



CASE STUDY:

INNOVATIVE WAYS OF IMPROVING THE
SQUASH EXPERIENCE THROUGH FACILITY
DEVELOPMENT

MOUNT MAUNGANUI SQUASH CLUB



SQUASH
NEW ZEALAND

OVERVIEW

Over and above most participation sports, access to quality and welcoming facilities are crucial to playing squash and growth of the game at the community level remains limited by a common criticism that most squash facilities are cold, smelly and not particularly inviting places. The Mount Maunganui Squash Club decided to address this perception and upgrade their existing facility to provide a place to play that all of their members could be proud of. A funding committee was formed and the Tauranga Energy Consumer Trust (TECT) agreed to cover 50% of the required costs, while the club successfully raised the rest from NZCT and other grants, business sponsorships and other fundraising initiatives. In total, over \$130,000 was raised to complete the entire squash club upgrade project which was completed in 2015.

CHALLENGES

Condensation and Temperature

Condensation is created by moisture in the air through breathing, sweating and weather conditions. Sweating walls make it difficult to play squash and can lead to players losing their footing.

It is suggested that the ideal temperature for the squash court is between 15-20°C. Maintaining a constant temperature can be tough and expensive.

Visibility and Maintenance

Lighting is one of the most important parts of a squash court and is essential for the game. The decay of plaster is another issue, especially the annual maintenance.

SOLUTIONS

Insulation, Heating and Ventilation

Insulation inhibits the passage of energy either as heat loss in the winter, or heat gain in the summer. This produces a stabilising influence which helps prevent condensation issues.

Lighting

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.

Glass-backs

The introduction of glass-backs in one of the major reasons for the increasing popularity of the game. They provide the opportunity for many more spectators to view the play compared with the traditional upstairs viewing gallery, do not show reflections are very easy to clean.

RESULTS

New

Heat pumps and ventilation system installed, supported by PV system to reduce electricity costs.

New

LED lighting installed on all courts.

2

Glass-back doors installed.

CONCLUSION

By improving their existing facility, the Mount Maunganui Squash Club have taken a massive step into improving the overall squash experience for its' members and guests. Amongst other things, LED lighting was installed on all courts, the outer walls of the courts were clad with insulated panels and the internal ceilings were replaced with a new suspended ceiling with bulk insulation above (which also has sound attenuating tiles). New heat pumps and an air conditioning ventilation system were installed to create a constant temperature. This was supported with a new solar PV system to help keep electricity costs down. New glass-back doors were installed with haze stickers and new mixers were put into both the men's and women's showers. Achieving this massive undertaking required a collaborative effort and a lot of hard work from a dedicated group of club volunteers. The result is a welcoming facility where people want to play squash and hang out in.