



Autumn 2022 Newsletter

President's message

Welcome to another Red Hill Tennis Club newsletter. Thank you everyone who contributed to making it the bumper edition it is! As always, many more things happen in the life of our small club than we think until we write it all down.

After the damp summer I hope you are all finding some time to have a hit in the fine warm weather. Anyway, read and enjoy!

Carolyn

RHTC President

New members - welcome!

Jill **Brightling**
Parthe **Mhaske**
Sophia **Chittick**
Sebastian **Crowe**
Maniche **Fior**
Roland **Carter**

Hugo **Edwards**
Maddie **Reid**
Daisy **Dangerfield**
Sarah **Clarke**
Vikrant **Mulgund**
Francesca **Bartone**

Ian **Macintosh** and family
Sarah **McConville**
Delilah **Shelley** and family
Antonella **Stendardo** and family
Hamish **Cameron** and family
Kyle **Rutter**

WTA world ranked player at Red Hill Tennis Club!

Red Hill Tennis club has a WTA world ranked adult doubles player!

In February after debuting at the Canberra Womens Pro 1 then reaching the Quarter finals at Canberra Women's Pro 2, long term RHTC member 16yr old **Sophie McDonald** earned a WTA womens world doubles ranking.

Sophie hit her 1st tennis balls at the Red Hill Tennis Club as a 5yr old in 2010 and became a proud **Red Hill 'Roo 🦘'** pennant player in 2011 as a 6yr old and has been supported by the RHTC committee in her ACT primary school Bruce Cup trips to Albury (2015), Bendigo (2016) and Adelaide (2017). Congratulations Sophie!



Rank	Player	Country	Points
1433	VENUS WILLIAMS	USA	10
1433	KAIA KANEPI	EST	10
1433	MARIA SAKKARI	GRE	10
1436	MARTINA ROLDAN SANTANDER	ARG	10
1437	ALEXANDRA VECIC	GER	10
1438	PHILLIPPA PREUGSCHAT	GER	10
1439	OLIVIA SYMONS	AUS	10
1439	TALIA GIBSON	AUS	10
1439	SOPHIE MCDONALD	AUS	10

Red Hill Roos sweep the pools at TENNIS ACT JDS Tournament

Members of our current Redhill Div 1 junior pennant team have begun the Tennis ACT JDS tournament circuit on fire🔥 The 1st tournament of the circuit was the Melba championships, Feb 19,20. **Logan Wicks** claimed the **13/u boys singles** title before combining with 🦘🦘 pennant teammate and training partner **Albi Arabzadeh** to take out the **13/u doubles** title.

The next weekend Feb 26,27 the Junior development series moved to Hughes for the North Woden championships. **Samuel Barnard** took out the **14/u boys** title while **Albi**, partnering **Mark Ferrari** from Forrest , was at it again in the doubles claiming the 12/u event.

CONGRATULATIONS LOGAN, SAMUEL and ALBI !!



Parent-Child Tournament - Sunday 27 February

2022 Parent-Child Doubles Tournament was held on February 27th, with record entries over 3 divisions.

The tournament featured several first-time combinations and a lot of the best of 5-game matches were very close, some of which could only be decided on the excruciatingly nerve-racking dual match point at 2-all short deuce!

The 'prodigal son' Liam Cash made a tremendous return to the Red Hill Tennis Club and formed a very strong team, partnering his mother and reigning RHTC womens singles champion Femke Rensen.

Liam and Femke played tremendous doubles in the Div 1 division though were pipped for 1st place by Div 1 junior Roos 🦘 pennant player Samuel Barnard and his father Julian.

Congrats' everybody - top day!

Division 1

- 1st** Samuel & Julian Barnard
- 2nd** Liam Cash/Femke Rensen
- 3rd** Ian & Sarah McConville

Division 2

- 1st** Nathan & Bennett MacDonald
- 2nd** Taylor & Huia Edmonds
- 3rd** Samara & David Crawford

Division 3

- 1st** Oliver & Ryan Winn
- 2nd** Noah Edmonds/Lincoln Gotovac
- 3rd** Luca & Paolo Pedrazzi



Club championships

The Red Hill Club Championships provided a feast of good tennis; tense contests; and some surprising results. With the weather kind to us, and an enthralled spectator crowd happily munching on sausages, a cleansing ale, a tippie of wine and the odd soft drink supplied by the Committee, the scene was set for a real showdown.

And the crowd was not disappointed.

The **junior boys' singles** was riveting, with **Logan Wicks** coming through in an exciting round robin tournament. Showing great pluck was the runner up, **Albi Arabzadeh**, who has come along in leaps and bounds, and will be a force to be reckoned with next year, for sure.

The **men's doubles** took us back in years, with nostalgia echoing through the club rooms, as another Shafron title was registered – this time, it was the wily experience and cunning of **Zac Shafron** who teamed up with another Club legend and stalwart, **David Kearns**. That combination was just too much at the end of the day for the nearest challengers, **Shane Douglas** and **Chris Chapman**. Nevertheless, Shane and Chris displayed some classy tennis, and there were moments when we thought we were watching an earlier version of the Woodies – such was the empathy and intuition of that team in action.

The **women's singles** was one of the surprise packages of the tournament. A late influx of entries energised the draw, and suddenly, the crowd knew they were witnessing something momentous – perhaps the arrival of a new, unheralded champion? As the sets progressed, the tension was building, and then suddenly, it was coming down to the final round of the round robin to reveal whose name would be etched onto the hallowed honour roll in the Clubhouse. The end result was a victory for experience and hard training – Tuesday after Tuesday of social tennis had honed the skills and determination of **Femke Rensen**, who prevailed in a thrilling finale. The challenger and runner up, seemingly coming from nowhere (in fact she came from Melbourne) was **Sarah McConville**. She could be one to watch in future years – with youth on her side, a gritty defence and a penetrating forehand – surely next year she will go deep into the draw – maybe a future champion?

Which then brings us to the **men's singles**. The tension was palpable, the shots flowed freely with skill and panache; and the players were playing as if their life and reputations depended on the outcome - even though everyone would maintain that it was just for "fun". The seeded players logically progressed through the drawer, although possibly Zac might have felt a little hard done by to be edged out by a 56-year-old journeyman, Ian McConville, who had one of the sets of his life. Nevertheless, Ian's run was to come to a screaming halt in the next round when his son, the 2020 champion, **Kieren McConville**, extinguished any chance of a Ken Rosewall type resurgence for the old fellow. With **David Kearns** sailing through his side of the drawer, the scene was set for a rematch of the epic 2020 finale – Kieren, the reigning champion, versus David – hoping to wrest back the elusive crown that he has made his own on two previous occasions, most recently in 2012. David knows that this is the long game. To say this was a David and Goliath struggle might be overstating it, but it was certainly in the epic zone. Matt, as referee and umpire but also coach and trainer for both these players, knew this was going to be a tough one. At times, he could barely bear to watch, such was the conflicted emotions he must have felt to see these two players bludgeon the ball to all ends of the court; extracting every last drop of blood from the court and their bodies, in order to secure the title. But it was David that drew first blood, securing the first set. The crowd would not be wrong if they were sensing that it was going to be the day for the challenger – but the game was only half done. With the wine flowing at the Club house, there were some that were clearly hoping for a contest, a thrilling three setter, perhaps long enough to order another drop of Dan's Club wine to savour the occasion. But David secured an early break in the second set, and the crowd could see the nails being hammered into the coffin, one by one, but steadily. And thus it happened – David Kearns, a worthy champion, taking back at long last, the coveted Red Hill Men's Single title for 2021.

One thing we can say – the Championships produced tales of heroism, courage and skill. Passion was there in abundance, and no one left the court or the Club House without feeling a deep satisfaction at their efforts, and the enjoyment of the occasion. A special thanks to Tournament Director Matt for crafting and overseeing yet another epic tournament, and to the Red Hill Tennis Committee for staging the event.

2021 results

Men's singles		Women's singles	
Winner	David Kearns	Winner	Femke Rensen
Runner Up	Kieren McConville	Runner Up	Sarah McConville
Boys' singles		Men's doubles	
Winner	Logan Wicks	Winners	David Kearns & Zac Shafron
Runner Up	Albi Arabzadeh	Runners up	Shane Douglas & Chris Chapman
Consolation men's singles			
Winner	Jim Thompson		
Runner up	Ehsan Arabzadeh		





Junior Tennis League

10 teams were entered for the Spring 2022 Junior Leagues season. The season was shortened due to the COVID pandemic, which made it even more exciting than ever when play was eventually allowed!!

There was lots of rain...but everyone enjoyed the matches that were played. 3 teams made it to finals, and 3 teams were runners up!! Well done to all players, especially our finalists - and thanks to all the parents who supported and managed the teams. As always - thanks to Matt for encouraging young players to enter competition tennis, and for finding reserve players.

Division 8

Runners – up – **Red Hill Roos 1** (*Annie, Daisy, Alyda, Sophia*)

Winners – Belconnen Tennis Club

Division 7

Runners – up – **Red Hill Roos 1** (*Aneesh, Maniche, Hugo*)

Winners – Weston Creek Tennis Club

Division 1

Runners – up – **Red Hill Roos** (*Dan, Sophie, Logan, Samuel*)

Winners – North Woden Spartans



Aneesh, Maniche, Hugo, Ian (Mgr)

Fundraising

Bunnings BBQs

During December and January, volunteers from our club ran three BBQs at Bunnings to help raise funds for improvements to our courts. Two events were at Bunnings Fyshwick, and the other at Bunnings Majura. Together we raised just over \$2000! We had a wonderful group of over 20 dedicated volunteers, some of whom even did multiple shifts. It was greatly appreciated. They were very happy events with lots of laughter, and good to see fellow members holding tongs and sauce bottles instead of racquets and balls :)

Some observations: tomato sauce is clearly the favourite sauce, but a combination of tomato and mustard was also popular; the "with" or "without" onion was split pretty evenly, and we fortunately didn't experience anyone slipping on spilt onion; coke was by far the most popular drink; surprisingly, cash was the more common payment than card; and some customers were extremely generous, giving donations or not requesting change.

Thanks again to the wonderful volunteers who put in a great effort for the benefit of all club members.

Bunnings' voucher

The club applied to Bunnings Warehouse for one of their \$300 voucher, and we were successful! We will use the funds to buy retaining wall blocks to improve the practice court. A big thank you to Bunnings – and watch this space for a Working Bee invitation – as we will need a few helping hands.

Honey donation



Thank you, Dan!

Dan Kennedy – one of our committee members – generously donated several large jars of honey harvested from his own hives – with all funds raised going to the club.

The bees are European honeybees, caught from a swarm in his backyard. They mostly feast on eucalyptus flowers and produce a delicious honey.

Court care and replacement



Clay court replacement

We are making our first steps to upgrading our clay courts to a hard all-weather surface. We have started discussions with Tennis ACT and a court building company. We received a rough quote of **\$52,000 per court** subject to the subsurface of the clay courts.

We arranged for cores to be sunk in both courts to find out what we were dealing with. The results have passed onto the court builders.

You can see we have a big job fund raising to enable us to make the hard courts a reality. Once we have sufficient seed capital we will seek grants from the ACT Government and Tennis Australia. **If you are interested in helping with this project – grant applications and fundraising ideas – please email redhilltennis@gmail.com.**

Grass court maintenance

You may have noticed the grass courts are looking great. This is because we've had them serviced with sand added and repairs done where necessary. Getting regular maintenance on the grass courts keeps them playing well and extends the life of the synthetic grass.

This fun ride-on contraption removes the leaves from the courts and evenly distributes sand with a heavy rubber mat.



This fun looking ride on removes leaves from the court & evenly distributes sand with a heavy rubber mat.

Member Protection

RHTC has a **Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO)** – what is that?

The MPIO is the first point of contact for members with a concern or complaint about discrimination, harassment and child protection issues. The MPIO can talk to members confidentially and give information about options and next steps. For example, information about what complaint resolution options are available to address your concern.

The MPIO is not a complaints officer and can't take a side, but by helping make sure communication goes to the right place at the beginning, problems can be solved more effectively for everyone involved.

RHTC wants to support all our members in the best way possible. We also want to raise awareness about respectful and safe behaviour for members while we are participating in RHTC activities.

Around the clubhouse you might see posters about the Tennis Australia *Safeguarding Children Code of Conduct* to give members some information about this important initiative.

You can find the Member Protection, along with other important policies, on our website under the Policies tab.

With the support of RHTC and ACT Sport & Rec, Julia Bridgewater received training to be an MPIO. You can contact her on: redhilltennis@gmail.com

Red Hill Tennis Club – Online shop



TOPS: Adult \$40 / Juniors \$36 CAPS: \$20

BUY ONLINE AT <https://play.tennis.com.au/redhilltennisclub> - 'SHOP' tab

**Please note that your shirt may take 4-6 weeks to arrive, as the tops are made to order when we have 6+ orders*