



BLACKWOOD TENNIS CLUB INC

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

26TH MARCH 2008

WELCOME

For the 13th consecutive year I welcome everyone to tonight's AGM. I thank you for coming. If you are interested and have a 2 or 3 hours available each month, please consider nominating for the Management Committee. All positions are vacant, including mine and I hope that you may be able to help the club. I have indicated to the Management Committee that I am willing to stand for one more year, but I have advised the committee to start looking for a replacement President.

This is the President's Report and as such I will briefly highlight the performance of some of the sections of the club. There are other reports to be given tonight that will cover the club's performance in more detail.

The Club has again had a very successful year. It interesting to compare the club's performance over the past few years and I am sure Kaye Lewis will cover these highlights in her report. Suffice to say that the junior section of the Club has again had a very successful minor round and we look forward to their continuing success in the Finals starting on Saturday.

The senior teams have also been relatively successful year to date with 4 of the 7 teams due to start their finals campaign this Saturday.

All teams, senior and junior face Elimination Finals in the first week, with the winners going on to play in the Grand Final the following weekend. This abbreviated finals system has been adopted for this season only, to maximise the number of minor round matches given that Easter is so early in the year.

On behalf of the players and their parents I would like to say thanks to all the volunteers at this club who form the Management Committee, the Junior Sub Committee and the Senior Selection Committee. At times, it has involved a lot of work and the club members should be very pleased to have a great group of people willing to give so freely of their time each week.

In addition to competitive Junior and Senior tennis, the club also has social tennis on Monday nights and Tuesday mornings. Monday night tennis has again been coordinated by Dean Lorraine and there has been a regular group of people playing each Monday. Tuesday Ladies has been coordinated by

Judy Wortley. Depending on the weather, numbers for both groups have varied each week, but I am sure the coordinators will welcome all new players.

FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS

As I reported in the previous couple of yearly reports, the tennis club and Woods Panthers Netball Club have tried to get a 10th court built at Hewett Reserve. A quote indicated that it would cost over \$78,000.00 to build the additional court and we unsuccessfully applied for a grant from the Dept of Sport & Recreation. We have obtained Council approval as landlord for the development, but it still had to obtain approval from the Development Assessment Panel. We made a presentation to the Mitcham Council to obtain financial assistance, but the request was again met by the Council “crying poor”.

The new lit court will be located at the northern end of netball courts and this will require excavation and retaining walls, hence the extraordinary cost. Obviously we will also obtain several quotes before proceeding. Part of our discussion under General Business tonight will be to ascertain your views about the club funding the entire project from its reserves.

FINANCES

As Richard Ellis, our Treasurer will tell us later, the Club is financially sound and again we have operated at a significant profit. This year’s profit will be added to our reserves to possibly assist in the construction of the additional court, and to ensure that the Club can resurface our courts, renew the fences around the courts or undertake general maintenance, without the need to borrow funds. We will always seek donations/grants from the Government and Local Council to assist in the financing of these projects, but we aim to never have to borrow money. We will hear more from Richard on the finances later.

COACHING

This year the Club again had two coaches and I would like to thank Peter Broughton and Jeff Fisher for all their effort this season. Also a special thank you to Danny Brookes, who like Bradley Nicholas last year, helped Jeff by taking some of the sessions. I know that there are many pressures on everyone’s finances and I was pleased when the club was again able to substantially subsidise group coaching sessions. Some players respond better to one on one coaching and both coaches were fully booked during the summer season with private lessons.

As I have said many times over the years, I believe that players who are coached, see an improvement in their game. In turn this increases the enjoyment from the game and surely enjoyment of the sport is why we all are involved. I would also suggest that the coaching may be one reason why there are again so many teams doing so well this year.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank a number of people who have helped the club this year and made my year as President that bit easier. Many thanks to;

- Ruth Baldwin - our Vice President, Secretary and Canteen Manageress, with the help of parents of our Junior players on Saturday morning;
- Richard Ellis - our Treasurer;
- Carolyn Chenoweth - our Minute Secretary;

- Kaye Lewis - our Junior Teams Coordinator;
- Rob Hayes - coordinator of the Junior Boys teams;
- Eric Lundborg – coordinator of the Junior Girls teams;
- Penny Thornton, Kate Nixon, Sharon Stevens, John Collett, Jeff Fisher & Peter Blackett who were our hard working general committee members;
- Kaye Lewis and Paul Nicholas for attending many monthly meetings of the SDTA Junior Activities Committee;
- Ian Furness, Chair of the Junior Permit Committee and our representative on the committee;
- Paul Nicholas, the Coordinator of winter tennis for the junior players; and
- John Collett as our Gourmet BBQ Chef.

As you can see we all “wear many hats”. I am particularly pleased that once again we have members who are willing to not only help the club operate, but also the Association.

To everyone mentioned, I would like to say thank you for your efforts. If I have omitted to name any one, I apologise and say "thank you" to you too. I must also thank their respective families, who have allowed them to put the time and effort into the club for the benefit of all players.

As an aside, just so people don't think I sit around and do nothing, I am the Treasurer of the SDTA after having been a Vice President for the past 6 years and Minute Secretary in 2006-07. I also represent the club at all SDTA Senior meetings each month and attend an occasional Junior Activities meeting. At a club level, I have been involved in the Senior Team Selection Committee for the past 10 or more years and I have also had a significant involvement in the Junior teams for many seasons.

I must again say thank you to my wife, Sue and daughters Fleur and Breanna for their support during the past 13 years, whilst I have been involved in the Blackwood Tennis Club. I know it has not always been easy, with all the phone calls and having to take numerous messages, because I was out at various tennis meetings, but a sincere thank you for your support.

Finally, I would like to encourage players and parents to become involved with the management of the Club. In order to survive and flourish we need your help. Please think about how you can help the Club, especially when we ask for volunteers for the General Management Committee or look for members of the Social Committee at the start of next season. The future will continue to be an exciting time.

THANK YOU

Garry Dolman
President
Blackwood Tennis Club Inc
26th March 2008