

2016 (55th) ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NORTH BALWYN TENNIS CLUB Inc.

GENERAL COMMENTS

We have recently marked the first year in our new clubhouse pavilion. The new facility has been a wonderful asset for members who are clearly enjoying the comfortable spacious interior, modern facilities and great viewing of the courts. The table tennis area has proven to be very popular and we have held a number of successful functions through the year including an end of year celebration dinner and a social gathering on grand final day. Thanks are extended to all members for keeping the facilities in new condition. The security system seems to be working well. We are also pleased to be able to share the facility with a local basketball club who hold their monthly committee meetings at the clubhouse.

THE COMMITTEE

Our committee for 2015/16 consisted of

President Graham Besley

Vice President Ross Davies

Secretary Tony Barton

Treasurer Rowena Sheung

Membership Secretary Peter McCaw

Junior Organisers Andrew Halford and Stuart Brown

Committee Members; Rhonda McCaw, Melanie Katopodis, Peter Moran, Don Jinnette and Peter Nitsos.

Meetings were held monthly, making use of the new office area. Thanks to all committee members for their enthusiasm, reliable attendance and positive ideas. We ran a number of sub committees to manage ongoing business, including areas of coaching, buildings and grounds, fund raising, club championships and disciplinary issues.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Club remains strong and growing with 352 members financial as of October 2016 compared to 332 in October 2015. No doubt the new facilities are a drawcard for new families in the area. We remain an affiliate of Tennis Victoria which not only avails us of advice from this peak body but also provides members with player insurance coverage.

FINANCE

Our financial position remains sound with cash reserves increasing over the year from \$128,580 to a current balance of \$129,390. This amount includes a 'sinking fund' provision of \$ 30,000 for future renewal of court surfaces.

We thank our auditor Theo Eversteyn for his support.

Our good financial position allows us to recommend to members that there will be a modest increase in our membership fees only for Junior and Student categories of membership for the coming year starting April 2017.

NEW PROJECTS

The Committee is committed to continually upgrading our court facilities. The old water sprinkling system on the en tout cas courts will be reinstated.

We have applied to Council for a planning permit to add lights to courts 5 and 6. This project will meet the growing demand for night tennis for both social and competition levels. The new lights will use LED technology which will significantly reduce power consumption and eliminate maintenance costs and light outages. We anticipate the lights will be installed in the first half of 2017. This project is expected to cost approximately \$42,000 and we will be seeking grant opportunities to help minimise the cost to members.

SENIOR TENNIS

We continue to field Senior competition teams in Saturday afternoon ERT, ladies' midweek including Tuesday MEMRLTA, Wednesday EDWTA and Thursday WDTA. Men's veterans MMTA continues with an increase to 4 teams now competing.

Night competition with BDNTA has continued with 11 teams participating. Many other members also play social tennis on nights when there are courts available. Fast 4 Friday night twilight tennis that is rotated between four local clubs is growing in popularity and is a great way to introduce new members to the Club.

Senior social tennis continues to be active on a number of week days. Monday afternoons is an especially strong group with up to five courts in use.

JUNIORS AND COACHING

Both Coaches Andrew & Stuart have been part of the Men's Grade 1 Pennant premiership team for the past 2 years giving their students not only something to strive for but also putting into practice the standards that both coaches rate highly. Having both head coaches winning the highest grade of pennant is proving to be a big drawcard for coaching, which in turn leads to more juniors wanting to join the Club and play competition. There has also been a significant increase in the number of juniors coming down after school practicing. A pleasing sight is when groups join together and play on the same court even when they don't know each other. This is the 14th year the Club has had our joint head coaches at North Balwyn. Classes are growing each year which indicates the coaching methods are effective and students are getting the most out of every session.

Junior competition has been strong for a while but its only really been the last year or so that we've seen a real rapid rise in the standard of our juniors. We have teams in the highest two grades of juniors. There's also been a change with having more of our juniors start to play senior comp whether that be ERT or Pennant. Also encouraging is those juniors that are only just starting to learn the game haven't been afraid to have a go at competition and having fun.

The Junior Competition is at maximum capacity on a Saturday and now Sunday mornings are starting to take off too. Our Coaches are proud of every one of the kids that come down and play for our club, they have a great attitude and are always fair on the court.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

The club held a reasonably successful tournament this year with 58 format events but the number of members involved were down on expectations. There were some very memorable highlights, especially the under 18 and open ladies' single finals. Organisers of this annual highlight are to be congratulated. The Committee aims to make some format changes and encourage more members to participate in next year's event.

CONCLUSION

With a strong membership base, excellent clubhouse and court facilities and an effective Committee, the Club is in a good position to grow and offer our members the tennis experience they are seeking. We have a good community spirit within the Club and will continue our efforts to develop a basis for friendships to grow.