

# Tennis Sydney Inc.

## President's Report

### 2016

---



## Introduction

This report provides an overview of Tennis Sydney Inc. activities for the 12 months to December 31, 2015.

2015 saw some changes for Tennis Sydney with the biggest change coming when **Brendan Moore** stood down from his role as President, a role which he had held since 2009. The committee also lost a few members however this opened up spots for some new blood to join and to make their mark on the club.

Once again we ran a full year of tournaments, mid-week competitions and Sunday Social all of which were run at increasingly healthy participation rates. Membership was also maintained at strong levels.

## Membership

Club membership is the main source of income of Tennis Sydney. At the end of 2015 there was a total of 233 members. Concession rates continued to be available to eligible members for annual membership and Sunday Social player's fees.

## Finance

Last year the club's financial health contracted by 5% after two years of growth. The full account details are published in the Treasurer's Report.

A big thank you goes to **Rob Sheedy** for his work as Treasurer throughout this year and the year prior. Rob has continued in his role as Treasurer even though he has been living and working in Queensland. Rob will be stepping down from his role at the AGM and the club thanks him for his service.

## Tournaments

In 2015 we held the following tournaments:

1. Australasian Gay and Lesbian Open (January)
2. Club Doubles - Hard Court Tournament (May)
3. Compass Singles Tournament (July)
4. Club Doubles - Grass Tournament (August)
5. Peter Deacon Spring Tournament (September)
6. Compass Doubles Tournament (December)

The Australian Gay and Lesbian Open moved to its new home in January at Cintra Park from February where it has been held in the past. The main reason for this was due to the inability to get the courts at Sydney Olympic Park for a full weekend when school is in session. I thank **Dean Matterson** for his work as Tournament Director, he did a fabulous job running the event which ran smoothly across multiple venues and days.

The other three day event, Peter Deacon Spring Tournament, was directed by our Vice-President **Tracey Macmillan**. This was Tracey's first major tournament and she did a splendid job ensuring that the event was a success.

As with previous years the one day events held throughout the year were very popular with members with events being fully subscribed within days of the event opening. I would like to express my gratitude to the Tournament Directors of each of these events. Without your efforts they would not have been as enjoyable as they were. For the Club Doubles - **Dean Matterson** and **Brendan Moore**; Compass Singles - **Paul Burns**; Club Doubles & Compass Doubles - **Damien O'Brien**.

I would also like to thank the Tennis Sydney Committee who support the Tournament Director in ensuring that the events run smoothly and successfully.

## Competitions

All of our mid-week competitions enjoyed high participation rates this year. The three different formats in the Summer, Winter and Spring competitions saw strong fields in all divisions. It was pleasing to see some new faces in each division. The competitions were held over four locations: Parklands Tennis Centre; Moore Park Tennis Centre; Sydney Boys High School and Camperdown Centre for Tennis.

I would like to express my thanks to our Competition Coordinators **Kevin Thompson** (Summer) and **Rob Ward** (Winter and Spring) for their hard work in getting these competitions up and running smoothly. To all of the Division Captains, thank you for your work on a weekly basis ensuring that your respective divisions had all the requirements needed to run the competition.

## Sunday Social

Sunday Social Tennis is the weekly get together of our members and non-members for an afternoon of tennis. Sunday Social is held at Parklands Tennis Centre each Sunday, with the exception of when tournaments are being held, from midday through to 5pm. On average there has been between 50-60 players on a weekly basis. Sunday Social is a great way for new players to come along and see what Tennis Sydney is about. It caters for all levels from beginner to advanced.

I would like to thank **Steven Thorne** for his efforts in ensuring that Sunday Social ran smoothly. I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of **Elena Sarno** who was responsible for Sunday Social while she was on the

committee. Thanks also goes out to **Evan Knowles**, **Jon Zhu** and **Rob Ward** for their support in running Sunday Social. Without all of your efforts this day would not be able to be run.

## Sponsorship

Tennis Sydney is currently running without sponsorship however if there are any members who are aware of any sponsorship opportunities please speak with any of the committee members.

While they are not officially a sponsor, I would like to thank the team at **Tennis Ranch** for their continued support over the year. Therese and her team do a fantastic job and are always there to support any of our members with their tennis requirements.

## Communication and Legal Issues

The main communication with Tennis Sydney members is via the website, newsletter or through our social media channel on Facebook. I would like to thank **Steven Thorne** for his work on ensuring that the website is up to date and that a regular newsletter is sent to members updating them on what is happening within the club. Our social media channels and email accounts have been managed by **Damien O'Brien**.

This year was the first year that the annual Member's Survey was produced to get an understanding of what the members liked and areas of improvement within the club. The survey results were posted on the Tennis Sydney website and through social media channels and the committee is working on affecting some of the ideas which have come from the survey.

Thank you to **Tye Brown** of Aquawebs designs for all his work with the website throughout the year. Tye has also been working with the committee on the new Tennis Sydney website which is planned to go live around the 2016 AGM.

**Rob Sheedy** as our Public Officer lodged our statutory returns with the Department of Fair Trading, which we are legally required to do, many thanks to Rob for enduring that this happened.

## Social Events

There were a number of social events that were held throughout the year including: ten pin bowling and a movie night screening of Magic Mike XXL. There was also a Hall of Fame evening where **Dean Matterson** was inducted. At this same event there was a celebration of the 21st anniversary of the Virginia Slims Midweek Competition. Our Christmas Party and Oscars presentation was held at barefoot bowls at the Erskineville Bowls Club.

I would like to thank **Evan Knowles** for his organisation of these events throughout the year.

## Insurance

Our membership with Tennis NSW continues to provide all our members with Personal Sports Accident Insurance and Insurance Protection to the club (Public Liability), along with a range of other advantages as detailed on our website.

## Fundraising

During the year the club had two major fundraising events, the Lawn and Compass Doubles Tournaments, and funds were also raised by other activities such as the Bake-off and a small portion of the entry fees for the one-day tournaments. In 2015 we raised just over \$3,300 and it was decided that this be shared between Stanford House and St John's Ambulance.

**Stanford House** - a community based, non-government organisation located in Sydney's inner west providing respite and short-term accommodation for people living with HIV.

**St Johns Ambulance** - is Australia's leading provider of first aid services, training and equipment and has been a trusted brand for over 130 years. St Johns Ambulance provide first aid support at all of our competitions and tournaments.

I thank our members for your generosity in supporting these organisations and the committee for their time in organising the events.

## Committee

Tennis Sydney is very fortunate to have a dedicated group of volunteer committee members who have given up their time to assist in the running of the club. I thank them for their time, services, support and professionalism in organising all the activities of the club for the benefit of its members.

At the AGM held in May 2015 the following members were elected to the committee. **Damien O'Brien** (President & Social Media Coordinator), **Tracey Macmillan** (Vice-President & Amazon Tennis), **Leanne Spencer** (Secretary), **Rob Sheedy** (Treasurer). **Jon Zhu** (Design and Creative Coordinator), **Rob Ward** (Competition Coordinator), **Evan Knowles** (Social Coordinator), **Elena Sarno** (Sunday Social Coordinator), **Steven Thorne** (Communications Coordinator).

During the year both Elena and Steven stepped down from their roles for personal reasons however the rest of the committee remained for the entire year.

There are members of the club who are not on the committee however do work behind the scenes and to them I wish to extend my thanks. In no particular order **Tim Pailthorpe**, **Dean Matterson**, **Ray Lance** and **Duddy Apriadi**.

I would like to thank everyone on the committee for their hard work and dedication to Tennis Sydney. Your work does not go unnoticed and is greatly appreciated by myself and the members of the club. Without you Tennis Sydney would not be the successful club that it is.

## **In Conclusion**

It is my opinion that Tennis Sydney is in a strong position both financially and from a membership point of view. All of our events from tournaments, competitions and Sunday Social have solid participation and we have a good spread of skill level in all of our grades.

One key concern that I have identified is the small amount of members willing to join and help on the committee. In the past year we have lost some key committee members and without any replacements it will be a challenge for the current committee to continue running the club. I wish to call on any members who feel strongly about Tennis Sydney to offer some time in helping to run the club, not only for themselves, but for the many members that form this great club.

Finally I would like to thank all of the members who have supported myself and the committee in my first year as president. There was some big shoes to fill after the wonderful job that Brendan Moore did. There has been some real highlights. Tennis Sydney is a great club made up of great people and everything that we do is for the enjoyment of the members.

**Damien O'Brien**

President