

Message from Clive Wilkinson, the new President of Tennis Seniors Australia

10-Feb-2017



It is an absolute honour to become the new President of Tennis Seniors Australia. Tennis Seniors has a wonderful history and a camaraderie that would be the envy of many sporting associations. The TSA Executive, under Reg Trevaskis' leadership and the State Divisions have done a tremendous job in promoting Tennis Seniors throughout Australia and around the world. Reg (former TSA President) and Enid Besant-Ryan (former TSA Vice President) have both completed their 5 year tenure and so on behalf of all of Tennis Seniors in Australia I would formally like to thank them both for their tremendous contribution to senior's tennis. Reg and Enid are not easy to replace, but I am very pleased that the rest of the TSA Executive have agreed to stay, with Peter Dighton taking over as the Vice President, Peter Froelich and Pat Moloney continuing in their respective roles as Treasurer and Secretary and Leanne Scott coming on board.



Left to right:: Clive Wilkinson, our new TSA President and Glenn Busby, TSA's "Player of the Year for 2016"

2016 was a great year for Tennis Seniors with the pinnacle being our teams who represented Australia in the 2016 World Championships winning 21 Gold Medals, which is the best we have ever done.

2017 will be a transition year, moving from the old guard to the new. We have a great opportunity to make Tennis Seniors even better and get far more over 35's playing the game we all love. There are more than 200,000 registered over 35's tennis players in Australia, who will be our target audience. They are not all tournament standard players, so we need to offer them something that they will find appealing. There are 4 types of players that we will be focusing on. They are:

1. *Players who are not confident or capable enough to join a Tennis Club. TSA will work with TA to support strategies and programs that attract these people into tennis.*
2. *Current club players who may be capable enough to play in ITF / Senior's events, but have not done so to date. For these players we need to ensure that the formats of the tournaments are attractive enough for them to play.*
3. *Tournament standard players to play more tournaments by making the tournaments even more attractive.*
4. *Elite players to encourage them to get back into tennis or to play more events and showcase their talents.*

To do this, we will need to work together within TSA and work effectively with the ITF, Tennis Australia and their Member Associations. Our vision hasn't changed much from its inception in 1970. "To encourage the playing of lawn tennis in the spirit it was first played — for the love and enjoyment of the game". The court surfaces may have changed, but the sentiment hasn't! I believe that within 5 years we can have 40,000 members in TS, but that will only happen if we work as 'One Team', which the State Divisions and Tennis

Australia are very supportive of. By doing this we can leverage the great work that is currently being done in individual States and organisations to the benefit of all.

It is a very exciting time for Tennis Seniors. We have tremendous people, which is the heart of any strong organisation; great tournaments and financial stability. These are the foundations that we will launch Tennis Seniors Australia from in 2017. Transparency and open communication have always been my approach to Tennis Committees that I have run around the world and this will be no different. Tennis Senior's is about a fantastic on-court and off-court experience and I look forward to sharing it with you all.

Regards

Clive Wilkinson

President, Tennis Seniors Australia

Tele: (61) 438-500-140