

Nothing but 'Love' for Goulburn Tennis!

A hugely successful inaugural Goulburn Seniors Tennis Tournament recently went off with a bang. The Goulburn Railway Tennis Club and Goulburn Tennis Club jointly hosted this Tennis Seniors NSW sanctioned tournament, over the weekend of 31st March-2nd April.

162 participants played the tournament, in matches ranging from Men's and Women's singles, doubles, mixed doubles and combined ages. All 12 synthetic grass courts, at the two clubs, were utilised over the weekend. The tournament ran over three days and saw 130 of these players visiting Goulburn from many regions, including the Central Coast, Southern Highlands, Sydney, South Coast, Canberra and Western NSW. Over 30 local players also competed and helped make visitors feel welcomed. There were 30 events, some with multiple pools, due to the overwhelming number of entries. 73 winners and runners-up walked away with cash prizes. Some stand out players were Mick Gerstenberg (Goulburn), Tim Harris and Leonie Ainsworth (both from Canberra).

Many commented that they had not seen an inaugural tournament run in such a highly organised, professional and friendly manner, with some saying it was one of the best tournaments they'd been to of late. One visitor from the Central Coast said, 'It's great to see Goulburn tennis, and Goulburn itself, back on the map.' Others enjoyed reminiscing about playing in Goulburn 20, 30 and 40 years ago. The organising committee worked hard to ensure the tournament highlighted the best of Goulburn and that it would inject benefits back into the local economy. Many players stayed over the weekend and enjoyed local tourist sights, shopping, restaurants and bars during their time off.

72 people also attended the Tournament Dinner on Saturday night, hosted by Gold Sponsors, The Goulburn Soldiers Club and Diggers by the Park - a great evening with great food. Other sponsors included Goulburn Toyota, Ramsay Health Care, Best Western Goulburn and Ganter Constructions, as well as many local businesses donating prizes for the tournament raffle. The raffle was a great success with Errol Neish, Graeme Hissey, Gina Brown and Costas Kounnas walking away with goodies. The support of all of the above businesses played a huge part in the two clubs pulling off a spectacular event.

High praise came from Tennis Seniors NSW officials and veterans who have been playing this circuit for over 20 years. The joint vision, organisation and camaraderie between the two local tennis clubs have ensured success. Tournament Director David Ridley said:

'It was a fantastic and exciting weekend, with perfect weather and a great opportunity for people to reconnect and create new friendships. Everyone has already said they'll be back next year for it. The committee will now sit down to review the strengths of the tournament, what can be improved and if and when it would be held next year. Players' feedback is welcomed. We look forward to making it bigger and better in 2018. Thank you to everyone who attended and to all the volunteers for making our first tournament so much fun and so positive.'

Photos of the event can be seen on Facebook at Goulburn Railway Tennis Club @RailwayTennis. For all results, go to <http://railwaytennisclub.wixsite.com/seniors>. If you have any feedback or queries, please email RailwayTennisClub@gmail.com