



President's Report

2010

Introduction

This report provides an overview of Tennis Sydney activities for the last 4.5 months of 2009 for which I have been President.

For the majority of the year Ben Alfred presided over the club.

Tennis Sydney's financial year runs from 1st January to 31st December and we are required to hold our AGM as soon as possible after end of year. In 2010 we have returned to holding the club's AGM at the beginning of the year.

Overview

In order to increase our membership and provide members with increased competition, at both club and international levels, we have joined the following organisations.

1. Gay and Lesbian Tennis Alliance (GLTA).

The GLTA is the international organization that manages and sanctions the gay tennis circuit around the world. There are 40 gay and lesbian tennis clubs around the world that comprise the GLTA. With over 39 annual GLTA-sanctioned tournaments in the U.S, Canada, and Europe, the GLTA is the fastest growing gay sports organization. An estimated 5,500 players will take part in GLTA tournaments over the next year, and the number of tournaments and players grows each year. This year's Mardi Gras Championships is a GLTA sanctioned event.

2. Team Sydney

Team Sydney encourages the need for sport, fitness and healthy lifestyles within the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) community and coordinates events associated with this ideal. GLBT sporting activities are promoted in both Sydney and regional communities. As a member of Team Sydney our club has a line of communication with all Gay and Lesbian sporting organisations based in Sydney.

This year Tennis Sydney will have a stall at the Mardi Gras Fair Day to give us greater exposure within the GLBT community, generate greater interest in our club and increase membership. We will be part of Team Sydney's Sports Village at Fair Day.

In addition to membership of these organisations, Tennis Sydney has negotiated a reciprocal agreement with VicTennis so members can play at "member's rates" at each other's Sunday social tennis and tournaments. So next time you are in Melbourne check out social tennis with VicTennis and have a hit.

Membership

Club membership fell during the year and one of the new committee's first tasks was to restore the membership as it is our main income source. Active membership ensures a flourishing mid-week competition, successful annual tournaments and enjoyable social tennis. By December 31st, Tennis Sydney had increased membership from 90 to 121 financial members. Many thanks to Jamie Mallum and Brian Wilson, Jamie for ensuring that all competition and Sunday social players were financial members, and Brian for promoting the Peter Deacon Tournament and increasing participation.

Concession continued to be available to eligible members for annual membership, competition and tournament entry fees.

Finances

With a financial account deficit the new committee took over running of the club in late August. I am pleased to report the club's finances were restored to surplus by year end.

As the membership fee had been increased by the previous committee to \$50 we decided the following:

1. To keep tournament fees at the present level and continue to subsidise the Peter Deacon Tournament and upcoming Mardi Gras Championships. Current entry fees do not cover the cost of running tournaments.
2. To keep Sunday social tennis fees at \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members even though court fees increased at Parklands Tennis Centre from the 1st January 2010. We will continue to subsidise Sunday social because it is important for the introduction of new members to the club and feeds increased participation in weekly competitions as well as annual tournaments.

Peter Deacon Tournament

Despite limited time and the club's precarious financial position, the new committee decided to run the Peter Deacon Tournament. There were an incredible 80 entries – one of the highest in a number of years.

We set a budget which the tournament directors, Brian Wilson and Jamie Mallum, brought in under the target figure while achieving a very successful tournament with increased participation

Our enormous gratitude goes to tournament director, Brian Wilson, who took on the task and spent an inordinate number of hours organising the event. With the help of co-director, Jamie Mallum, a very successful tournament resulted. Each competitor was emailed an account of their progress through the tournament together with results from respective grades.

Competition Tennis

Our Summer, Winter and Spring mid-week competitions were organised by Tony Glennane. Thank you to Tony for all his time in organising these events.

Due to work commitments Tony is no longer able to continue in the position of Mid-week Coordinator. Tyrone Andres has agreed to return to the position and will organise the Summer competition. Welcome back Tyrone.

Many thanks also to each of the captains for their help in making the competitions a success.

Sunday Social Tennis

The numbers attending Sunday Social tennis are again increasing and hopefully will continue to do so. We have purchased a computer and software which now generate the sets each week. This ensures players and grades are mixed and the courts are rotated.

Thanks to Brian Wilson for his negotiating skills in the purchase of the computer.

Sunday Social Tennis will take place every Sunday that Parklands Tennis Centre is open except for the weekends we play Mardi Gras and the Peter Deacon Tournaments.

Many thanks also to Edward Alimin and Jamie Mallum for keeping Sunday tennis alive over all those months and for their organisation of the courts, balls and sets.

Grading

We appointed a grading sub-committee to look at grading throughout the club. They have recommended that we adopt the International Tennis Number (ITN), which is now the standard grading system for Tennis Australia. This will be introduced early in the New Year.

Sponsorship

The club has not had any sponsorship for the last year but are in the process of looking for a new sponsor.

We successfully applied to SX magazine for a SX community grant which means we now have \$1,500 to spend on advertising in that magazine.

Thanks to Brian Wilson for making the application and following it through to a successful conclusion

Legal Issues

For the last three years we had not lodged our statutory returns with the Department of Fair Trading which we were legally required to do.

The committee appointed Michael Catterall as our Public Officer and he has now lodged all three years with the Department complete with all the late payment fees.

Many thanks to Michael for clearing these matters up and for his management of the accounts during the year

Communications/Website

Our main communication with our membership will be through our website. Our Webmaster, Teh Liew Cheng, has reconstructed and updated the website. This was completed without any monetary outlay but at the cost of many, many hours of his time which Teh gave to its reconstruction. We thank him for this and for the workable site he has given us.

Thanks also to Brian Wilson for his great contribution to the reconstruction and for all his contributing articles and updates on the website.

Thanks to Matus Rajnoha for sending out all communications and for organising all our committee meetings.

Outstanding Trophies

To all those players who won trophies in the following competitions, 2008 Peter Deacon Tournament, 2008 Winter competition, 2008 Spring competition, 2009 Mardi Gras Championships and the 2009 Summer competition but have not been awarded a trophy, I wish to advise the committee decided within a few months medals will be awarded to all winners and runners-up to honour your achievements.

Committee

On behalf of the Tennis Sydney membership I thank the entire committee, **Brian Wilson** (Vice-President), **Michael Catterall** (Treasurer), **Matus Rajnoha** (Secretary), **Dean Matterson** (Membership Coordinator and Tournament Director), **Tony Glennane** (Competition Coordinator), **Teh Liew Cheng** (Webmaster), **Edward Alimin** and **Ian Clark** for their commitment, time and effort in making Tennis Sydney happen. Each committee member has given up a lot of spare time to ensure the club runs successfully.

Thanks also to Jason Craigie who left the committee during the year.

We extend our best wishes to Jamie Mallum upon his return to New Zealand, his work on the committee over the past few years has been appreciated.

Finally

I am sure that in our membership we have graphic artists, web designers and other professions which would be useful to the club – you may not have time to devote to the committee but a small portion of your time would be helpful to us – if you can spare any time during the year, please let us know.

I believe that we now have a solid base again for the club to move forward in 2010, we have initiatives in place to help the club to grow and develop to its full potential. I hope it will be a very successful year for us.

Thanks to all those volunteers who helped throughout the year, in competitions, tournaments and at Sunday tennis.

Finally, a big thank you to all the Tennis Sydney members whose continued support ensures the club's success.

Brendan Moore

President