

John SCHLUTER

Tennis Seniors SA Life Membership – 2017



John Schluter has contributed significantly to Tennis Seniors SA's success and development as both a very capable administrator and his competent hands on attitude when work is needed. The committee is pleased to award John life membership of Tennis Seniors SA for his consistent and efficient contributions over more than 20 years.

John joined Vets Tennis SA (as it was known in earlier years) in June 1991 and became a committee member for the years 1994 and 1995. He was elected President for the years 2004 to 2008. John then became a committee member as Immediate Past President in 2009, and then again in 2013. He has continued as a committee member to the present time.

During John's years as President, Tennis Seniors SA dealt with a range of important issues, including two major issues.

One issue was very confronting. Older members will remember that the original 12 courts at South Park developed several large surface bumps during the early years of South Park. The surface was far from level and did not meet the standards required by the Consortium partners, tennis, and hockey. A prolonged, expensive legal battle took place to determine responsibility for the faulty surface. The legal process began before John's Presidency and continued into John's term as President. The legal process passed through an initial court hearing, and appeals in the High Court and Supreme Court, with the Consortium winning in each of these Courts. John was President when the final resolution was delivered in favour of the Consortium. Significant funds for resurfacing and legal costs were awarded. The duration of the court process would not have been easy times for all the Tennis Seniors SA committees that operated during these proceedings. John, as President, lead Tennis Seniors SA through the latter stages of the legal processes and had to take

responsibility for decisions made. These decisions were difficult and no doubt stressful to all involved.

The second issue mentioned here was a pleasing opportunity. A bowling club used to occupy the southern edge of South Park. In the early 2000's the Bowling Club folded. Tennis Seniors SA began negotiations with the Adelaide City Council and Adelaide Hockey in the early stages of John's term as President to develop the old bowling green for tennis and hockey, and to take over the club house. The negotiations were slow but successful. Courts 1-6 were developed with grant funding from the Dept of Recreation & Sport, and Seniors Tennis and Adelaide Hockey took over the lease for the club rooms.

In late 2008 Seniors Tennis SA had an outstanding Tennis Centre, with 18 newly surfaced courts and a large club house, all surrounded by attractive parkland trees and grass lands. In January 2009 it was proudly presented as the headquarters for the Australian Seniors Tennis Carnival and Championships. John can be proud of his role as President in presenting our new tennis centre for this major event and its ongoing home for Seniors Tennis in SA.

John has been productive in many other ways during his membership of Tennis Seniors SA, including:

- Coordinator for the weekly night team competitions from the late 1990s to 2004.
- Member of organising committees for the Australian Tennis Seniors Championships when held in Adelaide, organising and managing transport for the events.
- Arranging sales of used tennis balls to coaches and schools.

In all his Tennis Seniors activities John presents a "can do" approach, and an efficient "no fuss" attitude to all tasks he undertakes. John is widely viewed as the "go to" man whenever a problem arises, or a task needs to be performed. As a current committee member John presents innovative ideas to resolve issues and is clear and positive in all his suggestions.

John is a prominent member of the prestigious Left-Handed club within Tennis Seniors SA. He has a rocket first serve, a lollypop second serve, a venomous forehand and a lucky back hand. He is a competitive player and is fun to play with and against.

John - The committee thanks you for your many contributions to Tennis Seniors SA over many years and wishes you happy tennis in the coming years as a life member.

Sources:

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APPENDIX 1: John SCHLUTER – 'Acknowledgement of service to TSSA' – written by Rob CHAPMAN & tabled at 2020 AGM

John SCHLUTER **'Acknowledgement of service to TSSA'**

(The following was written by Rob CHAPMAN and tabled at the 2020 TSSA AGM)

John SCHLUTER has given remarkable service to TSSA over the 30 or so years of his membership and we should take a few minutes of this AGM to acknowledge John's enormous contribution.

Briefly John joined Vets Tennis SA (as it was known then) in 1991.

He began his administrative roles by joining the committee for 2 years in 1994 and 1995.

John was elected as President from 2004 to 2008 and continued as a committee member as Past President in 2009.

John rejoined the committee in 2013 and he has remained an active member of the TSSA committee until his retirement on 18 Aug 2020. During the last two years of this period (2018-2020) John took a leadership position again and acted as Chairman of TSSA.

John deservedly received Life Membership for his contribution in 2017.

There are many noteworthy contributions that John has made. We can mention some of these.

1. As President in 2004 -2008 John played a senior role in negotiating with Adelaide City Council for TSSA and Adelaide Hockey to lease and develop the old Adelaide Bowling facilities at Park 20 for tennis and hockey playing grounds.
2. In 2004-2008 John was also critically involved in a legal dispute that threatened the viability of TSSA and Adelaide Hockey. The company that laid the original carpet surface for the Park 20 complex contested their responsibility to repair their faulty work. TSSA and AH eventually won the dispute, and TSSA and AH gained an outstanding venue for their future activities.
3. More recently John was involved in achieving grants from ACC and Recreation & Sport for the recent court resurfacing of courts 1-6. In this process John was involved organizing the removal of the old underlay surface by TSSA members. This effort by TSSA members saved TSSA up to \$30k for this court surface replacement.
4. John has worked on Committees for Australian Tennis Seniors Championships in 2009 and 2017.
5. John's efforts in arranging the ongoing sale of used tennis balls have provided significant additional funds to TSSA.
6. John has provided overall leadership and advice to the Coordinators for TSSA's regular competitions.

The successful outcomes of John's many TSSA activities have not happened by chance. John's management approach is loaded with leadership, originality, and pragmatism. As many of you know John's professional career focused on education and if you share a glass or two of red wine with him he can tell very interesting stories of and some of the issues he has dealt with, particularly during both John's and Diane's early times as teachers in the far west of South Australia. His stories are very entertaining and illustrate his ability to identify immediately the source of a problem. His solutions to such problems are inventive, and effective. John has used the same imaginative "can do" approach to manage issues that have faced TSSA during his leadership times, and he is widely recognized as the "go to" man whenever a problem or task arises.

John has played in the regular TSSA competitions and Berri Carnivals for many years. He has always played with enthusiasm, fairness, and enjoyment, and he enjoys winning!

There is no doubt that John will continue to play Seniors Tennis and enjoy the excellent company of his many TSSA friends.

John - TSSA thanks you for your invaluable contribution to TSSA's success and growth over the last 30 years. Enjoy your administrative retirement and the coming years of Seniors tennis.