

# Franklin, Tristan

QUEENSTOWN SQUASH CLUB

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## Other Comments

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Would you like to comment on any other aspect of this draft 10 Year Plan?

See attached submission



28<sup>th</sup> April 2015

To the QLDC Councilors,

**Re: Queenstown Squash Club QLDC Submission – 10 Year Plan - 2015-2025**

I am writing this submission in my capacity as Club President of the Queenstown Squash Club (QSC) and on behalf of the club committee and members.

**QSC – Our Club**

The QSC is a small two court complex located below the rugby club in Templeton Way. We are currently 16 years into our 19-year QLDC lease and are self-funding through a combination of membership levies, guest fees and internal event fundraising. Our facilities are very basic with two courts (in deteriorating condition) and two small changing facilities. We are an active club with a steady membership but our facilities make it increasingly hard to attract new and retain existing members. We have 3 car parks directly outside the club that have become difficult to retain for members given the increasing pressure on town parking. A combination of the above factors are making the QSC increasingly difficult to maintain (both in terms of amenity and also financially) at a time when we are trying to grow our sport in the region.

The relocation of the QSC into a new purpose built facility has been included in previous Annual and 10 Year Draft Plan documents as per below:

*2010/2011 Annual Plan* - Provide for capital purchase of Queenstown Squash Club Building at \$200,000 (reinstatement of 2007/08 unused budget)'

*2012-2022 10 Year Plan* - An amount of \$368,000 was allocated in the budget for the construction of 2 new squash courts as part of the QEC extension plan. This has now disappeared from the 2015 Draft Plan with no communication to the QSC as to why we have been excluded and what other viable alternatives may exist.

**QSC – What do we do and why do we matter?**

- The QSC has an active membership of approximately 60 annual members with a similar number of shorter-term 3-month members turning over throughout the year. We also hire visitor keys on a daily basis to both local and visiting players. Our members range in age

from 9 years to 70+ years and we make every effort to cater for all age groups and all levels of ability.

- We have 3 teams competing in the local Interclub competition. Each team comprises 5-6 players who travel as far as Omakau, Alexandra and Wanaka for mid-week team matches.
- We run our own internal club events that provide members with the opportunity to meet new players, exercise and compete in a fun and welcoming environment.
- The club has an active group of members who regularly play and travel to local and national tournaments including a proportionally high number of nationally ranked male and female Masters players.
- The annual Queenstown Easter Squash Open is a long established squash tournament attracting players from all over New Zealand to compete. Our 2015 event was over-subscribed with 80 players competing at both the QSC and Nugget Point courts.
- The QSC committee runs a regular Tuesday Club Night that attracts good numbers of new members and visiting players.
- We have a long-standing relationship with Wakatipu High School to provide courts for coaching and school games.

### **Squash – why it deserves its place in Queenstown’s recreational future?**

- Squash makes an ideal recreational activity throughout the colder months in Queenstown and is not weather dependent at any time of the year.
- Squash was voted by Forbes Magazine as the world's healthiest sport in recognition of the fact that it provides a competitive and effective workout in minimal time and space.
- Without a squash facility our nearest squash courts are in Cromwell. Cromwell Squash Club has experienced a growth in membership numbers and is adding a third court to the complex.
- A benefit of having a new squash facility at the QEC is the ability to package a squash membership with a Gym or Pool membership which would certainly increase its use by the community.
- Squash is popular all over the world and we host a large number of international players every year who are looking to play whilst visiting Queenstown.

- Hosting squash tournaments and similar events will add economic value to Queenstown as players all need to eat/drink, sleep, park and shop.
- Squash players are very committed to their sport and it provides a valuable component to their social lives, health and general well being.
- Squash has become an established sport in the Commonwealth Games with a very active campaign to have it added as a future Olympic sport.
- The squash club has provided a valuable Queenstown recreational facility for many years and the current committee and members are committed to ensuring this continues for the next generation of players.

### **QSC – Our Submission**

The QSC request that we be considered in the new 10 Year Plan in the following ways:

1. Allocation of funding and support for a new 2-4 court complex at the QEC (as per previous planning) or as part of another suitable recreation facility.
2. Allocation of funding and support for the upgrading and modernization of the existing squash club facilities in the absence of an alternative venue for the squash club.
3. Extension of our current lease agreement beyond 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 in the absence of an alternative venue for the squash club.

The QSC committee would be grateful for the opportunity to meet with councilors to discuss the future of our club and thank-you for taking the time to read and consider this submission.

Yours faithfully,

Tristan Franklin  
**Club President**

22 April 2015

**To Whom It May Concern**

Squash New Zealand has identified facility development as an important pillar in its strategic plan and has signalled a willingness to work with its member clubs and districts to provide support for opportunities that will improve and grow the game of squash in New Zealand.

Squash New Zealand believes that such an opportunity now exists for the development of an exciting new squash facility that would cater for the long term needs of squash members and the wider Queenstown community.

For the future growth and development of the game it is essential that participants have the opportunity to access modern, attractive facilities that cater adequately for their needs. There are many benefits that will accrue from a new facility -

- There is a long and proud squash history in the region and a new facility can only have a positive impact for the region
- Both Squash New Zealand and Squash Otago see the development of a new squash facility in Queenstown as being of strategic importance
- Squash is a perfect fit for the town, complimenting other sporting activities and it can be played all year round, irrespective of weather
- New facilities attract new members and casual participants and with a good amenities it will be an attractive environment for both members and visitors alike
- An extended facility would have the capability to host large national events including regional open tournaments, South Island Championships and possibly the NZ National Championships, providing economic benefit to the town
- Potentially a facility with four courts could host international events such as a NZ Open or a World Teams event, especially if Squash New Zealand's full glass court could be accommodated nearby

By way of example, the Devoy Squash and Fitness Centre which opened in Tauranga in 2011, had a membership of less than 150 and that has now grown to almost 600 with membership now being restricted. The new facility successfully hosted the National Secondary Schools Championships with 49 teams and more than 300 players attending from around the country and it has also hosted several other national events over the last four years. With moveable walls the complex can cater for other forms of recreational and social activity making it a truly multi-use facility which makes it a good fit with the community.



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Throughout the country a number of new developments are taking shape within the sport. New facilities, courts and upgrades are the result of increased demand and the need to provide welcoming and attractive environments for the sports participants. New facilities are planned or under construction in Christchurch and Wellington and new courts are planned for a number of other clubs around the country. Another encouraging sign is an increase in the number of clubs re-affiliating to the national body and the growth of participants, particularly in the junior and secondary school sector.

However, the state of the facilities at the Queenstown Squash Club are so poor that players who have attended tournaments recently have indicated they are unlikely to return. The amenities are inadequate for hosting tournaments and that impacts negatively on the numbers who attend. The two courts themselves are best described as below average standard which is compounded by poor access to one of the courts via a narrow alley outside the building. From my observation it would be difficult to find another squash complex anywhere else in the country that was in a worse state.

The opportunity to build a new squash facility in the Queenstown region will not only benefit the club and its members but also the wider community who would have access to a modern and attractive recreational facility and Squash New Zealand supports the club in its endeavour to achieve this goal.

Jim O'Grady



Chief Executive

**Squash New Zealand**



# No boasting over squash

I WAS fortunate to be able to compete in the 2015 Queenstown Squash Open over Easter weekend. It was a brilliant event and the standard of play was as high as any squash tournament to be held in the country this year.

However, the state of the facilities at the club was so poor that, from comments made, it is doubtful that any of the 10 top-graded New Zealand players, who had come from all over the country to attend the tournament, will return.

The lounge is so small it could get no more than 40 spectators squeezed into it — the changing rooms are the size of postage stamps and there is no defined area for social mixing.

There are only two squash courts both of a very average standard with access to one of these courts along a narrow alley outside of the building. That court had spectator viewing for only 10 people.

Because of all this, the club had to ballot out a considerable number of players from the tournament.

I have been involved with Squash New Zealand over a number of years — as a NZ selector and convener for seven years and a former president.

I have played in 95 per cent of all squash clubs in the country and I can say indisputably that the Queenstown squash complex has the worst facilities in the country.

The previous weekend I attended the Marlborough Squash Open and the comparison between the two clubs was startling.

The Marlborough District Council has built a new squash complex with four courts included within its new sports stadium and it is a great asset for the community.

I congratulate the Queenstown Lakes District Council for including funding for new squash courts in its 10-year draft district plan.

Queenstown is the home of some superb sporting facilities and it will be of undoubted benefit to the district to have improved squash facilities in the town.

**BARRY GARDINER**

Christchurch

with short-term parking in such a small area is ridiculous and just a remedy of a person or committee too lazy to put in the time or commitment to think things out.

**GRAHAM JONES**  
Lake Hayes Estate

## Of desert climates and Muslim refugees

With respect to my opinion piece 'How many people is too many?' (*MS*, Apr 2) I'm not sure what Ms Yorke finds unacceptable. Is it her erroneously perceived criticism of the Muslim faith, or does she have trouble with hot desert climates? Let's be clear on both points. I have nothing against refugees and have no problem with our country increasing our refugee quota. However, you are doing refugees a disservice when you invite some into a culture that they might have difficulty adapting to. That idea is just dumb. Far better that we encourage refugees from countries with compatible cultural values, who can easily assimilate into our way of life. Otherwise we create problems for the both of us, and that does not make for either a happy refugee, or a happy host country.

**MIKE RAMSAY**  
Queenstown

## Waterfront building 'inappropriate'

I was originally appalled at the artist's impression of Skyline Enterprises' new building on the Queenstown waterfront.

I assumed that as it was so grossly out of character that pressure would be

applied to change the appearance to suit its unique and historical position.

However, the onsite sign shows the same completely inappropriate look, and it amazes me that the Queenstown Lakes District Council has allowed such out-of-place building cladding in such a prime spot.

Clearly both the architect and the developers are totally disregarding all



Artist's impression: Skyline Enterprises' plan Marine Parade

