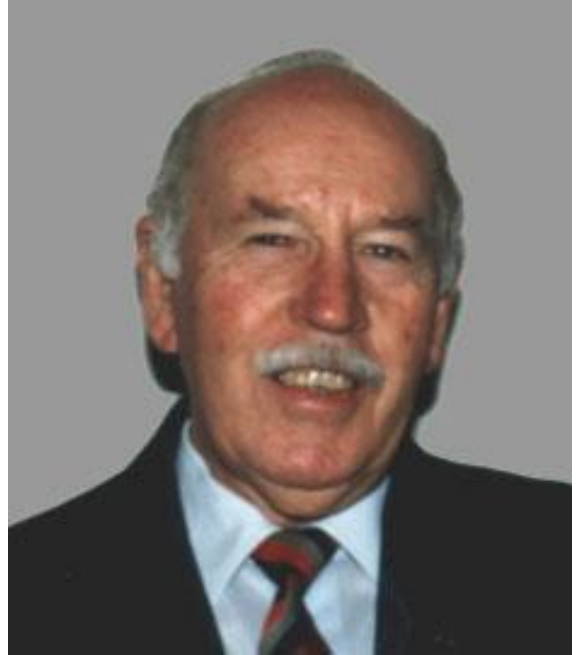


† Dean BILLING

**Tennis Seniors SA
Life Membership - 1999**

*“He had a fantastic impact upon those who knew him.
The most common sentiment about Dean is what a loyal
friend and decent person he has been.”*



Dean was a great supporter of Tennis Seniors, being Tournament Director, Treasurer and Webmaster (both for South Australia and Tennis Seniors Australia). Dean grew up in Adelaide where he gained his tennis coaching qualifications. He married in 1951 and moved to Melbourne for business but only for two years. He decided he would rather coach tennis full time and so moved the family to Warrnambool, where there were some beautiful lawn courts but no resident coach.

Dean approached secondary schools in the area and began coaching school kids. He worked hard to make a success of being a professional tennis coach. He then took on management of the local squash centre, which he later bought and expanded into a thriving health centre. Dean began organising tennis and later squash tournaments. He played squash well into his fifties before succumbing to knee problems but continued to play tennis into his late sixties.

In 1986, after over 25 years in Warrnambool, Dean sold the squash centre, retired and moved back to Adelaide. Within a year, he was elected on to the South Australia Veterans Committee and became tournament director for the next SA Veterans Tennis championships. He completed nearly ten years of service to the committee as Tournament Director or Secretary on many occasions that included serving 5 years as Treasurer. Dean competed in numerous veterans' tournaments—with great success that included representing Australia twice in the Britannia Cup. He also served as an Australian Selector.

In 1992 Dean was awarded a 'Significant Achievement Award' from Tennis South Australia. While Dean could not play competitive tennis after 1992, he continued as Tournament Director for many more Veterans tournaments. He bought a computer and set about conquering it, later becoming web master for the Australian and SA Veterans websites.

He received Life Memberships of Tennis Veterans Association of South Australia and Tennis SA also awarded him the Australian Veteran of the Year in 1999. In 2000 he received, to his great surprise, the Australian Sports Medal, acknowledged by HRH the Queen and signed by then Prime Minister John HOWARD and the Governor General, William DEANE. He was quite overwhelmed but thrilled to be recognised in this way.

Dean struggled with his health over the last two years but was determined to keep his mind active even when his body began to fail him.

VALE Dean BILLING who died on 13 November 2009.

Sources:

2009 - SA-VET 3. Sept. Vol 52

2010 – Tennis Seniors Australia website – ‘Tribute to Dean Billing - VALE DEAN BILLING passed away on 13 November 2009’

< http://www.tennisseniors.org.au/reports/2010/2010_03_Dean_Billing_tribute.htm >