

Presidents Report For 2021

2021 turned out to be a pretty good tennis year, surrounded by a pretty awful continuing pandemic. Our membership passed 135 on a continuing basis, easily the highest since I joined the club in 2001. It will be interesting to see if we can sustain this figure across 2022 as by the end of 2021 it seemed that many of our newer members had moved away from tennis and were once again playing organised sports that had been allowed to resume as COVID restrictions were eased.

Likewise, our record book a court revenues from 2020 had started to decline by the end of 2021 again presumably because people could once again go to gyms, play other sports or even just go out to pubs, theatres or organised activities. However, the stats for 2021 were still excellent. Book A Court reports that we collected \$17,280 in court fees from 2,835 bookings made by 380 persons. The courts were booked for 6,154 hours over the year with the most popular times being Saturday 9am, Wednesday 6pm and Sunday 4pm.

Notwithstanding these impacts on our membership numbers and revenues, 2021 was still a very good year for the Ainslie Tennis Club. We moved into 2022 with 135 continuing members and as our financial report shows, a very healthy bank account. Thanks to the efforts of our Committee I was pleased to see:

- LED lighting was installed on courts 2 and 3 with the bonus that court 1 now has improved lighting too due to additional LED lights being installed on the court 2 poles between courts 1 & 2.
- Quality synthetic grass being installed between the footpath and court 1, with more to come.
- The purchase, build and placement of our aluminium bbq table placed on the new synthetic grass.
- A second storage shed being erected on a new concrete pad donated by Hi-Quality Concrete and laid by Modern Concrete P/L at no charge to the Club.
- Tennis ACT had moved from pennants to Tennis Leagues and Ainslie won ?? Leagues over 2021. A fabulous effort for a three court club!
- The club's three social tennis offerings Sunday Social, the Racqueteers and USED2Be's, all continued to grow over the year and attract new players.

I would like to thank each committee member as they made my role much simpler by their efforts. In particular I would like to thank my better half, Mary, who as the club's very effective Asset Manager, was nominated for the Tennis ACT volunteer of the year by her fellow committee members and deservedly made it through to the final. I would also like to thank Michael and Carol for their work with the club's finances. Over the year we had to manage a banking change, two grants, gst payments, a new sinking fund and an ever increasing revenue base and they ensured it was managed well.

In addition, Kat and Myles managed our respective adult and junior Tennis League teams in trying circumstances and did so very well. Myles and his coaching team continue to grow their coaching activities at Ainslie and the members are the beneficiaries having access to a much broader range of coaching arrangements than I have ever seen at our club.

While Roger, Roma, and Trevor have also been great contributors, it would be remiss of me not to particularly thank Fouad who came onto the Committee in 2021 and has been a great help to both Mary and myself in many ways. Initially Fouad got involved through the Active Member program, and then joining the Committee he has taken on diverse roles such as becoming my right hand person for Book A Court and helping Mary with building and maintaining our assets.

Finally, it would be remiss if me not to thank Susan and Carol for their contributions as Secretary and Revenue Manager respectively. Susan has indicated that with her University work load she will not stand for Secretary again, although she will be delighted to remain on the Committee. Carol has indicated that after her second stint on the Committee she thinks it is time for her to move on. I have relied on both of them over a long time and I can't thank them enough for the help they have given me on many occasions.

I will conclude my report with my list of things that I think the Committee should be concentrating on over the next few years. The Club will turn 100 in six years time and I believe that we need a special working group to develop a plan for the things we need to prepare and deliver, both in the run up to 2028 and across our centenary year.

In particular I think it's time to replace our ageing and out of date constitution with one that is relevant to the club's current needs. New tennis clubs are created all the time and surely Tennis Australia has template constitutions that we could consider and amend to make suitable for our future needs. I have suggested to Roger that managing this process might be a role for our Vice President.

We have been putting out feelers to find a town planner who could help us get the necessary development approvals (DA's) to proceed with our ambitious plans once we raise the necessary funds. It's a bit of a chicken and egg thing, but experience has shown that once we get a grant we usually don't have all that long to get the required approvals. If a DA is required it can add several months, if not years, to the process. Therefore going through the approval processes for the following improvements would better place us to get and extend the necessary grants -

1. Complete the installation of LED lighting on court 1 - our preliminary estimate is around \$30,000 to purchase and install poles, dig wiring trenches, re-instate court synthetic grass surface, and to purchase and install LED lights.
2. Design and agree on the best location for a new hitting wall, possibly with a mini court.
3. Agree on the best location for a fourth court and then construct it.
4. Design and build a deck on the eastern end of the clubhouse incorporating an access ramp that provides suitable access to the clubhouse and deck for persons with a physical disability. The deck would include some form of shading and would also include a good quality bbq.

In addition to these activities that would each require approval, the club needs to be preparing for the replacement of the court 3 surface as it is operating past its estimated operating life. We also have court fences that are older than most, if not all, of our members. A look at the Reid court fences shows what I believe our fences need to look like. If we don't plan for the replacement of these items I think the day will come, just like with our termite infestation, when the surface and/or the fences will fail and suddenly we will be scrounging to find the necessary funds. So let's turn this around and use the centenary to encourage the Commonwealth and ACT Governments to make major contributions to the next 100 years for the Ainslie community!

I commend this report to the members.

Steve Ryan