

Minutes of the *JUNIOR SUB-COMMITTEE* meeting held September 8, 1997.

In Attendance: Stephen Gibson, Kerryn Maraga, Matthew Roberts, Dennis Stimson, Ove Thapper.

Apologies: Nil

*Meeting commenced at 7:55 p.m.*

Minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting held May 28, 1997.

Moved: Mr. O. Thapper

Seconded: Mr. S. Gibson      CARRIED

**Business Arising:**

\* The Appeals Committee decision overturning the GDTA Junior Singles rankings was raised by Mr. D. Stimson at the June meeting of the main body. A brief explanation was given by Bryce Grossell, stating his reasons for the Appeals Committee decision.

\* Mr. M. Roberts asked why Gosford members had not received their Player Registration cards from Tennis NSW. It has been 3 months since the names have been sent. Mr. S. Gibson reported that Tennis NSW had to get the cards reprinted and this caused a delay. The cards will be sent very soon.

\* The main committee accepted the junior sub-committee's recommendation about Ben Howen. Ben is not allowed to participate in the 1997 Association Championships.

\* Mr. D. Stimson contacted a number of players inviting them to the divisional coaching school. The following players accepted their invitation to the 6-day clinic at Tuggerah in June:- Rodney Cattanach, Paul Dunningham, Mathew Middleton, Neil Cattanach, Janie Aulsebrook, Nathan Gilbert-Smith, Natasha Rose, Amanda King, Mandy Stafford-Smith.

\* State Junior League will be held from November 22-23 and will be hosted by the Nepean Association. These teams will be selected in November.

\* Mrs. K. Maraga raised the issue of the Paul O'Sullivan Junior Player of the Year Award. She felt that perhaps an added criteria should be that the player selected be someone who represents the Association and plays in the Championships. It was explained to her that the policy was to select the most successful junior player of the year and that the O'Sullivans would have to be consulted before we made any policy changes re: the award.

It was also suggested during the discussion that players only be allowed to win this award once in their junior playing lives. Mr. Roberts suggested that we ask four players every year to submit resumes so that more players at least get recognised for their success.

**Correspondence In:**

1/ HVCC JTA - bill for Interdistrict playing subsidy for 1997. Mr. M. Roberts also expressed concern that a March account is still not paid, despite 2 reminder notices being sent over the months. Mr. D. Stimson said he has recently signed this cheque and the region will receive it very soon.

2/ Tennis NSW - re: sanctioning dates and reminder to send in our dates for tournaments. The junior dates have been applied for and are:

- Gosford Junior Open                      January 18-22
- Classic Round Robin                      February 8
- Classic Round Robin                      March 15

Mr. S. Gibson told the committee that he will not be running the Junior Open in 1998. He has asked Mr. M. Roberts to take the position of Tournament Director.

3/ Greg Scriven re: nominations for Regional Squad and Futures Squad. Mr. D. Stimson explained that he had made frequent attempts to call a meeting to decide GDTA's nominations but was unable to do so. After consulting a couple of junior committee members it was decided that the GDTA re-nominate all of the current Regional Elite Squad members as well as Ann Bull and Ben Howen.

Mr. D. Stimson reported that all players we nominated were accepted except for Ben Howen. The Regional Head Coach (Keith Williams) also nominated a number of other players. Gavin Paul's nomination by Keith, was also accepted by the committee.

Gosford has 3 members in the Futures Squad out of 24 players.

4/ Barry Masters Re: Referees Course. This course is \$15-00 and is held on October 28/29 from 7:00p.m. at White City. At the completion, you receive your level one certificate and can officiate at category pointscore tournaments.

5/ Newcastle Tennis- Re: granted clearance for Andrew Smith to fill-in for Gosford. Mr. D. Stimson reminded the meeting that this clearance was not necessary.

**Correspondence Out: Nil**

#### **Sydney Interdistrict:**

14/u Boys #1 team won the Esca Stephens Cup - a superb triumph. The 16/u Boys #2 won Division 4, the 16/u Boys #1 team reached the semi-finals of the Presidents Cup and the 12/u girls team made the semis of the M.C.Crankanthonp Cup. Our 14/u Boys #2 team were second in division three.

Mr D. Stimson said there were some problems with this year's Sydney Interdistrict and commented that ALL replacements in BOTH inter-district competitions were approved by Dennis at all times, despite rumours to the contrary.

There was lengthy discussion about various players who the committee believed had shown an apparent lack of commitment to the competition - due to various incidents throughout 1997. This applied to both Inter-district competitions.

After lengthy discussions and after facts were presented about a number of incidents, it was recommended that letters be sent to Shane Mayles re: unavailability for semi-finals, Renee Barker re: pulling out of HVCC team, leading to a forfeit in the semis and to Vanessa Andrews re: her unavailability leading to her team forfeiting the semis in the HVCC Inter district. It was agreed that all the team mates of these players were adversely affected.

Mr. S. Gibson argued that there was little difference between this and other incidents over the last couple of years where players were allowed to have 'weeks off' for reasons other than injury/illness. Other committee members argued that there were a lot of differences and these cases needed to be dealt with as we did with Ben Howen.

#### **Hunter Valley-Central Coast Interdistrict:**

Mr. M. Roberts reported that a record number of fill-ins and new registrations were needed. However, the GDTA arguably fielded some of its strongest teams ever, with 7 out of 9 teams reaching the semi-finals. Out of two finalists, the 14/u Mixed #2 won division 2. A great result.

New registrations were Samantha Rose, Bridie Jefferies, Verity Crisp, Rodney Cattanach, Ben McInerney, Neil Cattanach, Joseph Grogan and David Pashley.

Our three girls who represented Toukley/Gosford also won the 12s division two.

Mr. M. Roberts suggested a letter of congratulations be sent to our winning Sydney and HVCC teams.

### **Squads:**

Each member of the committee was given an up-to-date list of the GDTA squads. The squads have been 'patched up' after some problems earlier in the year - Mr. M. Roberts did this while Mr. D. Stimson was ill. Mr. D. Stimson will be check up on fees for Terms 2 & 3.

The squads are going OK, particularly the 12/ u girls Monday squad.

The committee voted to invite Lisa McCrory and Samantha Rose into our squads. Mr. D. Stimson to phone these players.

### **Regional Meeting:**

Mr. D. Stimson, Mr. S. Gibson and Mr. M. Roberts reported on a number of matters that came up at the recent Northumberland Regional Meeting.

Gosford will host the regional squad for 12 months commencing term 4. Rod Rosenfield has agreed to allow the Regional Elite Squad to train for free.

There were no Gosford members selected in the Regional 10/u State Carnival team.

There will only be 10 Classic Round Robins in 1998 due to additional school holidays. 4 will be held on the Central Coast.

Gosford will host the Champion of Champions on September 13.

4 members were selected for the Regional Squad Camp in October: Lee Maraga, Clint Robson, Amanda Douglas and Rebecca Hawkins. This inaugural camp should provide some fantastic tennis with plenty of top coaches and trainers at this camp.

### **Sunday Morning Competition:**

Began on August 17. Division 1 is a "unisex" division -this decision was not made by the full junior committee but by the SMC "sub-committee". There are 2 other divisions of boys and 3 other divisions of girls. There is a new starting time of 9:00am and this has received a mixed response from players and parents. Some parents like the comp over and done with by 11am. Mr. M. Roberts stated that the new finishing time had affected the Association Championships in that he has to draw less matches.

Mr. D. Stimson said there is still the problem of lack of help for SMC, Mr. M. Roberts suggested a few names of parents whose children play SMC. Steve and Dennis now run SMC on alternate weeks - we need people walking around the courts to assist with SMC.

Letter to be sent to KUMON requesting sponsorship money for this comp and last comp. Mr. M. Roberts to send the account for \$300-00.

### **Association Championships:**

Mrs. K. Maraga pointed out that the championships are running very well this year and noted that there seemed to be a fair few committee members helping out.

There are only 2 days left for the Association championships but there is a problem that 20 players are unavailable due to Champion of Champions. Mr. D. Stimson suggested that the championships be held back to later in the year or that the Junior Committee run its own championships. It was pointed out though that this may not work due to lack of people on the junior committee and that the championships seemed to be running well anyway.

Mr.M. Roberts queried the junior age eligibility rule for 1997 where players can play their own age and 18/u event only - and how the main committee was able to make such a decision. There was a claim from the main committee that this motion was a recommendation only but in the minutes(and on the night) it was actually a motion. There has been a few complaints. Mr. S. Gibson said that there was a lot of discussion about it on the night and that many things were considered.

This rule will be re-evaluated by the 1998 junior sub-committee.

Mr.D. Stimson said that our draws had been commented on (we do them differently to a conventional draw). However, they have led to an increase in participation and have been very successful. Mr. S. Gibson suggested that in future, players should not be seeded into a final. Brief discussion followed. Follow up next year.

### **General Business:**

\* The entry form for the 1998 Gosford Junior Open needs attention - the entry form format will be discussed at the next meeting so it can be laid out and printed.

Mr. M. Roberts suggested that we have a 9/u singles event as well.

\* Rod Rosenfield will be approached to run the round robins next year. The junior committee will still be involved in seeding and placing people on the cards. Rod will keep most of the income on the day.

\* Mr. M. Roberts wanted to know if the committee had any suggestions as to which tournament should be the State Classic Final qualifying tournament in 1998. There was discussion that it not go to a big tournament. Singleton and Cessnock were suggested.

\* Mrs. K. Maraga wished to know when the decision will be made re: 16/u National Carnival. Gosford has been nominated to host these events from 1999-2001. Mr. S. Gibson reported that Gosford had sent in a proposal via Tennis NSW. Tennis Australia will make the decision soon. Steve said that we were a genuine chance of being successful.

\* Mr. M. Roberts wanted to discuss our Interdistrict policy for the future ie. no. of teams, no.of Sydney teams, player availability, managers etc.

Plenty of discussion with many policies to be decided on by next year's junior committee. It was resolved that we send a letter to ALL players selected., offering a deadline eg. May for players to submit their unavailability dates/explanations. After that date, penalties may occur for players.

It seemed that school excursions and Qld Junior T'Ment were not a big problem as we had plenty of notice.

It was suggested that all bottom teams in the Hunter Valley have an extra boy and girl.

\* Mr. M. Roberts said he was concerned about the apparent lack of junior policy and planning for the future. Discussion followed on the following points:-

- a concern that there may be only 2 or 3 (at the most) current junior committee members remaining for 1998.

- that the workload needs to be shared and we need more people on the junior committee. The more people - the less work everyone has to do. Mr. M. Roberts felt that people were intimidated when they see Matthew, Steve and Dennis at the courts all the time because they think that they will also have to do that much work. This is not the case.

- lack of media publicity. This has hurt the Association badly and this publicity contributes to a good spirit within the Association.

- A lack of "association" at the moment. Smaller "tennis clubs" seem to be able to do what they want and not contribute to the GDTA. All some coaches seem to be interested in is filling their complex and NOT junior development. We are not even sure who is out there except for some extras at Club Championship time.

For the juniors we need the Sunday Morning Comp supported (a combined one) and bigger competitions to allow depth in grading and more variety of competition for our players.

- lack of interest by the committee in Mr. M. Roberts' proposed Schools Comp. Matthew said he had contacted 36 schools and suggested a format as early as February this year. This committee though had to set up as rules and fees structure, but we haven't had a meeting since May. Mr. S. Gibson suggested that the new country development officer may be able to liaise with me next year, to set up the under 9s and under 11s school comp.

- the unsavoury aspects of our ranking system which Mr. M. Roberts said was irregular and therefore inaccurate. This rankings system has caused many problems. Mr. D. Stimson said that maybe we should not publish them. However, this does not solve the problem of its inaccuracy. It was suggested by Mrs. K. Maraga that we do them before inter-district, allowing time for some minor changes. Mr. O. Thapper agreed that the rankings system is not working. However, the feeling around the table was not unanimous.

It was decided that we hold another meeting soon to discuss some important issues. It was also resolved that we make an effort to attract more people onto the committee.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, October 13 at 7:30p.m.

*Meeting Closed at 11:40p.m.*

