



# THE SERVE



The Newsletter of the North Box Hill Tennis Club Inc. – June 2023

## President's Message



By the time you receive this, we will have just passed winter solstice - the shortest (& coldest) day of the year. Night competition is in between seasons and a few brave members are getting together for a social hit at night.

I am pleased to say that membership is slowly increasing as we get the word around that there are there plenty of courts free to play on. Our Sunday social groups and members are enjoying playing with friends. I will shortly release the court usage calendar, so members know what competition teams are playing on Saturdays & Sundays, so everybody has an indication of available courts for social practice. Please be mindful of Social play etiquette to allow as many members as possible to play. If

there are members waiting for a hit, then at the end of a set please ask any waiting members and see what arrangements you can make to allow them to play (even if that means that you have a break for a set.)

We have started to have some meetings with our Whitehorse City Council representatives to share with them, what we are doing as a club and our place in the community. With that, we are opening dialogue for them to understand some maintenance issues around the club, on council land - such as the hedges and the car parking.

It would be very helpful if everybody tapped their access card when attending the club (even if the gate is unlocked) as it will help in explaining our use of the courts and numbers that we are providing to Council. Please refrain from tying the gate open at that makes it too easy to not use your card. The lock can be snibbed open to allow access for competition non-members.

Please be aware that although we have a regular cleaner attend the club once a week, it would be very helpful for all players (Comp & Social) to be proud of our clubhouse facilities and try to be neat and tidy. Putting seats back around the tables, washing and drying kitchen crockery and perhaps a quick sweep of leaves and en tout cas inside the clubhouse.

We are on track with our 5-year Strategic Plan. There is a summary up on our notice board.

We will be planning a Working Bee soon that will be more of an opportunity to meet other members and committee and will arrange a social BBQ for helping volunteers.

Please feel free to contact your committee with any questions or suggestions.

**Dallas Newton – President**

Email: [dallas\\_newton@hotmail.com](mailto:dallas_newton@hotmail.com)

## New LED Lights



On 1<sup>st</sup> June, the Club received approval from the Council to install LED lights to courts 1, 2, 3 and 4.

The Committee has a preferred contractor to install the lights and once a number of technical queries have been resolved the new lights should be installed within the next couple of months.

As soon as the contract has been signed the Committee will advise the Members as to when the works will be undertaken and the court access restrictions. The work should be completed within 3 to 4 days and will be scheduled to keep access restrictions to a minimum.

## BDNTA Competition Results

Congratulations to those teams who made the finals in the recently completed BDNTA Autumn Competition.

### Drop Shot Divas - Monday Ladies Section 10

Lost Semi Final

Team Members: Linda Doblin, Rose Nunn, Michelle Allen, Sarah Elliot, Bernice Ham, Helen Nistico

### Yarra Firsts - Tuesday Open Section 6

Lost Grand Final

Team Members: Dean Birzenieks, Shayne Higgins, Travis Reddaway, Scott Kessler, David Kiely, Travis Reddaway, Bevan Smillie, Josh Smith, Troy Stambanis

### Gunners – Tuesday Open Section 12

Lost Semi Final

Team Members: Bernie Daly, Charles Philactides, Christian Doblin, Lachlan Nunn, Yai Pasakorn, Cheng Teo, Stephen Trafficante, Fred Van Gorp

### Youngish Guns – Thursday Section 8 S/D

Lost Semi Final

Team Members: Scott Ferguson, Eugene Hams, Nick Hams, Ben Matthews

The Club fielded 11 teams comprising more than 60 Club Members.



# Competition Tennis

Any Member who would like to play competition tennis please contact Dallas Newton at [dallas\\_newton@hotmail.com](mailto:dallas_newton@hotmail.com)

The Club currently fields teams in the following competitions:

- Blackburn District Night Tennis Association – Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights
- Eastern Region Tennis (Seniors) – Saturday afternoons
- Eastern Region Tennis (Juniors) – Saturday mornings
- Eastern District Women's Tennis Association – Wednesday morning/afternoon
- Tennis Victoria Pennant – Saturday afternoons



## Tennis Victoria Community Champion



Dallas was recently awarded Tennis Victoria's Community Champion Award for May (see attached article).

Whilst this is an individual award it also reflects the hard work and contribution by the entire Committee on behalf of the Club

## Thriving Tennis Tour Seminar

On 4<sup>th</sup> June Dallas Newton and Mark Langdon attended the "Thriving Tennis Tour" Seminar held at the Royal South Yarra Tennis Club. This event was attended by numerous Melbourne metropolitan tennis clubs.

Topics covered included:

- Your Club Experience – Successful Engagement with Prospective and Current Members
- Your Club, Your Vision, Your Plan
- Safeguarding Children
- Environment and Sustainability
- Grant Writing
- Coach Relationships
- Red Porous Court Maintenance

Dallas was also a Guest Speaker and spoke on the Club's experience piloting a "shared services" model with Tennis Victoria. Mark also won a \$500 Club Maintenance Voucher from Tennis Victoria to be used by the Club for the purchase of goods or services required by the Club.



# Whitehorse Sport and Recreation Reference Group

Mark Langdon has recently been appointed to the Whitehorse Sport and Recreation Reference Group (WSRRG) for a term of 2 years.

The WSRRG comprises 10 representatives from various sporting clubs in the Whitehorse municipality and two councillors.

The purpose of the Group is to review or develop:

- The Sporting Facilities Guide (licence terms and conditions of all seasonal tenant clubs and casual user of Council's sports fields and/or pavilions)
- Council's approach to allocations of Council's sports fields and/or pavilions
- Council fees and charges for use of Council's sports fields and/or pavilions
- The approach to Council's management of leased facilities

The Committee believes Mark's participation will allow the Club to develop better relationships with the various Council representatives as well gaining insight into the Council's strategy for the use of its recreational assets and how this may impact the Club's own strategic direction.



The Committee apologises for any errors when recently issuing the membership renewals.

The ClubSpark system has a number of complexities which are only apparent when trying to automate the renewal process. Apparently our issues are not uncommon and many clubs experience difficulties in the first one or two years of operation.

The Committee believes it is worth persevering with ClubSpark as it has many longer-term benefits especially as the Club grows its membership.

The Committee thanks you for your tolerance and understanding.

## Social Media “Guru”



The Committee is desperately seeking someone to assist with the development and implementation of its social media strategy.

Currently we are being assisted by Tennis Victoria to do this, but this arrangement will cease in 6 months.

Even if you are not an expert but have some knowledge of Facebook, Instagram and social networking we would be pleased to hear from you. Please contact Dallas if you can help.



## Facebook

The Club encourages as many Members as possible to join the Club's Facebook Group and contribute posts promoting the Club. Also, once the Club has more than 100 Members it gets access to a number of Facebook analytical tools and reports which will assist to promote the Club to the wider community. Please be aware that the old FB site is still in existence and will refer to our new site.



## Social Tennis

Social tennis opportunities are available on Friday afternoons at 2pm and Monday mornings at 10am. Also, Wednesday nights at 7pm between BDNTA seasons. The next BDNTA season does not start until the end of July so there is currently social tennis, every Wednesday night.

There is a \$1 charge for Friday afternoon tennis – for the purchase of new balls. Monday morning tennis is free and there is a small charge for Wednesday night tennis for the use of the lights.



If you would like more information on these sessions please contact Mark Langdon at [secretary.nbhtc@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.nbhtc@gmail.com)

There is also the opportunity to play social tennis on Sunday mornings. Sunday morning is free. If you would like to play on a Sunday morning please join the WhatsApp Group detailed below which will allow you to be notified when tennis is being played.

## WhatsApp Group - Reminder



We have a WhatsApp group (called NBH Social Tennis) to keep aware of social play opportunities (especially on Sunday mornings) and calls for emergency players when a competition team is short of a player. The Group currently has 40 plus Members.

If you would like to join please email Mark Langdon at: [secretary.nbhtc@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.nbhtc@gmail.com)

## Court Care - Pearlwort

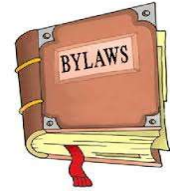
You may have noticed that during the winter the pearlwort weeds become more prolific. Whilst we regularly apply weed killer it is extremely difficult to control.

The problem appears to be worse between courts, more so than on the playing court surface. We believe this is because the area between the courts is not regularly bagged.



Therefore, it would be appreciated if you bag this area as well as the playing surface before and after play and between sets. Also, if you could physically remove any large pieces of the weed as this would be most helpful in reducing the infestation.

# New By Law



The Committee recently approved the following By Law:

For ERT, EDWTA and Pennant Competitions:

- Team Captains, or Match Convenors, will be responsible for supplying the balls, required for Home matches, and obtaining any reimbursement from team members. Balls may be purchased from the Club.
- The Club will pay the affiliation and registration fees associated with ERT and EDWTA Competitions and not require reimbursement from the team members.
- The Members of Pennant Teams will be responsible for paying all fees required by Tennis Victoria for playing in this competition.

# Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting is scheduled to be held on the 10<sup>th</sup> September. This date will be confirmed at least 30 days beforehand.

As well as presenting the annual accounts and electing a new Committee, Dallas will provide an update on the Club's Strategic Plan and future initiatives.

A free BBQ lunch and drinks will be provided as well as the opportunity to play social tennis.

Not only is this a good opportunity to find out what is happening with the Club it is also a good opportunity to meet other members.

# Join the Committee

If you are interested in joining the Committee and making an active contribution to the Club's exciting developments and successful growth please contact Dallas.

It is critical to the ongoing success of the Club that we have new Members on the Committee – so please consider joining and bringing some fresh ideas to the Club.

If you are unsure please consider attending a Committee Meeting as a visitor so you can get an understanding of what is involved and how you may be able to contribute.

We would especially welcome those Members who have specific skills in marketing or social media. Even if you do not want to join the Committee but would just like to contribute your expertise to help the Club please also contact Dallas at [dallas\\_newton@hotmail.com](mailto:dallas_newton@hotmail.com)

# Committee Members

Dallas Newton - President

John Dykes – Vice President

Mark Langdon - Secretary

Garry Cayzer - Treasurer

Barbara Lee – General Committee

Christian Doblin – General Committee

Judy Harrison – General Committee

Andrew O'Connell – General Committee



Tennis Victoria

## COMMUNITY CHAMPION OF THE MONTH: APRIL 2023

14 May 2023 | Tennis Victoria



Congratulations to Dallas Newton of the North Box Hill Tennis Club who is the Community Champion of the Month for April 2023!

President of the North Box Hill Tennis Club, Dallas is an engaged and passionate volunteer always looking for ways to improve. Dallas has utilised the Club Services Officer pilot for the NBHTC to assist with the integration of ClubSpark and building the club's Facebook and Instagram following.

Under Dallas' Presidency, the Club has engaged ClubMap services to support the club in a review of their committee structure and ways to be more efficient. This included developing a new Strategic Plan which Dallas uses diligently to track the club's progress.

After years of absence from the Tennis Victoria Pennant competition, NBHTC is back competing entering a team in 2023. This is a result of an increasing membership base and a testament to Dallas' drive to see the club represented at the highest level.

Dallas will be sharing his learnings on shared services/operating models at the upcoming [Thriving Tennis Tour](#).

Congratulations Dallas and thank you for your contribution to tennis at North Box Hill Tennis Club and across your community.