

2006 (45th) Annual Report of the North Balwyn Tennis Club Inc.

Committee for 2005/2006

President:	Amar Tomar
Senior Vice President:	Kevin Chiselett
Junior Vice President:	Danny Samson
Secretary:	Tony Barton
Treasurer:	Peter Moran
Membership Secretary:	Peter McCaw
Junior Organisers	Andrew Halford, Stuart Brown
Committee members:	Erich Schifelner David Harman Norman Chesterfield Tom Yamazaki
Public Officer:	Jody Edwards
Honorary Auditor:	Theo Eversteyn

THE COMMITTEE

Meetings were held on the first Monday night of each month. Meetings were well attended mid year with up to 11 Committee members in attendance. Attendance fell off towards the end of the year with some resignations.

FINANCE

Following a year of major expenditure with the renovation of the kitchen and the re-building of courts 3 and 4, this year has been one of consolidation with our bank balance considerably stronger at the end of the year than at the start. In addition to this we have been able to perform a major upgrade of the sprinkler system at minimal cost thanks to the most significant efforts of Erich Schifelner. The sprinkler system is now better than ever. We just hope now that we are going to continue to be able to water the courts in spite of the current drought. Additional expenditure has also been allocated this year to ensuring the courts are maintained in the best possible condition.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Club has seemed to have held steady over the year with currently 365 financial members. An average of 10 new members were accepted each month so turnover of membership is appreciable. The breakup of the membership is 145 adult male to 111 adult female and 82 junior boys to 27 junior girls. In addition we have 60 to 70 unfinancial members.

CLUB MAINTENANCE

Geoff Hall continues as a paid caretaker with a renegotiated contract. We thank Club members who volunteered their services while Geoff was on sick leave, including cleaning the Clubhouse. Special mention must be made of Erich Schifelner for the amount of time he has donated installing sprinkler systems and maintaining nets and hoses, clearing drains and returning many other things to working order. Vandalism continues to be a nuisance with broken windows and other minor damage to the Club being incurred.

Financial relief was provided by the City of Boroondara which as landlord pays for damage when caused by vandalism.

Court surfaces have been maintained and serviced during the year however there are concerns that the very dry conditions are having an effect.

MAJOR WORKS

No major works were completed in the year. Works planned are the installation of a security fence across the front of the Clubhouse enclosing the parkland and picnic table. This work includes a fence at the west end of courts 1 and 2 to completely close off the courts. Access will be by a single gate beside court 2. Hopefully this will improve the security of the Club house and courts and discourage casual vandalism. Works identified in an inspection by City of Boroondara property manager as needing to be carried out by the Club include: securing and preventing access to the steel mesh that covers the gap between the fence at the back of courts 1 and 2 and the retaining wall, cleaning out and back-filling the retaining wall behind the storage sheds. In addition the play equipment and their surrounds were identified as not being of required standard and either modification or removal needs to be carried out. The mid-section of the wooden walkway between the Clubhouse and courts 1 and 2 was identified as needing replacement with correct material and bearers. Future works identified include the replacement of the external fencing of the courts.

COACHING AND JUNIOR TENNIS

Andrew Halford and Stuart Brown continue their partnership with the Club as joint Head Coaches. A Coaching Contract has been renewed for two years. The Head Coaches and their assistant coaches provide junior coaching every night of the week and provide private lessons and squad training in the evenings. Midweek adult coaching is on Wednesdays and Fridays. Saturday morning competition in the North Eastern Junior Tennis Association continues at capacity with nine boys teams and three girls teams. Sunday morning has six teams in Eastern Region Tennis competition with two girls teams.

SENIOR TENNIS

Teams have been entered in senior competitions as follows:

VTA pennant : winter 2006 - 4 teams

Saturday afternoon ERT: summer 2005/2006 – 3 teams; winter 2006 – 2 teams

Saturday afternoon HDTA: summer 2005/2006 – 1 team

Tuesday HDTA: spring 2005 – 1 team

Tuesday MEMRLTA: summer 2005/2006 – 2 teams; winter 2006 – 2 teams

Wednesday EDWTA: summer 2005/2006 – 1 team; winter 2006 – 1 team

Thursday HDWTA: summer 2005/2006 – 1 team; winter 2006 – 1 team

Thursday vets (mens): spring 2005 – 4 teams; autumn 2006 – 4 teams

Night tennis: summer 2005 – 9 teams, 1 flag; 11 teams, 1 flag

Midweek social tennis remains very strong with large groups participating on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Club Championships were co-ordinated this year by Stuart Brown and Andrew Halford. Held in April to accommodate the Commonwealth Games the response from club members was less than overwhelming. The Committee is to determine whether radical

changes to the format of this event are needed for it to remain a viable feature of the Club calendar.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Club social events included the golf day, Christmas Party, spit roast and a restaurant night. The Club newsletter was produced twice during the year. Credit goes to Rhonda McCaw who edited the newsletter and also to David Henry for his generosity for its production and printing.

FUNDRAISING

Liz Brown and the chocolate brigade contributed almost \$700 to the Club. Other income was generated by hire of the courts to Boroondara Tennis Centre for the Hudson Bond and Schoolboy and Schoolgirl Championships in November and December. These are major events that contribute to Australian Junior Rankings, involving up to 800 young tennis players (a few of them Club members). Other uses are by the Australian Open umpires for training and Balwyn High School. Members are thanked for their forbearance during these events.

CONCLUSION

The Club continues to attract a strong membership and presence in local competitions, particularly the junior competitions. Membership and participation in competition by junior girls is low and needs to be promoted. Midweek use of the courts is still high, however social use of courts on Saturday and Sundays afternoons is not great. Interest and participation in the Club Championships is of concern and some effort may have to go into reinvigorating this event as both a competitive and social focus for the club.

The Committee
October 2006
