

# TOP SPIN



Sam Lee & Anne Hales enjoying  
the Winter Solstice

JUNE 2020

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello to all members and welcome to the Winter edition of Topspin.

Well it has most certainly been a testing time for us all over the past few months. The Club's committee made the difficult decision to shut down the Club during March in line with government directives in response to COVID-19. Thankfully, the restrictions were eased a few short weeks later and the Club was allowed to slowly re-commence activity utilising a staged approach, and keeping in-step with government requirements. And I am happy to say that, for the most part, the Club has returned to full "normal" operation. I thoroughly enjoyed returning to Social Tennis recently on both a Saturday and Wednesday and seeing Club members again after all the time away. It was great to be able to have a quiet beverage or two and listen to the stories of people's experiences during the time of lock-down. From discussions about working from home, to individual 'obsessive compulsive' behaviours, to mental health, alternate forms of exercise – I think the common theme was that when faced with adversity we do have the ability to adapt to survive. I want to thank you all for your patience and understanding during the period of shutdown. I realise it was not easy for you to give up your tennis and I do hope we won't have to return to the situation we were in. We must, however, remain vigilant in ensuring that we stop any potential spread of the disease through good hygiene practices and social distancing while we are at the Club. I implore everyone to please continue doing their bit so that we can all keep enjoying our tennis and most importantly keeping each other safe.

**Rob Nakhoul**

## AROUND THE CLUB

FPTC is very fortunate to have a band of volunteers who have kept the club running while it has been out of bounds.



Keable is often seen around the club either with a broom or paint brush in his hand.



Fred, Phil and Keable were on hand setting up the club house once Tennis West gave the OK to open up again and Michael got on with stocking up the bar.

Also, a big thanks to Andy who was tasked with handling a multitude of daily texts from members and the public with queries and the ongoing bookings of the courts.

Thanks to Osmond who took over from Andy and organised a box competition to keep members engaged and active.



*Another goodie from Peter Garvey!*

## SOCIAL REPORT

With the introduction of Phase 4 eased restrictions on 27th June I am sure all members are eager to socialise freely once again after tennis. We just need the weather to continue to be kind so that we can enjoy Floreat's physical and social activities.

This **Saturday 27th June** we have planned a Play N Stay which involves playing social tennis in the afternoon and staying for a drink and a sausage sizzle straight after tennis finishes.

We are also planning a Wimbledon Play N Stay on **Saturday July 25th**.

As The Wimbledon Championships have been cancelled this year we thought everyone could wear their "whites" for tennis and stay for strawberries and cream!

Play N Stays have been a tradition at Floreat Park Tennis Club for many decades as they are a convenient and casual way for members to connect after some social play or mini tournament of some sort without going home and having to come back to the club.

The Social sub-committee is always looking for helpers so please have a think about volunteering to help organise or be involved in some way, large or small in the social activities of your club. There are no onerous meetings to attend as we mostly organise things by email with the occasional get together to brainstorm ideas for the annual Christmas party. So if you are at all interested please see one of the social committee - Anne, Jan, Lesley, Antoinette or Denise.

### *Denise Cramer*



## PROPERTY REPORT

The Town of Cambridge has suspended the Club's maintenance payments during the Virus period.

It will be interesting to see how long this suspension lasts! Anyway it hasn't affected the Town's



maintenance program and members may have noticed that the outside of the clubhouse has recently been painted. This was done by the Town's contractors as part of the ongoing maintenance program.

Shade sails are down for the winter to avoid storm damage in line with Town policy.



Members will have noticed that the defibrillator is now located in a special box mounted beside the foyer door. The box was provided by the

Town as part of their plan to have defibs spread throughout the town. To access the defibrillator ring 000 ambulance, tell them Floreat Park Tennis Club and they will give you the code to open the box (and send an ambulance).

There are several other minor maintenance issues that we're expecting the Town to attend to shortly. We do have a very good relationship with the Town and find them very co-operative.

**Phil Nadebaum**

## COACH'S TIP

### APPROACHING THE NET

Approaching the net is a science and an art – here are a few key points:

- 1. Commitment** – the decision to go to the net MUST be made before the stroke is executed (the service or approach shot) and once made CANNOT be changed.
- 2. Placement** - where your service lands or your approach shot is placed will have a major impact on the outcome of your foray to the net.
- 3. Volley** – paramount in going to the net is the technical quality of your volley, especially the running volley.
- 4. Split-Step / Prop-Step** – this is a non-negotiable component of approaching the net and involves a complex combination of timing, balance and landing techniques.



- 5. Contact Point** – in the approach shot it is vital to take the ball as early as possible with a shortened backswing and using body weight for power generation. This makes for a better approach shot and takes time from your opponent.
- 6. Lines of Attack** – your direction of going to net is critical and varies from singles to doubles. Work on each separately.

If any of the above points need clarification or improving speak to any of the coaches and book a time to work on these aspects.

**Rob Casey**

# GWYNETH WHITE

11 June 1913 to 23 March 2020

In March I received an email from Paddy Ross informing me that an amazing lady who was instrumental in the establishment of Floreat Park Tennis Club had passed away peacefully at the unbelievable age of 106. Gwyn White was one of Australia's oldest people and enjoyed impeccable health up until the day she died.



I met with her daughter Joy and son Ian to chat about their extraordinary mum. At times I found it difficult to put into perspective Gwyn's age and the lifetime she had experienced.

Gwyn was born on 11 June 1913 in Claremont. Her chosen sport was originally swimming and diving and only took up tennis at the age of 17 when introduced to the sport by an interested suitor. Unfortunately for him, Gwyn was interested in his friend and became engaged

to Newton White at the age of 21 and married in 1936.

After Gwyn and Newton were married Newton being a tuck pointer by trade built a beautiful family home on the Boulevard which still stands today. As they both enjoyed playing tennis Gwyn and Newton along with a group of other interested people approached the council requesting approval to form a tennis club on the land where Floreat Park is still situated. As Floreat Park was only in its development years in the early '40's and had no state pennant teams Gwyn played at Subiaco Tennis Club.



Gwyn was secretary of the Women's Auxiliary- Women in Tennis in the mid 1960's for 23 years. Doing so alongside President Helen Walters and Treasurer Mary Ward, the group were responsible for an array of fundraising efforts which supported tennis in Western Australia for more than two decades. The long standing committee of dedicated women, was also credited with the growth of both the midweek shield and winter competitions of the early 1980's.

Gwyn won numerous tennis titles and accolades. So much so that Joy and Ian tended to become a bit blasé about their mum's achievements and noted her display cabinet was full of trophies. She was the first lady umpire in Western Australia and her husband was a Davis Cup umpire who officiated at the first televised tennis match at Mt Lawley.

In 1961 Gwyn teamed up with her daughter Joy and played A-grade pennants at Claremont. In the late 1960's Gwyn returned to FPTC and was Club Champion in 1966, 1967 and 1968. Joy says she get a bit emotional remembering playing again with her mum in the 1980's and winning the A-grade over 45's midweek pennants. "It was very special, I don't think mother and

daughter could've ever won two A-grade events," Joy reflected.

In 1973 Tennis Seniors was established which allowed Gwyn many opportunities to continue playing competitive tennis all over the world. In 1988 at the age of 75 she and her team were victorious at the Australasian Veterans Championships in Perth. She continued to represent Australia at many senior tennis carnivals throughout the world regularly beating younger people. In 2002 she travelled to Austria as a member of the "over 75's rest of the world team" which defeated the USA. (Are you counting her age on your fingers and toes?) She was aged 85. At 90 she toured Europe for six weeks playing competitive tennis and was still playing pennant tennis at 95 years old.



As well as tennis Gwyn played golf and regularly swum. Sadly in 1974 it was on the golf course where she was told of her dear husband's death and from that day found it too painful to return to the greens.

In 1997, Gwyn was acknowledged for her outstanding service to tennis in Western Australia.

Gwyn only hung up the tennis racquet at the age of 96. I asked Joy how a 96 year old actually played tennis. Joy said Gwyn was still able to move around the court and still had a strong serve. She had incredible ball placement. It was only a repeat of an injury that forced her to stop playing.

Gwyn only stopped driving at age 103 and credited her lifelong involvement in sport as the secret to her longevity. She said in a recent interview - "Sport I'd say and tennis mostly, because you're meeting up with people, you're moving, your mind and body are active and you meet a lot of lovely of girls,"



5 Generations

Tennis had been a central part of life for the White family who were founding members of the Floreat Park Tennis Club. Her son Ian is a life member and former president of Alexander Park Tennis Club. Her daughter Joy played tennis at ANA Claremont and Claremont Tennis Club.

Well known for her love of family which spanned five generations, Gwyn was mother to Ian and Joy, grandmother to six, great grandmother to thirteen and great great grandmother of two. What an inspiring outstanding and extraordinary lady!

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