

Presidents Report 2022-2023

REVIEW OF THE PAST YEAR

2022 was the **110th birthday of the Club** and that of the Ivanhoe Bowls Club, originally formed as the Ivanhoe Recreation Club. Well attended celebrations were held on Sunday 20 November 2022 to commemorate the significant milestone!

The past year has thankfully involved the return to a more normal focus on playing tennis, although the broader environment within which the Ivanhoe Tennis Club operates has continued to be difficult as we negotiate our way through the impacts of the Ivanhoe Sports Precinct Plan.

The Ivanhoe Sports Precinct Plan adopted by Council includes the loss of the two en-tous-cas courts at Ivanhoe Park, in favour of netball practice facilities. The compensation for that loss will hopefully be an extension to the Bowling Clubhouse for ITC use, removal of the old clubhouse and a couple of smaller courts suited to Hotshots and Pickleball at John Street.

The implementation of the Plan has been identified in different stages, including the replacement of the fences and associated walls at the John Street courts during the next Financial Year. Your Committee is working with Council to try and ensure these works minimise the disruption to court use or that alternate venues are available.

Other activities that the Committee has been working on include:

- Tennis Victoria workshops, President Groups and Club improvement programs.
- Continued reviewing and administering of Child Safety Policy.
- Ongoing maintenance arrangements for the John Street courts.

Thankfully the COVID 19 pandemic impacts have not been the dominant impact on the Club and we can begin to focus on tennis and Club activities.

TENNIS PROGRAMS

Monday morning's Senior's social program - run by Past President Barry Atkins is thriving. This Group is growing and welcomes newcomers to participate in what not only provides exercise but also an enjoyable social network.

The Club's competition tennis was extremely strong in the Spring 2022 Season with both the Women's Section 2 NENTG winning the Premiership and the Mixed Section 2 NENTG winning the Premiership. Perhaps it was the inspiration coming from the 110th anniversary celebrations!! Autumn 2023 was less successful as our Teams progressed up in the gradings into Section 1.

A new format is now operating in the Women's midweek tennis competition which provides for shorter competition days. This is proving very popular amongst the teams, who value the certainty of finish times. Anyone interested in participating in competition teams should contact the Club via email.

Coaching by the team at Tennis Works, including Jeremy Mackay, is running strong, providing a wide range of coaching levels. The Committee thanks Jeremy for his support and continuing efforts to deliver skills programs at the Club.

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MEMBERSHIP AND PAYMENTS for 2023 - 2024

Membership fees have been updated and members will receive a renewal notice in their emails on the 1st of July. The email will include a link to renew online for the 2023/2024 financial year.

There has been an increase in fees this year in response to the rising costs. This is the first increase in 4 years. The new rates include a court access fee in place of a separate membership and key fee. The new rates are:

Family \$275 per year

Adult \$170 per year

Senior (60 years and over) \$125 per year & **Junior** \$125 per year

Please note that as a result of proposed changes to the fencing, the Club will be transitioning to an automated court access system in place of key access. The timing of the fencing upgrades is not defined by Council but the changeover is anticipated during the next financial year.

The court access system uses the Tennis Australia IT Platform, and will provide a code for court access following a court booking being made. It will also provide transparency on court availability. With the exception of coaching and competition, access to courts will require a booking and code.

The system links back to Club membership payment and enables court bookings by members. This system also ensures details are up to date for insurance purposes and provides further benefits of affiliation with Tennis Victoria. You can read more about Tennis Victoria on the following link. <http://www.tennis.com.au/vic/>

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 7th September 2023 at 7.30pm is the date and time for the AGM to be held at the Clubhouse.

The purpose of the meeting is to report on the year past and elect office bearers to the committee for 2023/2024 year. Interested club members should email the Club.

If you would like to nominate yourself or another person as a committee member then please email your expression of interest to ivanhoetc@gmail.com.

FINANCIALS

The club's financial statement for the current year will be available at the AGM. We are pleased to advise that the bank balance continues to be in the black, despite the difficult circumstances and associated costs.

THANK YOU

Your Club is run by volunteers who continue to commit significant time and energy. There are five key people who have supported me in the role of President, Franca, our Club Secretary, Sarah, our Vice President/Assistant Secretary, our Treasurer, Carmelita, Barry Atkins, who runs the Seniors Group and Kasia Bestecki. Your work and commitment is outstanding – thank you!

This year has continued to provide challenges for the Club and I would like to sincerely thank all of our Members who have continued to support the Club.

We look forward to more hours of play on continuously improving courts and facilities at John Street.

Melinda Catlow President

June 2023

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