

Ainslie Tennis Club Presidents Report 2019

What a year! We started with our termite problem in the Clubhouse and finished it with the appointment of Myles Emery and Active Tennis Coaching (ATC, a handy set of initials to confuse everyone in this city where acronyms prevail!) as the Club's new coach.

Fortunately we had three dedicated people handling our club house rebuild, namely members Mary and Neil and builder, Kevin. Neil handed over the asset manager role to Mary but he continued to work with Mary throughout the rebuild and between them we got a fantastic result. Kevin did a brilliant job, especially when you consider that he did it all on his own in terms of building work and he found excellent trades people for the plumbing and electricals. We finished 2019 with the rebuild all but complete.

In March we received a 2019 Capital Assistance Grant of \$17,806 from the ACT Government. In addition to the grant we were able to call on funds we had been saving for a rainy day plus run fund raisers including a Bunnings BBQ. But the big contribution came from members. Donations from members were substantial and I look forward to the acknowledgement plaque being unveiled at the relaunch of the clubhouse later this year. In addition I would like to thank the members of the Fundraising Committee that stepped in and ran our successful Xmas raffle.

In addition to the clubhouse rebuild, LED lighting was installed inside and around the clubhouse. Talking of lighting, I was also delighted with the results of Mary's efforts to get all the court lights working. This was another expensive exercise at around \$7,000 but at least members and their guests plus Pennant players all have good lighting. Continuing the theme of 'talking of' I am pleased to acknowledge Kat's and Eloise's great work with our senior and junior pennant teams.

Due to the call for moneys for the club house rebuild, I was delighted when the members that had loaned funds to the Club in 2018 for the replacement of the roof agreed to the deferment of repayments till 2020.

We were convinced by Tennis ACT in late 2019 to join the Open Court Sessions being organised by Tennis Australia. By doing so we received \$5,000 worth of goods and services. We had received the goods by the end of the year enabling us to schedule our sessions for the first quarter of 2020. but we are still awaiting our new web page.

In late 2019 we received a notice from the ACT Government about public noise pollution and excessive lighting which we finally resolved in early 2020. The complaints were only broadly described due to privacy requirements and seemed frivolous. However, we dealt with them properly and received Government advice that our actions were appropriate.

And so the year ended with the Committee meeting regularly to consider and decide on changing our coaching arrangements. For the previous 20 or so years the Canberra Tennis Academy had rented courts from the Club to run coaching sessions with their clients. There was emotional support across the Club for the Academy, but the Committee agreed that it wanted a new coaching arrangement based on a coach connecting fully with the Club. ATC had proposed that if appointed Club Coach it would connect with the Club's members. The Academy was asked whether it would also be interested in changing its relationship with the Club, but it said no. Therefore the Executive negotiated a contract with Myles and the Committee agreed to the contract in mid January 2020.

2019 was a busy year for every member of the Committee and I would like to acknowledge and thank each Committee member for their significant contributions. This continued into 2020 with COVID-19, but hopefully the second half of 2020 will be much quieter and simpler. Let's hope we spend more time playing on the courts and less time dealing with disasters!

Steve Ryan
6 June 2020