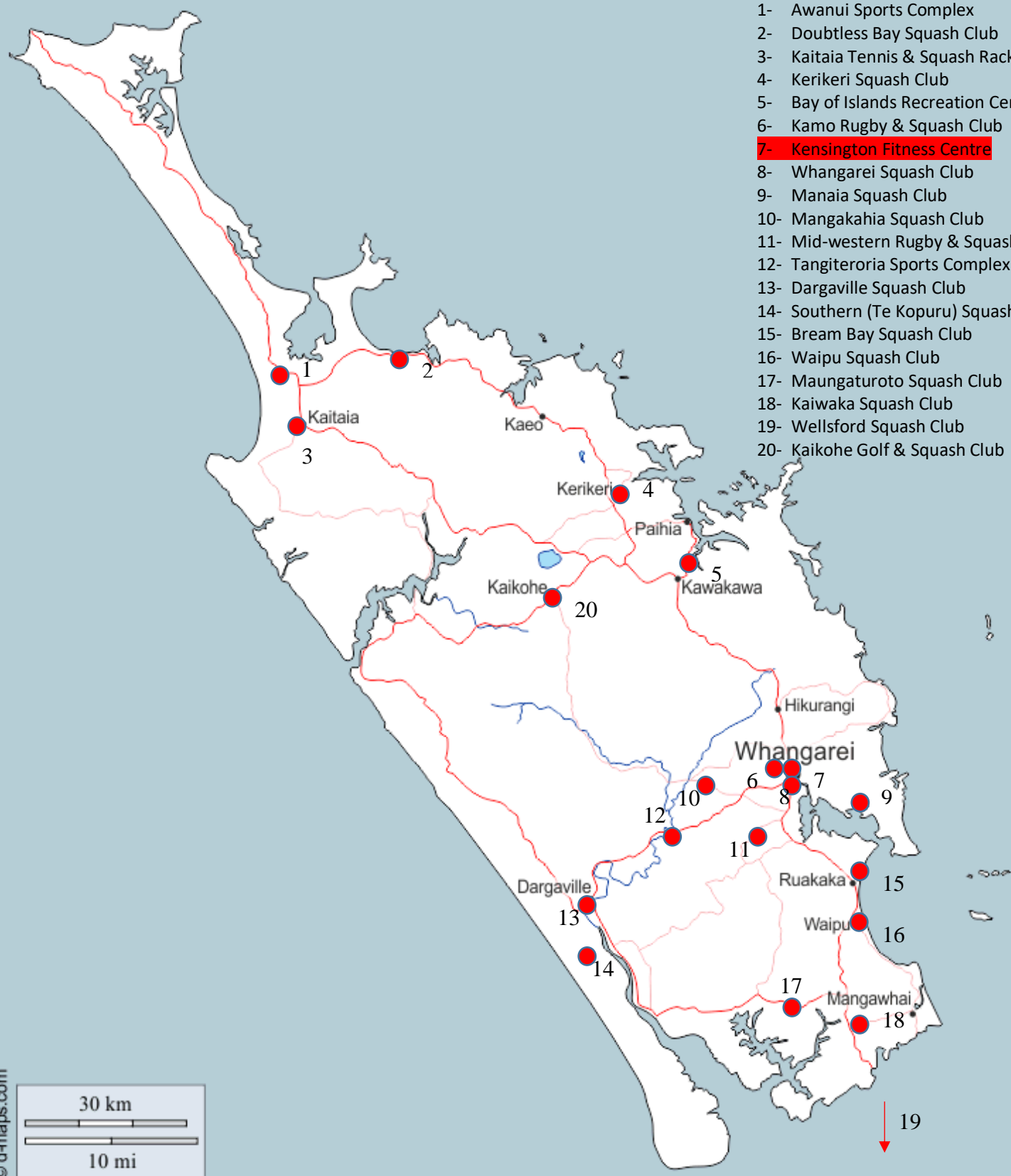
- 2 located in a stand-alone building
- 10 share facilities with other sports (most commonly Rugby)
- 6 are incorporated into recreation centres, larger sports complexes or community facilities.
- 1 is currently without a facility (Kerikeri)
- Currently no facilities in Northland have moveable walls for a full size doubles court.

Northland Squash Facilities							
Squash Facility	Facility Ownership	Location	Facility Summary	Territorial Authority	Hierarchy	Affiliation Status	Approximate year facility built
Awanui Sports Reserve	Far North District Council	92 SH1, Awanui	2x courts shared facility with rugby	Far North District	Local	Not affiliated	
Bay of Islands Recreation Centre	Sport Northland	Derrick Road, Kawakawa	1x glass-back court in gym/ recreation centre	Far North District	Local	Not affiliated	
Bream Bay Squash Club	Ruakaka Recreation Centre	9 Takutai Place, Ruakaka	2x courts (1 glass-back) in recreation centre	Whangarei District	Local	Affiliated	1985
Dargaville Squash Club	Kaipara District Council	Murdoch Street, Dargaville	2x glass-back courts, shared facility with rugby	Kaipara District	Local	Affiliated	1993
Doubtless Bay Squash Club	Doubtless Bay Squash Club	15 East Street Taipa	2x courts (1 glass-back), stand alone building	Far North District	Local	Not affiliated	1984
Kaikohe Golf and Squash Club	Kaikohe Golf and Squash Club	49 Ngawha Springs Road, Kaikohe	2x courts shared facility with golf	Far North District	Local	Not affiliated	1970s
Kaitaia Tennis and Squash Rackets Club	Kaitaia Tennis and Squash Rackets Club	7 Matthews Avenue, Kaitaia	3x courts shared facility with tennis	Far North District	Regional	Not affiliated	1973
Kaiwaka Squash Club	Kaiwaka Sports Association	15 Gibbons Road, Kaiwaka	2x courts, shared facility in sports complex	Kaipara District	Local	Not affiliated	Late 1970s
Kamo Rugby & Squash Club	Kamo Rugby & Squash Club	16 Butler Place, Kamo, Whangarei	3x courts (1 glass back), shared facility with rugby	Whangarei District	Regional	Affiliated	Late 1960s Glass court 1980s
Kerikeri Squash Club	Far North District Council	8 cobham Road, Kerikeri	No courts	Far North District	Local	Affiliated	
Manaia Squash Club	Parua Bay and Districts Community Centre Society	Parua Bay & Districts Community Centre, 1341 Whangarei Heads Road, Parua Bay	2x glass-back courts, shared community facility	Whangarei District	Local	Affiliated	1990
Mangakahia Squash Club	Mangakahia Sports Complex	Mangakahia Sports Complex, Mangakahia Road, Poroti	2x courts, shared multi-code facility	Whangarei District	Local	Affiliated	1 <sup>st</sup> court 1976 2 <sup>nd</sup> court 1978
Maungaturoto Squash Club	Maungaturoto Recreational Society	Maungaturoto Country Club, 34 Bickerstaffe Road, Maungaturoto	2xcourts shared community facility	Kaipara District	Local	Affiliated	1984
Mid-Western Squash Club	Mid-Western Rugby Union & Squash Club	26 Tangihua Road, Maungakaramea Township	3x courts (2 glass-back)	Whangarei District	Regional	Affiliated	Squash courts 1984
Southern (Te Kopuru) Squash Club	Southern (Te Kopuru) Rugby & Squash	Notorious West Road, Te Kopuru	2x courts shared facility with rugby	Kaipara District	Local	Affiliated	1975
Tangiteroria Sports Complex	Upper Wairoa Memorial Complex	23 Pukehuia Road, Tangiteroria	2x courts, within sports complex	Kaipara District	Local	Not affiliated	1983
Waipu Squash Club	Waipu Rugby Club	Saint Marys Road	2x courts shared facility with rugby	Whangarei District	Local	Affiliated	1970s
Wellsford Squash Club	Wellsford Golf & Squash Club	SH1, Wellsford	2x courts shared facility with golf	Auckland- Rodney	Local	Affiliated	1972
Whangarei Squash Club	Whangarei Tennis & Squash Club	28 Tarewa Road, Whangarei	4x glass-back courts, stand alone building	Whangarei District	National	Affiliated	1963

**Amenities**

In order for all clubs to be fit-for-purpose, additional amenities are required. These additions include; adequate spectator viewing and seating, facility heating and ventilation, player changing rooms, kitchen and catering amenities, disabled access and clubrooms/lounge areas. Some clubs also require an office or adequate workspace for the committee or manager to work from. Gym rooms and warm up spaces are a way that many clubs provide extra benefits to their members.

- 1- Awanui Sports Complex
- 2- Doubtless Bay Squash Club
- 3- Kaitaia Tennis & Squash Rackets Club
- 4- Kerikeri Squash Club
- 5- Bay of Islands Recreation Centre
- 6- Kamo Rugby & Squash Club
- 7- Kensington Fitness Centre**
- 8- Whangarei Squash Club
- 9- Manaia Squash Club
- 10- Mangakahia Squash Club
- 11- Mid-western Rugby & Squash Club
- 12- Tangiteroria Sports Complex
- 13- Dargaville Squash Club
- 14- Southern (Te Kopuru) Squash Club
- 15- Bream Bay Squash Club
- 16- Waipu Squash Club
- 17- Maungaturoto Squash Club
- 18- Kaiwaka Squash Club
- 19- Wellsford Squash Club
- 20- Kaikohe Golf & Squash Club



## **b. Hierarchy of Facilities for Squash in New Zealand**

Within New Zealand, there are a range of different squash facilities that meet the different levels of activity. Where the facilities sit on the hierarchy are determined by the following criteria;

<b><u>Hierarchy</u></b>	<b><u>Definition</u></b>	<b><u>Benchmark Indicators</u></b>	<b><u>Northland Facilities</u></b>
<b>International</b>	A facility with the ability to host international competitions/ events (i.e. between nations)	<p>A minimum of 6 courts, ideally to international specification</p> <p>Spectator capacity likely to exceed 250</p> <p>Changing rooms include adequate showering and toilet facilities to cater for expected competitors</p>	
<b>National</b>	A facility with the ability to host regional representative competitions (including professional and semi-professional competitions involving teams from outside New Zealand) and/or to serve as a national high performance training hub	<p>Between 3-5 courts, at least on being glass-back</p> <p>Main court spectator gallery seating for a minimum of 100 people</p> <p>Changing rooms adequate showering and toilet facilities to cater for expected competitors</p>	Whangarei Squash Club
<b>Regional</b>	A facility with the ability to host inter-regional and internal regional competitions and/or serve as a regional high performance training hub	A minimum of 3 courts, with access to another 3 courts within 15km	<p>Kamo Rugby &amp; Squash Club</p> <p>Mid-Western Squash Club</p> <p>Kaitaia Tennis &amp; Squash Rackets Club</p> <p>Kensington Fitness Centre</p>
<b>Local</b>	A facility with the ability to serve a local catchment's basic sporting needs. This catchment will predominantly be drawn from within a single territorial authority		<p>Manaia Squash Club</p> <p>Mangakahia Squash Club</p> <p>Waipu Squash Club</p> <p>Dargaville Squash Club</p> <p>Maungaturoto Squash Club</p> <p>Wellsford Squash Club</p> <p>Bream Bay Squash Club</p> <p>Southern (Te Kopuru) Squash Club</p> <p>Kaiwaka Squash Club</p> <p>Tangiteroria Sports Complex</p> <p>Doubtless Bay Squash Club</p> <p>Awanui Sports Complex</p> <p>Kaikohe Golf &amp; Squash Club</p> <p>Bay of Islands Recreation Centre</p>

Whangarei Squash Club has hosted a number of National Squash events in the recent years due to the fact it is the regions only National level facility. In 2015, it held the prestigious Cousins Shield/Mitchell Cup competition, followed by the 2016 New Zealand Junior Squash Open, and both the North Island Junior Age Group Championships and Under 23 National Championships in 2017, the D Grade National SuperChamps in 2019, the NZ Masters Individuals and Teams in 2020 and the C Grade National SuperChamps scheduled for 2022. In 2017, Kamo Rugby & Squash Club hosted a successful AD Long Masters Club Team Championship.

With a number of clubs looking to increase their number of courts, this would increase the number of National level facilities available in Northland and National events delegated to Northland would be able to be distributed amongst various clubs.

The Whangarei Squash Club is also currently used by Squash Northland as a base for its junior squad trainings along with other Whangarei area clubs as required.

#### **4.2 Membership & Demand**

Data is collected from all affiliated clubs once a year, when they are required to submit a snapshot of their club membership numbers, these are then presented in the Squash New Zealand Annual Report. Northland's affiliated members consist of:

- 67% male and 33% female
- 33% juniors and 67% seniors

The 2018 membership number for New Zealand was 18,146, 2019 was 18,189

#### **Northland Membership Numbers**

<b>Year</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>Membership Totals</b>	856	839	862	830	714	723	715	710	725	739

Membership numbers took a hit in 2016, after the growing Kerikeri Squash Club was ruined in a fire, currently they do not have any courts and membership numbers have fallen significantly. A number of affiliated squash clubs saw an increase in members between the 2019 and 2021 period.

Another point of consideration is the increase in number of people participating in squash that are not affiliated members. These include casual players, who are welcome at every club in Northland. Tu Manawa funding (formerly Kiwisquash funding) allows us to involve a large number of junior players who play weekly, however many are not affiliated members. The number of participants in the Kiwisquash programme in 2021 was 420 school aged players, across 8 squash clubs.

Membership subscriptions at Northland club's range between \$120 to \$335 per year for seniors and between \$35 to \$110 per year for juniors. Some clubs also offer family memberships, new member discounts and other types of memberships.

#### **4.3 Unaffiliated Numbers**

A major issue in determining participation in squash is quantifying the number of unaffiliated, casual players, as well as those who are members of non affiliated squash clubs and therefore not on the Squash New Zealand database. Sport New Zealand's 2017 Active New Zealand's survey showed 3.2% of all adults (aged 18+) participated in squash at least once during the year. This is an increase of 0.8% since the 2013/2014 Survey.

The demographical findings from this survey identified New Zealand European to be the highest percentage of participants in squash at 82%, followed by Maori at 13%, Pacific People 5% and Asian People 7% (note that more than one ethnicity could be selected).

An ongoing challenge for Squash New Zealand, as well as the squash districts, is to provide valuable squash offerings to convert more of these casual players into affiliated members playing regularly within the Squash New Zealand system.

Within Northland, there are many casual players that are not recorded through affiliated members. These are either casual players playing at courts provided by gyms (Kensington Fitness and Bay of Islands Fitness Centre), casual players at squash clubs, and all members at the five unaffiliated squash clubs throughout Northland.

#### **4.4 Court Usage**

Peak times at the majority of squash clubs around Northland are weeknights from around 4-7pm. All clubs have a club or league night which is their busiest night of the week. Tuesdays is interclub night. Some clubs use an online booking system (iSquash), and in order to get a court, particularly at peak time a court must be booked. Other clubs do not use a booking system and rather follow a 'first in first served' approach which seems to work for them.

Off-peak hours tend to be during the day before 4pm. However, the Kiwisquash programme running at 9 clubs across Northland has increased court usage during this time over the past few years.

#### **4.5 Current State of Facilities**

The distribution of squash facilities throughout Northland is adequate, however the majority need maintenance and upgrades to be improved and kept fit for purpose. In addition, many of the squash facilities are small clubs in growing communities and some of these are in need of expansion to cope with their increasing memberships and court demand.

The main barriers identified to increasing participation levels in squash include the low profile of the sport, inadequate facility conditions and a lack of knowledge surrounding specific resources for maintenance and funding. If these barriers are overcome and a collaborative approach is taken, both facility conditions and accessibility will be improved, along with the sport being rebuilt and reinvigorated at a community level.

Due to the fact that almost all squash clubs, excluding Whangarei Squash Club and Doubtless Bay Squash Club, are shared facilities with another sport or a recreation centre, in most instances finances are shared within the whole complex. The squash clubs tend to be the addition to the facilities and many of them have little control over the finances of their club and facility, this can make the process of going for funding more difficult. Some squash clubs rely heavily on income from their bar.

Only one squash club (Whangarei Squash Club) has a part-time manager, all other clubs are totally run by volunteers and committee members.

#### **4.6 Current Competitions & Events in Northland**

Squash Northland and its affiliated squash clubs have a large number of competitions that cater for all gender, ages and abilities.

##### **Club Tournaments**

**Open-** all affiliated clubs that wish to, hold at least one Open tournament throughout the season. These tournaments are open to anybody registered on the Squash New Zealand Grading List. In 2022, ten Open tournaments will be held in Northland.

**Junior tournaments-** club level junior tournaments are open to Under 19 players, usually aimed for younger or more beginner juniors; D Grade and below. In 2022, nine junior 1 day tournaments will be held in Northland. Juniors will often participate in the Open tournaments as well.

**Masters-** open to graded players aged 35 & over. Bigger masters events have age group divisions. Apart from the Northland Masters there are no other Masters tournaments planned for 2022 in Northland.

## **District Tournaments**

**Northland Open-** held each year (currently at Whangarei Squash Club as it is the only club with enough courts) this is Northlands biggest and most prestigious tournament of the squash season. It often attracts some of the top players in the country.

**Northland Junior Open-** hosted by a different affiliated Northland squash club each year, this is the district's main junior tournament, and is open to any junior squash player (U19) on the Squash New Zealand grading list.

**Northland Masters-** held each year, the districts main masters event, to be eligible players must be aged 35 or over.

**Northland Champion of Champions-** closed to residents of Northland, players compete in divisions of their current grade. The winners of each grade division are then eligible to compete in the National Champion of Champions event.

**Secondary Schools Championships-** all Northland Secondary School students are eligible to compete in both the Northland Secondary School Individual and Team Championships. These are one day tournaments held on a school day.

**Intermediate Schools Championships-** The inaugural Intermediate Schools Individuals Championships was held in 2019.

**SuperChamps eliminations-** SuperChamp teams from different clubs wanting to compete in the SuperChamps National Final play-off against other clubs in the same grade, the team that wins eliminations then proceeds onto National Superchamps.

## **Interclub**

Interclub is a graded, points-based competition that is administrated by Squash Northland and is open to teams from all affiliated clubs in the Northland District. Teams are divided into Men's and Women's competitions (except for Doubles Interclub) and divisions depending on the grades of players (except for the Open Interclub competition).

Interclub is currently contested in 4 competitions throughout the year; Doubles Interclub, Autumn Competition, Open Competition and Spring Competition. The interclub format is currently undergoing review, due to declining teams/numbers over the past few years.

## **4.7 Casual Play & Latent Demand**

A casual play option and court-bookings being available to non-members is a huge factor in attracting more players to squash. All clubs allow non-members to play at their club, the average fee being \$5- \$10. However, even though casual players are welcome, for many clubs a key or tag is needed to access the door, therefore unless the club is open and people are there or they are playing with a member, casual players may struggle to access courts.



#### **4.8 Current Risks & Challenges**

**Loss of Existing Facilities-** in May 2021 all three squash courts at the Kensington Fitness Centre were converted into fitness spaces/studios. The loss of these squash courts has had an impact on many regular casual players but offered an opportunity for clubs to gain members. It means there are now no public courts in the Whangarei area.

**Kerikeri Squash Club-** In June 2016, Kerikeri Squash Club was damaged in a fire. Since then they have not had any squash facilities. With a large and growing membership, the players at Kerikeri and regions have been hugely impacted. A number of their keen players travel to the Kaikohe Squash Club and have done so for the past few years. Kerikeri Squash Club are in the process of working closely with the Far North Council on the rebuild and plans for the squash club. A substantial amount of funding has been secured and a start on this build is expected sometime in 2022. Although with building costs rising this could mean another setback.

**Aging Facilities-** existing facilities are between 33-55 years of age, therefore all facilities are in need of general maintenance and upgrades to ensure they continually fit-for-purpose. Day to day costs are able to be met by most clubs, however there is a struggle to find enough resources for repairs, maintenance, and development. This places a burden on clubs when attempting to attract players and grow numbers when their club is unattractive and sub-standard.

## Section 5- Future Demand

### **5.1 Identified Areas of Demand**

#### **Club expansions/ extra courts**

Due to the growth of membership and court demand in specific squash clubs, there is an identified need for additional courts at a number of clubs. Manaia Squash Club, Mangakahia Squash Club and Wellsford Squash Club are planning to add courts. Maungaturoto Squash Club have also indicated that they would like to add another court in the future.

All of the clubs mentioned above currently have just two squash courts, and with large membership growth in recent years, and all being in high population growth regions, in order for them to provide sufficient court availability for current members and continual growth, additional courts would be highly beneficial.

Manaia Squash Club and Wellsford Squash Club are planning on adding two courts, this would make them four court facilities, and along with Kerikeri Squash Clubs potential 4 four courts, these would all meet the criteria to National level squash facilities.

Mangakahia Squash Club plan on adding one squash court making them a Regional level facility. Maungaturoto Squash Club are considering adding one more court.

All of these potential new courts would be a huge asset, not only to their own squash members and communities but also to the wider Northland and NZ squash community,

#### **Moveable walls for doubles**

Popularity of doubles squash is increasing due to;

1. Lower stress on body, meaning older players are more capable of playing without stress and injury being a major concern. It is commonly played socially amongst the older players and means more people can be on the court and playing together at one time.
2. New Zealand's success on the world stage, one gold and one bronze at the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

The majority of Northland Clubs hold doubles tournaments each season. However, no squash clubs in the region have proper doubles-sized courts. Doubles on a traditional court provides a higher injury risk due the limited space and higher speed of game. Playing doubles on a proper sized court removes a large amount of that risk.

Doubles is no longer known as just a 'social game'. In 2011, Squash New Zealand held the first National Doubles Championships, which is still held each year, and attracts the top squash players from around New Zealand.

## **Areas with a lack of squash facilities**

### **Kerikeri**

In June 2016, Kerikeri Squash Club was damaged in a fire. Since then they have not had any squash facilities to play at. With a large and growing membership, the club and region has taken a large hit, as well as the community who used the facility for other purposes. Kerikeri Squash Club is hoping to start their rebuild in 2022.

## **5.2 Key Principles for Better Facility Provision**

- Collaborating and engaging with TAs and RSTs who have developed, or are developing regional sport facility plans (e.g. Whangarei District Active Recreation and Sport Strategy 2019)
- Maximising the use of existing facilities with quality programme offerings
- Improving the accessibility and utilisation of facilities, including off-peak times, through online Pay2Play systems or open access to casual players, and the KiwiSquash programme
- Identifying and developing existing facilities in need of expansion and upgrades
- Cooperating with other sports to advocate to TAs for rationalisation and development of new community facilities or refurbishment of existing sports centres.

## **5.3 Indicative Costs**

### **New Build**

The majority of the cost in erecting new squash courts is in the building itself. For the costs of the courts themselves, there are a number of different options available but standard system courts can cost anywhere between \$60k-\$100k per court excluding lighting. The build time is approximately one week per court.

There are two main companies that offer squash court supply and building services in New Zealand.

**ASB Squash Courts-** [www.asbsquash.com](http://www.asbsquash.com)

**Court Tech-** [www.courttech.biz](http://www.courttech.biz)

### **Maintenance and Upgrades**

In relation to existing squash courts, there are typically three main areas of the playing surfaces that clubs will look to upgrade;

- **Court Lighting-** A number of squash clubs are in the process of looking into refitting their squash court lighting to LED's, Whangarei Squash Club upgraded to LED at the beginning of 2018. With LED technology becoming cheaper the decision to switch to LED's is now an easy one for club committees to agree on. Cost is around \$5,000 per court.
- **Painting-** the traditional plaster squash court walls can make a court seem dark and uninviting with many clubs opting to paint them in a specifically designed white

paint. Over time with the repetitive impact of being hit by a squash ball, the paint tends to flake off meaning these courts need repainting. The expected lifespan of the paint varies depending on a number of factors including the quality of the wall surface prior to painting, humidity, water leakage from external walls, and more. When repainting the process normally involves removing the old paint, patching up any places in the plaster where cracks have opened up, and then repainting. Approximate pricing is \$4,000 per court.

- **Floor Sanding-** maintaining the court floor is an extremely important task due to the potential for serious injury caused by a player slipping. While most court floors can be swept regularly along with a semi-regular hot mop to pick up loose dust and dirt that gets between floor boards, occasionally the floor will need a full sand. This will help lighten the tone of the wood which can get dark over time, as well allow for improved grip of squash court shoes. Indicative costs of floor sanding are around \$1,300 per court.

### Club Maintenance Requirements

Item	Indicative Cost	Expected lifespan
Court Lighting (LED)	\$5,000 per court (price is constantly decreasing)	10 years
Court Plaster Maintenance & Painting	\$4,000 per court	10 years
Floor Sanding	\$1,300 per court	10 years
Club & Changing Room refurbishment	Unknown	25 years

### Maintenance Notes

- LED lights have an expected lifespan of approximately 50,000 hours. Costs decreasing.
- Many squash clubs do not have painted courts however the courts still require regular plaster maintenance which can also be costly
- Other maintenance items that may specifically affect the playing areas of the club include heating and ventilation.

## Section 6- Plans & Implementation

### 6.1 Club Individual Facilities Plans (alphabetical)

**Awanui Sports Complex-** general maintenance, no upgrades planned.

**Bay of Islands ASB Recreation Centre-** have no current upgrade plans, general maintenance and cleaning.

**Bream Bay Squash Club-** general maintenance and updates, no major projects identified at this stage.

**Dargaville Squash Club-** are looking at replastering of walls, as small cracks are present. In addition, general court and amenities maintenance to keep the club fit-for-purpose.

**Doubtless Bay Squash Club-** do not have any upgrade plans. General maintenance and upgrades when needed.

**Kaikohe Golf & Squash Club-** are looking at plastering their front walls, as there are chunks of wall coming off and therefore uneven. General maintenance on the courts to keep them fit-for-purpose.

**Kaitaia Tennis & Squash Rackets Club-** are considering replacing the decking and fencing as is outdated and needs upgrading. In terms of the courts, they want to upgrade the lights to LED, and convert their two concrete back courts into glass-back, which would open up and modernise the squash club. Longer term goals include the potential addition of another court. Ideas are in the initial planning stages.

**Kaiwaka Squash Club-** general maintenance including replastering, LED lighting, sealing/fixing a leaking problem caused by an add-on deck.

**Kamo Squash Club-** have plans in place to upgrade and modernise their club. Main plans included in their Facilities Management Strategy include modernising and turning their remaining 2 concrete-back courts into glass-back courts, helping to open up the club. Within the next few years there are plans to replaster the front walls, repair or replace the floors on all courts and upgrade their court lighting to LED.

In addition, Kamo Squash Club are planning to relocate and upgrade their office. Kamo Squash Club has strong sponsorship and fundraising plans in place to help aid their club facilities and growth.

**Kensington Fitness Centre-** The three public squash courts were converted to fitness spaces in May 2021. The glass fronts were given to the Kerikeri Squash Club for their new courts (now in storage).

**Kerikeri Squash Club-** has now been without courts for nearly 6 years, due to fire damage to the squash club in June 2016. They are hoping to build a new facility of 4 courts, they are working closely with the Far North District Council, have secured substantial funding and are hoping to start on their build in 2022. Before the fire, the squash club was rapidly growing and membership numbers were around 150.

Being a high population growth area, a four court facility would hugely benefit the club, ensuring that the large squash community in Kerikeri have sufficient numbers of courts. As there is an airport in Kerikeri, a club with four courts would be able to host both regional and National tournaments which would be a great asset to Northland squash.

**Manaia Squash Club-** are planning an extension, which involves an addition of 2 glass-back courts with tiered seating, and are looking into the possibility of moveable walls to form full doubles courts. This would be a great asset to Northland as there are no current full doubles courts in the region and doubles is gaining in popularity. The addition of these courts are needed in order to keep up with membership growth and court demand as currently they have only two courts.

Manaia Squash club has significantly grown over the last 2-3 years with the help of the Kiwi Sport programme involving juniors from Parua Bay and other local schools. In addition to the Kiwi Squash programme currently over 50 juniors participate in junior club night, thus highlighting the need for additional courts. Parua Bay is a high growth region, the forecasted population growth within the Parua Bay area is a 22% increase by 2043.

The Manaia Squash Club have purchased necessary land, the next step is getting plans prepared and working with the multi-use community centre in which the club is part of.

**Mangakahia Squash Club-** are well on their way to making a start on the addition of one glass backed squash court with a viewing area. They also plan to upgrade their entrance way and mens and womens ablution block which are extremely outdated.

This is to accommodate the increasing membership numbers. Maungatapere area is also an identified high growth region in which the population is forecasted to grow by 19% by 2043.

There plans have been finalised and they are in the process of applying for funding. The squash club has had significant fundraising events over the last few years through their supportive local community. Mangakahia Squash Club is part of the Mangakahia Sports Complex, which has undergone recent upgrades in which they received funding for, however these upgrades have not occurred within the squash facilities.

**Maungaturoto Squash Club-** are considering adding an additional court in the future. No serious planning has taken place for this to date, however an additional court would benefit them with managing court demand, particularly on their very popular cub night. Facility maintenance the club has planned includes boarding behind the tin to stop birds and dust from the driveway coming onto the court. Some of the ceiling tiles also need replacing.

**Mid-western Squash Club-** are looking at refurbishing their courts to improve their overall quality. This includes painting their courts and upgrading their lights. The club has not updated their courts since they were built in 1984.

**Southern (Te Kopuru) Squash Club-** would like to resurface the walls and complete general maintenance on the courts to raise them to an adequate standard.

**Tangiteroria Sports Complex-** unfortunately this complex burnt down in January 2020 and plans are yet to be made on its rebuild.

**Waipu Squash Club-** are focusing on general maintenance and upgrades of their squash courts, plans include painting their squash courts and replacing the doors on the squash courts. They are hoping to get new LED lights in the near future.

**Wellsford Squash Club-** is planning on adding two squash courts. Moveable walls are a possibility depending on the cost. Two additional squash courts are much needed due to the large membership growth and court demand. Court demand has been so high they have had to turn juniors away as there is simply not enough courts to accommodate them all on junior night. Wellsford is also a high growth region, in which there is a forecasted growth of 25% by 2043 and nearby Mangawhai (where there are no squash courts) is predicted to grow by 30%.

With the addition of two courts, the club would be able to host bigger events such as the Northland Open. This would be beneficial to Northland as it is the closest facility to Auckland, therefore likely to attract players from both Northland and Auckland districts. They are hoping to get these additional courts within the next two years. Prior to adding courts, the sewage system needs to be sorted to allow for building.

The club would also need to add upstairs toilets to their facilities to meet the building requirements with the planned extension.

**Whangarei Squash Club-** are planning on installing a new roof, there have been recent leaks and the roof is fragile and dangerous when fixing these. A full plan will shortly be put in place and the project would be completed over 1-2 months during summer. New gym equipment was purchased in 2021 which has modernised their gym.

## Section 7- Appendix

### **7.1 Squash Facility Development Guidelines**

In addition to meeting the identified minimum court specifications, there are a number of design considerations that should be considered when either upgrading an existing squash facility, or building a new squash facility.

#### **Facility Purpose**

Prior to the development of a new facility for squash, the purpose of the facility and how it will be used should be understood. Early consideration of these factors will maximize the investment made to ensure that the facility is in the right place.

#### **Site Location**

When looking at potential locations for building new squash facilities, it is important that they are not considered solely from the sporting point view, but also as a basic element in wider urban and social planning.

This includes:

- Location of other squash facilities
- Proximity to potential participants
- High visibility of the facilities
- Ease of access

Considering these aspects during the initial planning stage will not only maximize the use of the facilities, but ensure the potential social benefits are achieved as well.

#### **Building Requirements**

It is recommended to have a building with a clear height of at least 5.7m. If the courts are designed for leisure only (no official tournament use), a lower height may be acceptable.

The other factors are the walls of the building. An empty building with favourably placed columns that allows for lots of free space is ideal for placing courts. This provides more flexibility in terms of court positioning, the number of courts and other amenities such as changing rooms, pro-shop, café, etc. The more flexibility there is, the better the optimisation of pathways inside.

#### **Court Orientation**

A north-facing orientation is preferred to maximize natural lighting.

#### **Environmental Choices**

Several initiatives can be used to promote better, more sustainable and healthier facilities:

- Utilise recycling stations to reuse rubbish, compost organic matter and dispose of light bulbs.
- Choose environmentally friendly cleaning products.
- Use energy-efficient products.



- Fit efficient air conditioning and heating systems, including double glazing.
- Install solar panels to heat water.
- Reduce paper through online marketing.
- Underlay flooring from recycled products.
- Place plants throughout the facility to give fresh air.
- Provide members with access to information on public transport options.

For more: <http://www.environmentalchoice.org.nz/>

### **Facility Design**

There are 5 key areas of the facility that can be made to look aesthetically pleasing and provide a stimulating place to be:

1. Exterior
2. Entrance/ Exit Area
3. Playing Area (Courts)
4. Changing Rooms
5. Storage Areas

Squash New Zealand have developed a basic facility design guide that contains ideas for creating a welcoming facility (visit their website for more information).

### **Court Design**

Court size and internal dimensions of the playing areas are derived from the World Squash Federation's court markings 2012 for both standard and doubles courts.

A standard squash court's internal dimensions are:

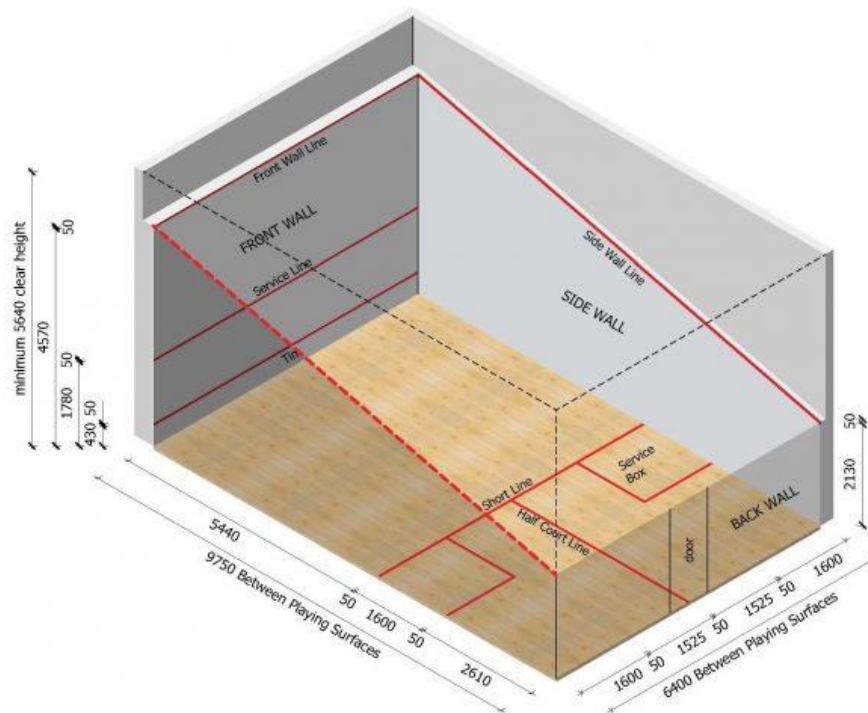
- Length: 9750mm +/- 10mm
- Width: 6400mm +/- 10mm
- Diagonals: 11665mm +/- 25mm

The total floor area is 62.4m<sup>2</sup>

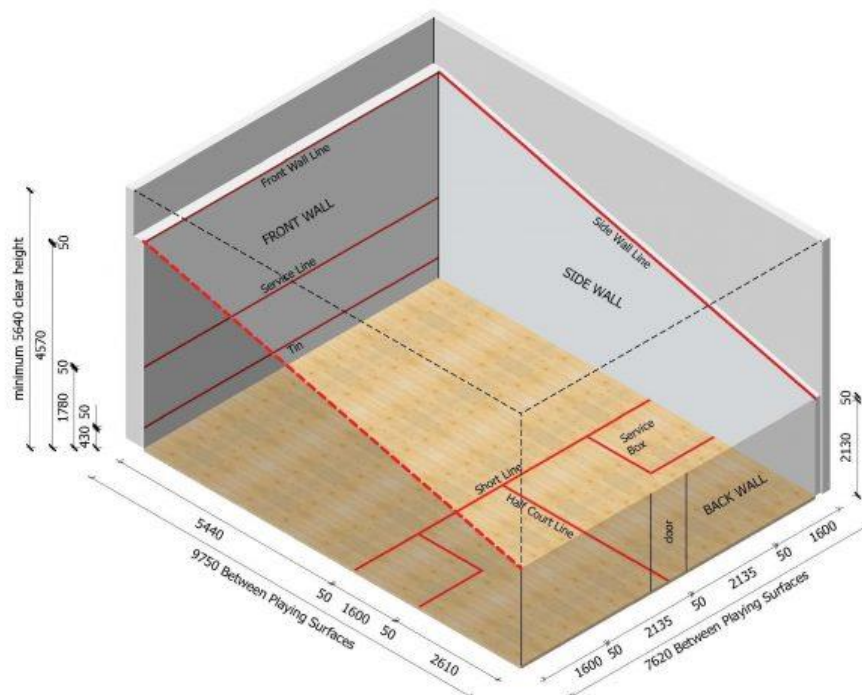
### WSF 2012 court markings

All court markings should be 50mm wide and contrast colour to adjoining surfaces (often red). All wall markings should be the same colour and all floor lines should be 50mm wide and should be done on clean and unsealed boards.

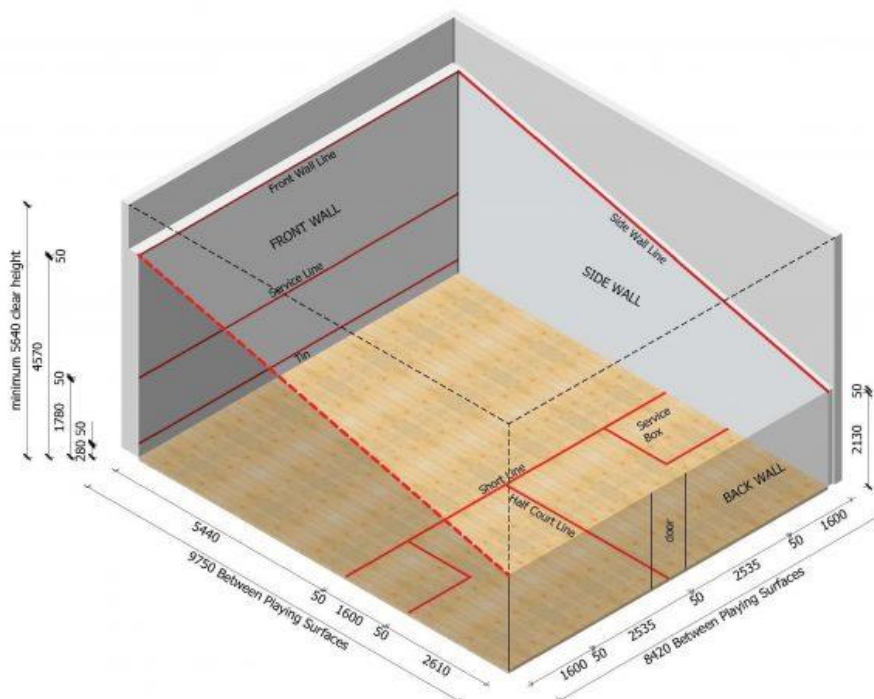
#### GENERAL CONFIGURATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SINGLES COURT



#### GENERAL CONFIGURATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DOUBLES COURT



## GENERAL CONFIGURATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DOUBLES COURT- COMPETITION WIDTH



The detailed specifications for squash courts can be found on the World Squash Federation Website.

For more: <http://www.worldsquash.org/>

### 7.2 Technical Information

With thanks to Squash England, the following provides some extra guidelines on the construction and maintenance requirements for squash courts. Squash New Zealand recommends that a specialist consultant or contractor be used to determine the most appropriate solution for each facility.

#### The floor

Both maple and beech are equally recommended. Strips should be a consistently light colour, laid the length of the court and secret nailed to semi-sprung battens at 300mm centres for maple and 411mm for beech. The floor is sanded by running the machine along the length of the court. The floor surface should be left unsealed with a slight 'nap' to provide shoe traction for players. To comply with the World Squash Federation requirements for a singles court, a finished floor should be level within +/- 10mm in the length and width and on the diagonals.

Joints between boards should be flush to within 0.25mm and any open joint shall not be more than 2mm wide. Edge boards should not be nailed, but screwed to the battens using

brass screws and cups and countersunk to 1mm below the floor surface. The nick should be 6-9mm wide and the edge strips should stop that distance from the side wall. The nick is an aid to airflow and should not be filled with any material.

If a glass-back is in place, the floor should be supported along the full width and up against the glass wall to ensure the air will eventually enter the boards and produce buckled or cupped strips.

### **Wall Construction**

The inner skin of the cavity wall should consist of equal clay bricks 21N/mm<sup>2</sup> or dense aggregate concrete blocks minimum 7N/mm<sup>2</sup>. It is usual to use 210mm brickwork or 200mm concrete block work in cement lime mortar. Flint lime, sand lime and calcium silicate bricks and lightweight aggregate block work should be avoided. Joints to be left flush.

Walls should be constructed of the same materials throughout. Avoid constructional steel or concrete columns in the same finished plane as this will lead to cracking of the playing surface materials. Court walls should be vertical to within 5mm in a height of 2m and straight to within +/- 15mm in the length of any wall.

### **Wall insulation**

If the courts are to be heated, the addition of insulation clipped to the cavity face of the inner skin should be considered. Insulation inhibits the passage of energy either as heat loss in the winter, or heat gain in the summer. This produces stabilising influence on the inner face, thereby slowing any sudden change in wall temperature, one of the conditions that most often leads to condensation.

Products suitable for introduction into an existing wall construction are generally blown, injected or, in some cases, poured into the cavity. The main problem likely to be encountered will be due to mortar droppings on the wall ties, and perhaps other materials bridging the cavity. Choice of materials includes:

- Urea-Formaldehyde (UF) Foam- The foam is injected into the cavity, usually through holes in the outer leaf, where it subsequently hardens and dries.
- Rock fibre- Fibres coated with a water repellent are blown into the cavity where they form a water repellent mat.
- Polyurethane Granules- These are irregularly shaped granules usually between 5mm and 20mm in size.
- Expanded Polystyrene Beads. These are white spheres with a diameter between 2mm and 7mm. They are extremely free running and require few filling holes.
- Glass Fibre- An alternative to rock fibre that is installed by a similar method.
- Polyurethane (Foamed) in New Walls- Two liquid components are mixed and injected into the cavity where they foam and rinse to fill the space.
- Concrete Wall Panels- The external walls are insulated using rigid insulating slabs fixed to the outer face, then covered with a mesh fabric and waterproof rendering coats.

The introduction of a cavity fill material can provide a ready collection point for moisture which is unlikely to dry out, and therefore, damp will migrate to inner cavity wall leaf.

Should this happen, the only remedy is to cut out the defective areas from the outside, remove obstructions and complete the filling. In this instance, the use of non-setting materials such as fibres or beads can be an advantage since the completion of the filling does not rely upon the chemical bonding of new material to old.

### **Playing Wall Surfaces**

Normal plasters are not suitable for squash courts. The most common wall surfaces are cement, plaster, wood or glass. There are also a number of pre-fabricated wall panel systems with unfinished joints warping out of shape.

Cement, plaster, and panel courts have a lower purchase price, but their playing surfaces are quickly compromised due to plaster having to be consistently patched or panels with unfinished joints warping out of shape.

Pre-fabricated walls without visible joints and gaps are more sophisticated in their production and while they come at a higher initial price, their maintenance costs are lower over the lifespan of the courts. The same applies to glass.

### **The Door**

For traditional brick built squash courts the standard wooden solid core door should be fitted to comply with building regulations.

### **Glass-backs**

The introduction of glass-backs is one of the major reasons for the increasing popularity of the game as it provides the opportunity for many more spectators can view the play compared with the traditional upstairs viewing gallery. Where a glass-back door is to be installed, the supporting channels should be set into the side walls. Fins should be supported on metal angles bolted into the concrete floor slab which should be thickened to allow for the bolts. The door and frames should be set flush with the playing surface, with a solid core and hung on concealed hinges in a SOSS pattern.

The following ironmongery is normally used for the door:

- Concealed hinges (SOSS pattern)
- Flush fitting ring handle court side
- Mortice latch with lever handle on outer face
- Check action closer
- Spy glass viewer

### **Performance Requirements**

- Glass must be toughened to at least 12mm and comply with the relevant New Zealand standards
- Door hinges should be positioned so that there is no undue deflection under impact of a player.
- The latch must close easily and remain latched and not bounce open when under impact.
- The door should deflect slightly under impact from players but should not form a finger trap between the side of the door and the side panels.

- The gaps between the panels and door should be 2mm maximum.
- Glass doors should be cleaned using spirit based cleaner suitable for glass.

Safety note: glass is not indestructible and does shatter occasionally, even following installation and after many years of usage. Squash New Zealand recommends that glass doors be inspected at least once a year by a qualified person, and all fixings checked and tightened if required.

### **Ceiling**

The ceiling of the court should preferably be flush with no projecting beams. The ceiling and/or underside of the roof, if exposed, should be painted a light colour. This should be not less than 5.64m above the finished floor level.

### **Lighting**

Natural lighting is not acceptable for the playing area. The court should be lit by artificial light. The minimum standard is 300 lux/ 1m above full court area (1000m above the floor). The recommended standard is 500 lux.

LED lamps have proven to be satisfactory and give an even spread of light over the complete floor area. The initial cost may be higher than conventional fittings but reduce running costs and have a longer life.

Light fittings should be able to withstand ball impact and free of stroboscopic effects. Fittings facing the front wall should be angled and have open ends to enable light to spread to the side walls. Fittings along the length of the court should be fixed parallel to the side walls. All types of fittings require regular cleaning to remove a build-up of dust and dirt. Checking and changing tubes should also be carried out on a regular basis.

Blinds or curtains should be used to prevent sunlight causing bright spots or areas on the court walls or floors.

### **Heating**

The position of heating will depend on the site and location of the court. The recommended temperature range is 15°C +/- 5°C for all areas. The only part of the playing area of the court which may be used as a location for any heating or ventilation equipment shall be the tin on the front wall, provided there are no projections into the court.

### **Ventilation**

Air bricks should be provided at a low level on the front wall of the court. This allows air into the court through holes corresponding to the air bricks formed in the tin, the out of court are and at the base of the front wall. A mechanical extractor fan should be located at the rear of the court to provide at least four air changes per hour.

### **Viewing gallery**

Where a solid back wall is used, a viewing gallery over the access corridor should be provided for spectators and referees.

### **Building Consent and Compliance**

When developing a new facility or upgrading an existing one, consideration should be given to local plan requirements.

For more: <http://www.building.govt.nz/>

Under the Building Act, the only on-going obligations the owner of an existing building must meet are those of the compliance schedule and building warrant of fitness regime. The exception would be if Council elected to invoke its power under section 124 deeming the building dangerous, earthquake-prone or insanitary and requiring action.

For more: <http://www.building.govt.nz/managing-buildings/managing-your-bwof/#jumpto-building-owner-obligations>

If an owner elects to alter an existing building or change the building's use, then the provisions of sections 112 and 115 respectively apply. Essentially all new building work undertaken in association with the alteration or change of use must comply with the Building Code and the existing building must be upgraded (to as nearly as is reasonably practical) in respect of nominated Building Code issues and be no worse in respect of all others.

For more: <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/at/public/2004/0072/latest/DLM306036.html>

### **Cleaning and maintenance**

From flooring to lighting and ventilation to insulation, the maintenance of squash facilities can be expensive if necessary are not dealt with promptly. Squash New Zealand have created a basic guide on the cleaning of squash courts.

For more: <http://squashnz.co.nz/for-clubs/index-of-resources.cfm>

## **7.3 Condensation**

Few things spoil a game of squash more than condensation. Sweating walls make it difficult to play the ball successfully and if the floor is affected, players can lose their footing and injuries are highly likely. Condensation issues often arise in certain weather conditions and heightened when crowds gather. There is a common principle underlying all condensation problems. Warm air can contain more water vapour than cool air, with the vapour content so great that vapour turns water droplets such as cloud, fog or dew when in contact with a cold surface. The limit at which this happens is known as the 'dew point'.

## **Basic Cures**

To overcome condensation problems in a squash court it is essential to prevent condensation taking place when warm moisture bearing air comes into contact with walls or floors which are at or below the dew-point for that particular air mass. This can be achieved by the following:

### Temperature

Ensure that the walls and floor of the court are kept at a temperature above the critical dew-point. Gas or electric radiant heaters provide the correct form of heating to ensure this happens. Courts within centrally heated and / or air conditioned buildings are never likely to suffer from condensation because the fabric of the walls serves as a storage heater and are never in danger of cooling off to dew-point level.

### Insulation

Ensuring walls are insulated can reduce the rate at which internal playing walls cool down during a cold spell. Background heating may prevent the walls becoming excessively cold during severe weather. It is when moist warm air flow follows a cold spell that condensation risks increase.

### Air changes

Ventilation of courts and spectator areas is essential. This rate of air change will be determined by the building size and type and often achieved by use of a fan placed at high level in the wall behind or in the roof above the viewing gallery or the back third of the court which will draw the air across the court from the ventilation holes in the 'tin'. Grass or other vegetation near the external ventilation holes should be cut as if wet, moisture will be drawn into the court.

### Vents

If high level vents have been installed on the playing wall, it may be necessary to seal these. This will ensure that the air is drawn across the court from low to high level. Additional ventilation for the viewing gallery area should be installed relative to the volume of the gallery. Extractor fans, when fitted with a speed controller, will enable the fans to be run at low speed when the courts are not in use and manual control to a higher speed when they are in use. Fans should be allowed to run on for 20 minutes after the court has been used.

### Over-heating

Where courts become excessively hot it may be necessary to install a larger fan. A speed controller will be required to reduce the extract rate in colder weather.

### Mould growth

If there are any signs of mould growth inside the court, this may be the result of a water leakage through the outside structure. If mould appears internally, and if a leak in the structure can be discounted, then these growths are usually the result of high humidity which may be caused by poor ventilation. Mould growth is best dealt with by brushing down to remove the loose mould growth and then treating with a proprietary mould inhibitor fungicide or a diluted solution of household bleach, containing chloride. The surface should then be washed down with clear water and left to dry thoroughly.



## Moisture Diagnosis

The following moisture diagnosis chart provides some of the most common causes and effects of moisture and squash courts and suggests possible cures.

Symptoms	Causes	Contributory Factors	Cures	Action Required
A film of water appears on the playing wall surfaces when the court is in use of cold days	Condensation (Sweating)	Moisture in the air from players Cold walls as a result of poor insulation	Heat the walls (particularly on cold days) Improve the insulation Remove the moisture from the air in the court	Install background heating Install cavity fill or external insulation Install extract ventilation to run continuously whilst courts are open for use
A film of water appears on the playing wall surfaces when the court is in use of warm days following cold days	Condensation (Sweating)	Moisture laden air coming from another part of the building Cold walls Additional moisture put into the air by players	Remove the moisture from the air in the court Heat the walls, particularly on warm days	Install extract ventilation to run continuously whilst courts are open for use. Install background heating
A film of water appears on the playing wall surfaces whether used or not, particularly on cold days	Condensation (Sweating)	Moisture laden air coming from another part of the building Cold walls Additional moisture put into the air by players	Make sure that moisture laden from elsewhere does not enter the court Remove the moisture from the air in the court Heat the walls, particularly on warm days	Provide separate ventilation systems for the court and other areas Arrange for a ventilated area between courts and other areas Install extract ventilation to run continuously whilst courts are open for use Install background heating
Drips of water appear on the floor at a limited number of points, and only on cold days whether or whether not in use	Condensation	Moisture laden air coming in contact with cold surfaces Poorly insulated roof with cold spots (e.g. steel beams or pipes)	Remove moisture with an extractor fan Stop moisture laden air from coming into contact with cold surfaces Improve insulation locally or generally	Install extract ventilation Install a continuous vapour barrier on the warm side of insulation in the ceiling structure or underside of the roof Install cavity fill or external insulation

Symptoms	Causes	Contributory Factors	Cures	Action Required
Bloom appears on the floor, and the floor becomes slippery when the court is in use	Condensation	Moisture in the air from players Cold floor	Remove moisture from the air in the court Provide heating Sand the floor	Install extract ventilation Install background heating Sand floor in direction of grain to leave a nap on the surface, do not seal
Drips of moisture appear all over the floor when the court is in use	Roof leak(s)	Cracked glazing Inadequate sealing of joints between materials Broken tiles or slates Cracked roof finish	Locate and repair leaks	Seek professional advice
Water runs down the walls from the top during or		Broken or misplaced copings		

<p>after rain, whether or not the court is in use</p> <p>Isolated patches of damp appear on external walls after rain, particularly on walls facing the prevailing wind. Fungus or mould growth may appear, particularly in corners</p>	<p>Roof or wall head leak(s)</p> <p>Rain penetration</p>	<p>Choked gutters</p> <p>Porous brickwork or faulting pointing</p> <p>Cavity bridged or no cavity</p> <p>Broken or split external cladding</p>	<p>Inspect and locate leaks</p> <p>Check gutters and rainwater pipes</p>	<p>Seek professional advice</p> <p>Clean gutters and rainwater pipes</p>
<p>The lower parts of walls feel damp persistently and a more or less horizontal tide mark appears. Floors may be damp and / or rotten. Fungus or mould growth may appear</p>	<p>Rising damp</p>	<p>Breakdown of damp course</p> <p>No damp course</p> <p>Soil bridging the damp course on the external face</p>	<p>Install new damp course</p> <p>Inspect and lower the ground level externally</p>	<p>Seek professional advice</p>
<p>Cupped or delayed flooring</p> <p>Excessive movement in the floor</p> <p>Floor expands</p>	<p>Rising damp</p>	<p>Breakdown of the damp proof membrane in or on the over site concrete</p> <p>Leak from faulty plumbing or drainage</p> <p>Local external flooding</p> <p>Breakdown of floor suspension system</p>	<p>Install new damp proof membrane</p> <p>Locate and repair leaks</p> <p>Check watercourses and storm water drains</p> <p>Lift floor and replace suspension system</p>	<p>Seek professional advice</p>

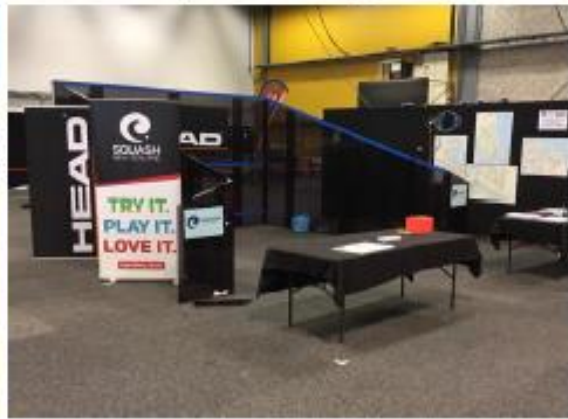
## 7.4 Squash Court Innovations

There have been a wide range of squash court innovations been used with varying degrees of success over the years. Some examples are shown below:

**Inflatable Courts**



**Micro (Portable and Rigid) Courts**



**Portable Glass Courts**



**Outdoor Public (Glass) Courts**



**Moveable Side Walls**



**Interactive Courts**



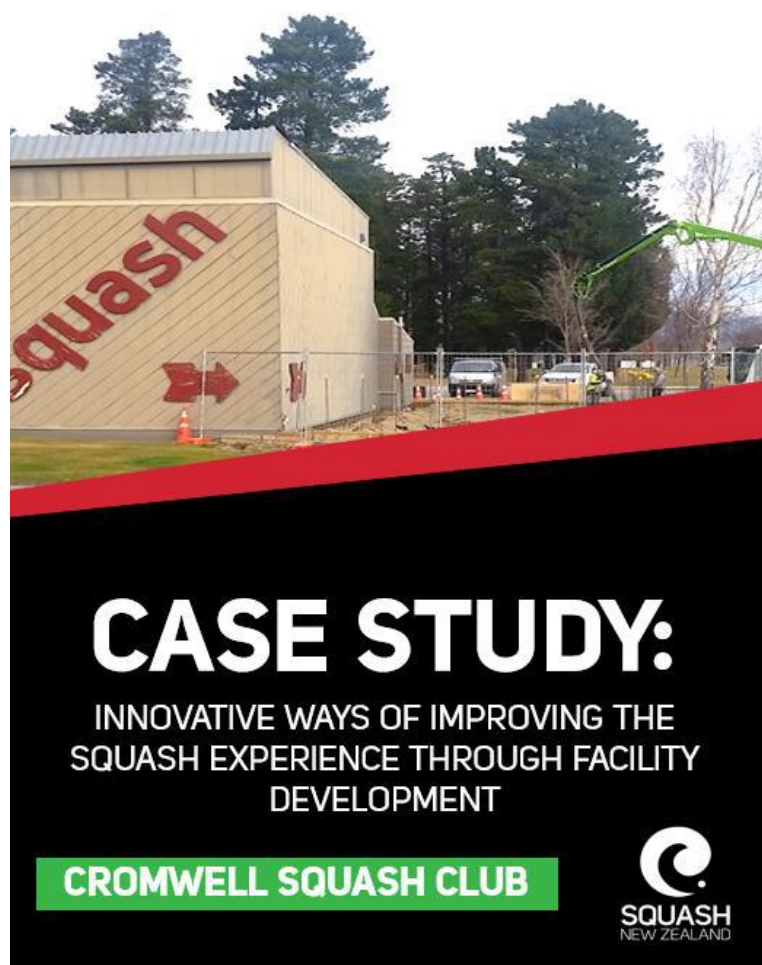
Visual content is projected onto cinema-sized screens (the front wall of the court) and the content synchronises with sound and squash activities.

For more: <http://interactivesquash.com/about-interactive-squash/> or Howick Squash Club (who installed Interactive Squash in 2018) <https://www.howicksquash.co.nz/interactive-squash>

## **7.5 Case Studies**

### **Cromwell Squash Club- Facility Upgrade and Extension (additional court)**

In 2009, a group of club members came up with a \$400,000 facility upgrade project. Included in this project was to build a third glass-back court, new changing rooms and upgrade their kitchen. To get support from funders they had to demonstrate self-fundraising initiatives and show community benefits. After working closely with three schools, the RST, TAs, community funders and local businesses the project was completed in 2015.



The impact of the upgrade was immediate, membership numbers were increased and community involvement and connection with the club had improved. This case study highlights the benefit of working cooperatively and in collaboration with TAs, RSTs and local community organisations. It also shows the impact that welcoming facilities can have on participation.

For more: <http://squashnz.co.nz/for-clubs/case-studies.cfm>

### **Mount Maunganui Squash Club- Facility Upgrade**

Deciding to address the perception that most squash clubs are cold, smelly and not particularly inviting places, the Mount Maunganui Squash Club decided to upgrade their existing facility. In 2015, the club completed their upgrade project after raising \$130,000 collaborating with a number of businesses, funders and organisations.



In result of the upgrade, members are now proud of the standard of their club, the Mount Maunganui Squash Club is now a Regional-level facility able to run larger events, and supports the Devoy Squash and Fitness Centre to run major events where court capacity is exceeded.

Upgrades to the facility included:

- LED lighting installed on all courts
- Sound attenuating ceiling tiles on all courts
- Roof insulation on all courts
- Air conditioning on all courts
- Extraction fans on court 1 and between court 2 and 3
- PV system (solar panels)
- New glass-back doors on court 2 and 3
- New mixers in both men's and women's showers
- Cladding on the exterior
- Paint and wallpapering of squash lounge
- New bench between courts 2 and 3
- New net between courts 2 and 3
- Haze stickers on the glass walls and doors

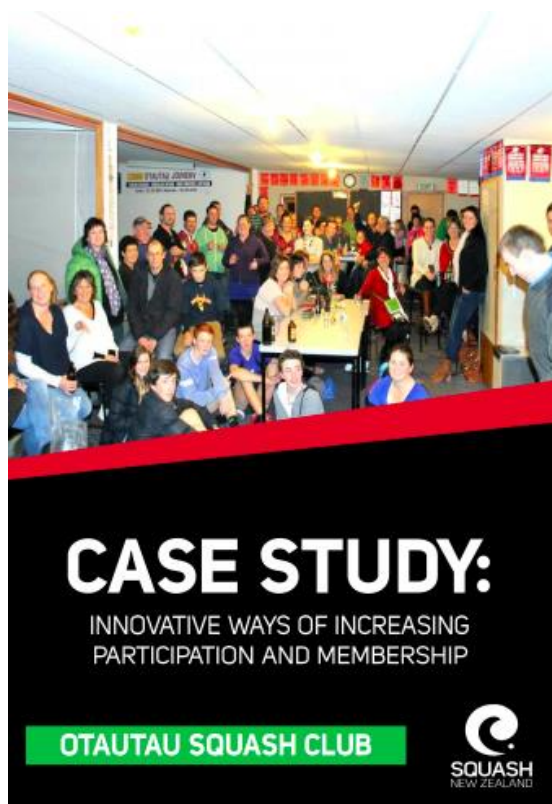
This case study highlights the impact that modern facilities has on improving facility condition in order to boost asset rationalisation.

For more: <http://squashnz.co.nz/for-clubs/case-studies.cfm>



### **Otautau Squash Club- Rural Community Hub**

Like many rural squash clubs, Otautau Squash Club face the difficult challenge of increasing urbanisation and lower populations in their community. In the early 2000s they had a struggling membership dwindling around 15. The club knew in order to survive and grow they had to come up with some solutions.



The club identified the challenges they faced, and came up with solutions to combat these.

- In order to improve community perception, they worked hard on their facility maintenance. Water blasting the outside of their building, repainting their club sign, installed heat pumps, replaced court lights and hired a part time cleaner. These all helped make the club more inviting to the community.
- In solution to the difficulty of the rural lifestyle, where time is limited during farming and forestry seasons, the club came up with flexible programmes and scheduling. Club Champs is held before calving and lambing seasons start and there are programmes on every night of the week to allow people to play when suits their schedule.
- To combat the challenge of ongoing costs, Otautau Squash Club are always looking for ways to fundraise. In addition to membership income, business sponsorships and bar revenue, they also hold raffles at open tournaments and 20 members fundraised by weeding beet paddocks in which the income they made invested into the club.

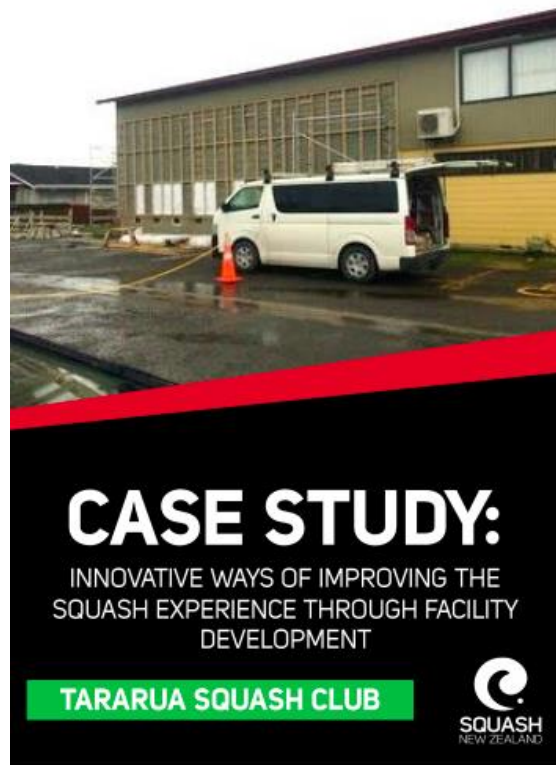
In result of this, the club has increased from 15 members in the early 2000s to 55 members. There has been an increase in facility warmth, cleanliness and use. They doubled their income between 2013 and 2016.

This case study highlights how rural clubs can combat the challenges they face by being part of a small community, by identifying the problems and putting in place solutions.

For more: <http://squashnz.co.nz/for-clubs/case-studies.cfm>

### **Tararua Squash Club- Court Development**

The Tararua Squash Club, like many clubs throughout New Zealand, have struggled with heating and cooling issues. This issue is accentuated in busy periods such as tournaments and club nights, the walls become extremely wet, resulting in the ball skidding and ruining the game. To solve this problem, the club talked to an engineering company, a dummy wall was erected over the existing concrete block wall with Pink Batts and water heating coils powered by a heat pump hot water system in between the Hardiplank exterior cladding. The Central Energy Trust provided support to assist the club with the upgrades.



## **CASE STUDY:**

INNOVATIVE WAYS OF IMPROVING THE  
SQUASH EXPERIENCE THROUGH FACILITY  
DEVELOPMENT

**TARARUA SQUASH CLUB**



In result of their heating upgrades, even though there has been a slight increase in the power bill. There has been an increase in satisfaction from club members, improved temperatures and playing conditions at the club and the wet wall dilemma has significantly decreased.

This case study highlights how a club can resolve their condensation and temperature problem to improve playing conditions, the key learnings the club found from the process is that other factors need to be considered which will allow for proper insulation, ventilation and education of members to maximise the potential of heat pumps.

For more: <http://squashnz.co.nz/for-clubs/case-studies.cfm>

## **7.6 Further Information**

Below are some of the guidelines to assist with planning for facilities development.

### **Sport New Zealand**

Sport New Zealand have created a Sport and Recreation Facility Development Guide to provide a standardized, step-by-step process for the planning, design, procurement, construction and operation of community sport and recreation facilities.

For more: <https://sportnz.org.nz/managing-sport/search-for-a-resource/guides/facilities-for-clubs>

### **Barrier Free New Zealand**

There are several instances where both physical and social barriers exist preventing access. All courts should be designed to ensure inclusive access for potential users. Barrier Free New Zealand have developed an accessibility design guide and checklist to help you make your facility more welcoming.

For more: <https://sportnz.org.nz/assets/Uploads/Accessibility-Design-Guide-and-Checklist.pdf>

## **SQUASH PRODUCTS AND PROVIDERS**

Below are some links to some products and providers for squash facilities.

### **International companies and products**

A list of internationally accredited companies and products can be found on the World Squash Federation website.

For more: <http://www.worldsquash.org>

### **Court paint**

Resene Squash Court coating is a two pack waterborne epoxy especially developed for coating squash court walls to give a durable, tough coating with excellent resistance to abrasion.

For more: [http://www.resene.co.nz/squash\\_court/court.html](http://www.resene.co.nz/squash_court/court.html)

### **Court tape**

Squash New Zealand sells 33m rolls of court tape- Scotch 471 Red Vinyl Tape 50m.

For more:

[http://www.squashnz.co.nz/content/Club\\_Support/Club\\_Resources/SNZ\\_Court%20Tape.pdf](http://www.squashnz.co.nz/content/Club_Support/Club_Resources/SNZ_Court%20Tape.pdf)

### **LED Court Lighting**

Contact your local electrician. Whangarei Squash Club upgraded to LED lighting at the beginning of 2018, for more information contact Whangarei Squash Club.



## **Plasterers**

Bruce Hancock (Whangarei)  
021675961

Leon McLeish

### **Global Coating Services Ltd**

[leon@gcsltd.co.nz](mailto:leon@gcsltd.co.nz) | [www.gcsltd.co.nz](http://www.gcsltd.co.nz)

P O Box 303208 North Harbour 0751

Ph: 4481487

Fax: 4481489

Mob: 021862733

0800 COAT 4 U

<https://www.globalcoatings.nz/service/squash-court-painting>

ASB also have some products:

<https://asbsquash.com/renovation/asb-repair-plaster/>

Email: [neven@barbouronline.co.nz](mailto:neven@barbouronline.co.nz)

## **7.7 Sport New Zealand Advice for Engaging with Territorial Authorities**

Councils are major providers of sports and recreation facilities- without them much of what happens in our sector wouldn't be possible. You can influence planning for community sport and recreation by submitting to your council's upcoming Long Term Plans (LTP). These plans are reviewed every three years and these offer important opportunities for sport and recreation organisations to make submissions on what council plans to do for your community over the next 10 years. After considering submissions, final LTPs are adopted by the full councils at the start of the financial year (1 July). If you don't make your views known, then you are likely to miss out and councils will presume you support their plans.

### **Making effective submissions**

- Ensure your submission is about an issue to the council is responsible for.
- State what topic is and where it fits into the LTP.
- If your submission relates directly to a particular point in the draft LTP, state the page and quote the comment.
- Provide evidence that is quantified and verifiable.
- Outline the benefits to your city or district (e.g. participation and hosting events).
- Show that you have given consideration to alternative options (e.g. partnering, multi-use).
- Give evidence of your organisation's capability and financial sustainability.
- Make sure you emphasise how your idea will benefit the wider community.
- Say if you are in support of, or in opposition to, a particular issue and why. It is important to support the good things that the council does, or is planning to do, so that they keep on with it.
- Tell the council what decision you want them to make.
- Use headings and bullet points- it makes your point clearer.

- Be clear about how you think the service should be paid for- do you want rates or fees to go up? Or could funding be diverted from other council activities? Consider how other people may feel about these projects losing funding. Remember, the process is about choices.
- If you have a good idea about how your project can be funded through a different funding agency or achieved without funding, state it.
- Indicate if you want to speak at a LTP submission hearing- you will have much greater impact if you do.
- You may wish to let the council know if you would like your submission to be considered at the same time as others who you know will be making similar points.
- While numbers count in politics, its persuasion that influences decisions. Is your submission just your own opinion or is it something that is valued by your whole club or community? Workshop your ideas with others, outline why they're important, and be positive and succucint.
- Well-prepared and widely-supported public submissions do make a difference.

## 7.8 Funding Options for Northland Clubs

Below are some contacts and information on funding options available to clubs.

Name	Website	Frequency	How	Notes
Oxford Sports Trust	<a href="http://www.oxfordsportstrust.org.nz/">http://www.oxfordsportstrust.org.nz/</a>	5 <sup>th</sup> each month	Online	Very supportive. Northland based. Good for juniors, coaching, equipment,
Pub Charity	<a href="http://www.pubcharitylimited.org.nz/">http://www.pubcharitylimited.org.nz/</a>	Usually early each month except December	Online	Try for Super Champs (travel, accommodation), equipment, uniforms, coaching, prizes.
Foundation North	<a href="https://www.foundationnorth.org.nz/">https://www.foundationnorth.org.nz/</a>	Ongoing – no set cut off times Can only apply once every 12 months	Online	Quick response grant up to \$25,000 Community grant for bigger projects over \$25,000 (Application must align with at least one of their outcomes)
Southern Trust	<a href="http://www.southerntrust.org.nz">http://www.southerntrust.org.nz</a>	Ongoing – no set cut off times Can only apply once per year (Presently not operating in Northland)	Online	Try for uniforms, equipment, coaching
Lion Foundation	<a href="https://www.lionfoundation.org.nz/">https://www.lionfoundation.org.nz/</a>	Ongoing – no set cut off times. Apply once every 12 months	Post/Courier	Now 3 venues in Northland – Coalies (Kamo), Dargaville and Kawakawa so worth trying
NZ Racing Board	<a href="https://nzracingboard.co.nz/">https://nzracingboard.co.nz/</a>	4 meetings a year	Post/Courier	Not much \$ goes to the Northland area Try for sports equipment, playing uniforms, expenses to send teams away.
Fonterra Grassroots	<a href="#">Fonterra Grassroots Fund</a>	Twice a year	Online/Facebook	Community based, good for rural areas. Don't fund travel.
Fourwinds Foundation	<a href="http://www.fourwindsfoundation.co.nz">http://www.fourwindsfoundation.co.nz</a>	Last working day of each month	Post/Courier	Only 1 Northland venue (Kaitia Arms)
Pelorus Trust	<a href="https://www.pelorustrust.net.nz/">https://www.pelorustrust.net.nz/</a>	Meetings monthly (sometimes twice)	Online	Equipment, programme delivery, improvement maintenance of facilities. No wages. \$2,000 average amount Funds mainly go to Bay of Islands, Bream Bay areas in Northland
Whangarei District Council	<a href="http://wdc.govt.nz/funding">Wdc.govt.nz/funding</a>	Community Fund – offered twice a year Partnership Fund – apply anytime	Online	For funds up to \$10,000 Grants up to \$150,000 – need to contribute a third

### Tips for funding applications

For Gaming Trusts success is dependent on funds available in your area. Most of the proceeds of Gaming Trusts go to the community in which they were raised. If turned down, reapply but you will need to do a new application. Check each funders guidelines online to check eligibility and what information they need.

For online applications you need to provide your organisation details the first time you apply (as well as quotes etc.) e.g.

- Committee meeting minutes/resolution (signed)
- Names of committee members and ID of 2 committee members (i.e. Drivers license)
- Incorporated Society registration
- Proof of affiliation to a National/Regional body
- Latest financial statements
- Bank Details, deposit slip

Apply well in advance of events (6 – 8 weeks +) as you can't apply for grants for retrospective events.

It is worthwhile to 'paint a picture' about your organisation and project, a covering letter can be good too. Clearly outline how you will use the grant if successful. Keep it short and concise. Get supporting letters from Squash Northland, Squash NZ.

Quotes need to be less than 3 months old at time of applying (usually need 2 quotes). They need to be addressed to your organisation and be quotes - not invoices or estimates.

Consider splitting funding requests e.g. split a \$10,000 funding request for a children's playground into 4 requests for \$2500 to four separate trusts/funders.



## Squash Northland

ASB Sports House,  
Cnr Western Hills Drive and Kensington Road  
Kensington  
Whangarei  
Ph: 09 437 9626

E: [admin@squashnorthland.co.nz](mailto:admin@squashnorthland.co.nz)

Web: <https://squashnorthland.co.nz/>



