

The Forty-second Annual Report of the North Balwyn Tennis Club Inc.

Dear Members,

Welcome to the NBTC Annual Report covering the year ending 31st August 2003. Your management committee has had a busy year and I am constantly reminded of its breadth of talent and dedication as we tackle both short term and long term issues that affect the club.

Office bearers:

- President Rhonda McCaw
- Senior Vice President Peter Purcell
- Junior Vice President James McCaw
- Secretary Carole Snowsill
- Treasurer KK Sheung
- Membership Secretary Peter Purcell
- Junior Organiser John McInnes

Committee members:

Jody Edwards	Public Officer	Paul Grouse
Andrew Halford	Honorary Auditor	Bill Somerville
Stuart Brown		
Erich Schlifelner		
Christa Schlifelner		

THE COMMITTEE:

Two vacant positions on the committee were filled during the year by Erich Schlifelner and Stuart Brown. The committee has worked well together, considering the diverse range of ages and backgrounds and it is with regret that I have accepted the resignation of Carole Snowsill and James McCaw. James first joined the committee seven years ago and has been the junior membership secretary, pennant secretary, web page manager, court hire co-ordinator, served on senior selection committee and more recently served on the Coach/Junior Organiser position sub-committee. James has been an excellent role model for other young members and has contributed significantly to discussion. Carole has been on the committee for five years and in her own words has been a “jack of all trades” including secretary, social secretary and chairperson of Saturday afternoon ERT competition, all at once. Thank you Carole for all you have done, it is much appreciated. Jody Edwards has kindly agreed to nominate for the role of secretary but we need someone with energy and new ideas to act as social secretary – know anyone? A nomination list for next year’s committee has been posted on the General Noticeboard and it would be good to have all positions filled.

FINANCE:

The committee resolved to use the current year as one of consolidation in preparation for stage two of our planned club renovations. However, our failure to attract outside funding and a number of urgent maintenance projects (see below) have affected our ability to proceed as planned. In June, we were informed by Boroondara Council that our application for funding from Sport & Recreation Victoria had been unsuccessful. Apparently only 50% of grants were successful and although we were not lucky enough to be in that 50%, we were complimented on the standard of our application. The grants are available annually and the committee will consider applying for financial assistance for more basic requirements, such as court resurfacing for which we may have a greater chance of success.

The club’s revenue comes mainly from membership fees and we have been able to maintain our membership numbers this year. Recurrent expenditure has remained steady except for association fees. When considering the subscription fees for 2003/2004 the committee has had to take into account the steep rise in association fees this year and the ability to finance our planned renovations as well as the usual expenses.

The committee has decided, after much discussion, not to increase the annual subscriptions this year. However the committee has decided to:

1. Encourage families and adults to join North Balwyn TC by reducing the nomination fee to a flat \$50 irrespective of the membership category.
2. Impose a “competition levy” per team member per season to cover increased association fees. We feel this is the fairest way to share the increased financial burden.
3. Encourage prompt payment of fees by offering a chance to win back your membership (up to the value of one adult membership) to all those who pay up within four weeks of receiving the notification.
4. Revise the plans for the clubhouse renovations to reduce costs and to divide the project into stages so that the costs will be spread over a number of years. The committee appreciates the members’ patience and will be exploring a number of fundraising options in the next year.

KK Sheung has prepared the Annual Financial Report, which will be audited and presented at the AGM.

MEMBERSHIP:

Membership numbers remain steady. There are two aspects to maintaining membership numbers, attracting new members and retaining current members. This year we participated in the “National Play Tennis Day” as a way of promoting the club in the local community. Our first information brochure, incorporating our new logo, was designed, printed and distributed locally. Thank you to Simon Burnet for the winning logo design, David Henry for printing of the brochure and Stuart Brown and Paul Grouse for delivering it around the local community. Coaching was offered on the day and a good time was had by all. We are considering making this an annual event to raise local awareness of what the club has to offer.

The other way to boost membership is to retain members. We need to know what you want from the club and how we can better provide it. The club is an evolving entity. New ideas are welcome and the committee is very receptive to hearing of any way the club can be improved. Don’t hesitate to drop us a line, speak to a committee member or send us an email.

GENERAL CLUB MAINTENANCE:

Have you noticed the many improvements around the club this year. We have higher drinking taps, eight new nets, new hoses, new padding around the light poles, improved signage and a repaired and painted gazebo. Many other minor jobs have been attended to, thanks mainly to Erich.

We held two working bees this year, one in the evening during daylight saving to work on the courts and one on a Saturday in July for gardening and “spring cleaning” the clubhouse. Thank you to all those who attended. We introduced the volunteer register this year and now have a list of willing members and corresponding talents. We are very grateful to those who replied and appreciate their kind offers of help. Another initiative was the “Adopt a Bench” register. We have over twenty benches and have proposed that members commit to taking responsibility for maintaining the paint work of a designated bench. Erich is supervising the repair work in anticipation of your offers and will contact those interested when each bench is ready for painting. If this project is a success it will make a tremendous difference and brighten up the surrounds of the courts. To guarantee the quality of the surface of the courts we have decided to engage the services of a contractor and this arrangement will be reviewed periodically. Finally, I wish to thank Geoff Hall, our caretaker for his dedication to his job and his reliability.

JUNIOR TENNIS:

It is with regret that I inform the club members that our Club Coach, John McInnes has decided to retire at the end of this year. Craig McInnes accepted the Coaching/Junior Organiser position at North Balwyn nine years ago. In 1996 John McInnes became our Head Coach and he and Pat, his wife, have worked hard to build up a very successful junior coaching and competition program at NBTC. John and Pat and their extended family are wonderful examples of what makes a successful club - people who love tennis, who

encourage others to reach their physical and emotional potential, who enjoy meeting people, who are generous and positive and who are willing to participate in all the club activities. This year we would like to extend a very warm welcome to all members to come along to the Christmas Party in December. We wish to use the occasion to show our gratitude to John and Pat and to wish them all the best for their well-earned retirement. Hopefully now John can play more of the game himself! Finally, I would like to thank Ros and Nick Duke who have managed Sunday ERT competition.

SENIOR TENNIS:

NBTC continues to offer a great variety of formats for adults and is always open to suggestions on ways to encourage new players to mid-week and Saturday afternoon competitions. The men's mid-week and night tennis competitions are strongly supported and pennant continues to provide the opportunity for the ambitious members to improve their tennis ability.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS :

This event ran very smoothly this year under the management of Shannon Ede and her committee - congratulations Shannon. The calendar was kinder this year and scheduling was not such a problem. Shannon and James McCaw worked hard each week to provide regular updates on results and an easy way to find out the weekly schedule via our web page. It is hoped that more and more members each year will use the web page to get information about the schedule etc. Our club championships continue to provide an invaluable opportunity for all members to test out their ability against their peers and to mix with all members of the club on a social basis.

SOCIAL:

Our two main social events, the Christmas break-up and the club championships spit roast were well attended again and were great fun. As mentioned above we hope to have a good turnout this year for the Christmas Party to thank John and Pat for their incredible contribution to NBTC. I hope to see you all there. The social sub-committee needs reviving and would benefit greatly from some new blood. If anyone has any good ideas for fundraising, including some serious socialising as well, please don't be shy, we would love to hear from you. The newsletter is now co-ordinated by Jody Edwards and Christa Schlifelner. It continues to provide an important way of keeping in touch with members.

CONCLUSION:

I would like to express my gratitude to all those members and parents of members who have contributed to the smooth running of our club this year. We depend on your generosity and support. Congratulations to all teams who successfully made the finals in their competitions and well done to those who were able to bring home a flag!

I extend a warm invitation to all members to attend the forthcoming Annual General Meeting where there will be an update on the progress for the renovations and the appointment of the new Head Coach. We have struggled to reach the numbers necessary to make a quorum the last few years – let's see if we can reverse the trend!

Rhonda McCaw
President