



Tennis Seniors Australia

Tennis Seniors Australia Incorporated
Trading as Tennis Seniors Australia
A.B.N. 97 011 308 481

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GENERAL CIRCULAR 0903

MINUTES OF THE 40th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF TENNIS SENIORS AUSTRALIA INC
held at the QUALITY HOTEL TIFFINS ON THE PARK, 176 GREENHILL ROAD, PARKSIDE,
ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, on Wednesday, 14th January, 2009.

PRESENT: TSA EXECUTIVE: President, Denis Colette.
Vice-President, Brian Dew.
Secretary, Carl Anjou.
Treasurer, Barbara Mathews.
Committee Member, Bruce Osborne.

DELEGATES:

ACT: Pat Moloney, Peter Breugelmanns, Gail Jones (proxy).
NSW: Enid Besant-Ryan, Robyn Castle, Arthur Olsen, Carol Campling, Yvonne Stanton.
QLD: John S Walker, Alan Hocking, Graham Brown, Coral Vickers, Gail Bates.
SA: John Butterworth, Dennis Haupt, Janet Wang, Helen Schreier.
TAS: Bill Cromer, Ben Rafferty.
VIC: Paul Kleverlaan, Ward Hillier, Heather Barwick, Judy Collins.
NT: John Britton, Thelma Britton.
WA: Gary Booth, Rob Ockerby, Kevin Fletcher, Max Purdy.

OBSERVERS: Beverley Evans (New Zealand) and 10 other visitors.

OPENING: The President Denis Colette declared the Meeting open at 8.00 pm. He welcomed all State delegates, other observers and in particular Graeme Holloway (previously the President of Tennis Seniors Tasmania but now a Board Member of Tennis Australia), David Stobart (President Tennis Victoria), who is Tennis Australia's Seniors Representative to the ITF, and Robin O'Neill (Community Service Manager, Tennis Australia). Denis confirmed that the meeting was being audio taped to assist the Secretary in the compilation of the Minutes.

APOLOGIES: Were received from our Patron Geoff Pollard and Sandra Petterson (WA).

MINUTES: Denis confirmed that the Minutes of the 39th Annual General Meeting had been circulated. Pat Moloney (ACT) moved that the Minutes be accepted as a correct record, John Walker (QLD) seconded the motion, and on a show of hands the motion was carried. The President asked if there were any matters of Business arising from the minutes.

- Pat Moloney (ACT) referred to page 2 of the Minutes and queried the current position of reviewing the “10 Point” scoring in the Teams competition. Bruce Osborne advised that the Executive were monitoring the system this week, and that a number of problems had been encountered with the score cards in the first few days of the competition. Steve Longworth has tabled some recommendations, and a review will be carried out by the Executive at the completion of this year’s Championships.
- A question was asked on the issue of the ITF’s Grading System of our sanctioned tournaments. Bruce Osborne responded and confirmed that very few of our Australian sanctioned events reached the bench marks of the ITF’s grading system. He advised that negotiations with the ITF had confirmed that our current gradings were firm for 2009, but the gradings would be revisited at the end of the year. The ITF were conscious of our problems of participation levels, particularly with our senior women, and to date had taken a soft approach in the retention of levels for each tournament. Bruce said that he believed that attitude was about to change, and unless we can upgrade our participation levels our tournaments may be down graded in the future.
- The President advised that New South Wales Seniors had withdrawn their interest in conducting a World Championships in 2010.
- The President asked Pat Moloney (President ACT Seniors) on the current situation in respect to the ACT hosting a Seniors World Championships in 2013. Pat advised that this proposal was doubtful in that it would be dependant on the upgrade of the tennis complex at Lyneham by Tennis ACT, and at this stage there were some doubts on the timetable for these proposed works.
- The question was asked as to whether there would be any further discussions on the matter of “players representing their State of residence or not”. Denis suggested the matter be discussed at the Presidents Meeting to be held next Saturday.

EXECUTIVE REPORT: The Secretary advised that the Report had been circulated to all Division’s prior to Christmas, had been reproduced in the Championship Program Book, and copies were available at this meeting tonight. Highlights of the Report were as follows:

Carl reported that the Executive had a particularly busy year, much of which was involved in developing our relationships with Tennis Australia. This was a “work in progress”, and would be “ongoing” for some time in the future. Carl confirmed that at the Presidents Meeting last June we had received a detailed presentation from Robin O’Neill, and in September we had been privileged to have a meeting at Tennis Australia with Steve Wood, Craig Tiley, Robin O’Neill and Kylie Buckley, where many issues of our relationships were discussed.

Carl confirmed the Executive’s absolute delight on the performances of our players and our Cup Teams in Turkey last October. We won two Cups ... the Austria and the Mulloy Cups ... and we won five singles events and six doubles events ... so it could be said that Australia is “punching above its weight” on the international Seniors stage.

Carl confirmed that Brian Dew and Bruce Osborne had worked extensively this year in progressing our “five year strategy plan” into our involvement with Tennis Australia. Tribute was also due to Barbara Mathews who guided our finances through the year. We have ended with a small deficit, an excellent result if one reviews all of our activities over the last 12 months. We also extend our thanks to those outside our Executive, like our Public Officer Peter Breugelmanns, our Webmaster Ian Somers, our Publicity Officer Robyn Castle (a huge contribution), our Financial Systems Consultant Karen Simmonds, our Computer Systems Advisor Steve Longworth and of course our Ranking Coordinator Gail Bates. All of these people had made a significant contribution to our activities. Carl indicated he would like to formally move the adoption of the Report. This was seconded by Rob Ockerby and approved on a show of hands and acclamation.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer Barbara Mathews confirmed that our financial accounts had been distributed. The following documents were tabled for all delegates:

1. Statement of Income and Expenditure for year 1st October 2007 to 30th September 2008.
2. Statement by TSA Executive.
3. Independent Audit Report.
4. Statement of Assets as at 30th September 2008.
5. Balance Sheet as at 30th September 2008.
6. Profit and Loss Statement.
7. Budget for 2008/09.
8. Summary of Divisions' Membership.

Barbara advised that we had finished the year with a small deficit of \$ 4,171 after adjustments had been made to our depreciation allowances. Our current membership was 3,588 which was a drop of 275 members over the past year. This drop in membership had clearly affected our bottom line deficit.

In response to a query, Barbara confirmed that the "difference" in the bottom line figures, as tabled tonight, compared with figures as published in the Tournament Program Book, related to adjustments made in the depreciation values by the Auditor, when closing off the accounts.

Peter Breugelmans (ACT) asked what progress had been made with the "financial" working group appointed at the Presidents Meeting last June. Denis confirmed that this group had been disbanded, after it had been established that a proposed "pay as you go" fee system was not considered practical.

The Secretary was asked whether Minutes had been distributed after the Presidents and Treasurers Meeting last June. Carl commented that it has been the general practice to issue Minutes of any meeting prior to any "parallel" meeting the following year. AGM Minutes are normally distributed prior to the following AGM and the Minutes of last year's Presidents January Meeting would be distributed prior to this Presidents January Meeting. Likewise for the mid year Presidents Meeting.

Barbara said she wished to thank Denis, Brian, Carl and Bruce for their help over the year. She also expressed special thanks to Karen Simmonds and to all Divisions for their support. . The Treasurer moved that the Financial Accounts be accepted, this was seconded by Graham Brown (QLD) and carried with acclamation.

AFFILIATION AND REGISTRATION FEES: The Treasurer moved that there be no change to the current charges for the year 2009/10. Divisions pay \$ 110 Affiliation Fee each year, and the current Player Registration Fee was \$ 13.20 for each player per year, both these charges are inclusive of GST. This was seconded by Peter Breugelmans (ACT) and carried on a show of hands.

HONORARIA: The Treasurer confirmed that the current Honoraria for the Secretary was \$ 7,000 and for the Treasurer \$ 1,200. Barbara moved that these payments remain unaltered, this was seconded by Graham Brown (QLD) and approved on a show of hands by the delegates.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS: The President declared all Office Bearers positions to be vacant. Denis advised that one nomination only had been received for each of the positions of President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Committee Member. Denis then stated that he wished to congratulate "myself" and Brian Dew, Barbara Mathews and Bruce Osborne as being duly elected to those respective positions. This was received with acclamation from the delegates.

Denis commented that we have been fortunate in having two outstanding people to have been nominated for Carl's position as National Secretary, in Tom Hancy and Max Ward. Denis ruled that the position would be decided on a ballot involving all Delegates and he appointed Brian Dew and Bruce Osborne as scrutineers. The voting entitlements are ACT 3 votes, NSW 5, NT 2, QLD 5, SA 4, TAS 2, VIC 4 and WA 5 votes. Carl confirmed that in the situation of equal votes in the ballot, the President had a casting vote.

Voting slips were distributed, subsequently counted by the scrutineers and then the President advised that we had a result of the ballot. He asked everyone to welcome Tom Hancy as the new National Secretary. This was received with warm acclamation from all those present. Denis thanked Max Ward for his nomination and he warmly congratulated Tom on his election.

APPOINTMENT OF SELECTION COMMITTEES: The President advised that this year we had received nineteen nominations for our National Selection Committee. He advised that the following have been appointed to the committee, their duties to start from 1st March, 2009 for a period of 12 months:

SENIOR MEN: Mike Ford (QLD), Paul Kleverlaan (VIC), Andrew Rae (VIC) and Martin Richards (SA).
SUPER-SENIOR MEN: Alan Gooch (WA), Dennis Haupt (SA), Bob Howes (VIC) and Neville Langford (QLD).

SENIOR WOMEN: Ros Balodis (ACT), Narelle Follington (NSW), Brenda Foster (NSW), Lyn Mortimer (QLD).
SUPER-SENIOR WOMEN: Kerry Ballard (NSW), Nola Collins (VIC), Marilyn Davis (QLD), Margaret Robinson (WA).

Denis offered his congratulations to those people and this was received with acclamation from all present.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR: Barbara Mathews advised that our current Auditor, PDK Financial Pty Ltd had acted as our auditor for the last five years and she moved that they be reappointed as Auditor for this year. The motion was seconded by Max Ward (NSW) and carried.

APPOINTMENT OF PATRON: The President moved that Mr Geoff Pollard (President Tennis Australia) be reappointed as our Patron for the next 12 months. This was seconded by Ward Hillier (VIC) and carried unanimously by the meeting.

GENERAL BUSINESS: Denis confirmed that the Presidents Meeting scheduled to be held at Memorial Drive on Saturday afternoon, will now be held in this Hotel in the Somerset Room upstairs, commencing at 1.00pm. A large proportion of the meeting would involve discussion about our relationship with Tennis Australia. Robin O'Neill has prepared a "Discussion Paper" outlining the various ways that Tennis Australia can meld with the Tennis Seniors Australia and State Associations can work with our Divisions. This would be distributed to all Presidents by Robin O'Neill, who would be available for personal discussions over the next few days.

- Denis suggested that many people had been working extremely hard in examining the many issues involved in finding a practical way to coordinate all the strategy plans. Denis said that he believed that a joining of all our interests with Tennis Australia was necessary, as our membership numbers had continued to decline ... and the way our membership was currently structured, it appeared difficult for our movement to progress.
- Simplistically what is being envisaged is that with a national registration system and fee, then anyone over the age of 35 years would automatically become a member of Tennis Seniors Australia. Suddenly our membership would increase from 4,000 to say 120,000, and as a consequence we could start talking "turkey" to sponsors ... and so on.
- But it is recognised that the way ahead will not be easy, as Tennis Australia and all the State Associations are "independent entities" ... the same way that Tennis Seniors Australia and our Divisions are structured. So nothing can progress unless all parties are in agreement to move these concepts forward. This will be our major discussion point on Saturday.
- Denis suggested that if any President has any other matters to be discussed on Saturday, please advise Carl for it to be added to the agenda.

The President introduced David Stobart (President Tennis Victoria) to the meeting, David being Tennis Australia's Senior's Representative to the ITF. David confirmed that he had attended an ITF's Senior's Meeting in London on the 5th December, 2008, on behalf of Tennis Australia.

David advised that he had tabled a Report with the TSA's Executive and TA's Board just a few days ago. Some of the points of discussions held at the meeting were as follows:

- Future hosts of World Championships will receive USD 19,000 per week ... an increase of USD 2,000.
- Increased participation, as opposed to competition, was defined as a main objective for all senior events in the future.
- A personal identification number will be introduced for Seniors. No fee has been decided as yet but it is thought it will be between USD 20 and USD 45.
- TMS software will be introduced to administer all sanctioned tournaments.
- Regional team competitions will be eligible for ranking points for singles and doubles. The Australian Executive will be encouraged to see if this could be introduced in Australia.
- By 2010 all ITF tournaments must have a certified ITF Official on site.
- Only one singles and one doubles can be entered at future World Championships.
- All Grade 1 and Grade 2 Tournaments must have a Sports Medicine Trainer on site. All other tournaments must have a Trainer on call.
- Mallorca (Spain) will host the Seniors Championships in April and the Cup entry fee will be USD 300 per team.
- In 2010 the Seniors World Championships will be held in Mexico in late April on hardcourts. The Super-Seniors will be held in Antalya (Turkey) in mid October on clay courts.
- The ITF have posed two questions. 1) Should seedings of individuals within teams of World Championships be the same as the World Rankings? And 2) Would we support a Men's 85 Cup Competition and a Women's 80 Cup? These questions have been left with the TSA Executive to review.
- The ITF continued to have concern on the problem of our Australian sanctioned tournaments not attaining the required number of ranking points as required by their grading system. This ongoing problem needed an increase in participation levels, particularly from our women players.
- Starting this year all sanctioned tournaments shall seed their events in strict conformity with the ITF World Rankings. There will be dispensation to seed two players in any event who do not have an ITF Ranking.

Carl questioned the note in the report that players will be obligated to be insured. David confirmed that this referred to personal accident insurance.

Bruce queried the "late" advice of proposed changes and that affect on our National Championships. David suggested that in the future such matters would be published prior to Christmas in any year.

A general discussion opened between delegates on the implications of the above reported proposals

- Concern was expressed on the potential increased cost to tournaments if a Sports Trainer became a mandatory requirement ... and this affect on participation as costs are increased.
- Concern was voiced on the proposal that TMS software be introduced for sanctioned tournaments. Experience has shown that this software has many shortcomings and cannot handle problems like round robin events. David claimed that TMS was "used all around the world". Several delegates suggested that this claim was a gross exaggeration and not really believable.
- A question was asked if players would have protected rankings, if subject to injury at any time. David commented that he had no knowledge if such a ruling would be introduced.
- David confirmed that the proposed ITF registration system would only apply to those players who played in ITF sanctioned tournaments. It was suggested that such a charge could double players membership costs, and this would affect participation levels at tournaments. David suggested that benefits would flow from this system.

The President thanked David Stobart for his detailed report and this was supported by all delegates.

The President announced that there was one matter not listed on the Agenda tonight, that after consultation with all our Divisions ... "I have tremendous pleasure in advising you that it has been unanimously agreed that Carl be inducted as a Life Member of Tennis Seniors Australia". This announcement was greeted with acclamation from all present.

Denis then read out a brief history of Carl's tennis life ... see attached ... and commented that "now Carl, you can add this Life Membership to your achievements".

A very surprised Carl (somewhat emotionally) thanked Denis and the Executive and all Seniors around Australia for this honour. Carl said that "he was completely stuck for words", and that "um" ... he had always believed it was important to contribute to tennis in a small way by helping in the administration area... but then the rewards were that, Jill and he had over the last 25 years being involved with Vets and Seniors, had found this period to be one of the most pleasurable times in our lives ... for the fun and friendships found and formed. From my heart, Carl said, that he wished to sincerely thank you all, for this great honour.

In closing the meeting the President thanked everyone for their attendance and confirmed that supper, tea and coffee was now available upstairs (adjacent to the bar).

The Meeting closed at 9.15pm.

CONFIRMED THIS DAY OF 2010.

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PRESIDENT

CARL ANJOU
(Honorary Secretary)
14th January, 2009.



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HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

CARL ANJOU

The President, Denis Colette, in addressing Delegates at the 2009 Annual General Meeting spoke of Carl's significant contribution to Seniors Tennis over the last six years in the role of Honorary Secretary, and of his regret that Carl had retired at this Meeting tonight. Denis then stated that he had tremendous pleasure in advising that in consultation with all Divisions, it had been unanimously agreed that Carl be inducted a Honorary Life Member of Tennis Senior Australia.

Denis then read out a brief history of Carl's tennis life.

Carl found veterans or seniors tennis in 1982. Since that time Carl was a member of the Victorian Veterans Executive 1986 to 2003. During this period he served for five years as Senior Vice-President and two separate periods as Secretary inclusive of six consecutive years until 2002. He was elected as National Treasurer for Tennis Veterans Australia from 1992 to 1998. On the retirement of National Secretary Alison Ide in 2003, he was invited to take up the position of National Secretary and has held that position until the current time.

Carl acted as Tournament Director for our national Championships held in Melbourne in 1992 and in Wodonga in 1999, and for the Australian Masters Games held in Melbourne in 1997. He was awarded the "Administrator of the Year" Award for 1998, sharing that year with Margaret Wallis from Western Australia.

Carl decided to retire as National Secretary in the middle of 2008, after turning 76 years of age. At that time he expressed the view that "It's time after six years for another younger member of Seniors to carry the Association forward". He said that he had enjoyed and loved the many years of interesting challenges and had appreciated the opportunity of making many friends and so many new relationships over the last twenty six years.

Tennis wise Carl played competitive tennis at Association level in Adelaide and Melbourne. In earlier years he participated in the Victoria/Tasmania bi-yearly Competition and the Tri-State matches held between New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria. Carl was a regular member of Seniors National Teams Competition, until retiring about six years ago, when a range of physical problems made the game just too hard.

Carl is a Honorary Life Member of his own Tennis Club (the Holy Trinity Tennis Club) in Melbourne; and a Honorary Life Member of the Anglican Tennis Association in Melbourne. In the year 2000 he was sponsored by Tennis Australia and was awarded the Australian Sports Medal. Carl this year was absolutely delighted and proud to be elected a Honorary Life Member of Tennis Seniors Victoria.

Honorary Life Membership presented to Carl Anjou at the 40th Annual General Meeting of Tennis Seniors Australia held in Adelaide on Wednesday 14th January, 2009.

Denis Colette (President)