

AGM GDTA Presidents Report – 17th September 2014

Good Evening Fellow Members,

I am pleased to read to you my report for the last committee year, the 67th year the club has been at Vaughan Park, in what has been both a challenging but at the same time rewarding time. And with only a committee of 8 I think we punched well above our weight to achieve outcomes for both our members and the promotion of tennis in the local area.

Before I come to the highlights, I would firstly like to thank my fellow committee on a great team effort for the year. We are all volunteers with more time consuming interests outside the committee, however we all share the same enjoyment of friendship through tennis, and because of this we did the best we could with the limited human resources at the committee table.

When you get into a role such as the presidency, it is such a broad and time consuming position given that the role now needs to be across all aspects impacting the club including dealing with both Tennis Australia and NSW Tennis, Local and State Government bodies, the operators of GTC, Rod & Jenny, members and committees within the club such as the LMW and main bodies. Luckily I have, as are my fellow members, a passion to improve GDTA and to enjoy the game of tennis that makes the role so rewarding.

There were many highlights over the past 12 months and I would like to share these with you:

- The GTC running 11 Gold, Silver, and Bronze events, not to mention the various JDS tournaments
- Our members Christmas party held on 1/12/13
- The re-poling around courts 10 & 11 in December 2013
- Offering members throughout the year 3 night comps – Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, LMW competitions, Junior Badge and X-Point Saturday competitions.
- Our January 2014 Gosford Junior Open that had a record 220 junior players and 40 hot-shot players U/12. This coupled with raffles and a BBQ put on by the committee and member volunteers made this an excellent event for all involved.
- Appointment of Hadrian as our VP following Aiden's resignation from the committee
- The implementation of an initial strategic plan and cash flow forecast to ensure that the committee had a focus to work on with respect to dealing with council and Tennis NSW/Australia
- The wonderful Seniors tournament Hadrian, Fiona and their band of merry warriors put on in the last week of March 2014 which was a first for the club and attracted over 130 players, including a wonderful social night on the Saturday of the tournament. We look forward to next years event.
- The well organized Ladies Mid-week committee who put in a large effort as always

- To Fiona Weinert for donating the committee's photo copy machine
- To Lynne Buchanan for putting together the history of the club displayed in this room
- Whilst unsuccessful at gaining grants totaling in excess of \$2M we learnt a lot through the process of what we need, and we now have a plan in place to support further grants over the coming years
- Lastly, and what has consumed most of the committee's discussion and work over the last 5 – 6 months has been the transition the licence following the retirement of Rod and Jenny who will finish with us next week to new operators.

Now my last highlight leads me into an important segway which I have no doubt will generate the most interest in tonight's AGM. We have allocated a separate item in the agenda to address any questions you may have in respect to the transition of the new operators.

However I now want to take this opportunity on behalf of GDTA to thank Jenny and Rod for the enormous contribution they have made to the club over the past 17 + years. Whilst we have not seen eye to eye on some issues, we have managed to work these through and get the best result for tennis and our club. I think one of the most notable achievements has been the conducting of significant tennis events at our club, at one stage peaking at 21 tournaments and generating over \$10M in tourism income per annum. What has now happened is that other centre's are now competing for the same tournaments however we should hold our heads up high as in October the club will be hosting 2 ITF junior events, and we ask members to come and support this event. We are planning a farewell event on the 28th September to thank Rod and Jenny, and I will defer to Hadrian and Fiona for full details.

Lastly and I have no doubt the treasurer will raise this in his report, there are many challenges facing this great club, a club that produced the last Australian winner of the Australian Open in Mark Edmonson.

Despite writing to council on 17th December 2013 in seeking an extension of our lease beyond 31 December 2016, we have yet to be successful and as we are now just over 2 years away from this deadline we have an urgency to get this rectified in the coming year.

Our membership is declining and this will need greater attention over the next committee year, as well as raising the profile of tennis across the Central Coast. We need to work together with other clubs to compete with the likes of soccer, AFL, Rugby League and basketball so that we can again produce another tennis champion.

Lastly, as I said in the beginning of my report, this club has been here since 1957, and our infrastructure is aging. We need help from all members to promote our game, introduce new players and members, and support our new committee and operators, so we can restore the club back to its true potential.

Thank you and I table this report for this meeting and I look forward to you again nominating me as your president for the coming year.