

Tennis Seniors Australia Annual Report 2011

Overview

We have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report for the year 2011. It has been a trying time for the reduced Executive as it has grappled with a number of important issues. As indicated last year, Tennis Australia has demonstrated that it is committed to helping us grow and support our organization by placing more resources with the Member Associations. It is up to all Divisions of Tennis Seniors to ensure they access the professional services and resources of their state Member Association. It is through the provision of adequate service agreements that Divisions must attempt to lower the costs in the running of their organizations. Most operating Divisions have a service agreement in place and, although it did have one last year, there is still one Division which has yet to sign a service agreement for this financial year.

However, it remains alarming that our membership continues to fall. What is more alarming is that we know there must be a significant number, potentially 65,000 players over 35 years of age, who are registered with their Member Association, but who are not members of Tennis Seniors. We are failing to attract members to our state Divisions. Through the pilot studies, to be conducted on the 'pay for play' model, the Executive is hopeful that it can put in place a business model that will support the future growth of our organization.

An area that must be debated and agreed upon is a revision of the way we govern our organization. The present "federal" structure is not one that can easily facilitate the implementation of the changes that are necessary to grow our business, and the Divisions, through the Presidents and the Executive, need to resolve these important issues.

Again, we thank Tennis Australia for its support of our ITF World Championships teams through the provision of uniforms, travel insurance, and a substantial subsidy for each team member towards travelling expenses. In addition, the current National Service Agreement adds a reward and incentive payment to our players who achieve international success through winning individual and team Championships. On a personal level, we thank Steve Wood, Robin O'Neill, Craig Tiley, and Bruce Osborne for their continuing help and support and for their interest in assisting in developing stronger relationships between our two organizations. Increasingly, due to these stronger relationships and those being forged between our State Seniors and their Member Associations, Tennis Seniors will be an important part of the wider tennis family in Australia.

During the year, the Executive coordinated a player questionnaire on our Team Championships. Pat Moloney was the chief architect of the questions and the overall analysis was completed by the Secretary. All but one Division participated in the survey. In addition, as promised at the Presidents meeting held in mid January, a review of the Selection Criteria for selection of ITF Cups teams was conducted. The task was given to the 16 selectors to respond to about 15 submissions received from players and administrators. The co-ordination of the responses was done by Bob Howes and sent to the Executive for its discussion before being passed to appropriate persons at Tennis Australia who have had considerable experience in this area. We express our appreciation to Ann West and Jacquie Mangan who assisted in the wording and formatting of the document and the introduction of an appeals process to ensure it can withstand the possibilities of most challenges from potential litigants and to Bruce Osborne for shepherding it through Tennis Australia.

Annual General Meeting.

The 2011 Annual General Meeting was held mid week of the team's events in Newcastle and was well attended by delegates and other interested members. Our outgoing Vice-President, Brian Dew, capably chaired the meeting which was concluded with refreshments for all delegates and visitors.

The following Executive members were elected unopposed: Kevin Furst (SA) as President, Denis Colette (NSW) as Vice-President, Tom Hancy (Vic) as Secretary, Reg Trevaskis (Qld) as Treasurer and Yvonne Stanton (NSW) as Committee Member. Steve Healy (President, Tennis Australia) accepted the invitation of the Executive and was elected as our sole Patron. All the above elections were warmly supported with acclamation from the meeting. It was left to our new Treasurer to nominate an auditor and MSL Taylor was subsequently appointed. The following National Selectors were duly declared elected: Mike Ford (Qld), Alan Gooch (WA), Dennis Haupt (SA), Bob Howes (Vic), Paul Kleverlaan (Vic), Neville Langford (Qld), Andrew Rae (Vic), Martin Richards (SA), Kerry Ballard (NSW), Judy Hancy (Vic), Joy Rigter (Qld), Narelle Follington (NSW), Brenda Foster (NSW), Lyn Mortimer (Qld), Wendy Weir (WA) and Kym Ireland (Qld).

The 'pay for play' business plan and the pilot studies

The Executive, under the leadership of the Treasurer, is making very good progress in meeting the challenges in organizing the "pay for play" pilot study that will commence in the ACT, NSW and possibly TAS from the 1st January, 2012. Tasmania has been added due to certain changes in its structure that are currently being implemented. The work in NSW is mainly through the excellent work of a committee headed by Reg Trevaskis and supported by Arthur Olsen, Ian King, Mick Bruton, Yvonne Stanton and Jackson Hills (TNSW). Jackson has been highly supportive and we thank him for his efforts. In the ACT, Pat Moloney and Ross Triffet (TACT) are the main contacts.

The process of sanctioning of events through and with the cooperation of the Member Association, the production of a sanctioning handbook, the procedure for the collection and return of add-on fees to the TSA treasurer and the marketing of the events are all in place. The pilot will also be a good opportunity to test the MYTENNIS database as a robust marketing tool. Divisions are also encouraged to work with their MA and utilise their joint databases to promote existing and new events for 35+ players.

Changes in Divisional Office-Bearers

There were a few changes in personnel through the year. In Victoria, Paul Kleverlaan retired before the AGM and Keith Lavington became President. Keith was elected unopposed at the September AGM. In addition, Judy Collins resigned due to ill health and in her place Angie Arthurs was elected Secretary. In WA, Kevin Fletcher (President) and John Amor (Secretary) were re-elected. Phil Waight (President) and Coral Vickers were re-elected to their positions in Qld. In NSW due to Enid Bessant Ryan moving to another state, Mick Bruton took over as President and is ably supported by Robyn Castle (Secretary). In the remaining two states of the ACT and SA, Pat Moloney (President) and Gail Jones (Secretary) and John Butterworth (President) and Janet Wang (Secretary) were re-elected. We acknowledge the work and efforts of those retiring and thank them for their time and we pay tribute to all those who have served us well for many years. We congratulate them for their contributions to Seniors Tennis. Also, we would like to thank all other Committee members in the Divisions for their ongoing work. It is highly valued and appreciated as it is increasingly difficult to recruit people to volunteer positions.

Australian Tennis Seniors Championships, Newcastle, 2011

The National Championships held in Newcastle in January were completed on time in mild weather although we did have rain on occasions. The tournament was ably conducted by Tennis Seniors New South Wales. Brian Dew, substituting for Denis Colette, welcomed the players who competed in the Championships, with 89 teams playing in the first week, and individual entries were received from around 376 players. The Mayor of Newcastle opened the Championships on the Sunday evening and this was followed by a social evening. The tournament was outstandingly organized under the chairmanship of Frank Kitcher and his band of volunteers who included hard working Yvonne Stanton (Tournament Director), Robyn Castle (Tournament Secretary), Arthur Olsen (Tournament Treasurer), and other members of the organizing committee who included Carol Campling, Mick Bruton, Craig Bullivant and Ian King. These people were ably supported by Jean O'Brien and Moya McGirr (Tournament Referees) and all the volunteers who supported them. We thank all the Tennis Seniors NSW members for their hard work and hospitality to make this tournament an outstanding success. In the Team's Competition, the ACT was declared the "Premier Division" much to the delight of its members at the Championships dinner. Final results of the Teams Competition and the Individual Championships are detailed separately.

Seniors of the Year 2010

Congratulations are extended to Glenn Busby who was judged the outstanding player of the year. Glenn has been a member of winning Cups Teams and during 2010 had a remarkable winning record in the 50+ singles Championships in Australia, Austria, Croatia, The European and the World Championships. Glenn is currently ranked the number 1 player in the World. The popular Gail Bates (Qld) received the "Administrator of the Year" Award for 2010 in recognition of her significant contribution as Tournament Secretary to the success of the 2010 Australian Championships, the organization for the two Queensland tournaments on the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast and for her continuing diligent work as rankings coordinator. Given that Gail went through a most difficult year fighting the effects of chemotherapy in her battle against cancer, this award was gratefully received.

ITF Seniors World Teams Championships and Individual Championships

We fielded teams in 16 of the ITF 20 Cups Competitions in 2011. The Seniors commenced their competition in early February. On the second day, the tragic earthquake which demolished Christchurch occurred. The ITF had no option but to cancel the remainder of the Championships for the teams centred in Christchurch. However, further south at Timaru and Ashburton where there was no damage, the competition in two men's and three women's Cups continued. The remarkable thing was that no player or accompanying person was injured nor was there loss of life among tennis people. There is no doubt that had the earthquake occurred in the middle of the night, we would have been mourning loss of life and serious injury from among our players. Courageously, the players in Timaru and Ashburton completed their commitments. Australia won the Austria Cup (Men's 55) for a seventh successive time with a win against Spain. Gary Thoroughgood and Glenn Busby had very good wins in the singles and Glenn and Rodney Wurtz combined in the doubles to make it a 3-0 win. In the Trabert Cup (Men's 40) Australia had to settle for bronze when they outplayed their hosts, New Zealand, to win 3-0. Martin Richards and Brett Patten had very good wins in the singles and Paul Kleverlaan and Chris O'Mara, the current world champions, won the doubles also in straight sets.

In the Maria Esther Bueno Cup (Women's 50) our team ranked two won silver after losing to the top seed USA. Kerrie Douglas lost a hard fought match against Susan Wright and Ros Balodis levelled the rubbers with an impressive win over Di Fishburne. However, Ros and Kerrie lost the doubles to the Grand Slam doubles winners of Joanne Russell and Susan Wright. In the Maureen Connolly Cup

(Women's 55) the Australian team of Lyn Mortimer, Robin Walker and Sara Goddard won bronze in the 3 team play-off after losing to the very experienced USA team. In the Susan Lenglen Cup (Women's 35) our team of Karen Kleverlaan, Michelle Leyden, Juliann Jacobson and Karen Pearce won against South Africa in the play-off for fifth position. The World Seniors Individual Championships which were to be played in Christchurch were cancelled.

The Super-Seniors World Team Championships were again held at the player friendly resort at Manavgat, Turkey and, as usual, our host put on a magnificent two weeks although it was punctuated by some fierce electrical storms. The Von Cramm and Bitsy Grant teams finished second to take silver medals. Of the remaining 5, four finished in the top 5 nations The teams and their finishing positions are: Von Cramm (60) 2 (24); Britannia (65) 9 (20); Crawford (70) 5 (20); Grant (75) 2 (19); Mulloy (80) 4 (10); Alice Marble (60) 4 (16) and the Kitty Godfree (65) 5 (16). Of notable performance were the efforts of the Von Cramm team of Andrew Rae, Ray Bray, Roger Davey and Max Bates who were runner up to the powerful USA team. Ray Bray playing his finest match of the tournament came within a whisker of causing a major upset against Brian Cheney. Andrew levelled the rubbers with an outstanding display. However, Max and Andrew lost the doubles. The Bitsy Grant team of Peter Froelich, Alan Hocking and Ray Woodforde did wonderfully well but it too lost to an extremely strong team from the USA.

In the Individual Championships, Doug Corbett (Men's 85 singles) and Andrew Rae (Men's 60) put up tremendous performances to secure silver medals. However, Andrew teamed with Max Bates to win the Men's 60 doubles. They were accompanied by Carol Campling and Wendy Gilchrist (Women's 60 doubles), Peter Froelich (Men's 75 doubles), and Doug Corbett (Men's 85 doubles). Silver medals in the doubles were won by Alan Hocking (Men's 75 doubles), Bob Howes and Bruce Rehn (Men's 70 doubles) and Adrian Alle (Men's 80 doubles).

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 and to Tennis Seniors.

Negotiations with the ITF

Throughout the year, representatives 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. This year, 2011, we saw the introduction of a requirement to have a White Badge Referee present at all sanctioned ITF tournaments throughout the World. The ITF has introduced this requirement to ensure there is consistency in how tournaments are conducted and to ensure a high level of organization. Also, this year, the ITF has organized the introduction of the IPIN which will be required by all players to enter all ITF sanctioned tournaments. At the close of registering for a free IPIN for next year at the end of October, over 800 TSA members have registered. The new procedure for entering online at the ITF IPIN site has caused some consternation but, undoubtedly, players will get used to the additional procedure. These changes will ensure that ranked lists are produced weekly. In addition, there has been a lot of discussion and input on the procedures to be used by tournament organizers to ensure an appropriate timetable of events to allow tournament directors and managers sufficient time to perform the many tasks that must be accomplished.

National Championships 2012

It is a pleasure to be back in Perth, WA, for the 2012 Championships. The Executive is delighted that the team numbers for 2012 show an increase on the previous year and much of the credit for this goes to the players from WA for fielding 47 teams in the Championships. Under the chairmanship of Michael Harris and ably assisted by Gaye Hawthorn (Tournament Secretary) and Max Purdy (Tournament Treasurer) the organizing committee has done a tremendous amount of work to help make these a successful teams and Individuals events.

ITF World Teams and Individual Championships, San Diego and Croatia, 2012

These ITF events, which are controlled and managed by the ITF, only can be held where the facilities are provided and the organizational structures are set in place by an army of volunteers to allow for their successful conduct. In February, the Seniors World Championships will be conducted in San Diego, USA and Australia has selected three women's teams and five men's teams to contest the various ITF Cups. In September, the Croatian Tennis Federation will host the Super-Seniors in Umag on clay. Teams for these ITF Championships will not be selected until after the Australian Claycourt Championships to be held in Melbourne. The closing date for nominations is March 16th, and nominations can be made on the 92computing website.

Website

With the continuing help of Tennis Australia, our webmaster Ian Somers has continued the development of our national website to reflect the character of the Tennis Australia website. Tennis Australia has 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. We have endeavoured to keep all members informed of developments and discussions through articles and notices and by placing the minutes of AGM and Presidents meetings before members.

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. Over thirty general circulars were sent to the Divisions and many, many other emails on a range of topics. Combined meetings of Presidents and Secretaries were held in Newcastle in January and again on the Gold Coast in late June. Minutes of all meetings were recorded and circulated to all appropriate persons.

Financial

Over the last twelve months Reg Trevaskis (Qld) has smoothly guided our financial affairs. Our income has fallen considerably this year due to a drop in support for the Australian Team and Individual Championships and through a decline in membership. Due to the necessary travel and meetings interstate in dealing with issues throughout the year, there has been an increase in costs and this is reflected in a loss of approximately \$5,000 for the year. However, the following report (unaudited) shows that we ended the year with assets of over \$100,000. A detailed financial statement has been sent to all Divisions and the audited report along with the balance sheet and statement of income and expenditure will be presented to the AGM.

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, 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 the compilation of historical documents. Steve Longworth continues to give great support to the Executive with his huge input in assisting us in the ongoing computer programs for our online entries for tournaments, the conduct of our Team and Individual Championships and Australian team nominations, all of which is greatly appreciated. Ian Somers (Qld), our webmaster is always helpful in displaying articles and solving secretary's problems that arise periodically, and in the support he has been willing to give to some of the Divisions requiring his assistance. Also, we thank Robyn Castle, our publicity officer, who has battled on gamely as she fights her big battle with multiple myeloma and Peter Breugelmanns (ACT) who does the work of the Public Officer, a position associated with our organization being an incorporated association.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION 2010-11

	<u>2010-11</u>	<u>2009-10</u>
<u>Income</u>		
Divisional Fees	35932	41804
Tournaments (net)	7711	15233
Other	4831	4709
Total	\$ 48474	61746
<u>Expenses</u>		
Office	22076	11973
Meetings	20209	12455
ITF Teams	9647	12160
Other	1818	2063
Total	\$ 53750	38651
Net Profit/Loss	\$ -5276	23095
<u>Assets</u>		
Cash in bank	6521	9504
Equipment	2282	2570
Investments	96644	98815
Total Assets	\$ 105447	110889
<u>Liabilities</u>		
Other	\$ -1072	-906
Net Assets	\$ 106519	111795
<u>Equity</u>		
Current Earnings	-5276	23095
Retained Earnings	111795	88700
Total Equity	\$ 106519	111795

Tom Hancy (Secretary)
Reg Trevaskis (Treasurer)
Yvonne Stanton (Committee)

5th December, 2011.