



THE SERVE



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

President's Message



Welcome to this year's first Newsletter. I'm pleased to receive many comments regarding the vibrant feeling around the club. With new members joining and a more active involvement in the club and use of our greatest asset – the courts.

In keeping with our club's Mission Statement "To be the best and friendliest place to play tennis", say hello to a new member if you get the chance and make them feel welcome at the club.

Many members are taking advantage of the facilities and it is great to see more players at the club and competing in competitions.

The Saturday ERT Team Section 4 S/D have decided to enter their team into the Pennant Competition. They finished on top of the ladder this year and will be playing in the Semi Final at home this Saturday 18th.

The Team is called NSAIDS and the members are: Brad Skinner, Adam Petersen, James Leong, Adam Borsaru (C), Mark Teoh, Neil Cameron, Darcy Petersen and Adrian Borsaru.

The Saturday ERT Team Open Sets 4 has also made the semi-finals. The team members are: Charles Philactides, Stephen Trafficante, Bernie Daly, Hong Guo, Cheng Teo, Francis Cheng and Fred Van Gorp.

Your Committee is on track to achieving some of our Strategic Goals earlier than expected (see later in the Newsletter).

There is more room for some night teams – 1 team Monday, 2 Tuesday and 2 Wednesday. Please give me a call or pop me a note if you want to field a team or join a team.

We have had a problem with water pressure lately due to an upgrade in Peter Street. So please be diligent in the watering of courts and their maintenance.

As mentioned previously, we now have an Instagram account in addition to our Facebook account. It would help greatly if you were able to follow the sites and like any posts and pictures.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter and I welcome any suggestions for improvements or ideas for future articles.

Dallas Newton – President

Email: dallas_newton@hotmail.com

Strategic Vision



Last year the Club received a \$3000 government grant to develop a 5-year strategic plan. The plan was developed by the Committee with the guidance of Clubmap who has developed similar plans for sporting clubs throughout Victoria.

A summary of this plan is attached and will be posted on the noticeboard in the Clubhouse.

Any feedback or comments would be most welcome.

New LED Lights



The Committee has received a number of quotations to install LED lights on Court 1 – 4. The cost of this work is over \$40,000 which is commensurate with what other clubs have paid for similar work.

We have been advised that we may qualify for an energy saving subsidy from the State Government and we have also registered interest in obtaining a Federal Government “Stronger Communities Grant.” The rebate and grant would considerably reduce the cost to the Club. A decision on whether we can proceed is likely to be made before the end of June.

Updated By Laws

**POLICIES &
BY-LAWS**

The Committee has recently updated the Club’s By Laws. A copy of these can be found on the Club’s website.

The main change is the introduction of a number of new membership categories.

New Member Offer



In order to attract new Members, the Committee has decided to offer one free can of 4 tennis balls to anyone who joins between now and 30th June.

The Committee is anxious to grow the membership as quickly as possible to ensure the ongoing viability of the Club and undertake the improvements identified in the Strategic Plan.

New Child Safe Standards



The Victorian Government has announced that the new Standards will commence on 1 July 2022, giving organisations time to plan, prepare and comply. The eleven new Standards will replace Victoria's current seven standards and principles. Key changes include new requirements: to involve families and communities in organisations' efforts to keep children and young people safe for a greater focus on safety for Aboriginal children and young people to manage the risk of child abuse in online environments for greater clarity on the governance, systems and processes to keep children and young people safe.

In response to the new Standards the Committee has developed a new Child Safety Code of Conduct which can be found on the Club's website.

The key message is that if you have a concern regarding a child's safety while attending our Club, or other club's facilities, please notify the President or other Committee Member as soon as possible.

Social Media



The Committee is currently working with Tennis Victoria to develop a social media campaign to recruit new members and generally promote the activities of the Club.

Tennis Victoria is also assisting with modifications to the Club Spark membership module to make it easier for new members to join and reduce the time required to administer our membership register.

We now have an Instagram account that will be used to post happenings and events at the club. At the moment, there are only 2 posts to encourage more members to the Club, it would be very helpful if you had a moment to "like" and follow the account as it makes it more effective for the club. (search North Box Hill Tennis Club).

Also, a reminder that we have a new Facebook site. It is North Box Hill Tennis Club. Unfortunately, there is our old account that we can't get Facebook to remove it yet. We would appreciate your help in making the site more effective by "liking" the site.

WhatsApp Group



We also have a WhatsApp group (called NBH Social Tennis) to keep aware of social play opportunities and calls for emergency players when a competition team is short of a player.

The Group currently has 40 Members.

If you would like to join please email Mark Langdon at: secretary.nbhtc@gmail.com

Thriving Tennis Communities



Thriving Tennis Communities is a strategy developed specifically to assist Clubs, Coaches and Councils to better understand the sustainability of tennis facilities, and plan together for the future.

The Committee is working with 8 other Whitehorse City Tennis Clubs and Tennis Victoria to develop a strategy to assist Council to:

- ✓ Create new or complement existing strategic plans.
- ✓ Gain insight into how venues are utilised and how the local committee engages with tennis.
- ✓ Inform strategic decisions and planning and forecast when support and investment is required.
- ✓ Assist projects, opportunities and discussions with key stakeholders at a local, state and federal level.

Court Care and Etiquette



The Club takes great pride in the quality of its courts. To maintain their quality and keep maintenance costs to a minimum please note:

- ✓ Courts must be bagged and watered from fence to fence regularly, between sets and at the end of play.
- ✓ Play **MUST NOT** take place on dry courts or courts with surface water.

Also please note that the Club Coach (Ian Peter-Budge), coaching service providers (Nima Tennis) and Club sanctioned competition play shall have precedence over social tennis.

Social doubles shall have precedence over social singles. Courtesy must be extended to waiting players if courts are all occupied – please use common sense if there are insufficient courts available.

Access Cards



When entering the Club, it would be appreciated if all Members could individually swipe their access card even if the gate is open or entering with other Members. This is so the Committee can gain a better understanding of the court usage.

This information is extremely valuable when the Club applies for financial government grants. The greater the court utilisation the Club can show the greater the success of a grant application or other financial support to the Club.

Recycling of Tennis Balls



Did you know that an estimated 10 million tennis balls are purchased in Australia each year? Unfortunately, at the end of their useful lives, all of them end up either in landfills or in our waterways, eventually working their way into the ocean.

To address this environmental concern, the Club has partnered with Game On Recycling (a new program by Wilson Sporting Goods Co and Australia New Zealand Recycling Platform) to collect and recycle tennis balls. From now on, you can dispose of your unwanted tennis balls in the collection unit to be located in the clubhouse.

All collected items will be sent to a processing facility in West Melbourne to be sorted into:

- Tennis balls that can be reused and put back into circulation, thereby extending the life of the product; or
- Tennis balls that have well and truly come to the end of their life and need to be recycled.

You can learn more about this exciting and innovative project here [link to your blog post or directly to Game On Recycling's About Us Page: <https://gameonrecycling.com.au/pages/about-us>

Tennis Shoes

Correct tennis shoes are very important when playing on red porous courts. The court surface is damaged by wearing the wrong shoes.

- ✓ Shoe soles must not have a raised pattern of any kind.
- ✓ Any indented pattern variation must not exceed 4 mm.
- ✓ Soles must be flat (no raised heel) with soft/rounded edges.

Herringbone pattern is the best sole to provide good grip on our courts. Most well-known brands stock them.



Correct



Incorrect



Incorrect



Incorrect

Join the Committee



The end of the Club's financial year is 31st May, and we anticipate holding our AGM in June or July. A new Committee will be elected at the AGM.

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.

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.

Tennis Trivia



Jimmy Connors was a winner of 8 Grand Slam titles and a well-known "tennis brat". It was said playing against Jimmy was like facing Muhammed Ali at 60 feet – you knew you were in for the fight of your life. Angelo Dundee, Ali's trainer, said that if Jimmy had wanted to be a boxer he could have made him a world champion based on his fighting spirit and aggression.

At the start of the 1991 U.S. Open Jimmy Connors was ranked No. 174 in the world and was a 38-year-old "living legend." He turned 39 during the tournament. Jimmy was 10 years past his prime at the start of the tournament. In 1990, he had played only three matches because of a wrist injury and surgery and had lost them all. He had no business doing much more than acting as an ambassador for American tennis by playing in the U.S. Open as a former champion and "wildcard" entry. According to Jimmy, even though he was a 5-time US Open Champion the tournament organisers never let him forget his 174 ranking and treated him accordingly. However, Jimmy was a sentimental favourite, and the crowd was overwhelmingly on his side in all his matches, which undoubtedly lifted him.

Jimmy reached the quarter finals and played Paul Haarhuis, who was aged 25 and ranked 47. Jimmy did not have a strong serve and had a flat forehand. However, his two handed back hand was incredible, and his return of service was fabulous. He also had a "never say die" attitude. He refused to accept defeat and gave it his all on every point of a match. This attitude is exemplified in one particular point in his quarter final match against Haarhuis - see the video link below. Some people believe this point was the greatest ever played in a Grand Slam event.

You Tube Link: [US Open Throwback: Jimmy Connors vs. Paul Haarhuis 1991 - YouTube](#)

Jimmy won the match but unfortunately lost to Jim Courier in the Semi Final. Jimmy won 8 majors but could have won more. He was banned from competing in the French Open for five years and only played in two Australian Opens, where he won one title.

Jimmy won a male record 109 singles titles. He has won more matches (1,274) than any other male professional tennis player in the open era. His career win-loss record was 1,274-282 for a winning percentage of 82.4%.

North Box Hill Tennis Club

Mission

To be the best and friendliest place to play tennis.
To curate a World Grand slam winner.

Values

RESPECTFUL: To respect every person and organisation that we interact with and in turn, to earn the respect of others for all that we do as individuals and as a club.

INCLUSIVE: To be welcoming & understanding to participants, volunteers & stakeholders from diverse backgrounds. We collaborate throughout our club.

PROUD: To recognise and celebrate our history and to behave in a manner that reflects pride in our club and ourselves.

PROFESSIONAL: To be a professional organisation adhering to high standards reflected by our appearance, actions and attitude. We constantly strive for improvement and aspire to be innovative and successful while always working within the rules.

ENJOYMENT: To enjoy our time together, be positive in what we do and provide a family friendly and safe environment in which to celebrate our success with all stakeholders.

Vision

- To increase the membership and cash reserve.
- To provide premium tennis playing and coaching facilities to attract and retain tennis players of all standards, from within the local community, by providing a range of social and competition tennis opportunities.
- To have a membership which generally reflects the demography of our local community.

Objectives

- Cash reserves: \geq \$50,000
- Membership: \geq 200
- Night competition teams: 24
- Improve the Club's facilities, incl.
 - ✓ LED lighting on Courts 1 to 6
 - ✓ Increased decking area in the front of the club rooms
- Enhanced Member engagement: via providing a range of social and competition tennis, as well as social activities
- Committee: reflects a general cross section of the membership

Strategic Plan

- Secure the future of the club with a viable and sustainable business model for years to come.
- Striving for best practice future facilities. Build it right and they will come. No idea is too big.
- Continue to strive for a strong culture and perceived brand within the extended community.
- Ensuring committee structure is a strong focus and a succession plan for turnover in place for sustainability.
- Create a thriving participation base for the future with targeted growth.