



dame susan devoy
squash  fitness centre

CASE STUDY:

INNOVATIVE WAYS OF IMPROVING THE
SQUASH EXPERIENCE THROUGH FACILITY
DEVELOPMENT

TAURANGA SQUASH CLUB


SQUASH
NEW ZEALAND

OVERVIEW

The Devoy Squash and Fitness Centre is one of the newest squash clubs in New Zealand. After 40 years at the Seventh Ave site in Tauranga and in a fortunate position of owning the land, building a brand new facility was chosen over upgrading the existing one because the preliminary costing's showed it was a more cost-effective option. Following 10 years of planning, fundraising and meetings, the new facility was opened in 2011. The target was to construct to full specification on day one, but due to financial shortfall four courts were built with the remaining two added two years later. The new facility has provided members with a warmer, drier and brighter environment to enjoy their squash and social experiences together.

CHALLENGES

Community Engagement

Being able to demonstrate to funders and supporters that the project can impact on the local community.

Cost

Obtaining enough extra funding at the right time to perform the facility build from the drawing concepts to resource consent as well as materials and labour.

Timing

Ensuring all the resources and procedures were setup to enable the project to go ahead according to schedule.

Using and accounting for funding by the due date was another challenge that was overcome by communication, negotiation and progress reports.

SOLUTIONS

Design and Leverage

The courts were designed to have moveable walls to allow other groups to use the facility. The club also contributed a significant amount of funding towards the project which helped influence funders.

Grant Funding Calendar

The club committee were very organised to ensure that all income received was able to be spent in the required timeframe and in line with the conditions attached with the grant.

Timeline

The build followed two general stages 1) putting the building out to tender for accurate costs, drawings and consents to be obtained and 2) constructing the facility.

RESULTS

6

Squash courts with glass backs.

50

Courts with moveable walls to allow Doubles matches.

600

Affiliated club members.

CONCLUSION

Building a new facility has proven to be a masterstroke for squash in Tauranga and the Bay of Plenty region. Past club members have since re-engaged with the sport, new members are taking up the sport and existing members have remained loyal.

Operations Manager Karl Brown recommends that other clubs looking to build a new facility "look to do so in stages. Get the building outline done right first and you can put additional courts and spaces in later, once you can afford them."

The future looks bright as the club have been proactively putting funds aside into a capital reserve which targets long-term maintenance, which is seen as critical to the buildings' and club's longevity.