

Tennis Seniors Australia Annual Report 2009

Introduction

It is with pleasure that we present this Annual Report for the year 2009. Indeed, this year has been a busy year as we continue to establish closer ties with Tennis Australia. The executive and representatives of Tennis Australia continue to search for a model that will support the growth of Tennis Seniors and help fund our overseas teams. Tennis Australia has indicated it is committed to grow and support our organization. The executive is confident that we can put in place a relationship that will support our structures and ensure the growth of our organization. To achieve this, it will require an openness of thinking and willingness on the part of the Divisions and the State Tennis Associations throughout Australia to embrace new working arrangements and responsibilities. Progress is slow but progress is happening. The National Championships were played earlier this year in Adelaide and were significantly successful due to the outstanding efforts of the organizing committee and volunteers, capably led by the outstanding administration of Brian Dew. Equally outstanding was the ITF World Team and Individual Championships conducted in Perth. These are ITF events where Tennis Seniors Western Australia provided the organizational structures and the volunteers to carry out the myriad of tasks required to make this event a huge success. We are indebted to the outstanding efforts of Sandra Petterson (tournament director) and Max Purdy (tournament secretary) and to all the volunteers who, with the staff of the ITF, made this a great international success. The hospitality and friendship of the TSWA members has underscored this as a great success.

Annual General Meeting.

The 2009 Annual General Meeting was held in mid week of the team's events in Adelaide, 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. One of the highlights of the year was the richly deserved award of Honorary Life Membership bestowed on Carl Anjou at this meeting for his outstanding contribution and commitment to Seniors Tennis for many, many years. Carl had served as Honorary Secretary for six years and previously as Honorary Treasurer for six years in addition to serving on the Tennis Seniors Victoria committee for twenty years. This richly deserved award was supported by standing acclamation.

The following Executive members were re-elected unopposed; Denis Colette (NSW) as President, Brian Dew (SA) as Vice-President, Barbara Mathews (SA) as Treasurer and Bruce Osborne (Vic) as Committee Member. Tom Hancy (Vic) was elected Secretary by ballot to replace the retiring Carl Anjou. Denis Colette thanked Max Ward for his nomination. 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 (Vic), Marilyn Davis (Qld), Narelle Follington (NSW), Brenda Foster (NSW), Lyn Mortimer (Vic), and Margaret Robinson (WA).

Changes in Divisional Office-Bearers

There were a few changes in personnel through the year. The only President to retire was John Walker (Qld) who was replaced by Alan Hocking. Marie de Cornu, secretary of TSNT, has retired due to work commitments and is yet to be replaced. These few changes reflect a high degree of stability in the administration of our State Seniors Associations. We acknowledge the work and efforts of those retiring and we pay tribute to all those who have served us well for many years and we congratulate them for their contribution to the Seniors movement. We also would like to thank all other Committee members in the Divisions for their ongoing work. It is highly valued and appreciated.

Website

With the help of Tennis Australia, our webmaster Ian Somers has continued the development of our national website to reflect something of the character of the Tennis Australia's website. Tennis Australia has developed a link from its website to ours for persons accessing Seniors through its website. Ian is ably supported by Robyn Castle (NSW) our energetic Publicity Officer.

Australian Tennis Seniors Championships Adelaide, 2009

The National Championships held at Adelaide in January were completed on time although we did experience some hot weather and one session of heat-out. The tournament was conducted from TSSA new headquarters at South Park. Welcome was made to the players who competed in the Championships, with 132 teams playing in the first week, and Individual entries were received from 347 players. However, these participation levels were considered to be getting back to more desirable levels by comparison with the previous year's attendance.

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 outstandingly organized under the chairmanship of Brian Dew and his band of volunteers who included Elaine Caldana (tournament director), Janet Wang (tournament secretary), Lorna Harmer (tournament treasurer), Sue Hand (social director), John Butterworth (transport director), Pauline Fielden (player welfare), Brian Arnold (venues and grounds director) and all the volunteers who

supported them. We thank all the South Australian Seniors members for their hard work and hospitality to make this tournament such an outstanding success.

In the Team's Competition, New South Wales was declared the "Premier Division" for the year much to the delight of the 'partying players' at the Presentation dinner. Final results of the Teams Competition and the Individual Championships are detailed separately.

Seniors of the Year 2008

Congratulations are extended to Neville Halligan (Qld) for being elected winner of the "Player of the Year" Award following outstanding performances in the 2008 Australian and ITF Seniors World Championships and Cup Competitions. Neville won the inaugural men 85 Age Group World Singles Championship in Turkey and was a member of the winning Gardner Mulloy ITF World Teams Championship. Brian Dew received the "Administrator of the Year" Award for 2008, in recognition of his significant contribution to Tennis Seniors over many years and in particular for his chairmanship of the organizing committee for the 2009 Australian Championships held in Adelaide.

ITF Seniors Cups and Championships

We fielded teams in 17 of the ITF's 19 Cup Competitions in 2009, and again there was insufficient player support for the Women's 35 (Lenglen Cup) and 40 (Young Cup) Age Groups.

The ITF's Senior Cups were played in Mallorca, Spain. The wins in the eight Seniors Cups we contested were shared among Australia, Austria, Italy, Germany, and Great Britain each winning one Cup. The USA was clearly the dominant nation winning three Cups. Australian players performed creditably in winning the Austria Cup. This Cup which was first presented by the Austrian Tennis Federation in 1977 for competition for Men in the 55 Age Group was won by Australia a for fifth successive year; in Perth in 2005; in Durbin, South Africa in 2006; in Manavgat, Turkey in 2007 and 2008 and again this year in Mallorca, Spain. Australia has now won this prestigious trophy a total of ten times. Our team members this year were Andrew Rae (Vic) as Captain, Gary Thoroughgood (NSW) and Michael Collins (Vic). In the Maria Bueno Cup for women in the 50 Age Group, Australia won the play off for third place while in the Men 50 Age Group, the Fred Perry Cup, our team finished fourth.

The ITF Super-Seniors Cups and World Individual Championships were held in Perth. Our teams achieved outstanding success winning five of the Cups, runner-up in three Cups and placed sixth in the remaining Cup; a truly remarkable achievement. Our team of Alan Bailey (Tas), Harward Hillier (Vic), Doug Corbett (NSW, captain) and Neville Halligan (Qld), to their delight, won the Gardner Mulloy Cup for the second successive year. The other men team to be successful was the Jack Crawford Cup team for the 70 Age Group. Although worried by an injury scare to our number one player Bob Howes (Vic), the team won handsomely. Bob was greatly supported by Ian King (NSW), Tony Harkin (NSW) and Ian Macdonald (Qld).

The women teams produced great performances winning three of a possible four Cups. In the 75 Age Group, Margaret Robinson (WA), Peg Hoysted (NSW), Shirley Whitaker (Vic) and Elsie Crow (WA) won the Queens' Cup. Nola Collins (Vic, captain), Mary Gordon (NSW), Lesley Heumiller (NSW) and Joy Rigter (Qld) formed a winning combination to take the Althea Gibson Cup for the 70 Age group narrowly from South Africa. Another outstanding effort came with the 60 Age Group winning the Alice Marble Cup. This team was Kerry Ballard (NSW, captain), Carol Campling (NSW), Kerin Tulloch (Vic) and Jan Johns (Qld).

We offer our warmest congratulations to all players on their performances and participation in the ITF Cups competition. The courage, fighting spirit, and determination of all players and the sportsmanship displayed throughout the tournaments bring a great deal of credit to our players, to Tennis Seniors and the game of tennis.

In the Seniors Individual Championships held in Mallorca, Spain, many of our players performed well by getting through to the semi-finals but we were able to win only one Championship event due to the extremely high standard of play throughout the week. This was in the Women 55 Age Group Doubles which resulted in an all Australian final with Helen Worland and Adrienne Avis (both from NSW) defeating Lyn Mortimer (Qld) and Sue Walter (Vic) in a close three set match. In the Super-Seniors Individual Championships in Perth, our players came to the fore with some exciting play when five individual singles titles out of a possible ten were won by Australians. Outstanding all round play from Phil Higgs in the 65 Age Group secured him the singles title with an unexpected win over the top seed Peter Adrigan (Ger). Harward Hillier (Vic) in the Men 80 Age Group Singles needed a seventh match point to defeat Clem Hopp (USA) in three sets, while fellow Australians Neville Halligan (Qld) and Arthur Newnham (Vic) fought out the final of the Men 85 Age Group singles with Neville winning his second successive World Singles Championship. Adding to her outstanding play for the week of the Teams Championships, Kerry Ballard completed the unique treble by adding the Women 60 Singles and Doubles Championships to her collection of wins. In the singles it was an all Australian final with the unseeded Kerry and Elizabeth Allan doing battle. Both ladies combined to take the doubles title. For Kerry it was her tenth doubles title, nine of them with Elizabeth, and for Elizabeth it was her seventeenth consecutive doubles title, a feat which is unlikely ever to be bettered. In the Women 75 Single Championships Margaret Robinson won her second successive title in defeating Mary Boswell (USA). In the Women 70 Doubles Championships, Nola Collins and Mary Gordon added to their fine Team's effort by

winning in straight sets. Henry Michael, pairing with Fred Drilling (USA), won the Men 65 Doubles Championship in straight sets. Other singles finalists who are worthy of a mention are Bruce Rehn (SA) who was runner-up in the Men 70 Singles and Terry Smith (Vic) who overcame heat exhaustion in the Teams' event to reach the final of the Men 60 Singles.

Five Year Strategy Plan

Brian Dew has continued to work 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 four years.

We thank Tennis Australia to develop both the National and State level "Service Agreements", with the major objective being to substantially increase the membership base and player participation within all States and Territories of TSA.

Amongst other strategies, this will be achieved by the consolidation of databases between Member State Associations and their respective Seniors State Association, utilising the new "My Tennis" platform. This will facilitate a "feeder" system for all 35+ players within each State, to be made aware of the opportunities and events that exist within Tennis Seniors. The new system has been implemented in South Australia for 2009/2010, with the intention of an Australian rollout next year.

It is also envisaged that State Member Associations will work with each State Seniors' Association to create additional state level events that are social and participation focused for 35+ players. Additionally, both bodies are to identify common areas where administration expenses can be reduced via assistance from the State MA.

Sponsorship opportunities, which could be sought at a combined State level, are to be identified and pursued.

We thank Tennis Australia for their support of our ITF teams through the provision of uniforms and travel insurance, plus a subsidy towards travelling expenses.

An update of the current position and Draft Service Agreements for 2010/2011, will be presented for discussion and approval at the Presidents' meeting in January 2010. On a personal level, we thank Robin O'Neill, Craig Tiley, Paul Kattestaart and Kylie Buckley (earlier in the year) for their continuing help and interest to assist in developing stronger relationships between our two organizations.

Negotiations with the ITF

Throughout the year, representative of TSA have been engaged in discussion with the ITF to review a number of subjects that have a direct bearing on our players and the conduct of our sanctioned ITF tournaments. The seeding regulation introduced this year resulted in a number of unfortunate ramifications and these have been enumerated to the ITF. The President and Secretary had discussions with the ITF Manager in Perth and they are hopeful that this regulation will be amended at the next meeting of the ITF Seniors Committee and will help overcome some of the problems. Also, the executive is hopeful that at least one, and possibly two, of our sanctioned tournaments will be upgraded for next year. The third area for concern is the increased requirements for sanctioned ITF tournaments from 2011 and the problems that will arise in meeting these requirements in remote areas. The ITF is at least cognizant of these issues and has agreed to look closely at our request for some exemptions. We believe we have contributed to fruitful discussions in shaping the attitude of members of the ITF.

National Championships 2010

It is a pleasure to be back in Mermaid Waters for the 2010 Championships. The executive is pleased that the team numbers for 2010 have held near the level of Adelaide in 2009 given the financial turmoil that the World has endured in the past year. After these Championships, it is planned that we will travel to Newcastle (NSW) for these events in January, 2011.

ITF World Teams and Individual Championships, Perth

These ITF events, which are controlled by the ITF, can only be held where the facilities are provided and the organizational structures are set in place by an army of volunteers to allow for their conduct. The members of TSWA met these requirements and helped produce an outstanding two weeks of international tennis. The staff of the ITF which included Luca Santilli, David Stobart, Carolyn Nichols, Lorna Krog, Isabelle Gemmel, James McGurran, and Steve Longworth worked with the referees and umpires and all the volunteers to produce a well run tournament. The Player Dinners were a huge success and earned top comments from the ITF; the transport, although tested with Perth's increased traffic, generally got players to places on time; and the catering produced great meals for players and spectators and the opening ceremonies. The members of the organizing committee which included Rob Ockerby, David Legge, Delys Dear, Michael Harris, Gary Booth, Rob Cromley, Rhonda Fletcher, Peter Fields, Ken Flavel, Kevin Fletcher, Ken Brown and Karen Campbell and all their volunteers are congratulated for outstanding work and commitment.

Seniors Administration

Your executive has met on six occasions throughout the year and members exchanged dozens of emails keeping all abreast of developments and gauging opinions. Thirteen general circulars were sent to the Divisions and many, many other emails on a range of topics. The combined meeting of Presidents and Secretaries held in Adelaide in January was addressed by Robin O'Neill who suggested ways in which we may forge a relationship with Tennis Australia. The members at this meeting made a number of suggestions arising from the 2009 Championships to the

executive and most of these have been implemented.

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 net profit and retained earnings have increased our total equity. A detailed financial statement has been sent to all Divisions.

In Memoriam

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 Seniors' life over the years. This year we lost Alison Ide, a stalwart of our Seniors' movement. Alison served as Secretary for a number of years and as our Public Officer for several years and was a member of numerous overseas ITF Cups teams. Dean Billing, our former webmaster and organizer of many tournaments, died recently after a long illness. After realizing his dream and ambition of winning the World Singles 80 Age Group Championships 35 hours earlier, Harward (Ward) Hillier died peacefully in his sleep after the recent ITF Super-Seniors World Championships in Perth. All three of these people made a significant contribution in their own ways to our organization and influenced the lives of many people. The three of them will be sadly missed but we are enriched through knowing them and the high standards that they set.

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, great appreciations are extended to Gail Bates (Qld) for her on going enthusiasm and diligent work as our Ranking Coordinator and for her help with numerous other tasks including her role as tournament director for the upcoming 2010 Australian Championships and to Steve Longworth for his huge input into assisting us in the ongoing computer programs for our online entries for tournaments and Australian team nominations.

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*, and Karen Simmonds (SA) *Financial System*.

Denis Colette (President)
Brian Dew (Vice-President)
Tom Hancy (Secretary)
Barbara Mathews (Treasurer)
Bruce Osborne (Committee)

9th December, 2009.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION 2008/2009

| | 2008/09 | 2007/08 |
|------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Income | | |
| Divisional Fees | 42992 | 43856 |
| Grants | 0 | 700 |
| Tournaments | 83620 | 68283 |
| Other | 4422 | 8382 |
| Total | \$ 131034 | 121221 |
| Expenses | | |
| Office | 13067 | 15091 |
| Tournaments | 66567 | 57125 |
| Meetings | 6081 | 12221 |
| ITF Teams | 28412 | 33844 |
| Other | 2434 | 7111 |
| Total | \$ 116561 | 125392 |
| Net Profit/Loss | \$ 14473 | -4171 |
| Assets | | |
| Cash on hand | 22688 | 5076 |
| Sundry Debtors | 0 | 2980 |
| Equipment | 2152 | 2699 |
| Investments | 70257 | 69682 |
| Total Assets | \$ 95097 | 80137 |
| Liabilities | | |
| Other | \$ 1911 | 1424 |
| Net Assets | \$ 93186 | 78713 |
| Equity | | |
| Current Earnings | 14473 | -4171 |
| Retained Earnings | 78713 | 82884 |
| Total Equity | \$ 93186 | 78713 |