

Dear members,

2018 has been a great year with the new committee in place and on behalf of all of us I would like to thank you for your trust and support in us.

Let me begin with a quick review of the year

The first year for the new team was a steep learning experience. I would like to thank the previous Committees. Not just Damien, Chul, Jon, Rob, Andrew, Oscar, Evan, & Josef but also all those that went before for all the work they have done and the support they have given us this year to get into the swing o fit.

I would also like to mention and thank the new recruits:

Jason for balancing the books, and providing a voice of restraint.

Huy for helping out as often as he did with Social, with tournaments and adding music to Sundays (I know Greg appreciated it greatly).

Vincent and Annette for handling communications and newsletters.

Krystan for getting through all those matches, through all that bad weather and helping run Australias' best tournaments.

I'd also like to thank all the players for turning up week after week, competition and tournament alike.

To everyone who helped us learn as we went his year (and learn we did), and we still have more to learn and improve.

We held two of the biggest GLTA tournaments in Australia and on the participation feedback we scored 9 out of 10 for these.

We had players from 30 countries flying half way around the world to play with and against us. No other LGBT tennis club conducts as many events as we do.

We've seen our Sunday Social grow to 70 plus players for weeks on end.

And we have had so many members offer suggestions and advice all the way, most of it welcome and encouraging.

Even that which was not is still welcome as you can't fix a problem you don't know exists. So please keep helping, keep offering suggestions and advice and calling us out if we get things wrong.

We also had a great Fair Day with our own stand and over 200 expression of interests that we will try to turn into members.

And our Mardi Gras float, which while we didn't garner a nomination for best float, we did help give the crowd a spectacular finale to the Prade.

Thank you to everyone who helped in that, especially Alberto and Jimmy Dee.

So what lies ahead?

In 2019 we already have a full calendar plus some events not yet promoted. There will be more social events that don't involve tennis or sport.

We will also start preparations for a bigger and better float in 2020.

Members benefits will be high on the agenda and we will shortly be promoting the deals that are continuing and new deals for our members.

On the tournament and competition side of things there will be new formats in the year ahead and I am working on a national competition with the other cities for 2020 and beyond. Tennis NSW and Tennis Australia have finally taken notice of us, and I will start working with them soon on how we can help each other and what they can for us.

In the long term we have some ideas and plans as well

Can we secure our own home in the future, do we need to, and how would that work and where?

What new events can we create, and how can we get our players and teams more visible outside of the LGBT environment.

I would love to see Tennis Sydney teams in various competitions competing under our name, with our logo on their shirts, getting our club known across the city.

There is much more I would like do, and much more Tennis Sydney can offer its members not just inside the club, but out in the mainstream tennis world.

So my goal in the years ahead is to make each tournament better, each competition more exciting, more events, and make us more visible.

To show especially young LGBTI players that being gay does not mean you can't play sport. That they can keep playing and competing at all levels, and that for those who need it, there is a safe environment to be a tennis player and LGBT person.

To make Tennis Sydney an example to those who need one, that sexuality does not determine sporting prowess.

And whilst we have many lesbian icons in the sport, instead of waiting for there to be a gay icon that we can look up to, maybe we can be a LGBT club that will inspire more LGBT players to come out.

Instead of us looking to them, maybe we can be what they are looking for.

1 year down with much still to offer and do.

And I look forward to your support to achieve all this and more.

Gavin

President

Tennis Sydney