

Tennis Seniors Australia

Annual Report 2008

Introduction

It is with pleasure that we present this Annual Report for the year 2008. A busy year, particularly with the task of developing a closer relationship with Tennis Australia. Additionally we have continued to work on our five year strategy program, and we remain optimistic about our future growth.

The National Championships were played in Wodonga, Victoria, and were significantly successful, due to the tireless efforts of our Victorian friends, capably led by the stalwart, Ray Fitz-Gerald. The one disappointment was a general down turn of support from many players from all States.

Annual General Meeting

The 2008 Annual General Meeting was held in mid week of the team's events in Wodonga, and was well attended by delegates and other interested members. Our President, Denis Colette, capably chaired the meeting, which was concluded with a small snack and refreshments for all delegates.

The existing Executive were re-elected unopposed. Denis Colette (NSW) as President, Brian Dew (SA) as Vice-President, Carl Anjou (VIC) as Secretary, Barbara Mathews (SA) as Treasurer and Bruce Osborne (VIC) as Committee Member. Geoff Pollard (President, Tennis Australia) was confirmed as our sole Patron. All the above elections were warmly supported with acclamation from the meeting. Our current auditor PDK Financial Pty Ltd was reappointed for the current year.

The following National Selectors were duly declared elected: Mike Ford (QLD), Alan Gooch (WA), Dennis Haupt (SA), Bob Howes (NSW), Paul Kleverlaan (VIC), Neville Langford (QLD), Andrew Rae (VIC), Martin Richards (SA), Kerry Ballard (NSW), Ros Balodis (ACT), Nola Collins (QLD), Marilyn Davis (QLD), Brenda Foster (NSW), Lesley Heumiller (NSW), Lyn Mortimer (VIC), and Margaret Robinson (WA).

Changes in Divisional Office-Bearers

There were a number of changes in personnel through the year. Presidents to retire were Alison Ide (ACT), John Schluter (SA), Ray Fitz-Gerald (VIC), Graeme Holloway (TAS) and Noel Fraser (NSW). The newly elected Presidents are Pat Moloney (ACT), John Butterworth (SA), Paul Kleverlaan (VIC), Bill Cromer (TAS) and Enid Besant-Ryan (NSW). We welcomed Gail Jones (ACT) back as Secretary for the (ACT) after her sabbatical, and welcomed Robyn Castle as NSW Secretary, on the retirement of Max Ward. We would pay tribute to all those who have served us well for many years and we acknowledge their contribution to the senior's movement. We also would like to thank all other Committee members in the Divisions for their ongoing work.

Tennis Australia

We have continued to work closely with Tennis Australia to face the ongoing problem in Australia, of the declining interest in tennis as a major sport. At our Presidents Meeting held in Melbourne last June, Tennis Australia presented an outline of their strategies for the coming years, and the role of seniors tennis in Australia.

We would like to thank Tennis Australia's Robin O'Neill and Kylie Buckley for this interesting contribution to our conference. As an extension to the above, at a later meeting held at Tennis Australia in September, expansive discussions were held with Steve Wood, Craig Tiley, Robin O'Neill and Kylie Buckley. Again we would like to thank Tennis Australia for their continued financial support in 2008.

Website

Work has been ongoing with Tennis Australia in developing our national website to be integrated with Tennis Australia's website. After the retirement of Dean Billing (SA), Ian Somers (QLD) was appointed National Coordinator and he maintains TSA's website, ably supported by our Publicity Officer, Robyn Castle (NSW).

Australian Tennis Seniors Championships 2008

The National Championships held at Wodonga, Victoria in January were completed without incident, on time, due to the pleasant weather over the two weeks. Welcome was made to the 693 players that competed in the Championships, with 102 teams playing in the first week, and Individual entries were received from 350 players. However, these participation levels were considered to be somewhat disappointing, in that there appeared to be the lack of interest from many of our regular players.

Denis Colette (President, TSA) opened the Championships on the Sunday evening and this was followed by a convivial session where friendships were rejoined. The tournament was considered to be well organised under the guidance of Chairman Ray Fitz-Gerald, Tournament Secretary Judy Collins, Tournament Directors Maurie Broom and Hayden Rees, Tournament Treasurer Lachie McGregor with Steve Longworth as Tournament Manager. We thank all the Victorian Seniors members for their hard work to make this tournament such a success.

In the Team's Competition, Queensland was declared the 'Premier Division' for the year. Final results of the Teams Competition and the Individual Championships are detailed separately.

Veterans of the Year 2007

Congratulations are extended to Andrew Rae (VIC) for being elected winner of the 'Player of the Year' Award following outstanding performances in the 2007 Australian and ITF Seniors World Championships and Cup Competitions. Ray Fitz-Gerald (VIC) received the 'Administrator of the Year' Award for 2007, in recognition of his significant contribution to Seniors tennis over many years.

National Claycourt Championships

The 35-55 years age groups Championships were successfully conducted by the Victorian Division in Melbourne in early June. Unfortunately the 60-80 years age groups that were to be played in Canberra were cancelled due to a lack of interest with very few entries being received. It has been decided that this group will return to Melbourne in 2009 and be combined with the 35-55's.

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ITF Seniors Cups and Championships

We fielded teams in 17 of ITF's 19 Cup Competitions in 2008, and again there was no player support for the Women's 35 (Lenglen Cup) and 40 (Young Cup) age groups.

The ITF's Seniors and Super-Seniors Cups were played at Belek and Manavgat in Turkey from mid October. Australian players performing creditably winning the 'Austria Cup' and the 'Gardnar Mulloy Cup'. The United States were successful in winning 4 Cups, Germany 3 Cups, France, Italy and Spain 2 Cups, with Argentina, Austria, the Czech Republic and South Africa one Cup each.

The 'Austria Cup' which was first presented by the Austrian Tennis Federation in 1977 for competition for Men in the 55 Age Group. We won this Trophy in Perth in 2005, in Durbin, South Africa in 2006, in Manavgat, Turkey in 2007 and again this year in Turkey. Australia has now won this prestigious trophy nine times. Our team members this year were Andrew Rae (VIC) as Captain, Max Bates (QLD) and Russell Watts (VIC).

The 'Gardnar Mulloy Cup', presented for the first time in 1996 to the winning team of the Super-Seniors World Team Championship for Men in the 80 Age Group. This Cup was originally donated by Gardnar Mulloy to start a new Men's Competition between North America and Europe, prior to this event becoming an ITF Team Competition in 1996. The United States have dominated this competition over the years, however, Australia did win this Cup in 2002 and to our players delight again this year. Our team members were Doug Corbett (NSW) as Captain, Ward Hillier (VIC), Neville Halligan (QLD) and Neale Hook (QLD).

We offer our warmest congratulations to all players on their performances, and we can feel justifiably proud as 10 of our teams finished in the top five of their age group. The results from all players were indeed a credit to our nation on the world stage.

In the Individual Championships, our players brought home five Singles title and six Doubles titles. We extend our congratulations to the Singles winners Ros Balodis (ACT), Margaret Robinson (WA), Glenn Busby (VIC), Andrew Rae (VIC) and Neville Halligan (QLD). To our Doubles winners Ros Balodis (ACT), Kaye Nealon (NSW), Elizabeth Allan (NSW), Kerry Ballard (NSW), Carol Campling (NSW), Margaret Robinson (WA), Bruce Osborne (VIC) and Max Bates (QLD).

Tribute is paid to Andrew Rae (VIC) as this is his sixth Seniors World Championships Men's Singles title, winning previously in the years 1999, 2001, 2002, 2006, 2007 and now 2008.

Even greater tribute must be given to Liz Allan (NSW) winning the 55 Women's Seniors Doubles title making Liz's sixteenth consecutive Seniors World Doubles Championships. Playing with Kerry Ballard (NSW), this makes the eighth consecutive year this pair have been successful at World level. In earlier years Liz paired with Carol Campling (NSW) and won the Seniors World Doubles for eight (8) consecutive years between 1993 and 2000.

Carol Campling (NSW) also continued with her impressive performances, having now won fourteen World Doubles Championships since 1991.

Our congratulations are also extended to Neville Halligan, in winning the ITF's inaugural 85 Men's Seniors World Singles Championships. I believe this was Nev's first World title.

Five Year Strategy Plan

Brian Dew has continued to work tirelessly on developing and expanding our '5 Year Strategy Plan'. We thank Brian for the extensive work he has put into this program over the last two years. It has now reached the stage where we are integrating much of our detail planning with our Divisions and in particular with Tennis Australia. At the midyear Presidents Meeting, Brian outlined the progress as at that date and the current status will be presented at our AGM in January. The majority of the ongoing issues are closely involved with the future strategies of Tennis Australia, and we will continue to closely work with TA to meet our mutual goals in the coming years.

Presidents Meeting

The annual Presidents Meeting was held in Melbourne on Sunday, 15th June with Divisions represented by their Presidents and Treasurers. The meeting opened with Robin O'Neill (Tennis Australia's General Manager, Community Tennis), who outlined his responsibilities in progressing Tennis Australia's long term goals for community tennis in Australia. Bruce Osborne provided the meeting of the relevant dates of our national and international commitments for 2008 and 2009.

Denis Colette presented some sobering statistics on the future of finances involving our tennis activities. After some discussion he proposed that a working committee study the concept of 'user paid' related to all our activities.

Brian Dew reported on the planning for the National Championships to be played in Adelaide in January. He also detailed the current position with Tennis Australia and our progress on our '5 Year Strategy Plan'.

National Championships 2009

It is a pleasure to be back in Adelaide and playing on their splendid natural grass and synthetic grass courts. We have been very pleased in that the team numbers for 2009 have significantly increased compared with 2008, with over 130 teams. After these Championships it is planned that we will travel to Queensland on the Gold Coast for this event in January, 2010.

Super-Seniors World Championships 2009

The International Tennis Federation have approved the proposal that the Super-Seniors World Championships be held in Perth, Western Australia, in November, 2009. Denis Colette as Championships Chairman, with Committee Chairman, Rob Ockerby have already carried out a considerable amount of administrative planning, and have appointed a local committee in Perth. It is significant that the ITF have again shown confidence in Australian Seniors by again endorsing our involvement in another major event.

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Seniors Administration

The development with Tennis Australia of our new brand 'tennis 35+ seniors' and associated licence agreement, is reaching finality at the National level. Also the development of a National Service Agreement and a State Member Association Agreement is well underway. The objective of these agreements is to increase the number and depth of 35+ players, maximise the quantity and quality of the competitive opportunities we provide and to identify sponsorship and other opportunities to provide financial support to Australian representative players. An update of the current position will be provided at the AGM.

After six years as National Treasurer and a further six years as National Secretary, Carl Anjou decided this year to retire from the Executive. He expressed his feelings concisely by suggesting "That it was time for new blood" to meet the challenges coming in the future. Carl has been appreciative that many members have kindly written to him in previous months on these retirement plans, and he would like to thank so many for the friendship and relationships built over many years.

Financial

Over the last twelve months Barbara Mathews (SA) has again smoothly guided our financial affairs. Thank you, Barbara. The following report shows that we ended the year with a small deficit. As will be revealed in our strategy plans, the coming period will offer many opportunities to allow us to expand our numerous activities.

Conclusion

Work has continued through the year with staff members of Tennis Australia on the development of a closer relationship and the alignment of common marketing and branding objectives. These objectives have much in common with our own 'five year strategy' plan, and its implementation through all our Divisions. Whilst progress has been slow, there is agreement that the development of these objectives and plans will take several years before benefits can be recognised.

Each year we are saddened by the passing of dear friends and colleagues who have paid a significant role and made large contributions to our senior's life over the years. This year we lost Derek Arthurs, a truly great gentleman and friend, and a fine tennis player. In mid year we belatedly heard of the passing of Life Member Reg Summers. Reg was elected as Secretary/Treasurer of the Veterans Association, when it was initially developed by the late John Young in 1970. Reg remained on the Executive as our Secretary till 1981.

Appreciation

The Executive wishes to acknowledge and thank all Divisional Presidents, Secretaries and Committee personnel, and our National Selectors, for their fine work through the year. Additionally many thanks are due to Gail Bates (QLD) for her on going enthusiasm and diligent work as our Ranking Coordinator. To Steve Longworth for his huge input into assisting us in developing our computer systems.

Finally we would also thank the following for their assistance over the past year:

Peter Breugelmans (ACT) Public Officer; Ian Somers (QLD) Webmaster; Robyn Castle (NSW) Publicity Officer;; Karen Simmonds (SA) Financial Systems;

Denis Colette (President)

Brian Dew (Vice-President)

Carl Anjou (Secretary)

Barbara Mathews (Treasurer)

Bruce Osborne (Committee)

13th December, 2008

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION 2007/2008

	2007/08	2006/07
Income		
Divisional Fees	43856	47156
Grants	700	45689
Tournaments	68283	57687
Other	8382	5014
Total \$	121221	155546
Expenses		
Office	15844	14637
Tournaments	57125	43386
Meetings	12221	18377
ITF Teams	33844	56193
Other	5811	5110
Total \$	124845	137703
Net Profit/Loss \$	-3624	17843
Assets		
Cash on hand	5076	3830
Sundry Debtors	2980	3775
Equipment	2699	2873
Investments	69929	80082
Total Assets \$	80684	90560
Liabilities		
Other \$	1424	7676
Net Assets \$	79260	82884
Equity		
Current Earnings	-3624	17843
Retained Earnings	82884	65041
Total Equity \$	79260	82884