



President's Report

for the AGM 22 October 2023

by Sue Willis

Reid Tennis Club has continued to grow from strength to strength. Feedback about the club suggests that the key positives to our popularity include:

- high standard of courts
- ease of book a court for access
- upkeep of grounds and picturesque surrounds
- welcoming and friendly community and
- location.

Membership

Membership as follows:

30 June 2023 – 304 members

30 June 2022 - 309 members

30 June 2021 - 260 members

30 June 2020 - 200 members

Reid has been holding an average of 300 over the last two years. What has changed has been the age groups. Over the last few years our younger membership has changed. We now have about one third of our members under 35. On the other end of the spectrum, 12 of our members are over 80 which reinforces that tennis is a game for life.

Finances

We have an impressive performance for the year to date. Membership revenue for the year to date is tracking slightly lower than the average of the past 4 years. Court hire revenue is tracking higher.

Significant expenditure has mainly related to ACT rates, shade structures and the kitchen and bathroom renovation.

Maintenance

A tennis club only operates if we have keen volunteers. Hours and hours of our volunteers' time is spent maintaining the courts to ensure that our club is inviting to members and visitors. Nets, fence repairs, root issues, the hitting wall, painting, gardening, lawn mowing, plumbing, putting out garbage and cleaning are all key to ensure our club remains well kept. Also, the numerous phone calls and queries about court bookings and competition are all a part of ensuring we have satisfied members and visitors.

Our Committee and Volunteers

Thank you to our committee and volunteers for their highly valued support and efficiency. I know there are many people who put in time and effort. I have set out below the names of our committee members and volunteers who have made a substantial difference.

Terry Walker

The friendly face and initiator of many maintenance jobs that require attention – thank you Terry. Terry has liaised and negotiated with contractors for work maintenance issues that has required tact and diplomacy. We value Terry's approach and wisdom to ensure that the work is achieved, often under difficult circumstances and positive relationships with our contractors are maintained.

Terry's tennis form has also not gone unnoticed! His outstanding performance in the ITF tournament at Easter when playing in the 75 singles against Herbie Chee was exceptional. It was also noted how he was willing to carry my brother Peter Willis in the men's doubles. Thank you to Carol for allowing Terry to call Reid Tennis Club his second home.

Michael Poole

The quiet achiever – working behind the scenes. Thank you for your IT skills and hours you spend managing the court bookings. I know you also do a lot of jobs around the courts – particularly in autumn! Michael is always happy to provide support and we appreciate his willingness to help. Thank you for your help in the smooth running of the club.

Phil Bignell

Thank you to our Treasurer. Phil has ensured that our financial situation is secure and that we in a position to manage our long term obligations for court and club maintenance. We can be confident that Phil's reports are accurate and clear and that he keeps an eye on our

decision making to ensure it is in the best interests of the club and its members. Your expertise is appreciated.

Peter Willis

Our very reliable Secretary, Peter has been a huge contributor to Reid Tennis Club in many ways. It is not only because he lets his opponents win, so that they come back but also his willingness to lend a hand with maintenance, numerous book a court queries, managing lighting issues, helping with nets and our BBQ king for our social events.

Tony Reidy

Thank you to Tony for his efficient manner in managing the leagues competition. It is a big job and a very important one. Tony manages putting teams together, coordinating players, booking courts, distributing balls. He is always courteous and friendly. Tony has been asked to be on the ACT Tennis league committee which speaks volumes in his judgement about tennis competitions and the value of his experience in this space. We appreciate your support.

Michele Grant

Thank you Michele for your hard work as membership secretary. Michele's enthusiasm for tennis and her competence in the role ensures that members have a positive experience when they hear from Michele as their first point of contact. Michele has also been key in helping organise our Sunday afternoon social tennis, welcoming visitors and ensuring our process of membership sign ups and renewal is a positive and efficient one.

Congratulations to Michele too as a Tennis ACT Volunteer of the Year finalist. A very close runners up this year... or tie breaker to Narelle Sykes from Melba!

Neil Lynch

A long term committee member which is so valuable in a club. Neil is always willing to take up jobs that require some background knowledge and research skills – eg the Constitution. His experience and wisdom is appreciated. Thank you!

Brian McFarlane

Thank you to Brian for your committee work. Also thank you for managing our Leagues until Tony was in a position to take up the job. We appreciate your input and support. We also

hope that you are careful on the ski slopes in the future, so that we can have you back full time on the tennis court.

Keith Croft - our volunteer extraordinaire

Where would we be without Keith Croft. Keith can fix anything. A strong social player who is only too keen to help us make the club look good. His initiative in the finer details is so appreciated. Who else could have painted that wonderful net measurer and hung it beautifully centred on courts 1 and 2. I know I did not have to check the height as Keith is a perfectionist. His work is so appreciated by the club.

Ian Warden

Thank you! Without Ian we would not have our beautiful garden that is a centrepiece of our courts and surrounds. What a pleasure it is to walk to the clubhouse and admire the flowers of the season. Each season there is a different display. I cannot say enough about the comments from members and visitors about the beautiful flowers – our Floriade!

Sally Wilson

Sally is a trooper. Thank you to Sally for pushing that lawn mower around the clubhouse for hours on end. Not only mowing but raking for hours as well - so much appreciated - Sally even mows and rakes with a smile!

Jeremy Wilcox

Thank you to Jeremy for his willingness to mow the lawns with his ride- on mower. What a difference it has made to the club! Community support like this is hugely appreciated.

Upgrades

The new kitchen and bathroom renovations

Our kitchen has now been finished with wonderful feedback from our members and visitors. Significant expenditure has been mainly related to the bathroom and kitchen renovations

including asbestos removal, \$1177, kitchen laminate, \$1710, cabinets \$2162. Thank you to our committee for their support in managing this upgrade.

The new shades

The new shade structures completed earlier this year have added to our court settings. Thank you to Pioneer Shades, owned by May Howard's sons. May was a prominent former female player in Canberra and helped us organise a quote as a priority. Since our shades have been constructed both Melba and Forrest have shown interest. Our days of blown over umbrellas, broken umbrellas and hours trying to repair them are over. The shades look attractive and are practical. A well spent \$7000.

The hitting wall

'Touchdown' a company owned by our member Justin Ryan was engaged to clean up our hitting walls. Thank you to Justin for his initiative in identifying the need for us to upgrade our hitting wall to make it more playable for members and visitors. The work has improved our hitting walls on both sides and added a few years to having to address a longer term action plan. At the same time, Justin took the opportunity to remove leaves from the roof and fix long overdue guttering problems.

Events

Xmas Party

Our Xmas party last year was a great success. Thank you again to committee members, particularly Michael and Ann Poole for organising the letter box drop. Families from Reid Residents as well as the club members enjoyed the event and the benefits of bringing community together.

Tennis ACT 100 years

The event was held in March at the Arboretum. Reid Tennis Club were well represented through a Club table and enjoyed the night. The club featured in the overall history of the 100 years as it was one of the earliest clubs in Canberra – founded in 1928.

Charlie Boag's Blazer

Thank you to Terry Walker for organising the historic Charles Boag's blazer which is now on display in the clubhouse. The blazer was worn by Charles Boag (1915/2008) OAM, in Florida, USA in 1982. Charlie was an outstanding volunteer and administrator of the club, along with his wife Jean for over 50 years. Preserving the history of the club and its players is an important part of the culture of Reid. Reid Tennis Club would not be the Club it is today without the hard work of players of the earlier days.

Wimbledon Day

During Wimbledon, Reid Tennis Club enjoys the opportunity to celebrate the event with our own Wimbledon. Players turned up in their whites and we shared strawberries, cream and even a glass of pims!

Mothers' and Fathers' Days

On each of these days we ask all members who have had a mother or a father to come and play. Again, it is another way of having a fun event and building community.

Timor Leste Kids' Tennis (TLKT) Fundraiser Function

One of members, Sarah Johnston, asked Reid Tennis Club to be involved in the fundraiser for the kids in East Timor. We collected and donated racquets, grips and balls towards a shipment for the TLKT. Again, Reid Tennis Club were well represented on the night. For the silent auction, one of our talented members, Lois Slattery kindly donated a mosaic pot. Sally Wilson also kindly organised the flowers for the tables. The event raised over \$7000 to allow the children of East Timor to participate in additional tennis programs. What a wonderful member to have in our tennis community.

Social Tennis- every Sunday

Our social tennis continues to grow. The tennis allows players to meet others and if appropriate to be graded for leagues. We now have 4 courts of players each week. Social tennis is not just about players. For those who can no longer play or are injured, it provides a social event to ensure that players are still connected to the club.

Coaching

Robbie Manzano at Tennis Canberra is our coach at the club. Every Wednesday coaching sessions are provided by coaches from Tennis Canberra for players from after school through to early evening sessions.

Arina Yakovtseva also coaches throughout the week as an independent and in agreement with Tennis Canberra.

The passing of Gordon Robson

We lost a number of our members over the year. However, this report would not be complete without mentioning how sad it was to lose one of our oldest members, Gordon Robson. Gordon had his 90th birthday celebration at the club and then weeks later was diagnosed with a terminal illness. We miss his wonderful attitude and his big forehand!

Gordon's long life certainly proved that tennis can add an extra 10 years at least to life. We hope to have many more 90th celebrations at the club.

Thank you to all committee members, players and their families for your contribution to Reid Tennis Club.

Advantage receiver!

Sue Willis

President

22 October 2023