

Turner Tennis Club Newsletter

June 2017

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President: Giorgina Williams

Vice-president: Valerie Brennan

Secretary: Ann Landrigan

Treasurer: Peter Breugelmans

Committee members: Helen McDevitt,
Mike Taverner

Grading Committee: Peter Breugelmans

Membership Secretary:
Valerie Brennan

Permanent Bookings Officer:
Peter Breugelmans

Maintenance Officer: Norm Schram

Coach: Tennis Canberra

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Note from the President

As of 5 June 2017 we now have an online booking system live at Turner Tennis Club! What a momentous event – I want to thank those Committee members and club members who have put an incredible amount of volunteer hours into getting this system off the ground and ensuring members and non-members are well supported in the transition.

We are now one of 13 clubs in the ACT to have adopted Tennis Australia's Book a Court.

Consistent with our club lease conditions, the Committee made the decision to get on board to make our courts more accessible to our local community as well as members. The system will make it easier to book and play at night and the club will benefit from having hire fees paid up front, rather than randomly physically collected under the old system. We hope to see improved court hire revenue for the club which is important for our continued viability.

Of course, there have been frustrating aspects in the implementation and some will continue to be addressed, but we have made a good decision for the future of the club.

I want to acknowledge the sad passing of Alan Richardson, a long term member in the past of our club. Annette his wife was our President for many years and is a life member. Alan is remembered for his dedication to the club, its members and tennis. Many remember him as a wonderful gentleman. We offer our condolences to his family and friends.

Also in this newsletter we are able to report on club upgrade progress, our recent Trivia Night, Haig Park development community consultations and recent discussions with Tennis Act about future club support.

We hope you continue to enjoy your tennis at Turner Tennis Club throughout the winter months!

Memberships

Turner Tennis Club (TTC) is now using Tennis Australia's *MyTennis* to record and maintain our memberships.

We are therefore strongly encouraging all members to have a *MyTennis* account, renew your membership and maintain membership details online. Details are available on the TTC website. Please ensure your membership is paid up for 2017!

Vale Alan Richardson

Alan, who was a long time member of the club – joining in 1959, passed away recently. He is remembered as having given much of his time and energy to encouraging new members, organising social tennis and club working bees. Alan was a strong player and played at the top pennant levels, along with his brother Neil. He also successfully recruited good players to come to play in Turner pennant teams.

He met his wife Annette, one of the club's finest Presidents, at her very first day at Turner and together they dedicated much to building a strong community tennis club.

The club sends its sympathies to Annette, Neil, and family.

Coaching by Tennis Canberra

Our Tennis Canberra coach Robbie reports that Tuesday's coaching session at the club is going well.

The current coaching focus is on visiting local primary schools to promote junior tennis. Robbie is excited that this push is starting to gain momentum and with the appointment and support of a Schools Co-ordinator at Tennis ACT, he is expecting large junior turnouts for terms 3 and 4.

If you would like to join the Tuesday sessions at TTC, more information about coaching is at: <http://www.tenniscanberra.com.au/activities/turner-tennis-club/>

To book please head to: <http://www.tenniscanberra.com.au/book-online/>

Book-A-Court - Online Court Booking System

On Monday 5th June 2017 we went live with Tennis Australia's *Book-A-Court* (BAC). This online system controls bookings and access for members and non-members. You can find all you need to know at: www.tennis.com.au/turnertennisclub/book-a-court

With the introduction of Book-A-Court access is gained by PIN entry at the gate. Access by padlock key will be maintained for a short transitional period at the gate on the eastern side of the clubhouse, but key hire for access and lights is no longer applicable.

Hire via the Capital Chemist at O'Connor is therefore no longer available. An arrangement for help with online bookings at the Rugby Union Club (RUC) over the road from TTC is under discussion.

We have put together a list of "Frequently Anticipated Questions" which you can find on the Turner Tennis Club website: www.tennis.com.au/turnertennisclub/book-a-court/bac-faqs

All members should have received emails with information and an invitation to register for BAC on 2nd and 4th June respectively. The second email provides

the links you need to register successfully. Our aim is to have all current members registered and we still have some way to go! If you did not receive anything from us, or are having trouble registering, then please contact us via the club email so we can help you.

May 2017 Trivia Night

The TTC trivia night went very well despite having to contend with some staying away due to "State of Origin" football!

Just over 60 members, friends, local business and Tennis ACT trivia aficionados joined us for a fun and entertaining evening with the event raising just over \$900 for the club.

We are very grateful to the following businesses and individuals for their support of the event:

- O'Connor IGA
- PhysioSport
- Tennis Canberra
- Bike Culture
- Val Brennan
- Giorgina Williams.

Our special thanks go to the RUC for their very generous support in providing the venue and prizes.

A huge thank you to Committee members: Giorgina, Val and their team of helpers for pulling the night together.



Trivia night winners



Tennis ACT

The Committee was pleased to welcome Tennis ACT CEO Kim Kachel to a recent meeting at the clubhouse. We hope to participate in a number of upcoming Tennis ACT Club Forums designed to support clubs in building strong sustainable community organisations.

Pennant Competitions

Grab a few friends and go to the Tennis ACT web site for information on dates, times, and formats of pennant competitions. Prior to competitions, you will find sign-up sheets at the clubhouse or you can contact the club by email.

Club Upgrades

Your Committee has been working hard to progress a number of club upgrades this year. Our first priority has been access and lighting control hardware associated with the move to Book-A-Court. To complement the new gate system we plan to proceed with new perimeter fencing during the second half of 2017.

Other 2017 projects planned include: surface upgrades to Courts 3 and 4, and car park remediation.

You may have also noticed a new canopy on the gazebo and Court 3 net has been replaced.

A special thanks to Norm Schram, Maintenance Coordinator, who continues to spend many hours at the club solving problems, performing maintenance and making sure our upgrade program stays on track.

Another thank you to **Pink Tennis** for donating money towards the car park remediation project.

If you spot any maintenance issues, please email Turnertennisclub@gmail.com

Haig Park

TTC has been consulted in relation to the Haig Park master planning currently underway. We look forward to being a part of the development of this unique and amazing green space in Canberra's north.

Mike Taverner, TTC Committee member, recently attended a speaker's forum at the RUC and offers this reflection.

Did you know that all sulphur crested cockatoos are left handed? This is just one thing I learned from the ACT Government's speaker's forum on Haig Park.

As you are probably aware, Haig Park is the subject of much discussion by government and community groups. As leaseholders in the Park, your tennis club committee has maintained an involvement in discussions on the future of the Park. The RUC event was not specifically about the development of a new Management Plan, but it was an opportunity for the community to learn more about this important piece of Canberra.

I learned that the Canberra climate is changing. The global changes are reflected at a local level with a greater number of extreme heat events in which the maximum temperatures are increasing. It was stated however, that the trees in Haig Park are at no imminent threat from this – although its tennis players might be!

The Park was described as a 'biodiversity desert'. There is little food or habitat for wildlife although the Park is home to up to 12 species of parrots – eating acorns and digging onion grass. And of course there is our Powerful Owl who is

conveniently located between Mt Ainslie and Black Mountain to hunt his fill of ring-tailed possums and the like.

Have you heard of the Canberra Nature Map? It is an amazing site that enables you to find what has been sighted in your locality – from birds, to wildlife, fungi, arthropods etc., or, if you wanted to follow a particular species, this is also possible. Check it out - <http://canberra.naturemapr.org/>

An intrinsic feature of our Park is the 14 rows of trees. In 1921 there were just 12 rows of trees planted as a wind-break for the city. But in the 1950's, well-known forester Lindsay Prior planted an extra row on either side. There were originally 7,653 trees planted and now there are just over 2,300. The government has a like-for-like replacement policy and is working its way through the 23 species currently planted. The pin oaks are becoming rot affected and are being replaced; the big Lombardy Poplars are on the weed list and they'll be going soon. Pines have dominated the planting and re-planting over the years and many of these plantations now need thinning.

The photinias that surround our fences have survived as an original understory. The government tree-boss confirmed that as leaseholders, we are responsible for the maintenance of these.

Haig Park was not part of Walter Burley Griffin's original plan – it was the Federal Capital Advisory Commission who drew a green line of the map that led to our current Park. The trees seem to be the major heritage value of the Park and the new Management Plan is grappling with preserving these whilst increasing the recreational value of the Park.

There are still opportunities to provide input to the draft plans and until June 23 you can view preliminary draft designs and have your say – visit www.yoursay.act.gov.au/haigpark Draft designs will be released for public feedback later this year.



Suggestions and Feedback

You can always provide suggestions/feedback via email to Turnertennisclub@gmail.com