

## **Mt Beauty Tennis Club**

### **AGM President's Report 2022**

*Gill Harrowfield – 14 September 2022*

The Mt Beauty Tennis Club has continued to provide good facilities and various opportunities for social and competitive play for our members throughout the last 12 months. Once again, the Club has groups participating in social tennis on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings and on Wednesday evenings during the warmer weather. It also had four teams in the Kiewa and Talgarno District Competition, including a Section 1 team.

Our membership is 114, a small increase on the previous year. While it is the Club's policy to remain a very affordable activity for all members of the community, the committee has decided that there will be an increase in fees for the next membership year. A comparison of our fees with other clubs in the area (such as Bright and Myrtleford) indicates that the Mt Beauty Tennis Club is definitely the cheapest.

- Fees for the year 2022/2023 will be set as follows:
- Adults \$50
- Juniors 6-17 years and fulltime students under 24 years \$20
- Families \$120

We will also need to reintroduce ball fees. Members may remember that we suspended these during this current year because the cost of balls was largely covered by a government grant. Court hire will remain the same.

The Club Championships were held in April. Thanks to Andrea Moorman for organising this very successful event. Next year we hope to increase participation in this event by promoting the event earlier and by expanding the number of categories.

The Club has recently revised its business plan which outlines our projects, with appropriate costings, for the next five years. Top of the list is to replace our lights- to improve both quality and efficiency. Thanks to Rob Cabion for all his work on developing this very detailed proposal. While we intend to apply for grants, the club expects to contribute significantly to this project.

The Club has also updated its child safety policy to ensure that we are compliant with new government regulations. Thank you to Michelle Forrer for her work in this area.

At the beginning of this year, a new contract was negotiated with Geoff Hollow; this has given us the benefit of his coaching expertise for another 3 years. Earlier in the year, Geoff obtained a grant to run a weekly tennis clinic, for a period of six weeks, for all students of the Mt Beauty and Tawonga Primary Schools. This will culminate in a family tennis day to be held at the club next month. Thank you to Geoff for this initiative. Not only is it a great experience for the students, we are hopeful that it will generate more interest in tennis within the community and result in more memberships.

Our website, which Andrew set up last year, has enabled us to return to the on-line payment of fees through Clubspark. This has worked well with very few people reporting any difficulties. The website is now regularly updated to ensure that it more informative and reflects what is happening in the club. Thanks to Rob for this and also

for setting up google drive so that the club has a single, secure place to store all documents relating to club matters.

From October 3<sup>rd</sup> of this year, the courts will be locked when not in use. This will be done with a digital lock called an igloo lock. Members will be given a code to unlock the courts for organised play. For casual play, the courts will need to be booked using Tennis Victoria's on-line booking system. The club hopes to increase its revenue from court hire with this new system. Detailed instructions have already been distributed to members with the offer of assistance to anyone who needs it. Instructions have also been placed on the access gate to the courts. Once again, thanks to Rob for making this happen!

The committee is very keen to make the venue more attractive and inviting for both members and visitors– this is an ongoing project. Synthetic grass has been placed between the courts and the clubhouse, trees have been pruned, old signs removed and outside lighting improved. The huge tree has been cut back. However, it remains a big problem because of its close proximity to the courts and the amount of work needed to keep the courts and their surrounds clear of leaves and debris. The Shire's policy is that a tree will only be severely lopped if it is interfering with power lines. Unfortunately, ours is not. The committee has discussed buying our own garden equipment (such as a mower) in order to make maintenance easier. However, we are hindered by the limited space we have available for storing such items. The Shire has been approached for permission to erect a storage shed but, as yet, we have had no response. We will keep trying.

Rob, on the committee's behalf, is currently in the process of getting quotes for new signage. You may have noticed that there are already new numbers on each court.

The Shire has also been contacted with respect to drainage. Two Shire engineers attended the courts in December and spent considerable time inspecting the site. Ivan provided them with details of the problem, including photos of flooded courts. Although there was acknowledgement of the problem, we are still waiting on a proposed solution.

This year the courts were professionally groomed by Tuff Turf; the committee decided that this job was too big to be done by volunteers on a working bee. This should be done annually and is a significant item in our budget – further justification of our need to increase our fees. The courts have also recently been sprayed to eliminate the moss. Thanks to a team of volunteers from the over 50's group for this work.

During the year there has been three broken net posts. A big thank you to the Men's Shed for mending these promptly so there was very little interruption to play. Unfortunately, there is a structural problem with the net posts which will be costly and quite difficult to fix. The recent advice we have received is to live with it and deal with the situation if it arises again.

We have purchased new nets for Courts 1 & 2, the ball machine and the radar gun are working once again and, finally, we have gained our own access to the electrical switchboard. We have brightened up the clubhouse with some more up-to-date posters and had a clean out of storage areas.

This year Rob Cabion re-joined the committee. It is obvious, from this report, he has been very active over the last few months and has been a welcome addition to the committee. A very big thank you to all members of the committee for their hard work this year. Ivan, Mish, Claire, Andrew and Geoff have all been on the committee for several years. They, along with Rob, have continued to do a great job and ensure that the club is run efficiently and competently. We are a small, enthusiastic group but we need more committee members. If you know of anyone who you think may be interested, please ask them to put their name forward.

I would particularly like to acknowledge Ivan who is retiring from the position of secretary. The secretary's job is demanding. It requires an eye for detail, keeping abreast of all regulations, dealing with a lot of paperwork, communicating clearly and ensuring that the club has complied with all its legal obligations. Ivan has done a wonderful job in fulfilling all the requirements of this position - and more. Thankyou Ivan, you will be a difficult act to follow.

Finally, thank you to everyone attending this AGM and supporting the Mt Beauty Tennis Club.

*Gillian Harrowfield*  
*President*  
*Mount Beauty Tennis Club*