

Malcom John BEDDOME

Tennis Seniors SA Life Membership – 2005



Tennis Seniors SA (formerly SA Vets Association) was very pleased to award Life Membership to Malcom BEDDOME for his enthusiastic and competent contribution to Tennis Seniors SA.

Malcom joined the SA Vets Assn in 1981 when John MEHAFFEY was still President and Pauline WARD was Secretary/Treasurer. It was not long before Malcom was on the Committee and served two terms as Secretary from 1985 to 87 and made a big contribution helping to organise night competitions – the Mixed Doubles which is proving so popular today. Malcom was one of the Coordinators during the early times of the very successful Tennis Seniors SA weekly team competitions.

Notably Malcom, with June RAVEN produced the first edition of SA-Vet in 1986. This magazine is still in production and keeps members well informed about events and issues associated with Seniors Tennis.

Even today he is still assisting with Social Tennis played on Wednesday Mornings at SPHTC.

His love of Vets Tennis has taken he and Dot on 10 trips to Australian Carnivals from Perth to New Zealand and all States in between.

Malcom BEDDOME is a South Australian thru' and thru' – born in Adelaide 5 April 1933 – went to Primary School at Westbourne Park and secondary school at Unley High School (where incidentally he first met Don PIKE).

When he finished school, he took on a type of apprenticeship which led to his qualification as a surveyor. He worked for Mosel * Co for several years before forming a partnership with his boss and two other surveyors. He had many country trips to survey country holdings etc. in the 60's – sometimes for several weeks at a time camping under the stars – a period of life he can look back on with some nostalgia.

Malcom first picked up a tennis racquet in 1994 at the age of 11, and soon met up with Wally FREEMAN (later SA Hardcourt Assn. Sec.) who invited him to the courts for a hit and a bit of coaching along with other kids. The best advice he ever received was in a letter from his father “to hold the racquet like a hammer and use both sides of the strings”. Malcom became interested in tennis and joined Colonel Light Gardens at the age of 12 and was soon in the senior team playing matches in the Uniting Church Assn. The club was alongside Reade Park Lawn Tennis Club and when they commenced junior promotion Malcom switched his membership for one season before returning to Colonel Light Gardens. When his family moved to the north side of town Malcom played a few years for the

Broadview Baptist Church which also competed in the Uniting Church Assn. Around this time, he met Dorothy 'Dot' SHORT, a girl from the Barossa Valley, and it was not too long before Malcom popped the question and they were married in Angaston on 26 Nov 1955. It has been a great union and next year they will celebrate 50 years of "married bliss!!

Malcom and Dot have 4 children – 3 boys and 1 girl – who between them have produced 7 grandchildren with another one due soon. The oldest grandchild is 26 years and the youngest 5 years.

After settling into married life and finding themselves living in the northern side of Adelaide Malcom decided to join a new club – Greenacres Tennis Club, where he continued to play hardcourt competitive tennis in the Northern Districts Assn. While at Greenacres Malcom had great satisfaction with Junior Promotion on the new courts. He advertised Junior Coaching – 5 kids turned up the first day – 2 of his won and 3 of neighbours – all dressed in white tennis attire. The following week 12 kids turned up and in no time about 60 kids were involved. He took up many positions in the Assn. from President to Junior Activities Chairman. Malcom and Dot moved to their new home in Upper Hermitage in 1977 and soon became involved in the local club which played in the North East Hills Assn.

Other Activities in Tennis:

Ball Boy – at the age of 14 years Malcom was a ball boy for the SA Open and the Australian Open Championships at Memorial Drive. Later he joined the Umpires Assn. and became a linesman for the Australian Championships and the Davis Cup in 1952. He remembers one occasion being on a service line when Lew HOAD was playing and sending down his "kick" serves which were very easily judged – until sent down a 'bullet', which Malcom to this day has no idea whether it was in or out (and is not taking questions on the subject either). On another extremely hot day in January when he was the head ball boy Billy SIDWELL asked for a bucket of water with lots of ice in it which threw him into a quandary being the first such request. When the bucket arrived court side Billy stuck his head in it on the change of ends, which shows how hot it was that day.

Most Memorable Moment:

When he was a ball boy, he found himself drinking tea with Harry HOPMAN, Frank SEDGMAN, Tom WARHURST and Geoff SEITH in the locker rooms.

Personal Choices:

Malcom is a non-smoker but likes a beer or wine occasionally. His favourite food – peanuts!

Favourite Players:

Frank SEDGMAN and Margaret SMITH from the old days – Lleyton HEWITT, Kim CLIJSTERS and Alicia MOLIK from the modern era.

Sources:

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