



President's Report

2015

Introduction

This report provides an overview of the activities of Tennis Sydney for the 12 months to December 31st 2014.

2014 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.

Tennis Sydney-Amazon Tennis Partnership

After successful discussions between Tennis Sydney and Amazon Tennis, a Memorandum of Understanding was agreed between the two clubs. Tennis Sydney took on the administration of Amazon Tennis in matters relating to membership, insurance and financial management while Amazon Tennis continued to organise and run their mid-week competitions and social events.

The only two LGBTI tennis groups in Sydney are now in partnership. We trust this will see growth in the membership and provide greater opportunities for players in our local competitions and tournaments as well as for visiting players from inter-state and overseas.

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 the membership to 281 financial members.

Concession rates continued to be available to eligible members for annual membership and Sunday Social player's fees.

Finances

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

Thanks to **Rob Sheedy**, for his work as Treasurer throughout the year, keeping a tight hand on the purse, making deposits and payments in a timely fashion and ensuring that we remain in favour with the good treatment afforded to us by each of the tennis centres and our suppliers. To this end, Rob has streamlined our accounting procedure and introduced easier secure banking for invoice payment ensuring that all payments are made promptly.

Tournaments

We staged the following tournaments this year:

1. Australasian Gay and Lesbian Open, AGLO (February)
2. Club Doubles – Clay Tournament (May)
3. Compass Singles Tournament (July)
4. Club Doubles – Grass Tournament (September)
5. Peter Deacon Spring Tournament (October)
6. Compass Doubles Tournament (November)

The 2014 Australasian Gay and Lesbian Open was a very difficult tournament for the club to manage as the original dates were a weather washout. Despite the best efforts of the committee to stage the event it was particularly unfortunate for the overseas and interstate players who had travelled to Sydney. 190 players had entered the tournament which was successfully completed one month later in March.

I thank **Tyrone Andres**, our Tournament Director for AGLO who did a magnificent job in the preparation and running of the event. We appreciate the significant time and effort that he put into both the original and rescheduled tournament.

The Peter Deacon Spring Tournament had an entry of 150 players and saw the return of **Dean Matterson** as our Tournament Director. It was a very successful event and I thank Dean for the excellent scheduling for all the matches over the weekend.

The one-day doubles members' only tournaments have proved to be increasingly popular. The Clay Court Doubles was held at the Eastcourts Tennis Centre, Kingsford in May. The Lawn Doubles Tournament was held in September at the Marrickville Districts' Lawn Tennis Club which was also a fundraiser for our nominated charities.

The Compass Singles Tournament was held July at Parramatta City Tennis Centre while the Compass Doubles Tournament was in late November at the Cintra Park Tennis Centre, Concord. Being close to World AIDS Day on 1 December the doubles event was a fundraiser for this worthy cause.

I thank all the Tournament Directors **Tyrone Andres** (AGLO), **Paul Burns** (Compass Singles), **Seamus Duffy** (Lawn Doubles) **Dean Matterson** (Clay Doubles and Peter Deacon) and **Damien O'Brien** (Compass Doubles) for doing a magnificent job in organising and running these events. We appreciate their 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.

Tennis Sydney competitions were played across five venues, Parklands Tennis Centre, Camperdown Centre for Tennis, Sydney Boy's High School Tennis Centre, Moore Park Tennis Centre and Matraville Tennis Centre.

Amazon Tennis competitions were played at Cintra Park Tennis Centre.

We thank our Competition Coordinators **Kevin Thompson** and **Tyrone Andres**, (Tennis Sydney) **Tiffany Ng** and **Tracey Macmillan** (Amazon Tennis) for running the competitions and making them so successful. I would also like to express thanks to the captains for their help in ensuring the success of all the competitions.

Sunday Social Tennis

Sunday Social Tennis continued to thrive with an average of 60 players each Sunday. Thank you to all the players who supported Sunday Social. I thank **Steven Thorne** (Tennis Sydney) and **Tracey Macmillan** (Amazon Tennis), our Sunday Social Coordinators and all the committee members who were rostered to organise Sunday Social on the day. Thanks also to **Steven Thorne** who looked after the refreshments each week.

Sunday Social is important for the introduction of new members to the club and also leads to increased participation in weekly competitions as well as our tournaments.

Sunday Social Tennis took place every Sunday that Parklands Tennis Centre was open except for the weekends of the Australasian Gay and Lesbian Open, the Peter Deacon Spring Tournament and all the one-day tournaments.

Communications and Legal Issues

The main communication with Tennis Sydney members is via the newsletter, our website and increasingly through our Facebook page. We thank **Byron Watson** for his work with the social media and his management of our Facebook page

Thanks also to **Tye Brown** of Aquawebs Designs for all his work with the website during the year

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

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 ensuring that this happened.

Social Events

A number of Tennis Sydney functions were held during the year, players' parties and trophy presentation nights. Our Christmas Party, which was held in December at the Dolphin Hotel, was well attended by 90 members and friends. It was a successful night with the highlight being the presentation of the Tennis Sydney Oscars. The awards were for excellence during the year and some fun acknowledgements.

Thanks to our Social Coordinators **Damien O' Brien** and **Steven Thorne** for organising these events.

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.

Fund Raising

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, sale of used balls and a small portion of the entry fees for the one-day tournaments. We raised \$3,890 to be shared between the following five charity organisations.

The Paediatric HIV Service at Sydney Children's Hospital Randwick – Camp Goodtime - an annual camp held each year for HIV positive children and their families aimed at teaching new skills, increasing confidence, increasing HIV knowledge, providing support and fostering peer networks.

The Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service NSW - a volunteer based community service providing free, anonymous and confidential telephone counselling, information and referral services for LGBTI people, their friends and family and the wider community throughout NSW on sexuality and life issues.

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.

Youth Off The Streets - a non-denominational community organisation working for young people aged 12-21 years who are facing challenges of homelessness, drug and alcohol dependency, exclusion from school, neglect and abuse.

The Schizophrenia Fellowship Of NSW - a non-profit, community based organisation committed to improving the circumstances and welfare of people with a serious mental illness, their relatives and carers, and professionals working in the area.

None of the above organisations receive any government funding, instead they rely solely on fundraising events, sponsorship and donations. I thank members for your generosity in supporting these organisations and the committee for their time in organising the events.

Our gratitude to **Steven Thorne** and **Leanne Spencer** for their time in organising the World AIDS Day raffle draw. They did a wonderful job managing the raffle ticket sales and a large amount of money was raised.

Thank you to all those members, especially Quoc Nguyen, for their donation of home-baked cakes, muffins and cookies throughout the year. All proceeds from the food and sales were donated to the charity.

Committee

Tennis Sydney is fortunate to have a dedicated group of volunteer committee members who have given their time and talents to the running of the club. I thank them for their work, unwavering enthusiasm and professionalism in organising all the activities of the club for the benefit of the members and ensuring that the club runs successfully.

At the AGM held in May 2014 the following members were elected and remained on the committee for the whole year.

Brendan Moore (President), **Steven Thorne** (Vice-President), **Leanne Spencer** (Secretary), **Rob Sheedy** (Treasurer), **Dean Matterson** (Tournament Director) **Byron Watson** (Social Media Coordinator), **Kevin Thompson** (Competition Coordinator),

Tracey Macmillan (Amazon Tennis) and **Tiffany Ng** (Amazon Tennis Competition Coordinator)

Damien O' Brien was invited to join the committee in July and took on the role as our Social Coordinator.

On behalf of our tennis community I acknowledge the many members, often in the background, who help to keep our club functioning.

Tim Pailthorpe - for his continued work on membership issues, the fabulous new Leader Boards and the excellent scoresheets that he provides for each competition.

Jon Zhu - for his creative and skilled graphic designs that appear on our posters, Facebook page and website, he also conceptualised and designed our fabulous trophies for our AGLO and Spring Tournament. We are appreciative of the many hours that he has spent to produce professional and interesting designs for us. We thank them both.

To all members of the club, 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 to assist.

I would like to thank all the committee members I have worked with over the past five and half years. The success of Tennis Sydney is a reflection of the willingness, commitment and ability of these committee members to work together as a team to achieve the club's objectives. All the decisions of the committee were made by consensus, which ensured unity in purpose during their implementation. The membership should be aware that each committee member gave a considerable amount of their time throughout the year to ensure that our objectives were met.

In Conclusion

I believe the club is in a very good position financially as we have a growing membership, well patronised social tennis and strong competitive tennis throughout all grades. The continuing support of members helped the Tennis Sydney committee to deliver a range of significant achievements for the club in 2014.

One problem identified by the committee is that our club lacks its own clubhouse and tennis courts where members can meet, socialise and play tennis. Such a venue would also eliminate the need for outside storage and some court hire during the year. To this end, a sub-committee has been formed to endeavour to secure our own tennis venue as part of the club's strategic growth strategy.

The financial summary from the Treasurer demonstrates that Tennis Sydney is now positioned to make a serious tender for a sporting venue lease when opportunities are presented. We invite any members who can provide assistance in this regard to speak to a committee member.

I encourage all Tennis Sydney members to maintain their support of our club and to continue building its value, as this will enhance our credibility while we attempt to secure a 'home ground'.

With these initiatives in place to assist the club grow further and develop its potential I expect 2015 will be another successful year.

It has been a privilege to serve as President again this year, thank you to everyone for your encouragement and support.

Brendan Moore
President