

Victory Park Tennis Club 2021/22 President's Report

COVID-19

The early part of the year was greatly constrained by COVID-19. This normalised with the progressive easing of restrictions from October 2021.

Online court booking and lighting - ClubSpark

As part of their ongoing program Glen Eira council in conjunction with Tennis Australia/Victoria selected Victory Park to receive lights and the online court booking and admin system (ClubSpark). This was announced last year (2021/22) but the physical work did not commence until late 2021.

The contractors plan was to have everything completed and operating before Christmas 2021 but it ran a few weeks late. The court booking component of ClubSpark commenced at the start of 2022. Lighting was made available for use in February 2022. The installation of 3 phase power is still pending.

The software has had intermittent problems but in general works well and saves a lot of time, particularly with membership administration and court booking. The major problem is that at times it does not unlock the entry gate and/or not turn on the lights when the user enters their PIN. Tennis Australia's supplier is working on fixing these issues. The old physical gate key was due to be phased out but has been retained to allow entry to the courts (for those who have keys) when there is a problem.

Members, casual hirers and coaches can now use the courts up to 10pm. Usage by casual hirers is steadily growing.

Many, many thanks to Glen Eira council and Tennis Australia/Victoria.

Maintenance

- Club members continue to do maintenance and cleaning around our lease area.
- Glen Eira council was able to use some of their lighting installation budget to add en-tout-cas to all four courts.
- The old paling fence on the oval side of the courts was replaced with mesh windbreaks along the southern, western and part of the northern court fence. Extra supports were added to the fence to accommodate the increased wind load.
- A large sign with our name and contact details was attached to the west wall of the clubhouse.
- New court number signs were added to the southern fence.

Coaching

Greg Jones operating as Victory Tennis has an exclusive contract to run coaching at VPTC. The contract and fee is currently under review pending assessment of how increased patronage and the new lights have effected usage of courts.

By all reports Greg continues to be very popular. This is reinforced by the increased numbers attending coaching and representing Victory Park Tennis Club in junior teams.

Junior Competitions

Victory Park entered teams in Bayside Regional Tennis Association Sunday Junior competitions in both seasons during 2021/22. We had one team in Section 21 in the Spring season. The Section 17 team was runner-up in Autumn and our Section 10 team was 4th.

Senior Competition

Victory Park entered a men's rubbers team in both the winter and summer Saturday afternoon competition with the Bayside Regional Tennis Association. It did not make the finals in either season.

Club Open/Fun Day

The annual Free Fun Day is planned for Sunday, October 02.

Your committee and other positions in review

Similar to last year there were a number of changes to the committee.

- Kurt Heigl did not renominate as Secretary + Public Officer, Stephanie Avanzi was elected to the positions.
- Kevin Fischer was elected as a second Maintenance Officer and in the new position of Media and Marketing.
- Robin Fuller was elected as the club's Social Co-ordinator.
- Alison Webb was elected to a General Committee position.
- Greg Jones replaced Julie Fidler from the start of Term 3 2021 administering the club's junior teams (non committee).
- Stephanie resigned from her positions early in 2022. The duties of these positions were taken over by the remaining committee.

The slightly expanded numbers made it somewhat easier than the year before, but we still need more numbers to keep ahead of the game. We will continue to look to recruit more into the committee.

A big thank you to all of the committee. I must add special thanks to our Treasurer, Terry Laragy who took on a number of my duties when I was indisposed due to medical issues.

Robert Dickson
President