

2020 59th Annual Report of the North Balwyn Tennis Club Inc.

THE COMMITTEE

The NBTC Committee of volunteers for the 2019/20 year consisted of:

President:	Ross Davies
Vice President:	Peter Moran
Secretary:	Tony Barton
Treasurer:	Shesh Murthy
Junior Organisers:	Stuart Brown and Andrew Halford
Committee Members:	Yana Barton, Don Jinnette, Rhonda McCaw, Sheryl Kerwick
Membership Secretary:	Peter McCaw (as a non-committee member)

The Committee had intended to hold quarterly meetings in 2020 and to have more business dealt with by subcommittees. However, after a February meeting at the club, the COVID virus lockdowns restricted meetings to videoconferences held in May, June and September with business mainly taken up with COVID planning and reopening rules. A final December meeting was held at the North Balwyn Bowls Club. Thanks to all Committee members for volunteering their time and effort to each meeting and to the club. The health of some of our members has affected the operation of the committee and we extend our best wishes to our President Ross Davies who had to relinquish his role in the latter half of the year. We expect him back in some capacity later in 2021.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the club remains reasonably strong in the circumstances of two shutdowns during the year, with 310 members at December, down from 329 at the end of 2019. Analysis of our membership over the last 10 years shows that we have lost junior memberships, but adult membership has increased to partially compensate. It is the intention of the outgoing committee that in 2021 we will resume subscription incentives for women and in particular girls who will participate in junior competition.

FINANCE

Our financial position is healthy with a cash reserve of \$155,000 (at Aug 2020) which is an increase of \$15,000 on 2019. Income fell about 40% mostly as a result of the membership subscription discount for the first lockdown. Expenses were down some 30%. The impact of membership discounts for the second COVID shutdown will appear in next year's finances. The 'sinking fund' component for court renewal now stands at \$70,000. A substantial outlay for renewal of fencing is forecast in the next year(s).

CLUBHOUSE AND COURTS

The clubhouse suffered mould growth in the autumn/winter as a result of condensation during the first COVID shutdown. Boroondara Council have carried out treatment works including removal of carpet, plaster, and insulation. Rectification works are now in progress and are expected to be completed in February 2021. The costs of the refurbishment will be borne by Council. Replacement of contaminated refrigerators that were turned off during the works has yet to be negotiated.

The Capital Projects Subcommittee's next major project will be replacing the chain wire fences surrounding Courts 3 – 8, and between Courts 6 & 7 which was put on hold in 2020. It is expected that this will proceed in 2021 at a notional cost of \$50,000.

Our synthetic Polyclay courts are now 10 years old and the sinking fund of \$70,000 is approximately half the cost for their resurfacing. An assessment is intended to be carried out this year to forecast their remaining life and a budget.

SENIOR COMPETITION

Saturday ERT:

The Summer 2019/20 season ended as the virus shut competition down in March. Of our six Senior teams, four reached the finals. OS2 and 5 went down in semi-finals, while OS7 did not contest their grand final at Yarra Glen as it was the eve of the shut-down. OS8 won their grand-final against St. Johns Catholic.

Midweek Ladies: in the previous Summer Season we had three teams in Midweek ladies competition – two Tuesday MEMRLTA teams, Section 2 and Section 9, and one on Thursday WDTA Section 1. After a missed winter season we will have teams in Sections 3 and 10 in the next shortened Summer Season starting 2nd February 2021, and a single WDTA team starting 4th Feb.

Thursday Metro Masters:

Five teams represented the club in the Autumn 2020 season starting in February, however the season was abandoned in March after 6 rounds. 40 players were listed for our club in this competition in the Autumn 2020 season. Fewer than 18 players have entered for the next season which will start March 4.

BDNTA Night Competition:

We entered 13 teams in the Autumn season of 2020 only to have it shut down halfway through the season in March 2020. The Spring season was abandoned. However, 15 teams have been entered in the 2021 Autumn Season which starts February 1.

JUNIOR COMPETITION Saturday and Sunday ERT:

The Summer 2020 season which ended in March had 12 Junior teams of which OS13 won their final. The winter ERT season was cancelled and it was agreed that teams would not be entered in the current Summer season. An inhouse competition has been running instead.

SOCIAL TENNIS

Social tennis groups at NBTC have been disrupted by the two lockdowns in 2020. Numbers participating are down but on the increase. These social groups are important in attracting new members to our club.

COACHING

Our coaches Andrew Halford and Stuart Brown, and their assistant coaches, have endured in 2020 their most challenging year to date. Many sessions were cancelled even before the lockdowns stopped coaching altogether. The impact of the lockdowns throughout the year caused some clients to not return at all, or delay returning. A decline in numbers in term 1 may have been the result of students going overseas and not being able to return. Between 30-40 juniors did not return from earlier in the year. The coaches are now in a rebuilding phase and have restarted the new year early as demand is expected to increase. A major priority for the new coaching sub-committee will be to renegotiate our club-coach relationship as meetings lapsed in 2020.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2020 Club Championships started well with many events completed up to the finals stage before the COVID lockdown prevented the finals taking place. A round-robin format was concluded to be a success. The coaches intend to have the 2020 finals completed on 6,7 Feb 2021. This will leave several weekends break before start of 2021 Club Championships on 13 March.

COURT BOOKING SYSTEM

Meeting the COVID restrictions was assisted by the club adopting the Clubspark booking system offered by Tennis Australia. We thank Justin Cox of Tennis Victoria for helping set this up. About 120 members are registered on the system.

CONCLUSION

The club has survived 2020 in a sound financial position, and with a strong membership base largely intact. The challenge will be to maintain a sense of club community in the absence of a clubhouse and rebuild our membership, particularly juniors and females.

January 2021
