



PRESIDENTS REPORT 2019/2020

This report covers the period 1 July 19 to 30 June 20. It is my seventh report to the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

With the foundation of the Club in 1928, this is perhaps the 93 rd AGM. The minutes of the 1973 AGM record that meeting as number 45.

The club has had five Presidents in the last 60 years or so. With the late Jack Langham retiring as President after 40 years of service, Mark Phillips was President in 2002/05; the late Alison Ade was President during 2005/2008 and the late John Gavin President from December 2008 to October 2013.

The Club is affiliated with Tennis ACT. Committee members attend a number of their meetings.

I want to thank the Committee for their work and support during the year. The Club is fortunate to have such a committed group to run the Club: Sue Willis as Vice President for her initiative and strong support; Peter Willis as Secretary for recording our meetings during the year; Ann Poole as Treasurer for managing our financial affairs; Michele Grant for looking after our membership details on the new Clubspark platform and Michael Poole for his all round support particularly our IT support systems.

Small Clubs like ours cannot flourish without a dedicated Committee.

In addition to the Committee, I would like to acknowledge the work carried out around the courts by John Bowden; Keith Croft for his assistance with maintenance issues and Ian Warden for enhancing and maintaining the garden in front of the club house.

During the year, the club farewelled Andrew Chalklen and Anthony Johnston who were on the Committee for more than 20 years.

COVID 19

The major issue for the club in 2019/2020 was managing the impact of COVID 19.

The club was guided by instructions from the ACT Government and Tennis ACT. From March 2020 the club participated in many virtual meeting with Tennis ACT the contents of which were communicated to club members.

The courts closed 28 March 2020. In accordance with the guidelines, tennis coaches could continue to provide coaching on a one on one basis. The club house was closed.

Following lengthy discussions with Government, Tennis ACT announced a gradual easing of restrictions.

On 4 May 2020, the courts were re-opened for members only and singles only.

Restrictions were further relaxed on 16 May 2020 when members were permitted to resume playing doubles subject to the COVID 19 guidelines.

On 19 June 2020, restrictions were further lifted for players and the club house was opened. Attendance and playing at the club was subject to the COVID 19 guidelines including social distancing and sanitation.

BOOK A COURT

Perhaps the most significant change to the management of the club was to implement Book a Court and Clubspark at a cost to the Club of about \$10,000. A significant amount for a small tennis club. The overall cost was offset by a grant from Tennis Australia and another from the Australian Sports Commission.

Clubspark is an online membership management tool where members can manage their account and new members join the club.

Book a Court allows for the courts to be booked and paid for online.

Since its introduction in June 2019, BAC has performed well and provides another significant revenue stream for the club.

Installing the systems involved digging about 50 metres of trenching to carry data and electrical wiring. Supporting software and electrical work were also required in the club house and pin pads at the entrance to courts.

These initiatives moved the club from a manual to an automated system requiring the courts and club house to be locked. Access is now by a four digit pin code generated at time of booking. The club could simply not continue with a manual

system and an honour arrangement for members and non members to book courts and pay membership and courts hire fees.

I wish to thank Peter Willis, Michele Grant and Michael Poole for their enthusiastic approach to running these systems.

TREE ROOTS AROUND THE COURTS

This has been a continuing problem for many years.

Discussions continued with the the ACT Government to install a root barrier around the courts. Their representatives and representatives from their insurance agency met with committee members to discuss the matter.

Our view was that a root barrier would rectify the problem removing the need for the club to approach the ACT Government every time a tree root became evident.

The ACT Government later requested that three quotes be sought and that the trench be 1.2m deep. They were subsequently provided. Despite calls to the relevant Department, progress has been slow.

REPLACEMENT OF LIGHTS

The existing court lights date from the late 80s. They are relatively expensive to run and expensive to replace bulbs. The Committee decided to look at options to replace all lights.

To guide the committee through the procurement and installation process, the Club engaged an Engineer with experience in this field. In summary, his brief was to seek and asses quotes and provide a recommendation to the Committee.

To defray costs, in December 2019, the club lodged an application for a Capital Assistance Grant (\$39,000) from the ACT Government to install LED lighting. They are environmentally friendly and much less expensive to run and maintain.

The club is also seeking financial assistance from Tennis Australia. We understand that grants of approximately \$7,000 are available.

The overall cost of the project will be approximately \$80,000.

A decision on the grants is expected early in the 20/21 financial year.

REPLACEMENT OF SURFACE ON TOP COURTS (1 and 2)

During the year, contractors were engaged to remove some tree roots at the northern end of these two courts.

With the overall deterioration of the courts, the Committee decided to resurface the courts. To defray the cost, the club applied for a ACT Government Capital Works Grant. Unfortunately, the application was refused on 16 March 20. It is understood that the ACT Governments position is that this is a club responsibility.

Following this outcome, the club began the process of seeking quotes for the resurfacing.

GENERAL MAINTENANCE

The Committee continues to strive to make the Club an attractive place to play and enjoy tennis.

In November 2019, another timber screen was installed at the rear of the club house to provide more storage and privacy. It complements the existing screen and is an enhancement to the club house.

A defibrillator was purchased and is now installed in the club house. The Red Cross later conducted a training session for members.

COACHING

The Club coach, Robbie Manzano of Tennis Canberra, continues his coaching at Reid. Wednesdays are busy, coaching juniors after school and cardio tennis/ coaching for adult players of all standards. Private lessons continue.

Robbie also conducted a number of junior tournaments during the year.

OPEN COURT SESSIONS

In late 2019, Tennis Australia/ Tennis ACT introduced a program called Open Court Session. Clubs were provided with specialised equipment - smaller racquets, soft balls and lower and smaller nets. The aim was to attract more people to the courts and let them try a simplified version of tennis.

The club effort was led by Michele Grant and her team. While they had some initial success and despite their best efforts including through social media, the program was not successful at our club.

OTHER MATTERS

Membership remains strong with more than 200 as at 30 June 2020.

During the year, the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science, based in Civic continued to hire courts once a week during their lunch time break.

The Club entered teams in the Monday night unisex competition as well as the Thursday night competition.

Although considerable funds have been spent in recent years, annual fees have not increased since 1 July 17.

The Club has an account with the Commonwealth Bank and uses a cheque account with Combiz to manage income and expenditure. Thanks so much to Ann Poole as Treasurer. The Club also has term deposits with Beyond Bank. Our accounts continue to be audited by Ian Hollow of Charter Group Accounting.

Six meetings were conducted during the year. All meetings were well attended by Committee members.

During the year, the Club held two Community tennis days. The Christmas party was held in November 2019 and the New Years tennis evening proved popular.

The club participated in Club Forums conducted by Tennis ACT. The Forum provides an opportunity for Tennis ACT to interact with Clubs and for club members to exchange ideas with other tennis clubs in Canberra.

The club was also represented at meetings of Presidents of other clubs. The key focus was on future capital works funding for clubs.

With the strong support of the Committee, the Club is in a sound position for the foreseeable future. I am sure you will agree that the facilities and surrounds of the Reid Tennis Club continue to be enticing for members and their guests.

Terry Walker
President
20 October 2020