

MARCH 2016

the **NETWORK**



Save the Dates!

- March** Club Championship events commence; come down to participate or spectate
- 14 May** NTC Annual Dinner at the Royal Perth Yacht Club
7pm drinks, 7.30pm start

In This Issue

From the President	2
Captain's Report	3
Midweek Coordinator	4
Sponsors	6
Coach's Corner	9
NTC Gallery	10



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(No Longer from) The President's Couch

Dear members and friends

As Mehmet, your Captain, has said, it has been a rather warm start to the 2016 new year of tennis; one of the reasons I suspect that numbers have been quite variable on both Saturdays and Junior Club Fridays.

I am very pleased to be back 'playing' – rather a loose term for me at present – as my injury comes good, and thanks to all of you for your encouragement! Now to business.

Firstly, many thanks to the great Committee for organizing both the Summer Cooler and the Sunsmart Fun Day. Both were indeed a lot of fun and very successful. In particular, thanks to **Jane and John Edwards, Noel Lacey, Trish Heath, Barb Nowak and Mandy Thomas** for a great job of organization and food and drink production for the sold out Summer Cooler on February 13th. This really relaxed evening contributed some \$1200 to the Club. Thanks also to **Gordon Davies**, who upon winning the Alan Bruce-sponsored 'Bushfire Raffle', and accepting the hamper, graciously accepted the need to 'give it back', as it was actually another hamper intended for presentation at the Sunsmart Event the following day! Needless to say that Gordon, after 'badgering the President' for over a week, eventually received his rightful prize. A special thanks to **Alan Bruce** for his initiative in sponsoring the Bushfire Raffle, which raised over \$600.

Linda Blatchford, Mel English, Lucia Agnello, Anne and Ian Love, and many others, put in a tremendous effort in both promoting and running the Sunsmart Community Funday on Sunday 14th February. Coming on the back of a Sunsmart grant to run such a day, it was the intention to at least reach break even point, however, we managed to achieve a \$300 profit to the Club with a huge effort by all. Community attendance was not huge, due to other events happening in the community at this time of year, such as a Concert in the Park at nearby Mason's Gardens. Tennis West was represented and I was able to discuss with Ardian Fazliu the possibility of Tennis Australia funding available for Club development, and I intend to take that discussion further, as he will be attending our next Committee meeting in March.

Directly related to that potential funding, I have also been in discussion with the City of Nedlands CEO with regards to the City having a more 'significant involvement' in funding for future developments of not only Nedlands Tennis Club, but indeed all clubs and community facilities within the City. If we proceed sensibly with a development program for, say, more lighting and hard courts, the City is likely to be of greater assistance than it has previously, specifically because the 'pool' of State Government (DSR) Funding has diminished dramatically.

I look forward to participating in the upcoming Club Championships, in both Open and Round Robin Events, and I trust that as many of us that can, will do the same. They are held earlier this leap year, and Helen Morgan has had to really push the program to enable a workable representation in all events. At last count she has succeeded, and we thank you for that Helen.

So, all the best for the 2016 tennis year, and in particular the summer season; we will be 'praying for sunshine' before we know it! Thank you for your ongoing involvement and support of a very fine club and community asset.

Nigel

Happy New Year everyone!

So far this year, between a couple of stormy weekends and several hot ones, we have had reasonably good Saturday social tennis. Social tennis attendance as of the first weekend of February indicates that most members are back from holidays and set for a great year of tennis and fun at the Club.

Although Saturdays are the main social play day, we have groups playing social tennis at various times throughout the week. All members are welcome to join these groups as well. As usual, the grass courts are in great shape. We thank Shane Watson and his team for their great work.

Besides playing tennis, our aim is to keep and maintain the Club as a social hub for the members, with regular and annual events such as the Summer Cooler feast and the Sun Smart fun afternoon that we have just had. Also make sure you mark your calendar for the 2016 Club Dinner in mid May.

The Club's last big function of 2015 was the Christmas Party which was marvellously organized by **Alison Gattorna**. We thank her and her helpers for the great job including the sausage cookout for the kids. We also thank **Steve Hollier** for putting on his famous red costume and entertaining kids with gifts and inspirational conversations.

I am very grateful to those of you who have been Duty Captains since the opening of the new season. Everyone has done a fabulous job and I really appreciate your generosity and commitment. Thanks also go to **Lucia Agnello** for the coordination and housekeeping contribution and **Jordon Lilburne** for his dedication and consistent delivery of the sets.

Afternoon tea makers have been very organized and generous with their delicious offerings but the 'Oscar' had to go to Nigel Bill and Neil Rider, whose afternoon tea, without any social tennis on a stormy Saturday afternoon, apparently attracted about 15 (I am told) members, including Gordon Davies, who apparently cancelled his home open so he could attend afternoon tea.

Club Championships are just around the corner and I hope most of you are "positioning yourself" to take part in the competitions that are available at every level; whether it be championship events, or the round robin events which are always lots of fun with a full afternoon of play.

Enjoy and have fun with your tennis and each other's company!



NEW MEMBERS

NTC would like to welcome our new sub-junior members.

Aiden Choi, Angela Choi and Reuben Wesson

We hope you have a blast playing tennis and making friends at the Club!

Senior midweek and weekend league teams are all running relatively smoothly and successfully although there was some excitement recently when the power box caught on fire during a Wednesday Night Men's match. It was just as well this incident occurred on a Wednesday evening and was calmly dealt with by Steve Hollier and Peter French; had it occurred on a Thursday evening, we all agreed that our probable reaction would have been to stand around screaming!



A big thank you to Shane for dealing with this incident so efficiently and ensuring the power was back on in time for Thursday night league matches the next evening.

Eleven of the 17 senior league teams are currently in the top four, with four teams (Wednesday Ladies Division 2, Thursday Night Ladies Division 3, Saturday Ladies Division 3 and Saturday Ladies Division 6) being on top of the ladder at this stage.

The success and smooth operation of our league teams is in stark contrast to the sub-optimal and still floundering operation of the Competition website. At this stage there is no indication of when ratings will be adjusted - excellent if your performance has been below par but not so good if you have experienced a rapid improvement in results.

It is just as well that for most of us the only impact is on our leisure activity rather than our financial or physical health.

Good luck to all teams who make it to the finals. Players in teams that fail to make the finals can put their efforts into the Club Champs!!



Congratulations to Sam English who competed and won the 12 & U Boys' Doubles with partner Joshua Blundell-Williams (North Beach TC) in the 2016 Busselton Junior Open in January. Sam also competed in the 2016 South Perth Junior Open in January and came third in the 12 & U Boys' Singles. Great achievement!

From left, Joshua Blundell-Williams and Sam English

INTERSTATE SENIORS 55 TO 60 CHAMPIONSHIPS

Shepparton, January 2016

When Frank Sweeney raised the possibility of forming a team about 9 months prior to the event, the idea was enthusiastically supported. Eight players signed up immediately. The team comprised a leadership group (Frank and 6 co-captains) and me. Preparation emphasized team structure, possible match ups and rotations. With the wisdom of hindsight there were significant omissions in the failure to form a tennis department and no time was allocated for training, other than several seven on one sessions to improve my celebratory high fives, hand slaps, fist bumps and pumps. This was the WA 3 team in the age group.



From left, Dave Mofflin, Steve Hollier, Frank Sweeney (captain), Ian Mumford, Tony Morgan, John Turner (Corinthian Park), Shane Paskett (Scarborough) and Kevin Shannon

Campaign headquarters were in East Shepparton, where Ian Mumford's presumably former close friend "Dizzy" inexplicably made his house available. There were good omens with the locale seemingly steeped in tennis tradition, with road signs celebrating the current NTC Captain and the former home of the Australian Open.

We are and were a proud team, but unfortunately by no matter what yardstick, realistically no pride could be taken in achievements realized. The highlight was F Sweeney and K Shannon winning both sets in the round robin match against eventual winners WA 1. However, post match analysis suggested this result may have largely resulted from a bout of food poisoning in the opposition. Grateful thanks to NTC stalwart Phil Holten who travelled as their cook and who, as a consequence, won our team MVP. In the final washup it was probably our youth, inexperience and the weight of carrying the expectations and hopes of the entire state that proved too great.

Regrettably there are no supporters or sponsors to thank.

It is impossible not to predict better than this year's fifth out of six for next year.

TONY MORGAN

SPONSORS

Nedlands Tennis Club would like to thank the local businesses that have sponsored us over the years. Your generous donation has contributed towards providing quality facilities for all at the club. Please support our sponsors as much as they have supported us!

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Anderson Davies is a partnership between Gordon Davies and Mark Anderson, two of the most experienced and successful sales agents in the area. They have been selling real estate in Dalkeith, Nedlands and surrounding suburbs for over 71 years combined. Their extensive knowledge of sales, local expertise and years of experience will help you to achieve the best possible outcome for your property. If you would like any property advice please call 93893333 www.andersondavies.com.au

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HELD ON SUNDAY 14TH OF FEBRUARY

The Fun Day was all about having fun in the sun and at the same time being sun smart.

A great big thank you to everyone that helped put the Fun Day together, whether it was distributing some of the 2000 leaflets door-to-door in 38 degree heat, or making cupcakes, or loaning a gazebo! So many members chipped in and helped. Child labour was definitely on show on the day with many youngsters managing the different attractions. A job well done.



The Club had recently won a grant from Sunsmart, Healthway and Tennis West to hold a Community Fun Day. So in true Club spirit, the *fun* was not just a big part of the actual day, but also a big part of putting it all together.

Distributing 2000 leaflets door-to-door over a 2 day period was well executed; 15 main volunteers with often partners or children helping out. Some travelled on foot, others on bikes, others on scooters or skateboards; there was no stopping us. We covered an area as far as Mosman Park, to Mount Claremont, Shenton Park, Claremont, Dalkeith, Crawley and of course, Nedlands. No street was untouched!

Shane Watson did a lot of work behind the scenes – making up 30 sand bags, helping Warren and Alan put up the Speed Serve and Hit the Target, sorting out the barbecues, locking gates, stocking up the bar with the help of Ken Houston, helping to work out where all the attractions should go to make the best use of the limited water and electricity supply! He even had time to distribute leaflets with his Dad!

By 12.30pm on the day the Club was rocking; Junior Pennants had just finished, all helpers were on site doing their bit to help get it all ready. Signs went up, gazebos went up, sand bags strategically placed, eskies lined up, tables and chairs were put onto the terrace, all water amusements were blown up and finally we were ready for the community.

Anne Love and her helpers had baked 200 cupcakes to sell on the day, all of which were baked on the actual morning of Fun day, no small task!

Mel English and her helpers fended off gate-crashers, getting everyone to register coming in through the main gates (Shane had locked all other gates). All were rewarded with a free tube of sun cream.



The afternoon was packed with both members of the Club and members of the community at large. The vibe around the Club was fun and exciting. The kids had an absolute blast! Toddlers (including Alan Lane – how is the neck Alan?) played on the bouncy castle; older children ran at speed and dived onto the water slide; there was always a queue for the Dunk Tank – people didn't want to just dunk Warren, Alan and Nigel, but wanted to be dunked themselves! Tennis Excellence provided free coaching for beginners and Fast 4 Tennis for players, along with Speed Serve and Hit the Target. A few select market stalls gave parents the chance to talk Thermomix, try a protein drink, try on a hat and jewellery, and buy an Enjo tea towel! There were competitions for the best silliest glasses, the best silliest hat, plus a Sun Smart quiz. Prizes were donated by our sponsors Cooper & Lourie, and Tennis Only. Redman Labs provided the free tubes of sun cream.

Thanks again to everyone, and in particular the people below, for helping to make the Community Fun Day a success (I hope I haven't missed anyone!):

Shane Watson
Yvonne Rippey
Sophia Tan
Emma Hammond
Sara Tan
Marian Aylmore

Anne Love
Clare O'Connor
Paige Herkes
Judy King
Ken Tovich
Tina Lind

Mel English
Jack Blatchford
Jane Edwards
Shihoko Soji
Clare Beer
Ken Houston

Lucia Agnello
Maddie English
Julie Lilburne
Tricia Herkess
Ruhi Lacey
Deirdre Duncan

.....and friends and family members of all of the above!

As Barb Nowak said to me the day after the Fun Day, "It was a great day on Sunday; it looked like everyone was having a great time. Are you doing it next year?" Well, I'll leave it to you to guess what my thought was...!!



A new year and a new round of Nedlands Social League (NSL). We started two weeks late this term due to the hot weather. Some found it just too hot to come out to play whilst others were wondering what all the fuss was about! Now spring is in the air it should be easier for everyone to zip around the court and play their favourite shots.

NSL provides a fun environment to practice match play in a social setting. It runs during the school term for 7 weeks (including the finals). You'll find us on the courts every Tuesday morning from 9.30 to 11.30ish, playing two sets of doubles and one set of singles, with each set being the best of 11 games.

If you would like to join in – and particularly once summer pennants is over – please let me know via email: lblatchford@inquire.com or phone 0450 114 112.

What a busy time of the year it is; organizing kids for their extracurricular tennis can be demanding especially when they change school years, which changes their after school schedules. We still have some spots in our squads and junior lessons if you find you have some free time to finish off the term of tennis.

NEW COACH: ALI ZEVKLI

We are excited to announce our new Performance Coach **Ali Zevkli**, who will take over the coaching duties from Andrew Fisher, who unfortunately has moved on from his position. Ali is a former coach within the Tennis Excellence network and is very familiar with our ideals, goals and coaching techniques.

Ali has a degree in Sports Science, specializing in building performance athletes. He has been coaching for nearly 20 years in Europe and Australia. Whilst in Perth, he has held the role of Performance Coach at Blue Gum Park Tennis Club, Head Coach at Mt Lawley Tennis Club, and last year was working at Peppermint Grove Tennis Club. We were lucky he was available to cover for Andrew so far this term, and happy that he has agreed to stay on. Ali is a specialist in technique and is well liked by his clients, as a number of them have followed him to NTC from his previous positions. He is available for private lessons and will be a great asset for your game.

JUNIOR CLUB

Red, Orange and Green/Yellow ball players are all welcome to join in on Fridays, 4.30 – 5.30pm. Remember it is FREE for members and only \$12 for visitors, which includes a sausage sizzle and drink. It is a great way to see out the school week for the kids and many parents bring out the rugs and have a relaxing drink and chat to ease in the weekend.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Whilst our entry date for junior club champs has passed, we want as many of you as possible playing, so if you still wish to play please contact Warren by email ASAP and we may be able to get you in. This is a great opportunity for all our players to be crowned the winner of their aged group so don't miss out.

WINTER LEAGUE FOR JUNIORS

We will be putting up a 'register your interest' sheet in the clubhouse this week for juniors wanting to play in winter. Due to court restrictions in winter we need to try and keep on top of how many teams we have and try to ensure opportunities for all our different levels of players. Nomination forms will go out in the next couple of weeks. The season will run for 12 weeks in terms two and three on Sunday mornings.

Good luck in your league finals, club champs events and we will see you on court soon.

Happy Hitting!

NTC GALLERY



12 December 2015

Father Christmas spreading cheer amongst the younger members of our club at the Christmas Party



14 February 2016

Summer Cooler at the Club where many enjoyed gourmet Thai chicken burgers and meringue nests filled with mango, cream and coconut.



VALE

STEWART FINCH

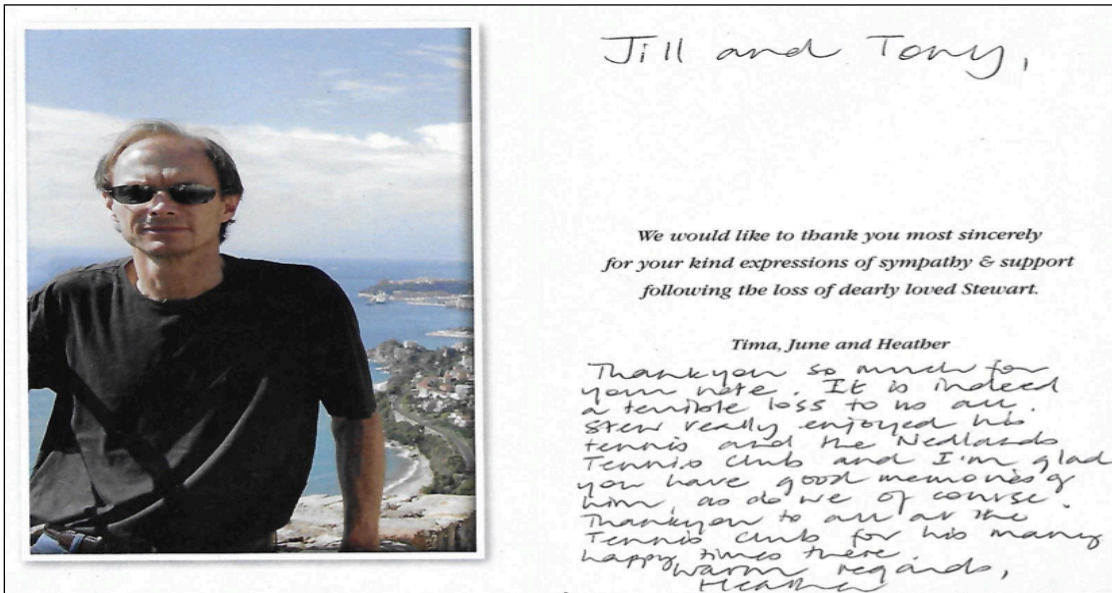
Stewart was a long time member of the Nedlands Tennis Club, probably joining in the early 80's when he stopped playing cricket. He was a good player and, as he didn't play pennants as a regular member of the team, he was a stalwart of Saturday social tennis. Always a pleasure when put on a set with Stewart. A perfect gentleman, good sport and happy to stay for a drink. He was a good supporter of many of our social functions. Stewart loved the tennis club, and he played in the inaugural NTC golf day at Meadow Springs. Being a member of Cottesloe Golf Club, he was handy with a golf club too.

Originally an engineer, he changed jobs when the share market became quite lucrative and became a stockbroker working for Hartley Poynton.

Stewart was diagnosed with oesophageal cancer about 3 years ago, and after a long struggle, did return to tennis to try to gain some strength but to no avail.

Stewart had many talents, was a top scholar, high achiever and he loved to travel. He has left a loving partner of 10 years Tima, and will be missed by many friends and family. It is a great loss and sadness to so many that Stewart passed away at a relatively young age of 57.

Jill Morgan



ANNA CLAPIN

Passed away peacefully on the 11th of December 2015.

When John and Anna Clapin retired from their farm in Cranbrook, they came to live in their home in Kingsmill Street, Claremont. They joined the Nedlands Tennis Club and were very regular attendees on Saturdays and joined in all the social functions.

Anna played social tennis with the Wednesday ladies and loved the fellowship, friendship and camaraderie that developed within this group. After they resigned from the club Anna and John still kept in touch with the members of the Wednesday group and also attended club functions. Apart from tennis Anna was a very keen gardener, a regular bridge player and an accomplished oil painter.

Anna was a very popular member, always cheerful, and will be sadly missed by club members.

Howard Lange