

## **Mt Beauty Tennis Club**

### **AGM President's Report 2023**

*Gill Harrowfield – 12 September 2023*

The last 12 months have been particularly busy in the life of the Mt Beauty Tennis Club -our first year since 2020 that has not been impacted by covid.

Our club is in a solid financial position and has a healthy membership. Currently we have 174 active members – a significant increase over the last few years. In part, this increase in membership has been due to a concerted effort to attract family memberships and as a result of several major events conducted over the last year.

The first of these was a series of workshops with the primary schools. These were run by Geoff Hollow, our former coach, and culminated in a family day held on a Sunday in October 2022. The event was attended by approximately 80 families and was a great success. The day consisted of lots of tennis activities and a BBQ and refreshments. Prizes consisted of local vouchers, club memberships and merchandise provided by Tennis Victoria.

This day was followed by an Open Day in November- another very successful event. Once again Tennis Victoria sponsored the event and we were able to award family memberships as prizes.

In March this year, the Mt Beauty Tennis Club was the venue for the KTDTA competition grand finals. Unfortunately, Mt Beauty was not represented in any of the grand finals but the day was a lot of fun with some great tennis. We got a lot of positive feedback from the participating clubs and from the committee of the KTDTA.

Our final event was the Club Championships held in late March. While the day was a success and enjoyed by all participants, we would like to build on this event next year and attract more entrants.

Thank you to everyone who helped make these events run smoothly. To all members of the committee who helped in preparing for the events, getting sponsorship and for working hard throughout the day, thank you. To club members who volunteered their services, thank you. To Mish, Claire and Adam Flemming for all their work with the juniors – thank you.

The club continues to offer a variety of opportunities for social tennis and competition tennis. The Over 50's and Thursday ladies group operate throughout the year. The Wednesday night competition operates throughout the Summer months. Thanks to Mish Forrer who has done a mighty job in running this very popular competition for many years. Mish

is retiring from this role and is handing over the reins to Jase Gentile in the coming season. Last season, the club entered 3 senior teams and 1 junior team in the Kiewa and Talgarno District tennis Association. Last year, Andrea Moorman resigned as the club representative on this association after holding this position for many years. On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank her sincerely for all her hard work over this time. I would also like to thank Paul L'Huillier for taking over this role and ensuring we continue to be well represented. I would also like to acknowledge Claire Lucas Gear who has organised the junior KTDTA team so efficiently – not always an easy task when dealing with young players and their parents.

In October, thanks to Rob Cabion, the club introduced the Clubspark on-line court booking system and the Igloo lock. It is hoped that this will provide an increased source of income for the club, particularly in the height of the tourist and holiday season. While, members are encouraged to book, they can still play for free whenever the courts are available.

The Club website has been improved during the year and is now the major face of the club. All information re the club can be found there. Thanks to Andrew for his early work on the site and to Rob and Paul for enhancing, maintaining and regularly updating it so that it accurately reflects all that is going on in the club.

During the last year we have revised several policies, such as Safeguarding Children, Risk Assessment, Code of Conduct and Life membership. The Club Business Plan has also been updated. This is important work as it ensures that the club is compliant with all regulations. These policies can all be found on the club website.

Apart from a few bumps on Court 1, the courts are in good condition. The club has a policy of getting the courts professionally maintained every 2 years. We have not had this done this last year but it will be happening in the next month ready for the new season of competition. The large tree continues to be a problem in Autumn. The Shire has made it clear that the tree will not be severely cut back and we have to live with it. However, we do thank the Shire for assisting in a couple of clean-ups during this season. Drainage continues to be a problem. Thank you to Ivan who has pursued this issue with the Shire on more than one occasion. Unfortunately, the problem remains but we will continue to persist. We have had a major cleanout of the clubhouse and created more storage space. The ball machine has a new battery and is ready for use.

Signage has been improved. The numbers on each court have been replaced and, after much discussion, we finally decided on a design for the new sign on the front of the clubhouse. We also purchased an

enclosed noticeboard for the outside of the clubhouse so that we could keep the windows free of clutter. Thanks to the Men's Shed for erecting these.

The Club has also obtained 3 new tables and seats. The money for these came from a grant from AGL. Improving the outside area of the club is part of our business plan– this is the first step.

An ongoing major project has been court lighting. Work on this project was started by Rob Cabion and continued by Ivan and Paul. Very recently we received the good news that the Shire will contribute \$26000 to the lighting upgrade. Tennis Victoria had already agreed to contribute \$20000 to the project. The overall cost will have increased since the original quote of \$46000. Fortunately, due to the healthy financial position of the club, we will be able to meet any shortfall - the project will definitely be completed in the near future. Thank you to Ivan who has agreed to be project manager.

At the end of last year, our coach Geoff Hollow retired. We have been really fortunate in obtaining the services of Adam Fleming. Adam coached throughout Term 1 and is preparing to resume coaching next week. He provides group and individual coaching and, next week, will conduct a holiday programme. We are very lucky to have Adam – many regional clubs do not have the services of a coach. He has been really well-received by both students and their parents – I have been approached by many parents wanting to let me know how delighted they were with Adam's coaching.

Mish and Claire have just finished a Women in Tennis leadership programme – another initiative of Tennis Australia. They graduated just this last weekend. Over the next few years, I am sure the club will benefit from all that they have learnt from completing this training. As part of this course, Mish and Claire had to commit to implementing a project within the club. They have decided to introduce a Hot Shots programme. This will cater for children from 5 to 12 years and aims to improve skills while enjoying fun, tennis activities. The programme will start a few weeks into Term 4 and will consist of 45-minute sessions. Claire, along with another member of our club Alison Kennet, have undergone specific training to run these sessions.

Sadly, in late May, we were informed of the passing of Rob Cabion. While we were aware that Rob was seriously ill, this did come as a shock. Only a couple of weeks before, he participated in a committee meeting on-line and maintained his interest in the Mt Beauty Tennis Club right to the end.

Apart from family, tennis was Rob's passion. He was gifted player and worked tirelessly for the club. Our sympathies remain with his wife Sue.

Finally, some thanks. Thank you to all members of the committee. We are a small but enthusiastic group who really do care about the future of this club. In particular, I need to thank 2 people who, while not retiring from the committee, are retiring from their positions of responsibility. Firstly, Ivan. Ivan has been the secretary for many years – often quite an arduous task. As secretary, Ivan was always well-organised with an eye for detail. His contribution has been enormous. A big thank you to Paul who took over as secretary earlier this year and has continued Ivan's great work. And to Claire. Claire has been treasurer for the last few years, keeping our records accurate and ensuring the club is financially secure. Thankyou Claire for a job very well done. The committee is very pleased that both Ivan and Claire will remain on the committee.

Last but not least, thank you to our members who often volunteer their services, whether participating in working bees, cooking the sausages on the barbeque or just being helpful and supportive members of the club. We look forward to another great year in 2024.

*Gillian Harrowfield*

*President 2022/2023*