

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

Dear Members,

Welcome to the NBTC Annual Report covering the year ending 31st August 2005.

This is my fourth and final Annual Report as President of our club. I have enjoyed my six years on the committee, especially working with like-minded people who have shown incredible dedication and generosity for the well-being of their fellow members. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank present and past members of the committee for their support and encouragement.

Committee for 2004/2005

Office Bearers:

President	Rhonda McCaw
Senior Vice President	Vacant
Junior Vice President	Kevin Chiselett
Secretary	Peter Yap (resigned)
Treasurer	KK Sheung
Membership Secretary	Peter McCaw
Junior Organisers	Andrew Halford, Stuart Brown

Committee members:

Susan McLaughlin
Peter Moran
Val Love (resigned)
(3 vacant positions)

Public Officer:

Jody Edwards

Honorary Auditor:

Theo Eversteyn

THE COMMITTEE:

The committee has functioned under some difficulty this year with the lack of continuity in the secretary position. Peter Yap volunteered for the job but had to withdraw during the year due to work commitments. Peter Moran and Kevin Chiselett have shared the minute taking and the President handled the correspondence. Unfortunately Val Love had to resign and the tasks of co-ordinating night tennis and Saturday afternoon adult competition were left again to those on the committee. KK Sheung is stepping down as Treasurer. I thank him for his support and his professionalism.

I sincerely hope that there are adequate nominations for the coming year's committee positions to spread the load as it is becoming unrealistic for so few people to be expected to do so much. I appeal to all members, especially those who regularly use the club to consider how they can contribute. Night tennis competition players are now a significant group of active members who should consider nominating. Meetings are presently held on the first Monday night of the month. Please do not see night meetings as an impediment as the committee meeting time is set by the new committee and does not have to be held in the evening if the majority can find an alternative time.

FINANCE

KK Sheung has prepared the Annual Financial Report, which will be audited and presented at the AGM. Considering the major works done at the club this year it is gratifying to see that we have been able to cover them from club funds, leaving us with a small surplus.

The introduction of the Competition Fee has been an important initiative to offset the rising costs of Association Fees but its collection has been problematic, particularly for junior team members. This year we propose to incorporate the Competition Fee for Juniors in the annual subscriptions. The Competition Fee from Adult members will still be collected each season.

MEMBERSHIP

A small but definite trend of declining membership seems apparent. This is of concern, both from a direct revenue point of view and for the future of the club. The Committee has put much energy into promotion through publicity and responding to concerns of present members. Attracting new members depends on us offering a bright well-maintained facility and an active club, both socially and competitively. I appeal to all members to be proactive in promoting our club to friends and neighbours. Those joining as families are to be especially encouraged and I would like to see the new committee consider how we can involve them more in our social functions.

GENERAL CLUB MAINTENANCE

After many appeals for help I am pleased to say that this year we have had progress in building up a group of helpers to assist in general maintenance. Communication between members and Committee has been improved and there is now petty cash available for reimbursement for minor jobs. Geoff Hall continues to alert the Committee about maintenance matters and liaises with tradesmen when needed. Geoff has been on sick leave and we thank the Clarke family for covering for him in his absence. We wish Geoff a speedy recovery.

COACHING AND JUNIOR TENNIS

Andrew Halford and Stuart Brown are our joint Head Coaches. They and their assistant coaches provide junior coaching every night of the week and provide private lessons and squad training in the evenings. They are now offering midweek adult coaching on Wednesdays and Fridays and we hope that this will develop further and help to attract new members. Saturday and Sunday morning competition is now operating to capacity and it is pleasing to see that the number of girls playing is steadily increasing.

SENIOR TENNIS

Last summer we entered a team in Saturday PM HDTA as an alternative to ERT, to provide more opportunity for teams to play rubbers. It was quite successful and we have entered a team again this summer. Pennant continues to provide a singles format for our fitter members and we would like to see the older juniors stay on to compete at this level. Like all clubs in our area, daytime participation in competition is struggling. With work commitments, injuries and holidays, sometimes fielding a team can be difficult and I would like to thank the mid-week competition co-ordinators for the fine job they do. The time may be coming where adjoining clubs may consider entering combined teams – worth considering if numbers become a problem. Mid-week social tennis participation remains strong and well attended on each of the three days. The Committee this year addressed a number of concerns from this group and I would especially like to thank Bruce Holloway for assisting in this process. Night tennis is popular and with eight teams, there is still room for greater participation.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Club Championships were co-ordinated this year by Peter Moran. We were blessed with good weather and I thank those who participated. We continue to offer this event in the club calendar as we

believe it to be very important. We are always trying to encourage participation and hope that more members will enter next year. Peter and his committee will have the special dilemma next year of dealing with the Commonwealth Games which may impact on the scheduling.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

The Spit Roast was held in April at the conclusion of the Club championships. The weather was perfect and Big Bob (Peter) did a fine job of catering for all the hungry players. A film night and dinner was planned but was cancelled due to lack of interest. A golf day is planned for late November. Last year over 40 people had a very enjoyable day which concluded with a BBQ back at the club. We hope that club members and their friends support this day as it was a lot of fun.

The Club newsletter is posted twice a year to members, providing an important way of keeping in touch with members. I would like to thank those who contribute to it and also to David Henry for his generosity in its production and printing.

FUNDRAISING

The club has been involved in a number of ways to raise funds for projects. We have sold raffle tickets at the Christmas Party and the Spit Roast, sold the Social Club Books and are currently having a chocolate drive. I would like to thank Liz Brown who is the driving force behind these initiatives. It is a pity more members have not supported them.

We have applied for, and been successful in receiving several grants over the last 5 years, the most significant being the Sport & Recreation Grant of \$9000. Any suggestions for ways to raise extra funds and to involve the members would be appreciated.

MAJOR WORKS

Over the last few years the renovations sub-committee, consisting of Peter and Marie Purcell and myself has been working towards the complete remake of the change rooms and kitchen. The plans were finalised and were submitted to Council. Permission was granted to start with the renovation of the kitchen, which was completed in January. The kitchen walls were relined, new light fittings installed, a filtered cold water unit installed and the electrical switchboard modernised. New cupboards were installed, together with a new stove, sink and tap fittings. Thanks to the successful Christmas raffle, new crockery was able to be purchased. The expansion of the kitchen into the main room and relocation of the entrance seems to have worked well and the added cupboard space has allowed for more efficient storage of crockery and glasses.

Completion of the rest of the clubhouse renovations will depend on a successful submission to Council for inclusion in its Capital Works budget. The reconstruction of court 3 and the northern end of court 4 was completed in May, along with the building of the walkway linking the two ramps on the east and western sides of the clubhouse. These projects were jointly funded by NBTC and Sport & Recreation Victoria.

The Council approved the sealing of our car park in the 2004/2005 budget and the project has finally been completed. No more potholes! Security lighting will be installed and the edges landscaped. Importantly, the maintenance of the landscaped areas surrounding the car park will be Council's responsibility. Council incorporated a new footpath for use by the 200 or so children who pass through the area each day. Although commendable from a safety point of view, it did reduce the space available for car parking. Let's hope that the increased efficiency of parking will compensate for this loss. In the lead up to the car park sealing, discussion about increased use of the car park by non-members was discussed with Council. It was proposed that parking restrictions be introduced. The Committee agreed to these restrictions and it is believed they have been quite successful.

CONCLUSION

I would like to conclude by thanking all those who have supported me in my role on the Committee. The future of the club now depends on those who volunteer to come forward and take an active role in its future. To make our AGM more fun we have decided to have it on Sunday 23rd October 2005 at 5.00 pm. with tennis and a BBQ (meat, salad and cake provided) BYO drinks. We hope that as many members as possible come along. We have a great club – let's keep it that way!

Rhonda McCaw

President