


THE GRILLE

Newsletter of the Ballarat Tennis Club



February 2008

President's Report

Welcome to 2008!

Where have the first couple of months gone??

Well, all the BTC Pennant's are underway and the Handicap Club Championship will happen over the next few months so there is plenty of tennis to play.

A large number of members watched Ruaraidh Gunn have a serious practice session with Brett a few weeks ago, before Ruaraidh begins his World Championship Challenge – We all wish Ruaraidh all the best with his matches.

(See article below for more details)

After watching how Ruaraidh practiced – all of us could utilize the coaching skills of our professional Brett – just give him a call to arrange some coaching sessions – there is a lot more to the skill of Real Tennis than just playing a few pennant matches.

As all clubs, we have significant running costs and cash flow issues; and over the last year or so there have been a number of members that have not been paying their court costs promptly. After much discussion the Management Committee has decided to stop any member from playing if their accounts are over 90 days from May 1. We believe that this is not unreasonable and would request that all accounts are attended to promptly.

(Please refer to the following **BTC Change of Accounts Policy** for further details)

See you on court!

Peter Dunn

President

Ballarat Tennis Club

Cone Cup 2007 – 9/10 February 2008

They say there's no certainties in life ... but in recent years Ballarat losing to Hobart in the Cone Cup comes pretty close ... and so a crack Hobart outfit of Bob Horner, Rod Tabor, Duncan Hamilton and Sally Rackham turned up on the 9th ready for the annual drubbing. They confidently left the Cup back in Hobart knowing it would just be excess baggage.

It was all doubles and Ballarat was enthusiastically represented by Quinton Wilkinson, Mike and Wendy Whitehead, John and Anne Link, Anthony Kierce, David Stagg, Mick Fenelon, Steve Wright, Stuart Strange, Rob Jolly, Tony and Charlie Cree, Phil Roberts, Robert

Montgomery, Richie Robinson, Jim Stephen and Ian Dowman ... a powerful team with a blend of youth and experience.

At the end of the first day it was 4 matches all and at the end of the second it was 8 all ... obviously it came down to the last match which made for an exciting weekend. Unfortunately on a game count back to decide the outcome Ballarat lost 126 to 112 ... but it was not the drubbing which Hobart had been planning and training for.

Special mention has to be made of the 9-0 loss by Anthony Kierce and David Stagg which had the selectors scratching their heads and banning this combination from now on. On the other hand the Stephen/Dowman combination won both their games and the future of the club looks rosy with their talent around.

Dinner at GC's on the Saturday night was well attended and an extra special thanks to Wayne and Marcia Spring, Jim and Irene Stephen, Bruce and Christine Christie for providing billets for all our visitors. Hobart's hospitality is legendary so it's great that we could provide a good social event as well as good tennis.

The return match in Hobart, THE BARTLETT CUP, is on this year on the weekend of the 26th and 27th July. Last year we only had 3 attendees which were disappointing as a club apart from nearly killing them physically. We need at least 6 to represent us adequately this year. Hobart is a special court in the centre of town and if you have never played there this is the perfect way to do it. If you are interested can you mention it to Brett. We are going to make a better effort to be organized this year ... and winning would be nice too.

Ian Dowman

BTC Summer Series

The BTC Summer Series is a unique team's pennant event which runs over January every year. Teams of 2 battle it out initially in four pools of three teams, one pool per evening, so each team play twice in the first three weeks of the month. The format is half hour timed singles, reverse singles and a doubles match. The winning teams from each pool then play knockout semifinal and then final in the fourth week.

All matches are handicap and because there are no entry restrictions, widely differing handicap combinations meet up. The general tone is relaxed and it is a good opportunity to meet (and beat) members that you might not normally come across.

Well worth considering next January if you are around Ballarat and the chance to pick an night that suits makes it a low level of commitment and a fun way of spending a couple of summer evenings keeping up your skills while waiting for the usual competitions to restart.

Paul Williams

BTC Courtyard Official Opening – Tuesday April 22nd, 2008

With the Club's new courtyard now complete (apart from some new furniture that is) it is now time that we celebrate this new edition. An official "Christening" is proposed for Tuesday night April 22nd – with a Club BBQ, exhibition match and much frivolity already planned for the night. It will be a fun, social event – kicking off at 6pm and something that all members can enjoy. Some more details will follow shortly – but stick the date in your diaries now!!

BTC Club BBQ and World Championship Practice

It was nice to see so many Club members enjoying our new BBQ/courtyard area and the chance to see one of the Worlds best players - **Ruaraidh Gunn** practicing during February. Over 40 members came along to enjoy the free Club BBQ and have a drink – while at the same time checking out how the World's best practice. It was a terrific night and one that we shall do again soon. Stay tuned!

BTC Change of Accounts Policy

As members will be aware, BTC relies heavily on the prompt payment of member accounts to ensure adequate Club cash-flow and the efficient running of our accounts system. Most BTC members have supported our efforts to keep the Clubs outstanding payments to a minimum – but constant work is still required on a monthly basis to ensure this is ongoing.

All BTC members that now have accounts in arrears over 90 days will be unable to continue playing tennis or using their Club account until their account is \$0.00. **Members with amounts currently in arrears 90 days will be given until May 1st** to have their accounts cleared, after such time they will no longer be able to use their Club account. Members are reminded also that late payment fees apply to accounts that are 60+ days overdue.

To aid in the implementation of this, BTC will now be endeavoring to send out all Club accounts no later than 7 days after the end of each month. This gives all members 3 weeks to pay their account before months end – and at least 7 weeks before late payment fees are charged.

Please contact BTC should you have any queries relating to this change in accounts policy.

BTC Plastic Cups/Glasses:

It has been brought to the attention of BTC's Management committee that some members have concerns regarding the possibility of broken drinking glasses either in the court playing area itself – or in the side galleries. Members using drinking glasses (or glass bottles) are requested to refrain from bringing them onto the court itself. Members are also urged to use utmost care when placing them in the side galleries. BTC has provided plastic drinking glasses in the bar for those members wishing to use these as an alternative.

BTC Membership Initiative

Over the Holiday period a number of our members are away and the court is not fully booked so it is a good time to arrange a hit with your friends or work colleagues to introduce them to our game.

Please remember it is up to each of us to help increase our membership!

Please make a big effort to introduce someone to the game of 'real tennis' at Ballarat Tennis Club!!!



The World's Oldest Tennis (Haarlem Holland) – Update Jan 08

General

About a year ago you were last informed about the progress of our unique project to bring back tennis to Holland. We thought it useful to bring you up to date again. In February 2006 we received a letter from the City of Haarlem agreeing with our proposal to restore the real tennis court at Huis ter Kleef. The *kaatsbaan* (a real tennis court, in Dutch) is, among covered courts, the world's oldest and is now used by the city primarily as a canteen. The court, complete with a proud little tower, was built about 1560 by Hendrik van Brederode next to his castle and tennis was played there likely until the early 1600s. Hendrik was a close friend and ally of William of Orange and in the turbulent year 1566 was the leader of the rebellion against the Spanish. The castle was largely destroyed by Don Federico during the siege of Haarlem of 1573, but Hendrik's *kaatsbaan* was spared, not for Federico's love of the game, but to be used as a prison. An eyewitness reported that many prisoners died on the tennis court because "Federico had promised them their lives but not their food".



Restoration of Huis ter Kleef Tennis Court

Restoring this registered national monument will be a major project. The work needs to be done with a great degree of authenticity, following mid-sixteenth century practice. The original walls of the *kaatsbaan* still exist, but the interior structure requires substantial architectural change. The roof is in a dilapidated state and needs to be restored. Upper windows need to be installed and the features of a tennis court incorporated, including a flagstone floor and lighting. Plans include creating a bar/lounge, meeting room and changing facilities, and a tennis museum will be created, with displays under the penthouses and elsewhere. The exhibits will guide the visitor through 500 years of tennis history, starting with a game on the *kaatsbaan*, of which Holland had at least 150 in the seventeenth century.

Fundraising (2008)

Our challenge now is to raise approx. € 1,000,000 for the substantial rebuilding required. We are planning to submit financing requests to public and private institutional funds focused on restoring historic buildings in The Netherlands and Europe. This process is taking a lot of time but we are confident that we can book major concrete results in the course of 2008. At the same time we are setting up a private membership and fundraising effort across the tennis world. The RTC Huis ter Kleef has already established a tax-exempt charitable foundation, named Stichting Huis ter Kleef, which will acquire ownership of the court.

Membership

Around 75 members of the Dutch RTA made deposits for membership toward establishing a court in Holland. Many of them support our initiative in Haarlem and will no doubt become RTC Huis ter Kleef members. The wealthy area of Haarlem and Amsterdam offers further great potential for recruiting new members. The club is centrally located, within easy reach of Haarlem's railway station, major motorways and Schiphol Airport.

For further information, contact the RTC Huis ter Kleef (c.de.bondt@casema.nl secretary) or the Stichting Huis ter Kleef (npcvanwijk@gmail.com secretary), website www.realtennis.nl.

Patrick Reuser, president (reuser@euronet.nl)

BTC Results/Reports Presentation Night 2007

Ladies Club Championship:



Laura Fowler def Jo Edwards

6/2 6/0



A Grade Club Championship:



Daniel Williams def Laura Fowler

6/2 6/1



B Grade Club Championship:



Aaron Fitzpatrick def Greg Henderson 4/6 6/2 6/5

C Grade Club Championship:



Steve Wright def Mick Fenelon 6/3 6/4

D Grade Club Championship:



Alan Campbell def Ian Chambers 6/5 6/4

E Grade Club Championship:



Stephanie Williams def Elizabeth Williams 6/1 6/3

Masters Club Championship:



Peter Dunn def Bruce Christie 5/6 6/3 6/0

Junior Club Championship:



Daniel Williams def Laura Fowler 6/5 6/2

Ladies B Grade Club Championship:



Cathy Faull def Elizabeth Williams 6/0 6/2

Mens Handicap Doubles:

Quinton Wilkinson/Michael Williams def Greg Henderson/Ross Troon 6/3 3/6 6/5

Ladies Handicap Doubles:



Stephanie/Elizabeth Williams def Laura Fowler/Jo Edwards 6/5 6/2

Mixed Handicap Doubles:

John Faull/Jo Edwards def Andrew Hall/Lyn Allford 6/4 6/2

BTC Pennant Ladders

BTC's various pennants are progressing well with most fast approaching finals time. BTC Individual Pennant commences March 13, which will add to the variation in pennants offered yet again. Below are the current pennant ladders:

A Grade Pennant 2007/2008

1. Malcolm Rodgers/Andrew Pipkorn	14
2. Paul Williams/Michael Williams	12
3. Doug Grant/Tim Graham	12
4. Mark Hartnell/Bill Hutcheson	11
5. Bruce Christie/Stuart Strange	6
6. Peter Dunn/Scott Sherwell	5

Doubles Pennant 2007/2008

1. Jim Stephen/Paul Williams	17
2. Greg Henderson/Graeme Fowler	16
3. Phil Roberts/John McClure	15
4. Melinda Grose/Terry McDonough	14
5. Brian O'Grady/Mike Whitehead	14
6. Stuart Strange/Mick Fenelon	13
7. John Faull/Peter Dunn	12
8. Steve Wright/Quinton Wilkinson	12
9. Jeremy Johnson/Neil Shorney	10

BTC Individual Pennant (Starts March 13)

Team 1:	Lyn Allford
Team 2:	Caroline Harry
Team 3:	Danielle Steer
Team 4:	Terry O'Brien
Team 5:	Scott Bateman
Team 6:	Charlie Cree
Team 7:	Andrew Hall
Team 8:	Alison Dugdale
Team 9:	Alan Campbell
Team10:	Cathy Faull
Team 11:	Ian Chambers
Team 12:	Peter Shea

Forthcoming Events

March 28-30	BTC Bisque Tournament
April 6	BTC "Newcomers" Handicap Doubles
April 18-20	BTC Handicap Singles
May 9-11	Priceline Pharmacy A & B Grade Handicap Singles

BTC Club News / Gossip

Some quick notes on a few **BTC members**:

- Congratulations to Club member **Andrew Hall** who has just bought a new business "Gisborne Power Products". Not wasting any time, Andrew has become the newest of

our Club sponsors and will be sponsoring a tournament in July – the “Gisborne Power Products Handicap Doubles”. Many thanks go to Andrew for his support. Members with any sort of garden or garden product need should give Andrew a call on 54288 844. I’m sure you will get well looked after!

- Brett would like to thank **Alan Campbell** for diligently returning his text messages...even if it was for a game three days earlier!
- Club member **Ian Chambers** has been seen wandering aimlessly around Victoria Park recently while intending to take his dogs for a walk. Ian had a sense that he had forgotten something important until he remembered that he had indeed left the dogs at home by mistake!
- Club member **Bruce Christie** has been at it again with his handy-work and creative touches. Bruce is responsible for the Royal Tennis racquet door handle on the courtyard door. Nice work Bruce!
- BTC welcomes new member **Alison Dugdale** to Club ranks. Alison has a background in geology and has already signed up for our Individual Pennant to commence later in March. Introduce yourselves when you meet her.
- Club members keen on good food and wine now have a great resource in Club member **Ian Dowman**. Ian has put his retirement years (and old age pension) to good use and has been touring each of Ballarat’s restaurants for lunch and scoring them on food quality, service and more. There aren’t too many restaurants he has not visited...so if you need the “heads up” on a place you would like to visit – then Ian is your man.
- It appears we have some problems in the Dunn household this month. Club members and father and son duo **Peter** and **Matthew Dunn** played off recently in the Parent V Offspring Handicap Singles. After Peter showed no mercy on an out of form Matthew and won the match 15/5, Matthew is apparently waiting for the first opportunity to ship his father off to the nearest nursing home! Be careful Pete!
- Club Members **David Stagg** and **Anthony Kierce** have been banned from ever playing doubles together at BTC again after a disastrous 9/0 loss in the Cone Cup versus Hobart. It is fair to assume that David and Anthony will be seeking alternate doubles partners for next year’s event! Good decision fellas!
- Congratulations go to Club Members **Andrew and Laura LeMarshall** this month who just had a new baby boy. Hudson Maxwell LeMarshall is the newest addition to their household and holds a lot of promise as a future BTC Champion. Hudson was 7 pound, 5 ounces at birth and can’t wait to start playing Royal Tennis!
- BTC welcomes back Club member **Phillip Morris** into its playing ranks after several months off with a shocking case of “shaggers elbow”. Lets hope it holds together this time Phil.
- Club member **David Parker** will need to put himself back into training after being absolutely thrashed in a sprint up Drummond St while running last Sunday morning by Club Professional and all-round athlete Brett McFarlane. It has been said that David’s running technique resembles a cross between Forest Gump and the Hunchback of Notre Dame. Despite this “impairment”, he still manages to get around a Royal Tennis court alright though. Keep up the training David!
- BTC welcomes another new member **Andrew Reeves** this month. Andrew lives in Melbourne, works often in Canberra – but has been playing at the Club most weekends. Welcome to BTC Andrew!

- Club member **Richie “Wildman” Robinson** is to be congratulated for his efforts in this year’s Cone Cup. In an effort to distract our Hobart opposition, Richie had not had a haircut since 1973 (which definitely showed) and had it dyed bright orange. The plan backfired however in the last match of the day when his partner and fellow BTC member **Robert Montgomery** went temporarily blind after looking at Richie’s head for just a little too long some time in the 4th game. Sometimes even the best thought out plans can come unstuck!
- Club Member **Stuart Strange** featured in our gossip section some time ago for his fishing prowess down at Wye River on the Victorian Surf Coast. Buoyed by his newfound stardom, Stuart has taken to giving fishing lessons while not working at his normal job at SAS Air. It has been found however, that Stuart has proven better after all at installing heating and cooling options than giving casting lessons - after spending several hours in Ballarat Base Hospital getting a hook removed from his hand under anesthetic! We can’t all be good at everything Stuwy!
- Those of you that can remember **Steve Yung** from several years ago will be pleased to learn that he is back playing again. Steve is the CEO at McCains and travels regularly – but has been enjoying some tennis on weekends. Welcome back to the Club Steve.
- Young Ballarat and Clarendon College recruit **Will Hoskin** is our newest Junior Member and is looking forward to taking on the rest of our membership. Make him feel welcome when you see him.
- Unfortunately, for fear of being sued we are unable to report on the **Stephanie Williams V Elizabeth Williams Parent V Offspring** match! It was a beauty though!!!
- Junior member and our local ball making man **Aaron Pipkorn** has left us for 12 months and taken off to France. Great place France...pity about the French though! Good luck anyway Aaron.
- Club Member **Mike Whitehead** has done great things in his term as President of the Ballarat Lyric Theatre – stirring his troops on to great performances in “The Producers” which is showing at Her Majesties theatre at present. The show runs until the end of the week, after which time Mike will be playing twice as much tennis as usual to make up for what he has missed out on in the last month. What do you think Mike?
- For the first time in memory **Paul Williams** has not done something ridiculous enough to get a mention for it in our Club gossip section. I would not expect this situation to last for much longer however!
- Congratulations to **John and Anne Link**. This month they achieved some things most husband and wife teams could only dream of. Firstly, they agreed to play doubles together...next they even won - but in a very bizarre twist it was noticed that the match was relatively argument free AND their marriage remains intact afterwards. Incredible stuff!!!

BTC Club Sponsors

The Ballarat Tennis Club is once again proud to welcome aboard its Club sponsors for the 2007 season. The input of our generous sponsors contribute greatly to the standard of weekend tournament and pennant prizes and make many of the things that happen at BTC possible. Thankyou to the following sponsors:

All BTC members are encouraged to support our Club sponsors wherever possible.

