



Christmas Newsletter December 2013

President's Report - *Frank Crombie*



As the newly appointed President of the North Balwyn Tennis Club I have to follow in some very big shoes. I am sure you are all aware of the successful seven years Danny Samson presided over the club and the challenges he handled with the support of a great committee. Attempting to summarise those seven years would hardly do justice to Danny, however, I am sure you will agree that navigating the water restrictions and the financial impact of a Global Financial Crisis would have been enough to test the most capable of people. On behalf of a grateful committee and club we say thank you to Danny for his tireless and unwavering dedication to North Balwyn Tennis Club.

In our Midyear Newsletter we addressed the development plans the City of Boroondara Council has for our club house. Engagements are underway and those observant of you will see markings around the club as the surveyors and architects begin the process of identifying a workable design that will meet our requirement specifications. We have taken care to consult you, the stakeholders in the club, to ensure we have a facility that addresses our needs today and those into the future. Special thanks to Graham Besley, Ross Davies and Melanie Katopodis for their efforts to date. This project will run into 2015 and will require a substantial contribution from this subcommittee.

The 52nd Annual General Meeting of the North Balwyn Tennis

Club was held in November, where we had great pleasure in presenting our financial accounts for the year. We continue to maintain a strong and active membership with record number of entries in the Junior Competition in addition to our midweek, night and Saturday & Sunday afternoon competitions. This year we had a number of teams representing North Balwyn in the Pennant Competition and we thank all our members for their participation and making North Balwyn Tennis Club a great place to be. A special mention to the Champion Chokers for their success this season in taking out the premiership of BDNTA Tuesday night Open Section 13 . Well done Graham Besley (Captain), Chris Besley, John Barlow, Rick Pinto and David Hatcher.

It was wonderful to see so many people at the Christmas Party this year, our thanks to Rhonda McCaw, Rowena Shueng, Melanie Katopodis and all those who made this event so great. We had a fantastic fundraising day at Bunnings in Box Hill where we raised some welcome funds for the upcoming production of our 50th Anniversary Book – make sure you reserve your very own copy of what will be a wonderful reflection of the history of this great club, the people, the events and friendships that have shaped the last 50 years.

The Club Championships will be scheduled shortly for 2014. I encourage all to participate in what is now a highlight of the North Balwyn Tennis Club calendar. Once the dates are announced make sure you clear your commitments to be part of this fantastic event.

I would extend to you and your families a warm thanks for being a member of North Balwyn Tennis Club and wish you all safe holidays and a wonderful New Year.

Frank Crombie, President

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 52nd Annual General Meeting of North Balwyn Tennis Club was held on Sunday 17th November 2013 at the clubhouse at 5.00 pm. Drinks and nibbles were provided at 5.00 pm prior to the AGM

and about 30 members attended. Danny Samson, who had been President for the last seven years, serving more years than any other President in the 50 year history of the Club did not renominate this year and Frank Crombie was elected as President for 2013/2014. Peter McCaw thanked Danny for his dedication and professionalism and presented him with a bottle of wine. Kaye Clarke, Lucia Lattanzio and David Rehe did not renominate and were thanked for their contributions. Newly elected members of the Committee are Philippa Wardrop and Shing Yue Sheung.

THE COMMITTEE 2013/2014

Frank Crombie	President
Vacant	Junior&Senior Vice-Presidents
Tony Barton	Secretary and Public Officer
Rowena Sheung	Treasurer
Peter McCaw	Membership Secretary
Graham Besley	Maintenance Co-ordinator
Andrew Halford	Junior Organiser (joint)
Stuart Brown	Junior Organiser (joint)
Rhonda McCaw	Committee Member
Peter Moran	Committee Member
Philippa Wardrop	Committee Member
Shing-Yue Sheung	Committee Member
Ross Davies	Committee Member (co-opted at the December 2013 meeting)
Theo Mitsinikos	Honorary Auditor
Andrew and Stuart are our joint Head Coaches.	

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Club membership continues to maintain the stability exhibited over recent years, with 344 fully paid up members,. This is very pleasing given the downward trend in numbers playing tennis generally. Once again we intend to run a discounted promotion for prospective new members over the forthcoming New Year period. If you have any friends or acquaintances who might wish to take advantage of this offer, please contact me for details. For the relatively small number of you who have not renewed your

membership for 2013/14, but who are still using Club facilities, I remind you that you must pay the subscription immediately. If, on the other hand, you do not intend to renew, please let me know by email or telephone. This will avoid further annoying and unnecessary follow up.

Peter McCaw, Membership Secretary 9817 2940

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS 2014/2015

At the AGM a modest increase in subscriptions was adopted. An email containing the subscription renewal form will be sent to members in early March to inform them that subscriptions are due 1st April 2014. Those not on the email list will receive their renewal form by post. The Committee would appreciate members paying their subscriptions promptly.

Adult	\$225.00	Nomination fee	\$50.00
Student	\$145.00	Nomination fee	\$50.00
Junior	\$145.00	Nomination fee	\$50.00
Restricted	\$145.00	Nomination fee	\$50.00
Maximum Family fee	\$510.00	Nomination fee	\$50.00
Non-playing	\$25.00		

MAINTENANCE REPORT

Our contractors for cleaning, mowing and court maintenance continue to work smoothly. We conducted a safety risk review using Tennis Victoria guidelines and have addressed a number of minor deficiencies such as adding padding to light poles on court 4 and removal of some sharp metal brackets on the court fencing. Many minor maintenance activities have been addressed for the ageing clubhouse, however, we are resisting doing any major repair work with the new facility on the horizon. My thanks to those members who assisted with maintenance work during the year.

CLUBHOUSE RENEWAL

Earlier this year we received good input from many club members to our questionnaire on what members wanted from a new club-

house. This input was condensed into a functional specification that has been provided to Boroondara Council. A subcommittee has been working with Council representatives and their architect over the past month to begin developing the design. We are expecting preliminary drawings by end of January 2014. Design finalisation, community consultation re the changes and project costing will be completed by mid 2014.

Graham Besley, Maintenance Co-ordinator

COACHING REPORT

This year at Tennis Matters we have had an increase in group coaching lessons due to students being eager to try their hand at tennis in a fun, social learning setting. We are eagerly anticipating term 1 in 2014 as we expect a surge of keen players wanting to try the game and 'see what all the fuss is about' due to the buzz of the Australian Open.

If you feel there is an aspect of your game that could do with an 'oil change' please have a chat to Stuart or myself to arrange a session or two. It can be a simple issue that just needs a professional eye!

We thank our assistants Michael Cooper, Michael Oaten, and Rachael McKendrick for their efforts in helping create an enjoyable coaching environment for all of our players. All coaches at Tennis Matters look forward to catching up with everyone early next year!

Andrew Halford 0412021911

Stuart Brown 0412966336

www.tennismatters.com.au

Blackburn and District Night Tennis - BDNTA

Ten teams were submitted for Autumn 2014 season, one new team "The Old Boys" on Tuesday night (with 2 new members to join) and the "Yackers" retiring due to lack of players. New season starts Tues 28th January 2014 and captains of teams will be contacted in the week before to arrange to pick up cans of balls for the new season. Please refer to the BDNTA website for further details.

SENIOR COMPETITION RESULTS

Asso- ciation		Day	Name	Season	Section	Ladder p'tion	Pen- nants
MEM- RLTA	Ladies	Tue		Winter	A6	5	
	Ladies	Tue		Winter	A8	8	
EDWTA	Ladies	Wed		Winter	5	3	LOST S/F
WDTA	Ladies	Thur		Season 2	A Grade 1	5	
MMTA	VetMens	Thur		Spring	2	2	LOST G/F
			Lions	Spring	3	5	
			Tigers	Spring	4	1	LOST S/F
BDNTA	Ladies	Mon	Ballwin. nets	Spring	3	1	LOST S/F
Night	Ladies	Mon	Raq Paq	Spring	5	7	
	Open	Tue	Rattlers	Spring	8	1	LOST G/F
	Open	Tue	Yackers	Spring	10	8	
	Open	Tue	Champ Chokers	Spring	13	4	WON G/F
	Open	Tue	Dragons	Spring	13	3	LOST S/F
	Open	Wed	Barra- coutas	Spring	3	6	
	Open	Wed	Racket- eers	Spring	4	6	
	Open	Thur	Scorpi- ons	Spring	1	3 LOST S/F	
	Senior Open	Thur	Immi- grants	Spring	5	7	
Pennant TV	Grade 4	Sat				Won Sect S/F	LOST S/F
	Grade 7	Sat					LOST F
	Grade 8	Sat				6	
ERT	Open	Sat		Winter	3	4	LOST S/F
	Open	Sat		Winter	4	7	
	Open	Sat		Winter	10	7	

WINTER SEASON ERT JUNIOR COMPETITION RESULTS

Boys/ Girls/ Mixed	Day	Season	Section	Position on ladder	Pen- nants
Boys	Sat	Winter	11	6	
	Sat	Winter	13	1	Pennant
	Sat	Winter	14	7	
Girls	Sat	Winter	2	6	
	Sat	Winter	6	2	
	Sat	Winter	7	4	
Open Rubbers	Sat	Winter	3	6	
	Sat	Winter	4 (Green)	6	
	Sat	Winter	4 (Blue)	7	
	Sat	Winter	6(Green)	3	R/U
	Sat	Winter	6 (Blue)	8	
	Sat	Winter	8 (Blue)	7	
	Sat	Winter	8 (Green)	8	
	Sat	Winter	9(Blue)	3	
	Sat	Winter	9 (Green)	4	
Open Rubbers	Sun	Winter	1	4	
	Sun	Winter	2	4	
Boys	Sun	Winter	5	4	

PENNANT RESULTS

Grade 4 won their sectional semi-final, going on to compete against other sectional semi-final winners to lose in the semi-final of their grade.

Grade 7 lost their sectional final. The team they lost to won Grade

7. Grade 8 came 6th in their section.

The implementation of new competition categories by Tennis Victoria, the Men's Open Doubles and Men's Masters 50+ Doubles were highly successful in 2013. These categories may interest some of our members. For those considering pennant in 2014, contact me: Andrew Halford on 0412021911 or place name on the sign up sheet in the clubhouse available from the 10th Jan.

Andrew Halford, Pennant Secretary

WEEKEND SENIOR COMPETITION: ERT

The 2013 winter season was singularly unsuccessful with 2 teams finishing near the bottom of the ladder and the other, OS3, scraping into 4th place but losing their semi-final.

For the 2013/14 summer season we are fielding three Open Sets teams in sections 4, 5 and 12, two Singles/Doubles teams in section 1 and 5, and a Sunday team in Open Singles Doubles 2. At the halfway mark of the season we have one team in 2nd place, two in 5th and the other three teams down near the bottom of the ladder. Hopefully our fortunes will improve during the second half of the season.

Please note that the entry sheet for the 2014 winter season will be posted on the noticeboard in late January in time for entries to be submitted to ERT in early March. We are always looking for new players. If you might be interested and would like more information, please feel free to ring me on 9817 2940.

Peter McCaw, ERT Senior Co-ordinator

MIDWEEK SOCIAL TENNIS REPORT

Social tennis on Tuesday and Thursday mornings continues and while the numbers are not increasing, the enthusiasm of those attending is undiminished. Monday morning social tennis is also regularly attended by about 12 to 16 members.

Bruce Holloway, Organised Social Tennis Co-ordinator

SOCIAL NEWS

CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Various groups at the Club hold their own Christmas parties including the midweek ladies teams and the midweek social players.

There was a Christmas Party where all members were invited on Saturday 14th December at 6.30 pm and about 40 people attended. Dips and biscuits and chicken and salads from Lemon Grass Chicken, were served followed by an impressive array of home made desserts, kindly provided by some of the lady members. Two bottles of wine were donated by Boccaccio Cellars, Burke Road Balwyn as door prizes. The lucky winners were Nia Brown and John Zannoni. Frank Crombie welcomed all the members and thanked those on the social sub-committee (Melanie Katopodis, Rowena Sheung and Rhonda McCaw) as well those who provided the desserts.



Frank proposed, and it was agreed by all to donate \$100 from the profit from the evening to a fundraising effort to assist in the rehabilitation of Ian Huntington, a long time member of NBTC who has become a paraplegic after an accident at Kew Golf Club.

BUNNINGS BOX HILL BBQ FUNDRAISER - Sunday 27th October 2013

On Sunday 27th October NBTC ran its fourth Bunnings BBQ fundraiser at Box Hill. Liz Brown and Rhonda McCaw organised the food supplies for the day and the registration and insurance. On the day, the

following members came along for 2 hours each to help make a profit of \$1367.20 for the Club: Liz Brown, Carol Thompson, KK, Rowena and Shing Yue Sheung, Graham Besley, Peter Moran, Frank and Maddison Crombie, Peter Yap, Alex Papanotis, Tony Barton, Grant and Jack Stewart, Peter and Rhonda McCaw and Judy and Ross Davies. Without their generosity the fundraiser would not have been possible.

BUNNINGS BOX HILL BBQ FUNDRAISER – Saturday 9th March 2014

We have been lucky to have been offered a date for 2014 to again do the Bunnings BBQ fundraiser at Box Hill. The date is Sunday 9th March. This will be during the labor Day weekend so we hope that there will be members willing to come along to help on the day. We need four people per two hour time slot. How about getting together with your team (we have 10 night tennis teams for example) and get four of the team members to do one two hour session. It actual is a lot of fun.

NBTC 50TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

A book on the 50 years of history of the North Balwyn Tennis Club has been written and edited by Rhonda McCaw and Kaye Clarke over the last eighteen months. It is over 140 pages of history, description of the activities of the Club over the years and recollections of Life Members and other members of the Club who were willing to write about their time at the Club. The response was overwhelming and there are many touching and entertaining stories. Also, thanks mainly to the efforts of Margaret Hall, Liz Brown and others there are photos over the decades of working bees, droughts and flood damage, social functions, tournaments and club championships. The book will be published next year and available for purchase at \$25. We hope it will be of interest to members, both past and current. To help us gauge how many to have printed could you please email northbalwyntc@yahoo.com.au if you intend to purchase a copy.

VALE NEVILLE GRAY

Neville Gray passed away on Friday 8th November 2013 after a long illness. Neville, originally from NSW, settled in Berwick in 2002. He had a few “home clubs” at Glen Iris, Bayview and joined North Balwyn in August 2009 where he played in the Metro Masters men’s competition. He liked to travel both interstate and overseas to play tennis with Garry Basinski, Art Cox and other seniors with Tennis Seniors Victoria. He captained a number of teams in the Waverley Wednesday morning competition while playing with Bayview.

He will be missed by his family, his five grandchildren who spoke at his funeral, and his many friends in tennis.

Garry Basinski

Local Heroes!

Supporting our local communities is what local branches of the Bendigo Bank do. The Community Bank’s sponsorship of \$10,000 has provided help towards financing the resurfacing of courts 3-6 with PolyClay XL. More recently, we have received funding for two new promotion boards facing Buchanan Avenue and \$970 to offset the costs of our 50th Anniversary celebrations.

These Community Bank branches have given back more than \$920,000.00 to over 120 local groups, aged care facilities, schools.

NOW, North Balwyn Tennis Club can receive even more funding! North Balwyn Tennis Club members who do their banking with either Canterbury, Ashburton, Balwyn or Surrey Hills Community Bank branches can earn more funds for our organisation:

\$250 for every approved Bendigo home loan, \$50 for every approved and funded personal loan, \$25 for every approved Bendigo Credit Card application, \$10 for every new business or term deposit account opened and held for 3 months and \$5 for every new Piggy or Ultimate account opened and more..... Ask how you can make more money for our organisation from Bendigo Community Banking.

CLUB CAPS FOR SALE

We still have a few club caps available at \$8 each. Please ring Rhonda on 98172940 if you wish to purchase one.



GETTING THE CLUB NEWS

As the Club newsletter is sent out only twice a year we need other ways to keep our members informed of club events and key decisions made by the committee. There are a number of ways this is done. Firstly, the monthly committee minutes are posted on the Social noticeboard. Secondly, regular emails are sent out to those members who have registered their emails with us and thirdly, these emails are copied and displayed on the general noticeboard and the fridge in the kitchen. We encourage all members to be on the email address list. It is the most effective and quickest way for us to communicate club matters to you. If you wish to be added to the address list, send your email address along with your name, to northbalwyntc@yahoo.com.au.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The NBTC committee would like to thank all those who contributed articles for the newsletter.

Do you know someone who might be interested in joining our club?

Why not pass on this newsletter after you have read it, or direct them to our website:

Our website address is: www.northbalwyntc.org.au

MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES
PETER McCaw 9817 2940