



## **Belconnen Tennis Club – Newsletter**

**No. 2 2022 – 2023, November 2022**

### **A FEW WORDS FROM THE CLUB'S PRESIDENT**

It certainly has been wet recently. After the rain has gone, which may not be for some time, I hope that we can get back to more normal tennis outings.

Your committee has recently approved a new set of bylaws. This was done consistent with the obligations that we were under after this year's AGM. A copy of the bylaws can be found on the website (if you cannot access them this way, please let the secretary know, and we'll send you a hardcopy, [s.palmer@belconnentennisclub.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:s.palmer@belconnentennisclub.onmicrosoft.com)).

We will seek your approval of a new constitution at a general meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December. This constitution should be read in conjunction with the bylaws. Approving a new constitution is a necessary outcome given the memberships decision to split the previous constitution.

I would like to draw your attention to two important parts of the bylaws. The first is about player behaviour and the second about dogs within the club grounds.

- Our Tennis club should always be a place where your safety is never challenged and your capacity to play is not hampered by the temperament of others. Thank you to all those who continue to behave properly and in a sporting manner. There is one paragraph that spells this out with absolute clarity: 1. Para 12.a.ii – lists the behaviour of those who play at BTC courts. I would ask everyone to abide by this; and if you feel you cannot please seek assistance from the committee.
- Further, your committee has decided to reflect the ACT's regulations in relation to dogs. Please note, we require all dogs, except support and service dogs, to remain outside the BTC facilities. This is covered under para 9.i

I invite all to consider supporting the two new activities on Friday night, for children and junior members the full 8 courts facility is available to play doubles supported by coaches, and then from 7.30pm the BTC hosts social singles; a chance to learn the art of playing singles in a friendly and supportive manner for all.

The committee is still seeking to fill committee positions of social media and maintenance. If you have any interest, please contact any of the committee members.

### **A CALL FOR COURT BOOKING BETTER BEHAVIOUR**

You have all probably experienced the day you seek to book a court and find there is no court left, only to drive past and find that many of our courts are not in use.

Your committee is seeking to understand why. There is a most likely cause – members booking courts on speculation they will play and then not cancelling when they decide not to; “booking on spec”.

This is costing others the opportunity to play and the club from raising revenue to operate and we think there are a couple of ways of solving this problem;

1<sup>st</sup> – Ask for member's better behaviour. If you do not need the court you have booked, cancel it immediately.

If the problem continues;

2<sup>nd</sup> - BTC may seek a small court booking fee from everyone, including members, who book a court. This would effectively move more toward a user pays system. It would change behaviour to encourage cancelation of unwanted courts.

If anyone has any sensible ideas, please contact the committee through the secretary.

Ian Cumming  
President

## **SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING**

We wish to let you know that we will be having a Special General Meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to approve a new constitution and introduce the Belconnen Tennis Club Strategic plan.

This will be held on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 4.30pm in the Catchpole Room at the Jamison Canberra Southern Cross Club.



## **CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Please join us for the Belconnen Tennis Club Christmas party which will be held on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December with festivities kicking off around 3:30pm.

Let us know if you will be attending by registering using this link <https://signup.com/go/PNoHNLQ> or email us at [belconnentennisclub@gmail.com](mailto:belconnentennisclub@gmail.com) - by 27<sup>th</sup> November to enable us to cater appropriately.

We will also be holding some of the club championships on this day. This will include the doubles and the A-grade finals.

If you wish to participate in the Doubles from 1:15pm on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December, there is still time to pre-register up to the 27<sup>th</sup> November at <https://signup.com/go/LBktuyn>. The cost is \$5 per person.

We are also looking for volunteers to assist on the day of the Christmas party. Please send us an email ([belconnentennisclub@gmail.com](mailto:belconnentennisclub@gmail.com)) if you can spare some time and nominate for what period, e.g. 10am-noon, from 2pm etc. We would also appreciate it if people who are able to, bring a plate to share - snacks, salad or dessert.

We hope to be seeing you at these events.



## **MAINTENANCE**

A public approach has been made seeking a tender to professionally maintain our facility. Currently we have a gardener, Jesse Wilesmith, doing mowing and edging; as Jesse has decided not to tender for the role which includes more extensive maintenance activities, we need to find another service provider. We would like to extend our appreciation to Jesse for doing a fantastic job over the past two years and for agreeing to continue until a suitable tender is awarded the new contract.

Last year the club acquired an SMG Turf Boy 2, Warren Andrew and Jeff Gray have been regularly grooming the courts with the machine and slowly building up the sand on each of the courts. This maintenance regime is intended to provide a better playing surface along with prolonging the life of the courts over time.

Court 6 in some areas is becoming a little slippery, the club has not deemed the court unsafe, but we are seeking professional advice about how to improve the surface. Thank you for those that have provided feedback around this. Currently we have been advised to continue regularly grooming it and try to keep the sand up.

If you would like to help with maintenance, please contact the club at ([belconnentennisclub@gmail.com](mailto:belconnentennisclub@gmail.com)). Members regular assistance with driving the grooming machine, attending a scheduled working bee, or a volunteer to sit on the committee as the Maintenance Officer would be much appreciated. If you are at the club and you identify any maintenance issues needing attention, please notify the club by email or let a committee member know when you see us at the courts.

Once we have the maintenance contract in place, we will be holding a working bee and will update as this time approaches.

## **CANBERRA TENNIS LEAGUE**

BTC has a fantastic representation in the Canberra Tennis League (formerly known as pennant) this Spring season. We have 7 teams entered in the Monday/Tuesday night league, 2 teams in the Thursday night league, and 3 teams in the Saturday league.

Entries are now open for the Summer League and entries will be closing on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022. If you are interested in playing and have not got a team, please send us an email at [play4belco@gmail.com](mailto:play4belco@gmail.com). If you already have a team, please remember to register via the following links:

Spring Monday & Tuesday Night League Entry Link: <https://matchcentre.tennis.com.au/leagues/19165>

Spring Thursday Night League Entry Link: <https://matchcentre.tennis.com.au/leagues/19166>

Spring Saturday League Entry Link: <https://matchcentre.tennis.com.au/leagues/19167>

Tennis ACT Website: <https://www.tennis.com.au/act/competitions/canberra-tennis-league/the-walking-clinic-adult-tennis-leagues>

Tennis ACT Match Centre: <https://matchcentre.tennis.com.au/organisations/961>

In the Winter season, we had a win in the Thursday night Div 2 league (David Kim, Peter Kirubaithilakan, Sue Clarke, Robyn Attewell and Barbara Tai (captain), and Saturday Div 4 runners up (Glenn Snellgrove (captain) and Ajay Joshi).

## **CLUB CAPTAIN UPDATE**

Despite Spring allegedly in the air and Summer apparently on its way, the extremely soggy weather event that is La Niña continues to play havoc with organised events such as the Canberra Tennis League, Social Tennis and also the Club Championship matches that we are trying to complete before and during the BTC Xmas Party on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

Thus far, the B and C grade round robin matches were played on Sunday 13 November. From that, the C grade final, to be played at the Christmas Party on 4 December, will be between Ofer Zwikael and Con Kounas.

The B grade finals were run a little differently this year with the top 8 from Sundays group matches playing off in a knockout event, (ie. Q/Fs S/Fs and final), on 20 November. Phil Nguyen won the B grade final after 3x2nd round matches and then the knockout matches. Tom Ma was runner up.

The A grade singles competition is still to be resolved.

As the weather improves, we look forward to seeing more members at social tennis on Sunday. Wednesday night is very well attended with 24+ players attending each week.

Continued thanks to all the court convenors, without whom social tennis could not be run. Anybody who would like to like to join the ranks of our current social court convenors, please contact Club Captain James ([j.crocker@belconnentennisclub.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:j.crocker@belconnentennisclub.onmicrosoft.com)), on 0419605459 or just corner me at social one night.

## VALE CHARLOTTE HENDERSON



We were saddened to learn of Charlotte's passing on 18 July aged 77 years. Charlotte, together with her husband Alan, first joined the Club in the early 1980's. She played competition tennis with the Club for many years, both Mixed Doubles (Alan occasionally reserved) and Midweek Women's Tennis, and social tennis regularly with friends in the Club, Charlotte participated in Charity Day events and both Charlotte and Alan were attendees at Club Presentation Dinners when their busy lives permitted. Charlotte was a remarkable and lovely woman and is deeply missed by all who knew her. We extend our deepest sympathy to Alan and their family.

## VALE DENIS GRAHAME



Denis Grahame, a past and very active member of the Belconnen Tennis Club, died in late July, aged seventy-five. Denis and his wife Jeanette joined the Club in 1993 and were regular players in our social tennis sessions. They represented the Club in the ACT pennant competitions, especially in the Night Mixed Doubles series with Ashlyn Farrelly and her son Jamie. On the court Denis is remembered particularly for his devastating, left-handed, spinning serve. In 1998 Denis joined the Committee where he served as Club Treasurer for five years. He was awarded the prestigious Pauline Lyall award in 2002 which is awarded annually to the member who contributed most to the running of the Club in the previous twelve months. His nomination spoke of his tireless efforts as Treasurer and his valuable contribution to many other tasks, Denis and Jeanette have four daughters, one of whom, Amanda, was coached by Denis and the Larkhams, and became one of the Club's real "Stars". In 1995 she was ranked best Under Sixteen girl player in Australia, and in 2000 took Serena Williams to three sets at the Australian Open. We extend our sympathy to Denis's wife Jeannette and family.

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We thank members for their patience as we encountered some teething issues during the first year's membership renewals under the new software system. We had to create new membership packages and migrate all members across. This work was completed a couple of months ago and things appear to be running smoothly once more. Please do not hesitate to email if you have any concerns.

At the last AGM, we informed members that we would offer a Concessional membership, for Concession Card holders, for the first time. We now have five Concessional members, most of whom are new to BTC.

After a surge in memberships post COVID, we, like most clubs, have seen a slight drop off in membership numbers from a peak of just under 350, though we are sitting around a healthy 330 members. Our junior memberships continue to increase.

Another gentle reminder that you must use the same method to log in and book a court that you used when setting up your Club Spark account. When you go to log in, you are given three options: Facebook or Google accounts, or an email address as your identifier and method of log in. If you choose a method other than whatever you chose the first time, it will create an additional record in the system and unfortunately your membership will not be attached to new record. Therefore, you will not be able to book a court. If you accidentally do this, please send us an email advising which method you intend using in the future, and the membership secretary will manually merge your records to correct the issue.

## **TENNIS ACT – NEW DIRECTORS**

Tennis ACT received two nominations for the two vacant elected Director positions, from Adam Bartlett and Ann Landrigan.

Given the number of nominations equals the number of vacant positions there will be no vote required. Adam and Ann will begin their second term as Tennis ACT board members at the upcoming Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Thurs Nov 24 at East Hotel (or online). Notice of the AGM and further documentation will be sent to all by November 3.

TACT noted that, “they look forward to Adam and Ann continuing to provide their expertise to the board and playing key roles on the Integrity and Finance & Audit Subcommittees respectively. Their extensive skill sets meet the boards skill matrix requirements. Their passion for the sport will ensure we continue to meet our strategic objectives.”