



Update from the Executive – April 2013

As we did last year, we will provide a number of updates during the year to keep you informed of the current issues that are on the agenda of the Executive. By the way, all previous updates have now been re-located on our website, and can be found "About us" on the main menu, and then "TSA Executive news". The items below are in no particular order of importance.

Australian team selection

- The teams for the Super Senior event in September have been announced. While the selectors obviously have the final say on these appointments and we have no authority to override any of their decisions, the Executive did request some clarification and reasoning behind some of the decisions. Where we think it is appropriate, we will continue to do so in the future.
- There has been one appeal against non-selection and in terms of the appeals process, we have appointed an Appeals Tribunal to review and adjudicate on this. The members of the Tribunal are Alexander Lata as Chairperson (a lawyer at TA) Alan Walsh from TSNSW who has previous arbitration and appeals experience, and Ros Balodis from TSACT
- We have had a request to consider announcing the Super Seniors teams earlier than end March or April, after the Australian Claycourt Championships, and perhaps revert to the previous practice of announcing the teams after the Australian Championships in January. The reason for this request is so that players can take more advantage of "early bird" airfares which airlines traditionally announce at year end for the following year. What we have to weigh this up against of course, is the desirability of having more recent tournament results such as the Clays, to take account of when selecting teams. We have spoken to a number of our regular overseas player travelers as well as travel agents, and while there is sometimes some merit to this argument, it appears that airlines also come out with specials in March or April, and it is really a bit of a "lottery". It is likely therefore that we will continue to announce teams about 6 months in advance.
- With the advent of 3 age sections in the World titles from 2015, our plan is to have 3 panels of selectors for Young Seniors (3 selectors), Seniors (3 selectors) and Super Seniors (4 selectors) respectively

Selection criteria

- We are currently reviewing the selection criteria, mainly as a result of an unfortunate selection issue that arose last year which requires a more stringent conformity to ITF Regulations. We are taking advantage of the opportunity though, to tidy up a few other matters in the criteria, most notably the team composition of four players which

has been agreed on, and whether a more specific criterion should be included with respect to selecting players on doubles performance and results. Our plan is to have these finalised within weeks.

Tournament issues

- Under the direction of Pat Moloney, we are working on formulating a set of standard conditions for ITF and NRT events.
- There has also been debate about the award of points in ITF and non-ITF doubles events. It has been agreed that that if a tournament has both ITF and non-ITF doubles, national ranking points will also be awarded for the non-ITF doubles, depending on the classification of the event i.e. either NRT 6 or 7. This in turn is determined by the number of players entering

World Championships

- The results of our participation in the Seniors World Champs in Turkey have been documented on our website, but all of our teams performed admirably with our best performance coming from the Womens 55's who finished 3rd from 16 teams. In the Individuals, congratulations to Ros Balodis and Leanne Swaysland who won the Women's 50 doubles in an all Australian final, and Brenda Foster who won the 50 mixed with a partner from Great Britain.
- Closing dates for the Seniors teams in 2014 will be 11th October. Originally we had set the closing date for Super Seniors 2014 as the 25th April, but in view of the comments above regarding airfares etc. **we have now revised that date to the 14th March after the Claycourts .**
- We are very interested in bidding to host a World event in either 2015 or 2016 when the revised 3 section format is in place. A possibility we are considering is the Young Seniors at Melbourne Park, and this is being discussed with TA.
- Regarding uniforms, TA are currently in negotiations with a new supplier for uniforms for all Australian teams, and we will have input on the design for Seniors when the contract is finalised. There is a strong possibility that green shorts for the men, and green skorts for the ladies, will be made available for Super Seniors this year.
- Gail Bates has done a very interesting record on players' participation in World team events as an Australian representative. The player who has represented Australia more than any other is Carol Campling – 22 times including 6 as Cup winners. Well done Carol!! Amongst the men, the "leader" is Andrew Rae with 21 caps (including 7 wins). Others of note are Bob Howes and Bob McCarthy with 20, and Peter Froelich with 18.

Australian Championships

- We have received the final report and financial results from Perth 2013, which reflect a profit for TSWA.
- One aspect of the event that received considerable attention was the heat rule, and this may continue to be the case with a January event depending of course, on the location. We have asked the Australian Medical Association for assistance in reviewing this policy to ensure that it is still in line with current thinking, and specifically asking if the rule should be different for Seniors as opposed to Super Seniors

Australian Claycourt Championships

- The feedback seems to indicate that the Clays, our first "Closed" event, were a great success at Kooyong, perhaps the most iconic of tennis establishments.
- It is interesting to note that we had 223 entries, and 49 or 22% were from non-IPIN Players. 41 of those played an IPIN event which they would not have been able to do if this were not a Closed tournament. So there is some indication that a Closed does perhaps draw some additional entries, and we want to continue with the concept.
- We have asked the States to submit an expression of interest if they are keen to host a Closed event next year

Tasmania 2014

- Yvonne Stanton made a visit to Hobart in March to meet with the organizing committee (OC) under the Chairmanship of Peter Armstrong who is also President of Tennis Tasmania. At this stage, arrangements appear to be progressing according to our guidelines, which will be continuously monitored. Yvonne also inspected all of the club and court facilities and produced a detailed report on this. It appears we may have access to a maximum of 64 courts, which translates to a maximum 128 teams. We are requesting the States to give us some idea as soon as they can, of anticipated team numbers.
- We asked the OC to consider a billeting arrangement, but they can not see their way clear to arrange this. It is good news however that less expensive University accommodation will be available. The Tasmanian Travel and Information centre are acting as travel and accommodation agents, and their details are on our website – simply click on the icon on the left of the main page.
- The age groups for the Carnival in Tasmania have at this stage been agreed as 35-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-74, 75-80, and 80+. The 10 year age brackets were originally agreed to for Perth 2012 and were endorsed by the N rating committee, and subsequently by the Presidents meeting in June 2012, subject to team numbers and an annual review. The matter will be discussed with the Presidents at the Gold Coast in June of this year.

Business Plan

- When I became President, the strategy I chose to follow regarding future direction was one of consultation and communication with the States rather than attempting to progress change through Constitutional amendment. We have always maintained that the biggest impediment to growing numbers are relatively high membership fees acting as a barrier to entry. I am pleased to say that I believe we are making progress on this front, although the hard work of building membership numbers is still ahead of us.
- For the forthcoming year from July, NSW, ACT and SA have all agreed to reduce their annual fee to \$20 for Seniors membership (not club membership in the case of SA) Queensland are already at \$20, Victoria are optimistic of moving to this level subject to some further financial modeling and approval from their AGM, and WA are still in debate mode with numerous other priorities on their agenda.
- TSNSW have gone further and will be offering a zero membership fee for new members for one year, and we commend them on this initiative.
- With some States now having introduced a zero fee to belong to their Member Association via the affiliation reform package, the cost of participation is tennis

activities is now considerably less, and this is great news on which we must attempt to capitalise.

The “Pay for Play” trial in NSW and ACT (PFP)

- This trial has continued in NSW and ACT this year and will terminate in June, beyond which our Business Plan incorporates a reduced PFP model to apply to ITF and NRT events only. Most States have agreed to this with the exception of Queensland, and as stated earlier, TSWA are still considering.
- We now wish to review the trial and record some conclusions and outcomes against our original objectives. We have drawn a detailed Terms of Reference document, and Graeme Sticka from TSNSW has agreed to carry out this task, with his report due by end May. We will report further on this in due course.

Other matters

- Websites – the SA and Victoria websites have been re-designed to varying degrees and now incorporate an automatic news feed from the TSA site. The WA site still needs some work. We thank our webmaster Ian Somers for his untiring efforts in this area
- Facebook – “like” us on Facebook in the not too distant future. We know that social media has sometimes been abused but nevertheless sites such as Facebook are a great way to communicate messages instantly to those who subscribe. Yvonne Stanton is driving this initiative with help from Ian Somers. It is interesting that according to the Bureau of Statistics, the number of older Australians using the internet has doubled between 2003 and 2009, and 42% of over 60’s now access the internet.
- “Tennis World” – if you wish to subscribe to this digital publication at no cost see the posting on our website

If you have any comments or questions about this update, please contact Reg Trevaskis on regt@tpg.com.au

Reg Trevaskis

On behalf of the TSA Executive

April 2013