



Berwick Tennis Club 2016 Annual General Meeting Annual Report

Thank you everyone for attending the 2016 Berwick Tennis Club Annual General Meeting.

It's exciting to formally report that the last 12 months has been one of the most productive and successful years in the Berwick Tennis Club's history.

At 30th June 2016 we had well over 600 registered players, up from 512 the previous year and this once again will position us in the top 15 clubs in Victoria (last year we were 13th). These numbers include our members, coaching students and regular social players.

We remain the largest club in the City of Casey and the largest club in the Metropolitan South East region. For the financial year ending 30 June 2016, Tennis Victoria's statistics show that all of the tennis clubs in the City of Casey have a combined total of just under 2,400 registered users, so Berwick makes up 25% of those numbers.

At this point it's worth highlighting the significant developments at the club over the last 12 months:

- One of the major developments was the improvements to courts 3, 4 and 5:
 - At our last AGM at the end of July 2015, we had already completed 2/3rds of the fencing works around courts 3, 4 and 5. The remainder of the fencing was completed in October 2015;
 - The court resurfacing in the fantastic new blue Rebound Ace surface was completed in November 2015. The court works also incorporated some major extensions to the playing area, an alignment of all three courts, new drainage at the cemetery end and new modern net posts;
 - We also improved the pathway at the cemetery end of courts 3 to 5;
 - The combined cost of the total works was almost \$173,000. We received funding assistance from the City of Casey for \$53,500 which was very much appreciated. We also received a rebate from Tennis Australia for \$8,250 through their National Court Rebate Scheme. The remaining \$111,000 was funded by the Berwick Tennis Club. The ability for us to be able to fund such a significant amount is evidence of our very strong planning and financial management over recent years and the Financial Report that we will receive shortly confirms this.
- After many years of discussions with the City of Casey, the other significant development during the year was the refurbishment and extension of the clubrooms that we currently sit in.
 - The works commenced in January of this year and were completed in early May.
 - The original draft council plans were substantially redrafted by committee member Chris Maniatakis and those redrafted plans were largely accepted by council in their final plans;

- Whilst we had a few months of pain during the time we relocated to the smaller club room, I'm sure you'll agree that the wait has been worthwhile.
- We've now got a much larger social space, significantly improved kitchen, bar, toilet and change room facilities and increased storage areas;
- Our indoor viewing areas have been improved with the floor to ceiling sliding doors, that combined with the low line fence next to court three ensures an uninterrupted view of the courts;
- The sliding doors also give us the ability to expand the social space for the few times during the year when we have large numbers at the club, such as the junior presentation days.
- We've also got a wonderful new outdoor deck area. As you'll have seen recently, we've extended this area with the installation of a retaining wall and the fence around the area was completed on Monday this week. We'll be finishing this area off with some artificial turf in the coming weeks, just in time to get full use of the outdoor social space during the Spring and Summer months.
- The refurbishment and extension of the club rooms were fully funded by the City of Casey and we sincerely thank them for this;
- We purchased new furniture and whitegoods out of our own funds;
- A new water main is currently being installed to the clubroom due to major issues with the water pressure from the current mains;
- It's also worth noting that the preparation of this club room for demolition and the temporary relocation to the smaller clubroom between court 6 and 7 did take a significant amount of work and I'd like to thank all those that assisted for their efforts in ensuring that this went smoothly with as little impact on our members as possible.
- And finally, the coach's storeroom at the end of court 5 and the rebound wall were painted. Thanks to Matt Johnson for firstly donating the paint and then painting them for us.

And the developments don't end there. Some further exciting improvements will be happening in the coming months:

- All of the remaining fences, around courts 1 & 2, 6 & 7 and along the boundary between the car park and the cemetery, have received funding support from the City of Casey through their Minor Capital Works programs, and will be replaced in the September 2016 school holidays. The council will be contributing \$49,500, which is 10% of the entire City of Casey Minor Capital Works budget for the 2015/16 financial year. The club will be required to contribute approximately \$10,000 towards the project.

As part of the fencing works on Court 6, we will also be taking the opportunity to move the fence line at the car park end to align it with the court 7 fence. Court 6 is currently shorter than the current minimum standard court length so moving the fence line now will enable us to achieve a standard size court the next time we need to resurface court 6.

- When the fence works are being completed, we will be installing a retaining wall at the cemetery end of court 6 and improving the drainage along the football ground end of courts 1 and 2;
- New window coverings will be installed in the club rooms;
- The honour boards and notice boards will be reinstalled in the coming weeks;
- We will also consider installing some form of roof or shade sail over the new deck area;

Whilst it's extremely pleasing that our facilities have received some much needed upgrades and council funding, our success in attracting large numbers of tennis players continues to present our club with a range of issues and this has continued to be a focus of the committee over the previous 12 months and will continue to be a key focus into the future. Our facilities continue to struggle with the size of our user base and the number of courts we have is insufficient to meet the demands of some of our competitions. Our junior competition has continued to hire external courts at Pakenham on a weekly basis to cater for the number of teams we have playing each week.

I reported at the last two AGM's that in the medium term, council had advised that there was a possibility of Berwick Tennis Club gaining access and management responsibility at a secondary site with 6 new courts and a clubhouse that the City of Casey plans to develop at Hugh Hodson Reserve on Parkhill Drive Berwick. In the City of Casey 5-year capital works plan for 2014/15 this development had been pushed out by a year into the 2019/20 financial year. Pleasingly however it appears that in the most recent 5-year plan that was released in late June 2016, the development has been brought forward into the 2018/19 financial year. We will continue to work with council to ensure our needs stay at the forefront of their planning.

Finally, it's worth highlighting some of the other key achievements and activities that we completed over the last 12 months:

- The committee developed a very detailed 2015/16 Business Plan. This forms a key requirement under our lease agreement with the City of Casey. A business plan is something that we've never previously required as a tennis club. The business plan includes our annual goals and plans for development and growth, our strategy over the next 5 years and budget forecasts over the next two years. The business plan needs to be updated on an annual basis to ensure it remains relevant and accurate. The business plan is an important document for the committee as it provides a very clear roadmap for the future of the club and a focus for the committee to ensure all decisions made are aligned with the strategic goals.
- We transitioned to a new membership administration system that takes care of processing of new members and renewals. This has greatly increased the efficiency of the membership renewal process for our membership coordinator Helen, and has the added benefit that it enables members to pay their fees by credit card.
- The Men's Club Championships were successfully held again in mid-February 2016 with Andrew Diakoff winning the Singles and Craig Kitner and Chris Scott winning the Doubles. We unsuccessfully tried to reinvigorate the Ladies club championships that haven't been held since 1993 but still hope to run these in the future..
- The Junior and Mid-Week ladies competitions continued to be successful and we'll have a report from the coordinators shortly.
- Our Saturday afternoon Seniors competition increased to 7 teams over the most recent Summer and Winter seasons. This is the most teams we've had for many years at the

club. It is also promising to see a number of our Junior players successfully transitioning to the senior competition;

- We held another very successful Open Day at the club in January, held during the Australian Open fortnight. There were approximately 80 in attendance during the morning and generated many new coaching students and a number of new members for the club. A special thank you to O'Brien real estate who again supported this activity sponsoring the two large advertising boards located on Clyde Rd and Princes Hwy.
- Our Thursday morning social tennis group is still going strong. It is very well attended by a broad range of players, of all ages, gender and standards and is a tremendous opportunity for the players to get some much needed regular physical activity but it also provides them with a great opportunity to socialise.
- Our Tuesday and Thursday night competitions are also going strongly and it's only due to the fact that we've only got four courts with lights that we are unable to expand these competitions. There is consideration to adding an additional competition on a Wednesday night to cater for the demand;
- We ran a number of very successful fundraising activities during the year including our annual Bunnings' BBQ, two BBQ's on one weekend in late March 2016 at the newly opened Coles at Berwick Central, a trivia night in October 2015 and a chocolate drive earlier this year. As you'll see in the Financial Statement, we raised over \$12,500 through the fundraising activities during the year, an additional \$6,000 over the previous financial year.

Some of the key activities that the new committee will be addressing in the coming months:

- Updating our Liquor licence – with the changes to our club room dimensions and layout, we are now required to apply for an updated licence;
- The development of a range of Sponsorship packages that will offer club members and local Berwick businesses the opportunity to advertise their companies at the club through a range of options including signage on fences and our website. The sponsorship income will assist in our raising of funds for future developments at the club.

None of the above activities and the success of the club over the last 12 months could have been possible without the continued hard work of a small but very dedicated committee and supporting members.

A big thank you to:

- Our hard working committee – our Secretary Kim, our Treasurer Rhonda, our membership coordinator Helen, Chris, Shannon, Vanessa and Wendy, who all contributed their own personal time and effort in many areas during the year;
- Alison and Lois who lead a brilliant and committed coaching team that contribute directly to the success and growth of the club through the development of our Juniors. Allison also sits on the main committee, and with the support of the junior sub-committee, continues to put in a significant additional effort outside of her coaching duties in her role as the junior coordinator.
- Val and the MWL sub-committee for coordinating our MWL competition.
- Our night tennis coordinators, Scott and Ray, for running our very successful Tuesday and Thursday night competitions;

- Our senior coordinator Steve;
- Our maintenance crew of Denis and Walter; and
- Joy and Malcolm for their efforts in coordinating the Thursday morning social tennis;

Before I wrap up the annual report for this year, I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank two of our key people who are stepping down from their roles at the club.

Firstly a very special thank you to Val Molineux, who is stepping down as the Mid-week ladies secretary/coordinator. Val started performing this role in the 2000/01 financial and has just finished her 16th consecutive year. Val was awarded the Rhonda Handley Award in 2003 and was also awarded Life Membership a few years ago. Thank you Val for your significant dedication to the organisation of the mid-week ladies competition over many years.

And finally, a very special thank you to Rhonda Willoughby who is stepping down from the main committee. Rhonda joined the committee in 2007 and took on the extremely important role of Treasurer in 2011 and has performed this role diligently for the last 5 years. Thank you Rhonda for your significant commitment and dedication during your time on the committee but I'm sure the club will continue to benefit from your ongoing involvement in many other areas of the club.

As you can see, we have achieved a significant amount over the last 12 months and excitingly we'll see many more improvements at the club in the coming 12 months.

Thank you

Shane Fielding
President
Berwick Tennis Club Inc.