

IN THE MATTER

of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012

AND

IN THE MATTER

of an application by **Whanganui Squash Racquets Club Incorporated** for a renewal of Club Licence pursuant to section 127 of the Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.

BEFORE THE WHANGANUI DISTRICT LICENSING COMMITTEE

The application for renewal of Club Licence (036/CLUB/012/2015.1) was publically advertised in the Whanganui Chronicle on the 16 and 23 August 2024. No objections were received.

No matters of opposition were raised under section 128 and 129 reports; therefore the matter is considered by the Whanganui District Licensing Commissioner on the papers contained in the full file provided by the secretary.

Commissioner: Stuart Hylton

RESERVED DECISION OF THE WHANGANUI DISTRICT LICENSING COMMITTEE

1. Application

The **Whanganui Squash Racquets Club Incorporated** made the application on the prescribed form received on 15 August 2024.

The application for renewal of Club Licence is in relation to the clubs premises at 3 Bassett Street, Whanganui. The risk rating for the premises is 'very low'.

The general nature of the business is that of a sports (squash) club. The **Whanganui Squash Racquets Club Incorporated** has been incorporated and held a liquor licence most of those years. The sale and supply of liquor is not the main focus of the club.

The renewal seeks to renew their existing Club-Licence with variation to the hours and licenced footprint. The increase in hours is to allow for significant events i.e. 8 National or central squash events to have the bar open to allow for social engagement of players, as squash games can end at 10:00pm at night. A letter from Jodie Arnott – Committee Representative, was enclosed detailing why they have requested the hours and footprint increases. There is an increase to the licensed footprint to include the downstairs area and extended upstairs areas. This corrects an earlier anomaly and reflects the norm with squash premises nationwide which is to license the whole premise to reflect normal squash social activities, especially during tournament play.

The premise has not come to the notice of officials during the renewal period.

The complete file included –

- The application
- Supporting letter
- Floor plan
- Reports from Police, Medical Officer of Health and Inspector
- Club's Host Responsibility Policy
- Fire Evacuation Scheme letter of compliance from applicant
- Food / Drink list menu
- Copy of current licence
- Notice of renewal
- Copy of public advertisement and premise advertisement

2. Decision Making

In considering this application for Club-Licence the licensing committee had regard to the criteria under section 131 and 105 of the Act.

Section 105/131 assessments:

(a) the object of this Act:

The inspector notes that the applicant has supplied a Host Responsibility Policy stating the measures to be undertaken to ensure the responsible sale and supply of alcohol. There have been no issues raised concerning previous operations so if the policy is followed then compliance with the object of the Act should be able to be achieved.

(b) the suitability of the applicant:

The applicant is an incorporated society and located on the current site for many years. The applicant has supplied the name of two certified managers for the licence with three others in the process of also gaining certification. This is considered suitable to manage the licence and the Club. The suitability of the applicant is not challenged.

(c) any relevant local alcohol policy:

The applicant has agreed in writing to have the following LAP discretionary condition:

The licensee is required to maintain a register of significant alcohol-related incidents that is available for inspection by enforcement authorities at any time during trading hours

The application then accords with the LAP.

(d) the days on which and the hours during which the applicant proposes to sell alcohol:

The applicant seeks the following varied hours:

MONDAY TO SUNDAY 10:0 AM – 12:00 MIDNIGHT

FRIDAY to SATURDAY 12:00 MIDNIGHT to 2:00AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR 8 NATIONAL OR CENTRAL SQUASH CALENDAR EVENTS

Previously the hours were:

Monday to Saturday 10:00am to 12 midnight

Sunday 10:00am to 9:00pm

The Inspector suggests these hours impress as suited to the Club activities as proposed and look to be easily managed by the Club Officers.

This varied hours sought appear a practical request to suit the Club's activities which the Committee is comfortable with.

(e) the design and layout of any proposed premises:

The application has supplied an amended floor plan of the premises the incorporate the variation. There is an increase to the licensed area to include the downstairs area and extended upstairs areas. These areas will be monitored by managers and committee members. The design of the main social area provides an easy oversight of all activities by bar management and Club Officers.

The premises are purpose designed (interior) for their sporting and social activities. This layout, design and their operational procedures have not raised any negative issues or concerns. At the time of the Inspector's inspection, 16 October 2024, the venue was found to be in compliance with their

licensed premises requirements, however a guest register will be made available. Past CPTED assessments have not raised any issues. There is no opposition in the statutory reports to the increased footprint.

(g) whether the applicant is engaged in, or proposes on the premises to engage in, the provision of services other than those directly related to the sale of alcohol, low-alcohol refreshments, non-alcoholic refreshments, and food, and if so, which services:

Currently the focus is on sport, namely squash.

(j) whether the applicant has appropriate systems, staff, and training to comply with the law:

Previous operations have been satisfactory and therefore systems seem appropriate. Regular meetings and training sessions are held for bar volunteers. During service-hours staff are supported by the Club Officer's to ensure that the required practices are followed. ServeWise had also been completed by some bar, as well as the Committee meeting with the Inspector that was held on April 2024 was documented. The applicant has indicated staff have a good understanding of the Act.

(k) any matters dealt with in any report from the Police, an inspector, or a Medical Officer of Health made under [section 103](#). (see 3 below)

(s.131(1)(b))whether (in its opinion) the amenity and good order of the locality would be likely to be increased, by more than a minor extent, by the effects of a refusal to renew the licence:

No issues raised and amenity and good order should not be compromised by the renewal of the licence.

(s.131(1)(d))the manner in which the applicant has sold (or, as the case may be, sold and supplied), displayed, advertised, or promoted alcohol.

No issues raised within file.

3 Reporting Agencies

The following reports were received under section 103 and 129 of the Act and taken into account during the decision.

3.1 Police – Report received on 9 September 2024 of no opposition.

3.2 Medical Officer of Health - Report received on 9 September 2024 of no opposition.

3.2 Licensing Inspector – Full report dated 17 October 2024. The inspector is satisfied the application is complete and has no opposition to the renewal application.

4 Conclusion

Based on the evidence provided to me within the complete file, my assessment above of section 105/131 matters and the past operation of the premise/licensee, I conclude that the application meets the statutory criteria to be granted a renewal of Club-Licence under the Act for a period of three (3) years.

5 Decision

The licence can be issued subject to the existing conditions as amended to incorporate the variation sought for extended licensed footprint and hours.

The application is **Approved** for issue immediately.

Dated at Whanganui District this 18 October 2024.

Signed



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Stuart Hylton
Whanganui District Licensing Commissioner

