

## 2000 GOSFORD ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIPS REPORT

To begin my report I would like to say thank you to all those involved in the running of the championships. Rod & Jenny Rosenfield, Robyn Davis, Pat Healy, Maureen Rowe, Dennis Stimson, Jamie Byrnes, Troy Mahoney, Janet Radcliffe and the players themselves, without all these people there would not have been a championships at all.

**Dates Held:** August 26 & 27, September 2 & 3, September 10

**Weather Conditions:** Fine for all days, varying from breezy, to overcast but no rain delays at all.

**Entries:** 136 individual players = 254.5 entries = 36 of 45 events being held

**Balls:** 3 boxes of 4 dozen balls = cost of about \$265 (GST incl.)???? ( 6.5 grass court & 4.5 hard court cans leftover).

**Court Costs:** about \$1,400 (GST incl.)

**Entry Fees:** about \$1,723 with \$26 still to collect (Megan \$6, Elise \$6, Sandy \$14)

**Trophies:** about \$550 for singles & \$ 630 for doubles = \$1,180 approx.

**Incident:** On the last day, Tomas Thapper, competing in all the Handicap events as well as playing the Special Mens Singles Final, was holding up all of the events. He was told he would only be allowed 10 minutes between events as people were sitting around waiting to play matches dependent on his results. After finishing a long match, he said he was tired and needed more than 10 minutes rest. He was told that due to the matches being backed up because of him if he took any longer than 10 minutes then the matches would still be going at midnight and that for his own health and the consideration of others he should consider withdrawing from at least one of the events. Since he had not played a match in the Handicap Mixed Doubles and his partner was keen to go home he could withdraw from this event and receive back his entry fee. He refused, said he would refuse to go on the court and was going to take as long as he liked as he was entitled to play and that we should reschedule all his other matches for next weekend. It was explained to him that some of his opponents and partners had been at the courts waiting to play these matches for over 6 hours and that postponing the events was not a possibility as this was the last day of the Championships and all events were to be completed. After being warned by the referee on the day, Rod Rosenfield, he yelled abuse at Rod and then rang his mother. He reported back that his mother told him not to

go onto the court until she arrived. In the ensuing time, his 10 minutes rest break ( 13 minutes by this stage) passed, he was called to the court for his match and when he refused to leave his chair by the courtside and play he was defaulted. After 5 minutes his mother arrived. After abusing the referee, with claims of demanding to much of her son, not taking proper consideration of his health, only trying to make money out of her son, victimization of her son by Rod and by the Association, saying she did not care about the others involved, saying he should not have been defaulted until she arrived and that he should be allowed to play, she then directed her son to take the court in the Handicap Singles Final. This shouting and screaming incident lasted approximately 20 minutes, by which time her son had had almost 40 minutes rest time.

In defence of her arguments it was put forward by the Referee and the Secretary of the Championships that in future her son will learn from this experience and know not to enter as many events in the Handicap system as it is such a demanding day and series of events. That his health was of concern to us and we were monitoring his progress and the request for him to consider withdrawing from the Mixed was not only for the benefit of his partner but for his own health as well. The entry fee money was again offered to be refunded to both his partner and himself for the Mixed event. In addition it was pointed out that no event will ever be held up awaiting the arrival of a parent as this arrival has nothing whatsoever to do with the events being held. The 10 minute rule had been applied to all players on the day, and was considered a fair and just period considering the cool conditions and the demands to keep the matches moving.

At the conclusion of the Singles event, Tomas withdrew from the Mixed, claiming nausea had set in. The Secretary and Referee advised him that this was a wise move. His opponent, who was in the Mixed event also, was advised he had a 10 minute rest break. The final event of the day was completed at 9:45pm.

The Secretary and Referee were consistent in their approach to all players and were acknowledged to be so by those present. The mother involved later came and spoke with both and appeared to leave in a happier frame of mind. She was advised to write a letter to the Association if she so desired about the incident. This is the Secretary's report of that incident.

***Recommendations:*** I see there being several difficulties arising from this year's events.

1. Clash with Father's Day.
2. Clash with the Grand Final of the Rugby League.
3. Clash with Regional Development Squads training.
4. Clash with Canberra Tournament.
5. People over committing themselves to events and then finding that they are unable to meet those commitments.

I, therefore, suggest for consideration the following:

1. That the events be staggered throughout the year starting in May.
2. That the events be held on Sundays only.
3. That all 4 Sundays of the month be used to stage the events.

4. This will allow the matches to be spaced out of the 4 Sundays and will allow for wet weekends or washouts.
5. It will allow Saturday competition to run unhindered.
6. It will allow starting times to vary depending on entries.
7. The events to be run in the following fashion:
  - May: Open and 6-8 events
  - June: Specials and 9-11 events
  - July: 3-5 and 12+ events
  - August: Veteran A & B events
  - September: Handicap events
8. The committee members to do 1 Sunday each and therefore allow some time free for the Secretary and other committee members.
9. No allowances be given to people who cannot play on a set day.
10. In the case of round robin doubles, if there is 2 pools, then only the winners go through to a play off and that there not be semi-finals held in these cases.

**Conclusion:** Whoever runs the Championships in 2001, I hope has as much support and assistance as I did in my stop-gap role for Matthew this year, keep enjoying your tennis because that's why we do it,

Ian Lowcock

Results appear on the following page.

RESULTS:

EVENT	WINNER	RUNNER-UP	No. of Entries
OMS	L. Maraga	A.Muscillo	15
OLS	S.Bowler	R.Davies	7
OMD	L & M. Maraga	S.Homsey & T.Thapper	6
OLD	S.Bowler & L.Gregory	S.Hutton & K. Costello	7
OXD	A.Muscillo & R. Rosenfield	S. Guest & S.Bowler	8
SMS	T.Thapper	A.Radcliffe	12
SLS	E.Bailey	S.Martins-Sousa	5
SMD	A.Radcliffe & P.Jackson	T.Thapper & R.Cattanach	4
SLD		not held	2
SXD		not held	2
3-5MS	R.Cattanach	C.Thompson	11
3-5LS	E.Bailey	C.Bailey	6
3-5MD	N.Strickland & R.Cattanach	C.Thompson & P.Davoren	8
3-5LD	S.Laybutt & B.Hawkins	A.Bull & K.Skinner	4
3-5XD			5
6-8MS	G.Taylor	S.Braham	14
6-8LS	V.Andrews	P.Day	7
6-8MD	G. & L.Taylor	J.Myers & S.Braham	8
6-8LD	J & G. Davis	S.Mitchell & H.Bridgen	8
6-8XD	S.Braham & P.Day	M.Fletcher & H. Bridgen	8
9-11MS	M.Seton	N.Cattanach	16
9-11LS	C.Bailey	R.McLean	5
9-11MD	A.Austin & M.Seton	N.Cattanach & M.Holmes	9
9-11LD		not held	1
9-11XD	J.Lumby & M.Campbell	M.Keating & J.Newby	2
12+MS	B.Harris	S.Goodacre	6
12+LS	E.Wagstaff	B.Rogan-Clarke	5
12+MD	S.Mullarky & S. Freeman	S.Goodacre & R.Brand	3
12+LD	B.Rogan-Clarke & A.Brown	C.Brand & E.Smith	2
12+XD	W.Prendergast & B.Rogan-Clarke	R.&C.Brand	2
VAMS	A.Radcliffe	D.Passmore	5
VALS		not held	1
VAMD		not held	0.5
VALD		not held	1
VAXD		not held	1
VBMS	P.Kachel	T.Aulsebrook	7
VBLS		not held	1
VBMD	J.Breen & P.Kachel	B.Totaro & T.Aulsebrook	7
VBLD	C.Perks & C.Connolly	J.Golding & D. Cattanach	3
VBXD	P. & D. Cattanach	T.Aulsebrook & L.Buchanan	3
HMS	L.Maraga	T.Thapper	10
HLS		not held	2
HMD	N.Strickland & R.Cattanach	S.Goodacre & A.Hodge	5
HLD	H.Bridgen & S.Mitchell	B.Hawkins & E.Day	5
HXD	P.Drozdowski & A.King	L.Maraga & M.Stafford-Smith	5