

Ainslie Tennis Club

President's Report 2023 from Steve Ryan

2023 was a productive year for the Club, in large part due to the hard work of members of the General Committee. I was delighted that we started the year with the update and consolidation of the Club's constitution so ably managed by our vice-president, Roger Brake. One of the outcomes was the recognition that the General Committee has expanded to manage so many more roles than when the constitution was first introduced last century. 2023 concluded with one vacant committee position and 12 active members. Each of the 12 had contributed to the success of the Club.

For me the highlights included:

- Having a very healthy bank account protecting the Club against unexpected expenses (Fouad & Michael);
- Updating the Book A Court system and hardware (Mary & Roger);
- The installation of the Club's first ever hot water system for the kitchen and bathroom (Mary, Susan and Roger);
- The Club conducting three very lucrative sausage sizzles (Mary, many of the Committee and lots of members assisting);
- Membership topping out at 170 as at 31 December with all new members receiving welcome letters (Fouad);
- The growth of social tennis after a few lean years (Roma, Fouad and Stewart);
- More success with the adult tennis leagues with our Division 1 team winning twice (coordinated by Kat);
- The magnificent maintenance of the clubhouse grounds, gardens, and surrounds (Naomi and Steve B); and
- The list goes on. If I have omitted anyone, my apologies but I've run out of room.

Before we move on to the integrated annual reports from several Committee members and the separate annual financial report from the Treasurer, Revenue Manager, and the Hon. Auditor, I would like to take this opportunity to confirm that Mary and I will not be seeking re-election for 2024 as we will be travelling for most of the year. We have agreed to continue on the General Committee if we are asked and we will continue with minor roles over the years ahead.

It would be remiss of me to not acknowledge the enjoyment I have gained from my various Executive roles with the Ainslie Tennis Club including that of President over the last five years. The support and encouragement I have received from both General Committee members and the wider membership has been wonderful. I think that we have achieved an amazing amount over the last five years, and I look forward to assisting the Club to do even more amazing things leading up to the Club's centenary in 2028.

Mary in her reports had some delightful words to say about me. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge that the Club physically would not be in the wonderful position it is today if Mary, a non-tennis player and a non-member, had not stepped up and agreed to take over the Asset Manager role from our Life Member, Neil Hendy. The Club made her an honorary member in recognition, but this was small change compared to the hours she has contributed to the Club. The incoming Asset Manager has big shoes to fill, but luckily, Mary will be contactable and ready to offer guidance.

Between them, Mary and Kat have been responsible for some of the most important decisions and/or actions over recent years. Mary oversaw the rebuilding of the Clubhouse after our termite attack and managed the delivery of LED court lights on courts 2 & 3 plus half of 1. She and I hope to see the completion of the rollout of LED lights on court 1 over 2024.

Besides dealing with the trials and tribulations of managing several adult Tennis League (formerly Pennant) teams four seasons a year, Kat was the driving force for the updating of the Club's coaching arrangement that resulted in Myles Emery and his team at Active Tennis Coaching joining us at Ainslie just over five years ago. As a result of Kat's work we now have lots of coaching opportunities at Ainslie and Myles' business is a significant financial contributor to the Club each year.

Asset Manager's Report - Mary Ryan

For 2023 we made the call to not apply for any major grants and instead focus on some of the smaller projects while building our cash reserves.

The first of these smaller projects was to install a hot water service in the clubhouse providing for the first time ever hot water to the kitchen and bathroom. This project was part funded through a government grant with huge thanks to Susan Antcliff who wrote our submission.

The second project was the 4G upgrade to our Book A Court system. This was part funded by Tennis Australia with Roger Brake handling the paperwork on this occasion. We used this opportunity to upgrade our badly worn entry keypad to one using the latest technology that was UV resistant. It is also has an anti-vandal latch guard.

General maintenance of the clubhouse is done as required such as the annual termite inspection. This year we ended our relationship with Bates Pest Control from Bateman's Bay. Due to staffing issues, they are no longer able to visit Canberra. A new contractor was bought in to carry out the inspection and gave a conditional report advising there was no evidence of new termite activity.

The clubhouse now has a Defibrillator available in case of an emergency.

I would like to thank Naomi, our club secretary, and committee member, Steve Brain, for looking after our garden and hedges. The club grounds always look wonderful thanks to them. Thanks also to Fouad who has been our net fixer and who at short notice has bought along his tools and manipulated the winders into action. There are other members of the committee and members of the club who at times sweep the concrete and pull weeds, making a great contribution to the club.

A big thank you also to Neil Pinkerton (club life member) who for many years would come and take out the rubbish for emptying. Neil has now left the suburb and seamlessly handed this weekly task over to Steve Brain. At times we also receive help from another household across the street. To all involved I thank them for their invaluable input to the health and wellbeing of our club.

To my biggest supporter, sounding board, proof-reader, and motivator I say thank you Steve R. You talked me into taking on the Asset Manager role which has been challenging, frustrating and very rewarding and even enjoyable. I am sure the next Asset Manager will do great things for the club.

Strategic Asset Management Subcommittee Chair's Report - Roger Brake

The Strategic Asset Management Subcommittee was established following last year's AGM. The principal work has been developing a strategic asset plan, undertaking planning and preparatory work for completing LED lighting on court 1 and replacement of court 3, including potential enhancements to the Clubhouse and a deck. There were also a number of maintenance issues that needed to be attended to. During the year, we installed a hot water system for the Club, largely funded by a grant we received from the ACT Government. We are currently working on an application for a grant to help offset the costs of LED lighting on court 1. I would like to thank the members of the Committee, particularly Mary Ryan who has spent many hours working with contractors obtaining quotes and supervising the installation of the hot water system.

Adult Competitions Manager's Report - Kat Knope

Ainslie Tennis club continues to have strong participation in the ACT Tennis Monday/Tuesday competition, with 3 to 4 teams each season. In 2023, Ainslie teams performed strongly across the range of divisions. The Division 1 team captained by Ben Bramble took the honours in the Summer 2022/23 comp and the winter 2023 comp.

Participation in the Thursday night doubles format from the club has declined with no Ainslie teams in 2023.

In 2023, ACT Tennis boosted women's participation in Adult Tennis Leagues by launching a pilot for a new women's comp in spring 2023. Three women from Ainslie participated and rated it a huge success. This new competition allows women to enter the competition week-by-week and play for just two hours at Canberra Tennis Centre in Lyneham. The pilot brought out strong players, many of whom had not been playing competition tennis for a long time, but the new format made it possible and attractive for them. The format is being continued in 2024, with the first week of play on 7 February 2024.

Junior Competitions Manager's and Club Coach's Report - Myles Emery

We had 1-2 teams competing in Junior Tennis Leagues throughout the 2023 seasons. It was great to see all players continuing to build their match play skills throughout the seasons. The teams had some fantastic results during the seasons and all players should be commended for their efforts.

Fund Raising Subcommittee Chair's Report - Mary Ryan

I am delighted to report the committee has run three successful events over 2023 and raised a little over \$4,000 for the club. Thanks to Roma and Fouad for supporting me and to the many wonderful volunteers both from the committee and the wider club membership. The two Bunnings sausage sizzles were great fundraisers, with each one requiring a team of at least 15 volunteers to cover the whole day and to each volunteer I say thank you.

On a smaller scale the can/bottle recycling has been operating since December 2022. Thanks to the members who put their empties in the containers and to the club's neighbours who kindly donate their empties. This year they contributed a little over \$275 to the club.