

President's Report for St Mary's Tennis Club AGM 2022

Welcome to another AGM – the 66th for our great club.

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the passing of Life Member and former president of the club Owen Doyle. Owen provided many great years of service both on and off the court including his work on the committee. Owen was instrumental in establishing the Kalparrin courts in the early eighties. He was a club champion and was a supporter of the club even in his final years. One of his greatest legacies was his family and all of them have (or are continuing to) play for the club. His funeral was a fitting sendoff for someone who has made a significant contribution to the community and in particular this club.

Sadly, Owen was not the only member of the Doyle family who died earlier this year. I would also like to acknowledge the passing of his eldest daughter, Mary Doyle a past member of the club.

The committee term started with the continuing impact of the COVID lockdowns on the club. Competition seasons were cancelled and there were limitations on using the courts. Despite all the problems the pandemic has brought, the club is still in a strong financial position and, as you will hear in the Treasurer's Report, we still have a sinking fund for emergencies. It looks like the worst is over, but we must remain vigilant to ensure the club is a safe place for members and visitors.

The committee took the decision to extend the membership year to cover the time where we couldn't use the courts. This has allowed us to change the way we handle memberships. Instead of having one common due date, this will now be a rolling process where new members will have their renewal due a year from when they sign up. This will make the process much more streamlined for our membership manager. For another year, the committee decided not to increase the membership fee.

One of the major problems the club faced was the vandalism of the courts last year. We had thieves take our sprinkler heads and cause significant damage to the courts which cost the club just over \$8000 to fix (thankfully insurance covered part of the cost). As a response to this we have changed our sprinkler heads to a plastic version to be less appealing to thieves. We have also upgraded our security camera to assist with catching those who look to break into our club.

The AGM gives us a chance to present our new five-year strategic plan for the club. A couple of months ago, a group consisting of the committee and select members reviewed the previous plan and discussed the future direction of the club. This plan will help with the roadmap going forward and I will speak to it separately in this meeting. The key thing to remember is that it is an evolving document and the committees in the years to come can and should adjust goals as necessary.

This coming committee term will allow us to move forward and start working through the strategic plan. A key focus as always will be on memberships and marketing. We will also continue to find efficiencies in our administration where we can. The club has been working with the Parish on a plan for the refurbishment of the Church Courts in the short to medium term. These courts haven't been touched since they were installed in 2005 so it's time to plan for the future. Fortunately, the club has been contributing to a Parish court maintenance fund for this contingency. The process of quoting etc won't occur for another year or two.

The Committee intends to run the Club Championships and reintroduce the Christmas Party at the end of this year. I'd like to thank Sharna McCabe for her initiative to recognise long term members with a small token of appreciation. This will be a start of the process of improved member recognition.

The club continues to have strong relationships with our external stakeholders. Banyule Council, Tennis Victoria, Tennis Australia, our competition associations and St Mary's Parish. All have continued to provide exceptional support across this year. It's important to maintain these relationships well into the future and I thank them all for their support.

We have made a change to the management of our junior competitions, such an important part of the club. I would like to thank Ryan Siede for his many years of hard work in this area. It isn't an easy job as we have teams involved in three different associations on three different days, especially during COVID and having to work around the ever changing conditions so thanks Ryan for all that you've done. We decided to split the role again with Craig Haslam looking after the ERT junior teams on a Sunday, Corlis Byrne coordinating the teams for the NEJTA Saturday morning competition and Shareen Bottrell assisting with the sole DVTA Friday night team. Thanks to all of you for your support. There has been a healthy increase of junior teams and players particularly on a Sunday morning.

Thanks also to our other competition coordinators. Adam Pendry for NENTG, John Rayner for DVTA senior teams and Kim Hill for HDTA Tuesday morning.

Craig Haslam continues to do a great job with the coaching program and numbers appear to have stabilised after all of the interruption over the past few years. Thanks for all of your work in this area Craig. We continue to see plenty of coaching participants moving into the junior ranks.

Thanks to the committee for all of their work in what has been another COVID affected term. Thanks to Sharna McCabe, Helen Pendry, Peter Cantwell, Adam Pendry, Martin Pendry, Peter Bannan, Peter Reilly and Kim Hill. Kim will be stepping down from the committee but I'm pleased to say she will be staying on as membership manager. Thanks for all of your work on the Committee over the years Kim!

It's been another successful year in our competition tennis. Congratulations and well done to all of you who have represented the club. Thanks to all of our social players and members and the parents of all of our junior players – a special welcome to those of you who have joined the club recently.

And finally, a quick note to say my time as President is slowly coming to an end. I will be re-standing for another term this year but with a firm view to putting in a succession plan for coming years. I've been doing the job for 13 years so time for some fresh faces and voices to move the club forward. More details on this in due course.

Enjoy the next year out on the court!

Peter Marcato
President

COACHING REPORT - AGM 2022

Introduction

It is always a pleasure to be involved in the development of SMTC. The club members are very lucky to have such an energetic, skilled and "can do" committee looking after their needs and striving to make the club better for all participants. I will continue to work closely with the committee as we strive to make SMTC the premier club in our region.

The past 12 months we have gradually been able to move out of the Covid restrictions and while Covid has still had a significant impact on students and coaches we have been able to work through it and are currently able to offer all programs.

Junior Convener

I have also taken on the ERT Junior Convener position. It has been nice to be closely involved with the parents and competition kids at the club and it has been a successful winter season to date (see ERT Junior Report for more details)

SMTC Pathway to Competition

With all of the various competition formats and days offered we have been able to accommodate everyone interested in junior (& senior) competition. This season we were also able to transition a few juniors to various senior teams.

New for 2021 & Ongoing Programs

With all of the lockdowns it has been very hard to gain momentum with new programs. We have been able to start up a few promotional programs and will continue to add them to the calendar.

Programs we have been able to re-introduce

- AO kids on court
- AO Coin toss
- New in School Programs – Positive Start

The Capture and Diversity of Programs

I continue to keep the Club and Coaching Program well respected in the community. The diversity of programs offered by The Tennis Guru at SMTC creates the best possible opportunity to attract participants to the club as they offer "something for everyone".

- Junior Group Coaching
- Squad Training
- Adult Groups
- Cardio Tennis
- Private Lessons
- School Holiday Clinics



tennis coaching and competitions for all ages and abilities

General Club and Coaching Promotion

I have assisted SMTC in its attempt to capture more members/participants from the local & surrounding community. I promote both the coaching program and SMTC at schools, fetes & community events in the local area. Some examples:

- In-school promotion.
- Program Flyers: Estimated coverage 3000 local families with SMTC logo & details on them
- Fundraising Events: Donated Coaching Vouchers to a number of community events
- Client Emails: Promotes all SMTC events, competitions & membership offers to current and former coaching families
- Website – I continue to manage a professional online presence

Grants

I continue to assist the club with other sources of external funding. I have applied for many of the grants coming out of Covid but have not been successful to date. If there is ever a promotion or grant that could assist the coaching program or the club I will always make the effort to apply.

Lobbying for Club Opportunities

I work closely with Tennis Victoria, Tennis Australia and local associations to improve participation in tennis. I have put a great deal of effort into these discussions so that SMTC has products to attract new members.



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Junior Competition Report 2022

DIAMOND VALLEY TENNIS ASSOCIATION

2021 Spring Season

A modified season commenced November 5th playing through to December 17th with no finals. We fielded 2 teams – Sec. 3 & Sec. 4 who both had very good results.

2022 Autumn Season

Only one team competed this season (Sec. 4) making through to the Semi-final.

EASTERN REGION TENNIS (Craig Haslam)

I was given the honour of being the ERT Junior convener at the start of the winter season. Ryan Siede had done an amazing job keeping the competition and teams in tact through the difficult Covid interruptions. So, I was handed the teams in good shape.

The ERT is a significant percentage of our junior teams based on the fact that they offer Sat & Sun morning and also a variety of formats such as:

Junior development – Orange & Green Ball

Junior Open Singles & Doubles formats (based on standard not sex)

Rubbers – 2 player formats

All of these different formats make it easier to groups players in teams that suit their age and experience.

The downside of the ERT is that we have to travel further than in the NEJTA and DVTA.

Covid-19:

Covid is still a factor and it makes fielding teams each week an ongoing struggle.

Team Managers & Procedures

Each team has a parent who has stepped up to be the team manager and they have done an amazing job with their respective teams this season

We have given each team member and team manager a number of documents that we hope have helped them get started and continue to manage the teams ongoing.

Coaching Program & Pathway to Junior Competition

We gained a lot of momentum coming out of lockdown with many new juniors joining teams. The advantage of the different ERT formats has allowed us to feed players into the competition at various levels. So we really have an option for almost anyone.

2021 Winter Season

As mentioned in last year's Report we had 7 teams competing but unfortunately due to COVID restrictions the season was canceled just after the halfway mark.

2021-22 Summer Season

A late starting date but still managed to complete a full season with finals. We fielded 6 teams Saturday - JDC 6 Green & Sunday – Rubbers 4, Boys 5, Girls 3, JDC 3 Green & JDC 5 Orange with many having a tremendous season.

Well done to Rubbers 4, Boys 5 and JDC 5 Orange on making it to the finals.
Congratulations to Boys 5 'Premiers' – team members were Samuel H, Oliver W, Oliver E, Daha K, Thomas G,

2022 Winter Season

We are fielding a number of team this season - JOSD 3 and JDC 3 Green on Saturdays, and Rubber 2; JOD 2; Boys 3; and JDC Green

NORTH EASTERN JUNIOR TENNIS ASSOCIATION (Corlis Byrne)

2021 Spring Season

Girls team – Sec. 3 and Boys team – Sec. 12 commenced but season was cancelled after 6 matches.

2022 Autumn Season

Our first completed season played since COVID messed competition up in the Autumn 2021 season.

Girls team – Sec. 2

The girls enjoyed a good season and reached the semi-finals, but unfortunately their campaign ended there.

The season ran without incident, and with the girls putting up a good show. The team has managed well with just four players in the section.

Sadly this has been the last season for Lucy F. playing in the NEJTA competition as she approaches 19 years of age. But on the bright side, we hear that she was planning to continue playing for St. Marys TC in the ERT competition as an adult player.

Team Manager - April Ford

Boys team – Sec. 13

The Boys Section both reached the finals and took home the Pennant!

Overall the boys have played consistently well. With six players in the team, rostering has been in place to manage participation. That said the team had some issues with absences due to COVID and injuries during the season.

Sadly the team saw their No.1 graded player abscond to Mill Park TC for the next NEJTA season. But we still wished him all the best at his new club.

Team Manager - Corlis Byrne

Message from the Junior Committee.

I like to extend our thanks to Ryan Siede for filling the Junior Co-ordinator role for much of the last year. The club is grateful to Craig Haslem for stepping to run the ERT competition, and to Corlis Byrne for stepping in to cover NEJTA and DVTA competitions.

We also say goodbye to April Ford, welcome Craig de Fraga who has volunteered to run the NETJA Girls team.

Also thanks to Shareen Bottrell for her continued management of the our team playing in the DVTA. And finally to the St. Marys Tennis Club committee for their continued and unwavering support.

SENIOR COMPETITION REPORT 2021/2022

DAY COMPETITION REPORT

HDTA MIDWEEK LADIES

2021 Spring Season - 2 teams were submitted, Sec. 1 & 3 but due to another COVID-19 lockdown the season was cancelled after only playing 2 matches.

2022 Autumn Season – our 2 teams were graded Sec. 2 & 3. At times both teams struggled with numbers due to illness and injury, emergencies helping when they could.

Congratulations to Sec. 2 on winning their Grand-final – team members were Anita Bernardini, Kim Hill, Jan Kane, Helen Pendry and Jenny White.

EASTERN REGION TENNIS

Summer 2021/22 – an amended starting date saw the season begin early November. We fielded 3 teams in the Sunday competition:-

OSD 2 Green – lost Grand-final

OSD 2 Blue – finished just out of the 4.

OSD 3 Green – won Grand-final. Team members – Cameron Simon, Christopher Simon, Kristen Van Elden

Winter 2022 – we have one team playing on a Saturday afternoon – S/D 2 - comprising of juniors, with some assistance of senior members, most of who are new to playing in this Association. Though the season has been challenging, we hope that this group continues in the future.

PENNANT

The 2021 season started well for our 2 teams but after Rd 12 the season was unable to continue due to another COVID lockdown. At that time our teams positions were:-

+35 Doubles Grade 1 – 5th

Men Grade 8 Sec 2 – 4th

The 2022 season we have one team - Masters +35 Doubles – who are working hard to stay in the top 4.

A big thank you to everyone who play in the above competitions. It has been challenging with COVID lockdowns and subsequent requirements but as the year has progressed some normality has come back to our tennis life. May we all continue to enjoy our time on court with team members.

Submitted by Helen Pendry

SENIOR COMPETITION REPORT 2021/2022

NIGHT COMPETITION REPORT

The spring season of NENTG saw no competition run due to COVID.

The DVTA association tried their utmost to generate some sort of competition in the circumstances but didn't amount to anything of substance.

The 2022 Autumn season hit the ground running and a full season was accomplished. Here are how our teams fared.

NENTG

Men's 4- finished 2nd(premiers)

Men's 6- finished 5th

Men's 9- finished 5th

Vet's 4- finished 3rd(premiers)

Vet's 6- finished 7th

Women's 4- finished 8th

Women's 5- finished 1st(premiers)

Women's 12- finished 3rd(forfeited semi due to lack of available players)

Mixed 1- finished 8th

3 flags after the first full season after Covid is a tremendous result for the club

Premiership teams.

Men's 4 team- Michael Kovacevic (c) Peter Marcato Justin Martinelli Patrick Ryant Greg Clifford

Vets 4 team- Peter Reilly (c) Viele Choka Brendan Walpole Carl Cardi Ken Bannan Gary Pierce

Women's 5 team- Helen Pendry (c) Tracey Bannan Margaret Hamilton Kim Grgat Amy Clifford Judy Bottrell

DVTA

Men's 1- finished 5th

Submitted by Adam Pendry

Night competition conveyor