

NBTC Christmas Newsletter 2005

WELCOME TO OUR NEW PRESIDENT

Welcome to Amar Tomar as our new President. Amar was elected to an ordinary Committee position at the October AGM but agreed to accept nomination as President when this position was not filled. This was a fine gesture and the Club should be very grateful to Amar for taking on this responsible role.

As many of you will know, Amar hails from India and migrated to Australia with his family in 2000. He lives in Balwyn with his wife, Poonam, and his two sons, Prabhas and Shaurya, who are both keen and responsible junior members of the Club.

Amar is in his mid 40s and brings a wealth of experience, both professional and tennis to the Club. He is a well qualified scientist with a degree and a post graduate diploma from the University of Delhi. He worked in India in senior scientific positions doing wonderful things like growing, cutting and polishing laser crystals.

He has also been very heavily involved in tennis as a coach with a US Professional Tennis Association qualification, direction and management of coaching schools, tournament organisation, player, manager and coach of international teams and umpiring at international level. He has also recently completed a sports medicine qualification here in Melbourne.

Amar is currently working as a Revenue Protection Officer with Yarra Trams which apparently brings its own set of little dramas quite different to those encountered on the tennis court.

He is a very regular face around the Club, playing Monday morning social whenever his work schedule allows, playing in our HDTA section 1 Saturday team and helping out with a number of other teams whenever an emergency is needed and other commitments allow. He can also be found there many evenings giving pointers to his sons (whose heavy topspin styles contrast greatly to Amar's fluid slice, lob and drop shot game plus a lethal smash, especially off a bouncing ball).

Welcome Amar and thank you for accepting this demanding position.

Peter McCaw

COMMITTEE MATTERS

After the AGM held in late October, the following Committee is now responsible for

conducting the Club's affairs:

Amar Tomar	President
Kevin Chiselett	Junior Vice-President
Tony Barton	Secretary
Peter Moran	Treasurer
Peter McCaw	Membership Secretary
Andrew Halford	Junior Organiser (joint)
Stuart Brown	Junior Organiser (joint)
Susan McLaughlin	Committee Member

Andrew and Stuart are also our joint Head Coaches.

The position of Senior Vice-President is vacant and there are also five ordinary committee positions which remain unfilled. At the AGM itself there were no nominations for either of the critical President or Secretary positions but, to their great credit, Amar and Tony volunteered to accept these responsibilities. For this the Club should be extremely grateful.

As you can see, the Committee is running very short on manpower (or, more particularly, womanpower) with the result that too much is being left to too few. Surely there are some members out there who are willing to join the Committee and make a real, personal contribution to the Club. Any one interested is invited to contact Amar (9018 9002) or Tony (9857 5195). You will be made most welcome and you will make a difference!

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership numbers are quite strong with a continual flow of new applicants. Our strong social groups, junior competition, night tennis and families who want to 'have a hit with the kids' are the main attractions to the Club.

However, we still have almost seventy members from last year who have not renewed their 2005 membership but have not informed me of their intention to leave the Club. If **you** are in this group, it is not too late and we still want your membership. Please contact me on 9817 2940 if you have any queries.

Two reminders: firstly, please remember to place your name tags in the court slots when you are playing casual, social tennis at the Club (and remove them when you have finished) and, secondly, if you are the last to leave, please ensure that all gates and the clubhouse itself are locked.

Peter McCaw – Membership Secretary

MAINTENANCE REPORT

At the moment we have no formal maintenance Sub Committee in place. However maintenance matters are being looked after on an ad hoc basis by a small band of willing contributors, especially Erich Schlifelner, Rowena Sheung, Bruce Holloway and Peter Moran.

Of note is our recent spate of broken windows. This has proven very annoying and quite costly for the Club. On a more positive note, the carpark is now completed and we finally have the properly sealed carpark which we have been seeking for the last twenty-five years!

JUNIOR COMPETITION REPORT

The Saturday morning NEJTA spring season has just been completed.

12 teams competed with 5 of them making the grand final. These were boys sections 7, 21 and 24, and girls section 11 and 12. All teams put in their best efforts with sections 11, 12, and 24 being victorious. Section 21 came so close, missing out on a draw play-off by one single game.

Sunday morning ERT season is over half way with 6 teams competing. We have boys sections 2, 3, 4, 8, and 10, and a girls section 2. One of the boys section 2 teams involves new players to the club this season and is on top of the ladder with a huge percentage.

All teams are going well and enjoying their tennis, and are certainly in contention for the finals early next year.

Stuart and I thank all of the team managers and team captains for their team leadership this season, and hope that their support can continue into next season.

We now have 13 teams, the maximum workable number, entered into next season for NEJTA competition. This is fantastic, however, it would be great to see more parents come down and support the kids from week to week.

COACHING REPORT

Coaching at NBTC has steadily increased with three ladies classes now on during the week. Squad and group lessons are also busy. We are impressed by the progress of all our pupils and it is great to see so many of those playing competition as well. Thanks

to all the people that support Tennis Matters and we hope you have a Happy Christmas and New Year.

TENNIS MATTERS

Andrew Halford (TCAV Advanced Coach, B.App.Sci. in Human Movement) Ph. 0412 021 911

Stuart Brown (TCAV Advanced Coach) Ph. 0412 966 336.

MID-WEEK COMPETITION AND SOCIAL TENNIS REPORTS

Tuesday HDTA Competition, Spring 2005

At the time of compiling this item re our Tuesday HDTA competition, we have just completed our Spring season, being quite pleased to just miss out on the finals. We had three washouts, a draw and some matches were lost by one or two games only.

Again this past season, due to a lack of players, only one team was entered and with some unexpected illnesses and operations to several of our members, fortunately we were always able to field a team, with the almost constant assistance of our wonderful emergencies!

Sadly, because of unexpected absences of players, we will have to miss out on entering a team for next season – Autumn 2006 – but hopefully, things will be on the improve for the following Spring season when again a team can be entered.

We especially welcomed our 'tennis buddies' at our home matches and thank them for their loyal support over the years and trust we will be able to come together again in the not too distant future.

Joy Sedgman Tuesday Secretary HDTA

Tuesday MEMRLTA Competition

A8

With Rowena Sheung as our captain of A9 last season, the team concluded with a premiership flag (at long last). Thanks to Rowena and team members Vicki, Christa, Serena, Melanie and, as emergency, Joan.

Summer season 2005/06 is just past halfway and we are doing well in A8 and hope to continue and secure another premiership. Team members for the season are Vicki, Christa, Rowena, Serena and Anke with Melanie as captain

Melanie Katopodis

B3

We are presently starting the second of the Summer season. Unfortunately, we have lost more games than we have won but hope to see a steady improvement from now on. We have played together as a team for many years and enjoy our tennis as well as each others' company. It was a pleasure to welcome Margaret Walker, our new member this season.

Congratulations to our 'A' team who are doing extremely this season! We wish all at NBTC a very happy and safe festive season.

Sue Charman, MEMRLTA Representative

Wednesday EDWTA Competition

Sadly on Wednesday EDWTA, there is now only one team, captained by Diane Barron-Toop who joins us for the summer after wintering in sunny Queensland.

It is also disappointing that there are only seven teams in our section giving a season of twelve matches only, this being a reflection of the general decline in the numbers of participating teams from all clubs. However we are winning the majority of our matches. The finals are, unusually, in February and we all hope that it won't be too uncomfortably hot.

Norma Ross, EDWTA Representative

Thursday HDTA Competition

There is still only one team competing on Thursdays and even with six players, emergencies have been required. Thank you to those helpers. The team reached the preliminary finals last season in Section 1 and could do the same this season.

As usual the plea is made for new players to join midweek tennis teams but with the current trend this doesn't seem likely to happen.

Seasons greetings to all.

Carole Snowsill, HDTA Representative

Thursday Veterans's Tennis Report (Spring 2005 season)

Section 3

This team consisted of Tony MacCormack (C), David Hathaway, John Zannoni, Theo Eversteyn, George Matthews with Gary Basinski being recruited during the

season to help out. The team had a good season winning ten of their fifteen home and away matches and finished second. They won their semi final only to go down (a little unluckily) to Ringwood North in the Grand Final. Overall a good season.

Section 4

North Balwyn Lions

Captained for the first time by John Quay who had Tony Taylor, Peter Purcell, Erich Schlifelner, Alan Chipp and Tom Yamazaki from which to choose his team. Performed consistently for the season and finished second at the end of the home & away matches. Lost the semi-final to Bulleen but then defeated Lum Reserve for a replay with Bulleen in the Grand Final. I still have nightmares about it but we lost again to Bulleen, this time by one game. There is no justice - but we had a good season.

North Balwyn Tigers

Captained by Ian Polmear his team consisted of Peter Bahen, Ron Brown, Peter Moran, Russell Gledhill and Neil Smart. For most of the season they did quite well but towards the end of the home & away matches a slump in their form saw them slide out of the four and down the ladder. Better luck next season.

Section 5

Captained by Bob Lee and Karl Abele, with the indians Terry Sheldon, Leo Marzi and Colin Lawton (plus a few emergencies) this team had their problems in player availability and unfortunately had to forfeit three matches during the season. Finished you know where but will have better luck next season.

New Players Required

With age and injury continuing to play their part the Club really does need an injection of new blood. We are always on the look-out for new players for our Thursday Veteran's competition so if you are at least 50 years of age and would like to participate in a very popular Veterans' tennis group on a Thursday afternoon please ring Peter Purcell (9857-6286), Tony Taylor (9857-9385) or Bob Giddings (9857-7292) to assess the situation. The next season commences on 9th February 2006 and ends late June 2006

Peter Purcell

Midweek Social Tennis

While there have been a few days when wash outs occurred during the winter and spring, Tuesdays and Thursdays seem to have escaped many of the downpours of those seasons. Attendance has been steady, sometimes lower than usual, but with the summer season coming on, more players are coming each day of play each week.

Courts 3 and 4 are now back to normal play after their refurbishment last summer.

It is unusual for some members of the midweek group not to be away from North Balwyn at any time of the year. Judy and Russell Brown went to Hong Kong with grandchildren and Nan Ellis went around the world, seeing new places, visiting friends and family and learning how to speak Spanish. If you happen to hear quince treinta, treinta cuarenta during a game, that's Nan scoring in Spanish.

Illness and injury have also taken their toll. The Privacy Act does not permit those members so afflicted to be named here. However, for each of you, your absence has been noticed and regretted and we wish all those who have not been able to play recently a speedy recovery and a rapid return to normal playing activity.

Midweek social tennis at North Balwyn is a great asset to the club and a feature much envied by many visiting competition players from other clubs. We should all do what we can to enlist new members who can share our good fortune. Competition players who either have a bye or who are not playing competition for any reason on any Tuesday or Thursday are very welcome to come and join us.

Compliments of the Season to all mid week social players and may we all look forward to many rain free Tuesdays and Thursdays in 2006.

Bruce Holloway

NIGHT TENNIS

Blackburn & District Night Tennis Association Competition

Nine teams were entered in the summer season of BDNTA with the Sneakys (A Res 2, Tuesday night) withdrawing after the commencement of the season due to unforeseen circumstances. Will Somerville has captained this team through some very successful seasons and it was a shame that they could not continue. The season has just been completed and I am pleased to say that four of our teams made the finals: Both Monday night teams, the NB Ballwins.net, C Spec, and the NB Battlers, A Res, made their semi-finals with the NB Battlers making it to the grand-final and beating the Mitcham Minties in a tight final. The Hunters, Tuesday A Res 3, again

made the finals this season but lost the semi-final. The Barracoutas, Wednesday D1 and the Scorpions, Thursday A Res, both played semi-finals but were unsuccessful.

Next season, the winter season, starting on Monday 30th January, 2006 we have entered eleven teams. I am pleased to see new teams having a go, with Monday now with four ladies teams, Tuesday with three teams and Wednesday and Thursday with two teams. In all, twelve new members will be playing, reflecting the growing popularity of night tennis.

Between now and the end of January, there will be plenty of courts available for social night tennis. Once competition starts, please refer to the diary for availability of courts.

Court hire to members is \$8.00 per hour and the procedure is as follows:

1. Enter your booking in the booking diary which is attached to the Night Tennis Noticeboard just inside the main entrance on the right.
2. On the night, the lights on courts 3 & 4 can be activated by coins, 4 x \$2 per hour. For use of courts 1 & 2 you will need a light key (issued to captains of night competition teams) to activate the lights. Money owed (\$8.00 per hour) should be placed in the small envelopes provided (please label with date and \$ amount) and deposited in the Visitors Fee Box, under the social tennis board.

I will be in touch with captains of teams mid-January to issue fixtures and balls for the season.

HAPPY NEW YEAR AND GOOD LUCK FOR NEXT SEASON

Rhonda McCaw - Night Tennis Co-ordinator

WEEKEND SENIOR COMPETITION

Saturday afternoon - ERT AND HDTA

We currently have three teams entered in Saturday afternoon ERT (open sets 3 and 7, mixed sets 4) and one in HDTA (mixed rubbers 1, the top section). The seasons are just past the halfway mark and we are travelling fairly well, with one significant exception.

As at round 7 (halfway) the HDTA team was just outside the four but with a reasonable chance of making the finals. Of the ERT teams, OS7 was riding high on top of the ladder while OS3 was doing very well in second spot. The only blot on our escutcheon was the XS4 team (containing the two selectors, sob!) who were languishing in second last place with little obvious signs of hope for improvement. Still we battle on.

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have come to the Christmas break which will give us all a chance to recharge our batteries ready to resume the competition at the end of January.

Also, keep your eye out for the entry sheet for the winter ERT season which is in the clubhouse now. Saturday afternoon competition is languishing a bit and new players are always welcome!

Compliments of the festive season to all.

Peter McCaw for the Saturday Selectors

PENNANT 2006 - VICTORIAN TENNIS SERIES

The entry sheet for winter 2006 pennant is up in the clubhouse. If interested please sign up! The deadline is the end of January.

Andrew Halford - Pennant Secretary

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS 2006

Due to the Commonwealth Games, various dates for next year (tennis competition schedules, school holidays, etc.) are very different from usual. This will result in our Club Championships being a little later in the year and we expect them to take place in April. Andrew and Stuart are going to organise the Championships with help from Kevin Chiselett and Peter Moran. Any other members who are willing to contribute would be most appreciated. Please contact Andrew or Stuart. More detailed information will be distributed in the new year.

SOCIAL NEWS

Following the success of last year's inaugural NBTC golf day, members and friends assembled at Yarra Bend Golf Course on Sunday 11th December in brilliant sunshine for an Ambrose event. Seventeen people competed and returned to the club for a delicious BBQ. Thanks go to Stuart Brown for organising the event and Nia, Gordon and Liz for helping with the catering. The day was enjoyed by all and the winners were the young group of three, Nick Parks, Stefan and Arrian Stubbs with a gross

score of 75, handicap 16, nett 59. Well done! The longest drives were won by Andrew Halford and David Hatcher, and the nearest the pins by Robyn Judd and Peter McCaw.

A donation of \$85 was raised for the club.

By the time this newsletter reaches members we will also have had our traditional Christmas Party, held on the evening of Saturday 17th December at the club. Chicken, chips, salads and dessert will be on the menu (from "Tasy Chicks") and there will have been the Christmas hamper raffle to raise money for club projects and a door prize of two bottles of wine, donated from Boccaccio Cellars.

Besides these centrally organised club functions there are many social events organised by individual teams and groups, the largest and most impressive being the midweek social Christmas Party, which seems to be extremely popular. All these activities build on our enjoyment of the game to provide a friendly and supportive atmosphere at the club.

Fundraising

For the first time, a chocolate drive was organised by Liz Brown. Despite fewer than ten families responding, a terrific effort was made and \$700 was raised. Well done to all those involved. Workplace tearooms seem to be great places to sell chocolates and the money raised will be used for clubhouse improvements.

VALE DON INGRAM

On 5th October Don Ingram died after a period of ill health. He was 80 years old. A large number of NBTC members attended the funeral which was very much appreciated by Vi and her family. Don had been a member of the club for almost 40 years and he and Vi were well known for their support of club events and fantastic club spirit. We extend our deepest sympathies to Vi and her family at this sad time.

SPONSORSHIP

We have been very lucky to have two sponsors, Fletchers Real Estate and the Commonwealth Bank offer donations to our club if members use their facility. I urge all members, if they are considering selling a property or taking out a loan, to think of using them as it will benefit both themselves and the club. Further information about these offers are available on the NBTC general noticeboard.

The NBTC committee would like to thank all those who contributed articles for the newsletter, especially David Henry for formatting and printing.

Finally, best wishes for Christmas, New Year and the festive season. Please take care and we look forward to seeing you next year.

Editor: Rhonda McCaw