



Twilighters Report Season 2023

Twilighters enjoyed another season, the 43rd year in a row. The social get together and moderate exercise continued throughout winter and another summer season. 2023 was the first summer season I have missed since 1981. An extended caravanning holiday in Tasmania meant that I was away for six of the nine rounds. Mark Hamilton and Paul Marris demonstrated their leadership skills and the usual gang of providores made sure the boys were well fed and refreshed each night.

Summer Season 2023

The 8-team format was continued, and we were able to complete the season without any washouts. There were 71 active players enrolled and it was a bumper year for new members with 11 new and significantly younger members. Their enthusiasm was infectious, and they continued to participate in the off-season Wednesday nights.

The policy of providing no charge BBQ and refreshments was continued and proved to be popular again.

Courts 1-4 survived despite a few repairs and 5-6 were used as backups.

Cryptocurrencies were in the news in 2023 and we adopted the theme for our team names in 2023.

Trevor Pyman's IT skills managing the Twilighter member database and various advising selectors did their usual impartial job. The significant influx of new players created some initial confusion as their tennis skills were yet to be determined. Eventually 8 teams of 9 members hit the courts and appeared to be initially competitive. Some disappointing individual performances (you know who you are!) and unexpected injuries led to a wide range of match outcomes. The mid season team adjustments were only partially successful in balancing the competition and the two best performed teams fought out the Grand Final.

There was some controversy as rain interrupted play and the two remaining sets looked to be unplayable. An initial agreement to concede victory to the leading team at the time was rapidly reviewed when the weather subsequently improved. A combination of reneged agreements, sudden injuries, creative player ranking, and premature celebrations complicated a possible restart. The benign dictator, just home from Tassie, was summonsed to resolve the issue. Spirited advice from anxious team members was largely ignored and a final set was played.

The "Cryptocrims" led by Graham Spaul had a win over Stuart Holland's "Shitcoins" and verified their successful form during the season. Other members of the winning team were Joel Gniel, Dave O'Connor Ray Cross, Rob Robinson, Mark Dimech, Clinton Hartley, Roger Banks and Steve Scott.

BBQ Calamari and smoked trout via Steve Scott and Trevor Street set the scene for our grand final dinner. The main course of slow cooked smoked beef brisket and salads were prepared by Mark Hughes, the proud owner of a giant smoker inspired by Thomas the Tank Engine. Another gourmet dinner and lots of good, humored banter rounded off a great evening.

The "Golden Racquet" was awarded to a surprised Trevor Pyman who reminded all of the enjoyment and benefits of Twilighter involvement.



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Vale Andy Margetts and Mark Lowther

During the year we farewelled two active Twilighters who were also prominent in community service.

Andy (Graham) Margetts passed in August after a battle with cancer. He was very enthusiastic about the social Twilighter activities and attended many trips away. Andy was a founding director of the Pettet Foundation and maintained community service through the Park Orchards Lions Club.

Mark hadn't played for a while but regularly arrived with a fire pit and wood at dinner meetings to set up a convivial spot in front of the clubhouse. Mark was a popular local plumber and roofing expert and well known in our community, especially through his involvement with the Park Orchards Sharks. He was unfortunately injured while doing some landscaping work at home in January.

Both Andy and Mark will be missed by their many Twilighter friends.

Winter Participation 2022/23

Activities continued a little more casually after the formal competition with 4 courts regularly in use every Wednesday night throughout the year.

The senior A "Old Farts" led by Peter White & Trevor Street continue to play on Monday afternoons. They have a significant average age but manage to play competitive social tennis at relaxed pace.

Fast Tennis Championship, May 2022 and November 2022

Paul Marris and Mark Hamilton have continued their enthusiastic fast tennis competition with ever-changing and flexible rules. Brad Peake and Tony Gibson won in May while John Kulesz and Tim Shepherd took out the November competition.

Christmas in July Dinner (July17)

We actually managed to hold the dinner in July for once. Trevor street's smoked salmon, Steve Scott's calamari were our traditional entrees Mark Hughes excelled himself with a main course of pulled pork sliders. Paul Marris instigated a fastest serve competition using a special app and iPhone camera recorded serve speed. Paul also developed an age-based handicap system to even up the competition. There were a number of spurious results, none weirder than having Neil Clark declared as winner. The iPhone apparently had been hacked by the Russians and altered the results to favor the nearest Vladimir Putin look alike.

Christmas Dinner (Dec 7)

Continuing the international theme, we engaged the "Flying Wok" caterers to provide the food for our Christmas Dinner. A 3 course Asian inspired meal was cooked on the spot including the much-anticipated banana fritter dessert. Around 60 enthusiastic diners had a great night, celebrating departure from Covid restrictions and the luxury of not having to prepare and serve our usual dinner.

The real workers

The success of the Twilighters is driven by the many volunteers behind the scenes who ensure each Wednesday night happens without fuss. A big thanks to the team of Trevor Street, Rob Ellis,



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Bob Britton, and Peter White who have managed Twilighter social needs brilliantly throughout the year. Trevor Pyman has applied his IT skills to managing our database and simplifying administration.

The selection advisory panel of Tony Gibson, Trevor Street, Trevor Pyman, Craig Jobson, Mark Hamilton and Paul Marris sacrificed their own chance at glory by failing to be in the winning team.

The enthusiasm and positive comments expressed by our 11 younger new members was appreciated by the older guys and hopefully indicates that Twilighters will continue for many years.

Tony Gibson
Twilighters Convenor