

Barbara MATHEWS

Tennis Seniors SA Life Membership – 2012

In 2012 the Tennis Seniors of South Australia (TSSA) Committee at their meeting recommended that Barbara MATHEWS be nominated for Life Membership. Helen SCHREIER read out a list of Barbara's activities and achievements to the committee members and subsequently all the committee members unanimously agreed that Barbara was very worthy of TSSA Life Membership that would be bestowed upon her at the 2012 AGM.



Barbara started playing competitive tennis in various South Australian country towns with the first being Crystal Brook, where she was born, then going on to play in Spalding, Port Germein, Chowilla Dam site and Coonalpyn.

In 1967, Barbara moved to Salisbury East, her last shift, where she played tennis for Para Hills and was rewarded with Life Membership for services rendered to the club over many years.

Barbara joined Veterans Tennis in 1985. Since joining, Barbara has played in the January Australian Championships Teams Events every year since January 1986, missing only 2009 with a knee surgery – some twenty-five years.

In 2012 Barbara carried our state flag in the opening ceremony for the Australian Championships that were held in Perth.

Barbara's services to the club were not just restricted to playing.

In 1996 upon Malcom BEDDOME's retirement she took over the Competition Coordinator role for the Mixed Doubles competition, for both Summer and Winter Seasons. Initially she undertook this role with her husband Ivan, but after Ivan had to retire owing to ill health, she undertook the role on her own. Barbara has only recently handed over this role to others at the end of the 2018 Winter Season, an impressive 22 years at the helm!



Over time Barbara has played in Monday Night Mixed and Tuesday Night Ladies competitions that were held at various locations including Glandore Oval, Payneham and PAC, before commencing at our Headquarters at South Park. Barbara has been in our State Team in the formerly held Tri-State matches and has on numerous occasions represented City in the Northern Areas and City versus Country matches, as well as the fun times at the annually held Berri Carnival.

Barbara has served on the TSSA Committee for many years, and the State Championship Committee, and the Social Committee to organise the Australian Championships that were held in Adelaide in 2000. Her most challenging endeavour was in 2004 when Joan YOUNG retired as the National Treasurer and Barbara took over. Our state was pleased as we still had a voice on the National committee. She retired in 2010 after six years of phone hook-up meetings and trips to Melbourne. Barbara always puts her hand up when work is to be done even if it is making Banana Cakes for catering events. As you can see from the above, Barbara certainly deserves Life Membership of Tennis Seniors for her dedication to the Association.

Sources:

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2012 - Helen SCHREIER