



BLACKWOOD TENNIS CLUB INC

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

25TH MARCH 2009

WELCOME

On behalf of the management Committee, I would like to welcome every one to the 2009 AGM of the Blackwood Tennis Club. After 14 consecutive President's Reports I would like to say thank you for allowing me to be part of your club. I have enjoyed all 7 terms as President of the Blackwood Tennis Club and part of me is certainly going to miss being the Club President, just as part me realises that it is time to go and enjoy another phase of life.

Whilst the report is usually a reflection of the past year and a brief over view of the plans for the future, it would be remiss of me not to briefly reflect on the past 14 years and acknowledge the work and skills of many people involved in the club over that time. The problem with mentioning people and their contribution to the club is that you are bound to omit someone, so I will start with a blanket apology to anyone I omit. I do not intend to offend anyone.

My introduction to tennis at Blackwood really started 17 years ago (1991) when I first brought my daughter Fleur to the club to play as Junior. Charles Wood ran the 10 junior teams back then predominantly by himself. At the start of Fleur's second season I was somehow "encouraged" to help Charles organise the junior teams. I remember some selection meetings being held at lunchtime in the dining area of the Duke of York Hotel in Currie Street. It was about half way between our respective offices. In 1994 Alex Curlis asked me to become President as the incumbent President, Grant Henshcke, was leaving to travel to England. Fourteen years later I am retiring as President and Grant is on his way back to Adelaide.

When Charles Wood passed away in January 1996, I was left running the juniors by myself for the remainder of the season. The junior section of the club was growing in numbers and it soon became obvious that I needed help and I encouraged people such as Graham Cahill and Eric Lundborg to help. In subsequent seasons Kaye Lewis, Rob Hayes and many others helped organise the teams.

As President of the Club I needed a Management Committee of willing workers and where else was I going to get committee members, but from the junior parents. This is where I found one of the Club's longest serving Secretary's in Penny Thornton and a good friend and long time Vice President in Ruth Baldwin. With a good Junior Committee we built this club up to 28 Junior teams and 9 senior teams experiencing considerable success along the way. To all these people that have helped me over the years and are now my friends, I say a sincere thank you for all your time and effort.

It would be remiss of me not to thank my wife Sue and daughters Fleur and Breanna for the time they have allowed me to put into the club over the past 16 years.

That's enough reminiscing. Let's look at what has happened in the past 12 months and what the committee see as the future for the club.

Firstly 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 this year, including the President and I hope that you may be able to help the club. After much searching and a little coercing, I believe the committee has a person willing to become a long term President of the club, so everyone here tonight can breathe easier as you will not be coerced into the President's office.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

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 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 Grand Final on Saturday.

Last year I reported that the Senior teams had been successful and 4 of the 7 teams were to play in the Finals. We ended up winning just 1 Premiership from the 3 Grand Finals we played in. This season 5 out of 8 teams played in the final series and on Saturday we have 4 teams playing in the Grand Final. I would encourage everyone to come out and support the teams even if you only spare an hour or so.

On behalf of both the senior and junior 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 Ted A'Bear this year 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

The Club hasn't forgotten about a possible 10th court at the existing netball courts, but following member feedback it is not a priority. The immediate priority is the remodelling of the existing kitchen with plans having been drawn up and quotes arranged. We would like to shift the kitchen and enlarge it, but we do not own the property and the likelihood of Council meeting the significant cost is small. We have also looked at the possibility of lighting courts 5 & 6 but first we need to see the existing lit courts being used more regularly.

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 continue to resurface our courts as we did during the break over January. I trust that you have noticed the improved surface of courts 3 & 4. We also need the reserves to 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 club's finances later.

COACHING

Again the Club again had two coaches and I would like to thank Peter Broughton and Jeff Fisher for all their effort this season. Also, I would like to offer a special thank you to Alice Gorman who helped Jeff by taking some of the sessions with the young players. 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.

I have no doubt that coaching is beneficial whether it is group coaching or one on one lessons and the results will be seen on the court. Maybe one reason why there are again so many teams doing so well again this year is that many players have attended the group coaching sessions.

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;

- Richard Ellis - our Vice President and Treasurer;
- Ruth Baldwin - our Secretary;
- Carolyn Chenoweth - our Minute Secretary;
- Kaye Lewis - our Junior Boys' teams Coordinator;
- Eric Lundborg - our Junior Girls' teams Coordinator;
- Penny Thornton, Rob Hayes, Kate Nixon, Sharon Stevens, John Collett, Jeff Fisher & Peter Blackett who were our hard working general committee members;
- Kaye Lewis and particularly Paul Nicholas for attending many monthly meetings of the SDTA Junior Activities Committee;
- Ian Furness who input all our Junior results each week; and
- Paul Nicholas, the Coordinator of winter tennis for the junior players.

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. To the all the parents who have helped in the canteen during the season, thank you.

As an aside, just so people don't think I sit around and do nothing, I was again the Treasurer of the SDTA and a member of the Association's Competition Committee after having been a Vice President for 6 years and Minute Secretary in 2006-07. I also represent the club at 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 16 years that I have been involved with the Blackwood Tennis Club, thank you. After so many years, the time has come for me to take a step back and allow others to takeover. Accordingly, I am pleased that Richard Ellis has agreed to be the new President. I wish him and the new committee all the best for this and subsequent years. I will still be around and if you want me on the committee next year I am willing to help during the transition period.

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 Management Committee and Treasurer's position. The future will continue to be an exciting time.

THANK YOU

Garry Dolman
President
Blackwood Tennis Club Inc
25th March 2009