

NOTES TAKEN AT MEETING WITH JOHN ALEXANDER HELD AT
"VAUGHAN PARK" ON 28TH APRIL, 2004

PRESENT: Noel & Gloria Healey, Greg Healey,
Betty & Tom Lea, Steve Gibson, Hal Moir,
Rex Preddy, Mary Gordon, Chris Uzelac,
Bryce Grossel, Betty Light, Pat Butters,
Sylvia Ramsden, Del Campbell, Pat Urquhart,
Jackie Warren, Lyn Davis, Rod Rosenfield,
Jenny Rosenfield, Rebekah Rosenfield,
Rochelle Rosenfield, Jaimie Byrnes,
Maureen Rowe, Lynne Buchanan, Geoff Byrnes,
John Alexander

Hal welcomed everyone and introduced John Alexander. Hal then addressed the group advising that some 12 months ago we had some meetings with the Mayor at Gosford Council to try and get assistance to up-date the "Vaughan Park" complexes.

Later, Steve Gibson rang Hal when he was in attendance at a group with John Alexander and asked if he could speak with John about what we are trying to achieve as his company is doing that type of up-date.

Since then we have had several phone conversations with John and he has been to see our complex. Today we had a meeting with the current Mayor and explained to him what we would like to achieve.

Hal asked John to address the meeting.

John advised that he was involved with a business to up-date sporting complexes. They recently did Memorial Drive in Adelaide which has been very successful.

The proposal at Memorial Drive was to re-develop the site with a Club House, Squash Courts, Gym, Swimming Pool, Bistro Restaurant, etc. Full membership would entitle members to full use of the facilities and they would be looking at a 50yr lease. Cost was in the vicinity of \$14.5M and a further \$1.5M to fit out.

These developments commenced in Britian. It seems that single activity centres no longer are a viable proposition, but if you combine the various activites into one centre they run at a profit.

To proceed with this development here we would all need to work together to ensure a successful venture. Most of the Sydney tennis clubs are having financial difficulties. It is important to provide good locker facilities and a creche for children and their activities.

We need to look at the needs of the Association and their members. There is a need to encourage juniors, run various events during the year and provide for the members. To provide the above facilities we would be

looking at approximately \$8M and you would need to have about 3500/4000 members to make that profitable.

We now need to see if the members feel it is worthwhile our time and effort to go ahead to the next step and see if approval can be obtained from Council and it is a long road (Memorial Drive took 6 years).

John advised he has spoken to Rod to see if we can find a way to work together. We would look at having the present 10 courts plus 9 additional courts.

At the meeting with the Mayor he stated he will provide us with details of the 1-100 year flood, it would bbe best to locate the Club House nearer to the road.

The top complex should remain as is. Hal advised we would prefer to have it all in 1 place and if that is not possible Council will look into whether there is any land near Gosford where it would be moved to.

Court surfaces have yet to be decided, but John advised the new type clay surface would be considered. Grass is not internationally recognised and we would need to provide the right surface to retain the tournaments such as 16's Nationals, etc.

Membership fees in Adelaide are \$770.00 for Gym and \$1,100 for Gym and Tennis (approx.)

GDTA would give "JACS" the bottom complex to develop a Multi Purpose complex. "JACS" would administer and run this and charge a membership for use.

GDTA would retain the top complex and run it as is.

Our Licence with GTC would have to be re-negotiated.

If we are running a tournament needing more than the top 13 courts, we would approach "JACS" to ouse courts at the bottom complex.

Rod asked if he would run coaching. JA replied that there would be a lot of new members who would be new to tennis and require lessons and he envisaged GTC would pick up additional coaching. Rod would be less for his Licence fee and pick up additional coaching at the bottom complex.

JA was asked what positives there would be for the members of GDTA. JA replied that there are so many facilities at present who are not able to meet costs and this is a way of keeping the facility going. Steve Gibson feels there are some problems with the 2 complex situation and it needs to be 1 complex with about 24 courts.

Jaimie did a lot of work to see what we could do, but we have not, and will not have the funds to do what is needed.

JA advised that the South Australian Association hold a lease on the Centre Court and 2/3 other courts. These courts are leased to "JACS" for \$50,000 per year and they can use them for tournaments, Davis Cup, Country Week, etc.

Hal advised that originally discussions were held with Robert Bell and today spoke with Malcolm Brooks, the current Mayor.

Steve asked JA if they work in with Tennis NSW in building these complexes and he said they are working with them on 3 sites at present.

Jaimie asked JA if their members would be encouraged to play in our competitions - JA would hope we would all be working together with whatever is being run.

The following appear to be points to be considered:

1. The number of courts that would be available for GDTA use.
2. What figure we will have to pay for that usage.
3. GTC's relationship with GDTA and "JACS"
4. Assist our Association to provide facilities for our members to enjoy tennis.

The Council do have concerns about whether this is an appropriate site. The Gosford Swimming Pool has "had it" and perhaps put a new one at the same site and utilise the facilities.

Hal will give JA a Survey of the bottom complex and they will then let us know what can fit down there. We will then have to have more meetings (JA suggested we have a Committee of 3/4 people - including some with opposition) to prepare for a meeting to put to the members.