



President's Report

2011

Introduction

2010 was a very successful year for Tennis Sydney. Participation in our tournaments, mid-week competitions and Sunday Social tennis enjoyed significant increases during the year and the active club membership continued to grow.

This report provides an overview of our activities for the 12 months to December 31st 2010

Membership

Club membership 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 to 175 financial members.

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

Finances

I am pleased to report the club's finances were in surplus by year end. The full account details are published in the Treasurer's report.

Annual membership fees remained at \$50 and the subsidised tournament fees for the 2010 Mardi Gras Championships were maintained. The fee structure did not cover tournament running costs and it ran at a loss. We increased the fees for the Peter Deacon Spring Tournament and maintained the same fee structure for the 2011 Mardi Gras Championships. Both tournaments finished with a small loss. Currently we are conducting a review of entry fees and formats of both major tournaments.

We kept Sunday Social tennis fees at \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members even though court fees at Parklands Tennis Centre increased. Sunday Social will continue to be subsidised 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.

Tournaments

During the year we held our two major tournaments, the Mardi Gras Championships in February, and the Peter Deacon Spring Tournament in October. We also held two one day doubles tournaments, the Club Championships in June, and the Summer Doubles Classic in December which doubled as our World AIDS Day fundraising event.

The 2010 Mardi Gras Championships was a very successful event attracting 122 entries which was one of the largest and most successful Mardi Gras event for some years. This was the first tournament organised by our Tournament Director, Dean Matterson, who did a magnificent job in preparation and running of the event.

A further increase in entries for the recent 2011 Mardi Gras was fantastic to see with 160 players taking part. It was also an honour to welcome two members of the Gay & Lesbian Tennis Alliance (GLTA) Executive Board, Commissioner/Secretary Daniel Merrithew from Orlando, Florida, and Treasurer Michael Myers from Detroit, Michigan. Both came to support us as members of the GLTA, to help us in running the new tournament software, and also to compete in the Championships.

The Peter Deacon Spring Tournament had an entry of 108 players and was played over the second weekend of October. There was an increase in the number of players taking part in the Tournament which was the largest entry for the last 10 years.

Ian Craigie was a long time member of Tennis Sydney and a firm supporter of our club from the early days. He participated in the mid-week competitions, Mardi Gras Championships, Peter Deacon Tournaments, Gay Games, and was a regular player at Sunday Social. Ian's name appears on the club's Roll of Honour as a competition winner and runner-up. Ian had a great love for the club and always insisted his membership was current.

In September of 2009 Ian Craigie tragically lost his life. Some of his friends and colleagues at the club, Dick Law, Steve Chand, Carl Copas, Owen Gallagher and Neil Birks, donated a perpetual trophy in his memory.

The trophy will be presented to the C Grade Singles winner of the Peter Deacon Spring Tournament each year. It was presented for the first time at the 2010 tournament.

A Club Doubles Championship was held in mid June and proved to be very popular. Numbers participating had to be limited due to court repairs being carried out at Parklands Tennis Centre.

The Summer Doubles Classic was held on the first Sunday in December at the Marrickville Districts' Lawn Tennis Club. It provided an opportunity for some of our members to play on grass for the first time and the day also doubled as a fundraiser for a worthy cause as our contribution to World AIDS Day. This was a very popular event with available entry positions being filled in just a week.

I thank Dean Matterson who has done such a fantastic job organising and running these events. We appreciate his time and effort.

Competition Tennis

All our competitions have seen an increase in participation and a number of new players have emerged as the rising stars of the future. There is a high standard in each of our grades and players have been appropriately promoted when the opportunity arises.

Our Summer Competition was organised by Tyrone Andres. This was a team format where players chose their own partner. The committee decided to change the format so that each team played four singles and one doubles each night.

Due to work commitments Tyrone was unable to continue in the position of Competition Coordinator. We thank Tyrone for running the competition and making it a success.

The Winter Competition saw a return to our doubles format where players played with a different partner each night. The competition was organised and run by Dean Matterson and the captains of each division.

The Spring Competition was conceptualised and organised by our new Competition Coordinator, Russell Hall, with a team format in which players entered individually and the committee selected partners. This helped even out the competition and resulted in some surprising partnerships. I thank Russell for taking us out of our comfort zone and facilitating a very enjoyable competition.

I would also like to express thanks to each of the captains for their help in making the competitions a success.

Sunday Social Tennis

The numbers attending Sunday Social tennis have increased with an average of 60 players each Sunday. Sunday tennis was affected by tree roots encroaching onto the courts and as a result two of the courts were out of action for most of the year. Thank you to all the players who continued to support Sunday Social during this period.

Our computer and software which generated the sets each week had worked well with some limitations. Our thanks go to James Nicholson who developed new software for us and continues to adapt it to suit our needs. This program ensures that players and grades are mixed while the courts allocated are rotated. Thanks also to Ramon Supit who kindly repaired the computer when it was damaged.

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.

Sponsorship

Tennis Sydney has had no sponsorship for several years but a submission is being prepared to present to a prospective sponsor.

Legal Issues

Michael Catterall is our Public Officer and he has lodged our statutory returns with the Department of Fair Trading which we are legally required to do. Many thanks to Michael for ensuring this happened.

Communications

The main communication with Tennis Sydney members is via the newsletter and website. Thanks to Tye Brown of Aquawebs Designs for our newsletter design, our website banner and our new look website. We also thank him for our business card designs and new club branding.

I thank our Webmaster, Teh Liew Cheng, for updating and managing the website.

Social Events

Two Tennis Sydney dinners were organised during the year. We hosted one at the Taxi Club which was attended by 30 members and friends at which we presented the 2009 Winter and Spring Competition finalists' trophies. We also hosted a dinner during the Peter Deacon Spring Tournament at the Illawarra Tennis Club which attracted over 35 members and friends.

Our Christmas party was held in December at the Royal Prince Albert Hotel, Surry Hills and was well attended by 60 members and friends. It was a successful night and the highlight was the presentation of the Tennis Sydney "Oscars". The awards were for excellence during the year and some fun awards.

Thanks to Steve Cashen who organised the Christmas party and Taxi Club dinner, and Dean Matterson for coordinating the Peter Deacon Tournament dinner.

Fund Raising

For World AIDS Day we organised the Summer Doubles Classic in December as our fundraising event. The final amount raised was \$2053.00 which was donated to Camp Goodtime at the Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick. Camp Goodtime does not receive any government funding, instead they rely solely on fundraising events, sponsorship and donations. On behalf of the committee I thank members for your generosity in supporting this cause and the committee for their time in organising this event.

Thank you to Mark Pfeiffer and Hendry Lukman for their donation of home-baked muffins, cakes and cookies, also thanks to Paul Burns who provided the water and sports drinks. All proceeds from the food and drink sales were donated to the charity. Ray Lance did a wonderful job managing raffle ticket sales, while Mervin Dizon provided red ribbons on the day, thank you.

Committee

At the AGM which was held in February 2010 the following members were elected and remained on the committee for the whole year.

Brendan Moore (President), **Michael Catterall** (Treasurer), **Dean Matterson** (Vice-President), **Leanne Spencer** (Secretary), **Steve Cashen** (Social Coordinator), **Teh Liew Cheng** (Webmaster), **Geoff Daus** (Grading/Ranking)

The following members were elected to the committee but left during the year:

Tony Glennane, **Tyrone Andres** (Competition Coordinator), **Matus Rajnoha** and **Edward Alimin**

The following members were invited to join the committee during the year:

Michael Sugg and **Russell Hall**

On behalf of the Tennis Sydney membership I thank committee members for their commitment, time and effort to ensure the club runs successfully.

Finally

Moving forward in 2011 I believe the club is in a very good position financially, with a growing membership. I expect 2011 will be another successful year for us as we have initiatives in place to help the club to grow further and develop its potential.

Thanks to all volunteers who helped throughout the year during competitions, tournaments, Fair Day stall and Sunday Social tennis.

Whilst you may not have time to devote to the committee, a small portion of your time would be helpful to the club. Please notify us if you can spare any time during the year.

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

Brendan Moore

President