
THE GRILLE

Newsletter of the Ballarat Tennis Club



June 2008

President's Report

Well, we have finally 'officially' opened our Courtyard with a wonderful night of fun, fellowship and tennis together. Thanks to Tim and Brett who arranged a short (2 game) doubles tournament with a selection of weird and wonderful additional handicaps. It was good to see some serious tennis being attempted by some!

We now need to work to obtain some new outdoor furniture to complement the courtyard.

You may have noticed, as you walk off court, that the newly framed and newly photographed Presidents have been tastefully displayed. Thanks to Brett, Sheree and others for getting the Presidents up off the floor at the back door – some might say that's where they belong!

We are coming up to our Club Championship Weekend on 20 – 23 June. Best of luck to all members that are still competing in the lead up matches and to those who reach the finals. Please come along over the weekend to support these matches.

The Presentation Night is on Monday, 23 June please see below for further details.

See you on court!

Peter Dunn

President

Ballarat Tennis Club

BTC MID-YEAR PRESENTATION NIGHT 2008 – Monday June 23rd

The finals of all BTC Club Championship events will be played on the weekend of June 20-23. BTC's Presentation night for these events will be held down at the Club on Monday June 23rd. A Pasta night that kicks off at 6pm and includes the final of the Women's Doubles Club Championship and Men's Doubles Club Championship is planned for the evening – with drinks from the bar to wash it all down. It should be a really fun night and ALL members are encouraged to come along for the frivolities. Cost for the night (excluding drinks) will be \$15.00 per person. It is hoped that all participating Club Championship finalists can make it along to accept their awards. A sign up sheet is displayed in the Clubrooms. Ladies Doubles final starts at 6pm and Men's Doubles final is at 7.30pm.

BTC Courtyard Official Opening – Tuesday, 13 May 2008

Some Photographs of the Courtyard Opening !!!



BTC Survivor Series 2008

BTC's newest and most exciting new tournament is due to commence shortly and will run through the entire length of the year. The brainchild of Timmy Graham and developed by the BTC committee, the BTC Survivor Series is designed to be attractive, interesting and beneficial to the entire membership – regardless of age, gender or ability.

Like the television series, the BTC Survivor Series will test each participant in a series of rounds - with the key element of the event to see who can "survive" the longest in the tournament. All Club members will be encouraged to enter. The tournament aims to fulfill three major objectives:

- **Survivor Series Tournament Winner:**
the best player in the event (All matches will be played off level)
- **Survivor Series Champion:**
the player that lasts the longest in the event
- **Survivor Series Order Of Merit:**
based on the results at the end of the event, all players will be given a Survivor Series ranking

As is mentioned above, the key element of the event is to see how far each player can progress in the tournament. Initially, players will be drawn against other participants of very similar abilities – but as the tournament progresses and players move into subsequent rounds they will be drawn against players with slightly lower handicaps. This will continue through the entire event.

All tournament entries will be initially listed in handicap order from highest to lowest. The entrants with the 12 highest handicaps will play off in round one, with matches being best of three set and level format. The six winners along with the best loser of round one, will then progress into round 2 to play the next best 5 players in the draw. This means that our initial winners will now have to play participants with slightly better handicaps. Once round two matches have been played, the cycle will continue once more - with the 6 winners and the best loser from round two continuing into round three to play slightly better players once more.

This cycle of rounds, where each of our winners – plus one best loser continues into the next round to play the next group of slightly better players continues until 4 players are left and the matches then turn into best of 5 set level matches.

The winner of the event will be crowned BTC Survivor Series Tournament winner – while the person who remained in the tournament longest based on rounds played, matches won, games won and games lost will be crowned BTC Survivor Series Champion.

Prizes will be provided to all round winners throughout the duration of the tournament, to the tournament winner and to the Survivor Series Champion.

Entry for the Survivor series will be \$10.00 per player, with all matches to be arranged around member availability. A Grand final will be played in December each year.

The draw has now been done and matches will commence shortly. Good luck to all those involved!

World Championships 2008

At the recently renovated court at Fontainebleau in France on 20, 22 and 24 May, **Rob Fahey** retained his World Championship title in a close match with **Camden Riviere** of the Aiken Club, South Carolina.

The result was 7 sets to 5.

The set scores were:

Day 1 - 6/1, 3/6, 5/6, 6/4,

Day 2 - 6/2, 6/3, 5/6, 6/0,

Day 3 - 6/1, 2/6, 1/6, 6/5.



If you would like to read more information on the 2008 World Championship go to the following:
http://www.irtpa.com/index.php/realtennis/world_more/the_world_championship_match_report/

As you may be aware Ruaraidh Gunn spent a bit of time practising with his coach Brett on the Ballarat Court prior to his World Championship Challenge. Unfortunately Ruaraidh was defeated in the Challenge match at RMTTC by Camden Riviere. Camden Riviere then went on to defeat Steve Virgona to become the Challenger.

Ruaraidh sent the following letter to the BTC, which we provide for your information:

Ballarat Tennis Club

27 March 2008

Dear Committee and Members,

Thankyou so much for the support you provided towards my World Championship Campaign. I really appreciate it. Obviously disappointed not to be going to the next stage but that has not meant that I did not learn and improve during my visits to Ballarat. As I have said before Brett is a superb coach and in retrospect I should have started seeing him earlier!

Hope to see you all soon.

Regards

Ruaraidh Gunn

BTC Recent Finals

The Club has just completed another round of pennant competitions. The doubles pennant concluded on a Monday evening 14 April with Mick Fenelon and Stuart Strange taking on Jim Stephen and Paul Williams after a dozen gruelling rounds of competition.

Brett was marking and there were half a dozen spectators to watch an engrossing encounter with the low handicap pair opening up a 7-3 lead. Stuart and Mick waved victory in front of the noses of their opponents before ripping out their hearts with a strong come from behind victory finishing 10-8. A sumptuous supper provided by Irene Stephen finished the evening on a very satisfactory note with the vanquished vowing revenge in the coming new season.

Sunday 27 April saw the final of the A grade pennant with the father/son team of Paul and Michael Williams taking on the distantly related pair Bill Hutchinson and Mark Hartnell. The opening match while described as "not reaching the heights of some of our previous encounters" was a see-sawing affair featuring power hitting and exceptional retrieving with Paul prevailing 6/3 6/4 courtesy of a handicap advantage. Bill levelled the affair with a great demonstration of experience and concentration over his younger opponent, 6/4 6/5.

The deciding doubles encounter was confidently marked by one of our new members Rod Unmack and was decided in favour of Team Williams 7/6. Over several drinks and pizza it was decided that tennis was the winner!

The new seasons will be underway soon and both of these competitions come strongly recommended.

Paul Williams



BTC v Jesters

Sunday June 1 was the date that Ballarat played host to the (Melbourne) travelling team known as the Jesters. The format was handicap doubles – a notoriously favoured match for Ballarat as Boomerang Cups will testify.

The visitors were led in handicaps by Nick Carr and in experience by John Hewson and included the Jekyll and Hyde like John Faull who kept his options open by playing for Ballarat in the afternoon.

Nick and John started off getting thumped by Dean Cinque and Paul Williams with this early match favouring the home team mainly because of the sub-zero court temperature.

Playing for Ballarat over the day were also David Evans, Greg Henderson, Peter Dunn and in the afternoon Wayne Spring and Mark Hartnell. The results were a bit hard to follow due to the new "variable handicap system" employed by our loyal club pro Brett who seemed to want to make sure Ballarat won – but not by too much!

Good tennis was the winner on the day however with Mike Garnett and Alan Willingham, well known in Ballarat as well as Andrew Buckle making up the rest of the Jesters team.

Lunch was a magnificent affair of roast beef and Yorkshire pudding prepared by local caterer and member Steve Wright washed down by enough red that any lingering ambitions floated away.

The afternoon's highlight (for the dedans) seemed to be when a local medical practitioner and low handicapper, perhaps suffering from a surfeit of the wine, felt the need to serve the ball in to the back of his partner. Photographs of the ensuing bruising have been edited out of this journal due to questions of taste. I will not name the offender but his identity may spring to mind wayne you think about it.

Thanks to all who played, Brett for his marking and hosting, and Steve for the meal.





Gisborne Power Products joins BTC Club Sponsorship

Gisborne Power Products has become BTC's newest Club sponsor. Club member Andrew Hall has taken over the business and would be more than happy to look after any BTC member who is in the market for garden power products or servicing.

Established in October 2001 in Gisborne and more recently relocating into new premises in the New Gisborne Industrial Estate, Gisborne Power Products has a new owner, a local resident from Gisborne – Andrew Hall.

Gisborne Power Products are specialists in small engine power equipment, operating a modern professional workshop supported by mechanics who have significant experience in small engine equipment. We provide prompt turn around times for service and repairs to most brands of power equipment and offer a pick up service for ride-on mowers.

We service ride-on mowers, push mowers, chain saws, brushcutters, blowers, hedge trimmers, pumps, generators and pressure cleaners – all repaired or quoted for repair.

Gisborne Power Products are dealers for Cub Cadet, Stihl, Honda Power Equipment, Toro, Novi, and Solo servicing the Macedon Ranges and surrounds with sales of the leading brands in the outdoor power equipment industry, supporting our products and most brands with after market service and parts.

Business hours are Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 8.30am to 1.00pm. Telephone Andrew or his staff on 5428 8844 for professional advice and service.

Gisborne Power Product will also be sponsoring a doubles tournament in July...so stay tuned for more details.....

BTC – Recent Results

March 28-30	BTC “Bisque” Tournament Winner: Will Hoskin Runner-Up: Matthew Dunn
April 6	BTC “Newcomers” Doubles Winners: Rod Unmack / Ben Hoskin
April 18-20	BTC Handicap Singles Winners: Peter Dunn Bruce Christie Ben Hoskin Jon Watson
April 22	BTC Alternate handicap Doubles Winners: Andrew Pipkorn/Robert McPhee
May 9-11	Priceline Pharmacy Handicap Singles A Winners: Bruce Christie Greg Henderson B Winner: Ben Hoskin
June 1	Jesters V Ballarat Winners: Ballarat 5/3

BTC Pennant Ladders

A Grade Pennant 2008

New A Grade Pennant to commence shortly

Doubles Pennant 2008

1. G Henderson/ G Fowler	18
2. M Whitehead/B O’Grady	16
3. M Fenelon/S Strange	15
4. P Dunn/M Hartnell	14
5. J Johnson/Q Wilkinson	12
6. P Roberts/J McClure	12
7. T McDonough/M Grose	11
8. D Cinque/S Wright	10
9. P Williams/ J Stephen	10

BTC Individual Pennant

A Dugdale	14
I Chambers	12
T O’Brien	12
L Allford	11
P Shea	11
A Campbell	10
C Faull	10
C Cree	10
A Hall	10
C Harry	7

Forthcoming Events

June 13-15	SAS Air Handicap Singles	BTC
June 20-23	BTC Mid-Year Club Championship Finals Weekend	BTC
June 23	BTC Presentation Night	BTC
July 4-6	Gisborne Power Products Handicap Doubles	BTC
July 18-20	Australian Amateur Veterans Doubles	BTC
July 26-27	Bartlett Cup (BTC V Hobart) in Hobart	HRTC
August 10	BTC Business V Medico Challenge	BTC
August 22-24	Lamanz Menswear Handicap Singles	BTC

BTC Club News / Gossip

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

- BTC welcomed back **Greg Armstrong** last month after a long lay-off with a crook back. Greg's "shaggers" back has finally come good though - and he is well on his way to regaining some of his previous form. Welcome back Greg.
- One of BTC's newest players **Rohan Bryan** has come up with the party trick of the year recently with his cunning ability to dislocate his shoulder joint and then use one of the tennis court walls to put it back in place. It's definitely a terrific trick – but I would recommend a vomit bag for those of you who are keen to see him perform it!
- Congratulations go to Club member **Alan Campbell** this month. In a bizarre twist of events, Alan has now started writing his tennis appointments in his diary. Maybe he now might be able to work out what the hell he is playing in each week!
- Club member **Ian Chambers** has pulled himself out of the BTC "shame file" recently and has risen to new heights for his dedication to his game. After stopping his trail bike and then allowing it to fall on top of him and break his ankle, our learned colleague wasted no time in cutting off the plaster cast that the hospital carefully put on for him - and then trundled off down to the tennis Club for a game with the Club professional. Ian then proceeded to test the strength of the break by cracking himself in the leg with his own racquet. Keep up the good work Ian!!
- Club tradesman **Bruce Christie** has been at it again this month. Bruce has now re-designed the winning gallery bell system. This adds to an already comprehensive list of work Bruce has done around the Club. Thanks Bruce!
- Well done to Club member **Aaron Fitzpatrick** who completed yet another Great Ocean Road marathon last month. BTC members amaze wherever they go!
- Like Pinocchio always wanted to be a "real boy", Club member **Mark Hartnell's** dreams were realized recently when he became a real emergency doctor. Mark flew to New Zealand to finish his final exam, which he blitzed - and then returned to Ballarat amongst much pomp and ceremony. It is believed Dr Hartnell was paid a large sum of money for an appearance in the Courier shortly upon his return. Well done Dr Hartnell!

- And speaking of doctors....Club member **Dr John Hurley** was not content with just one doctor in front of his name. Dr Hurley is now Dr, Dr Hurley. John was recently presented with this new accolade at Ballarat University. Now all we have to do is to teach him to score! Well done Doc.
- BTC welcomes a new player to our ranks. **Jenni Murphy** has been working with Paul Williams at the Bacchus Marsh Medical Clinic and has decided to try her hand at Royal Tennis. She is learning fast....so keep an eye open for her!
- BTC has some new up-and-coming junior players that have come out of Ballarat and Clarendon College. They are all super keen to cut a swathe through the rest of the membership....so members beware. BTC welcomes **Will Hoskin, James O'Grady, Tom Parker, Ben Hoskin** and **Sam Clarke** to our playing ranks. Good luck fellas!
- Club member **David Parker** and his wife do not ride together....and for good reason! Several years ago on a nice quiet bike ride, David decided to spice things up a little and cut his wife off in a ruthless maneuver that ended in tears for poor Carmel. Well things have been quiet on the home front since then...but obviously a storm has been brewing. Never one to forget misconduct, Carmel has now returned the favour – this time slamming David into the pavement on a recent bike ride. It appears that we have a rather competitive family there. Anyhow, with the ledger now square perhaps the Parkers can enjoy some nice civilized rides! We'll wait and see.
- BTC has a new World Champion!! Club member **Wayne Spring** has been crowned World Over 55's Amateur Doubles Champion in a recent International event held in the United States. He partnered Paul Weaver from the UK and played some fantastic tennis to gain the title. BTC believes Wayne is the Club's very first World Champion! Wayne also made the semi final of the World Over 50's Doubles with fellow Club member **John Faull** and the semi final of the World Over 55's Singles – so by all accounts has had a terrific tournament. All BTC members should be most proud of Wayne and John for their achievements. Congratulations fellas!!!
- BTC welcomes Club member **Irene Stephen** onto its Board of Management. Irene is a long-standing member of BTC and has been around many Tennis Clubs – both here and abroad. She will be a great asset to the Club and we look forward to working with her. Welcome aboard Irene.
- Resident fishing guru **Stuart Strange** has been at it again!! This time Stewy has made it onto the world-wide web featuring in a video as he slays monster blue fin tuna off the coast of Portland in South West Victoria. According to sources, Stewy enjoys making his own home videos...but this new one is something else! Check him out on "youtube" under tuna fishing – Portland. Great stuff Stewy!
- BTC welcomes back Club member **Paul Kierce** to its playing ranks. Paul has been a long time member of BTC – but has been living in Portland for a number of years. However, recently Paul has finally come to his senses and is now in Ballarat once a week making his tennis come-back. Say "hello" when you see him.
- Members are advised that BTC takes no responsibility for members injuring themselves on the tennis court while under the influence of alcohol. During the recent "Alternate Handicap Doubles" that was held during the courtyard opening, all Club Member **Wendy Whitehead** had to do was stay silent during the match. She did a reasonable job until match point – when her boozy lunch obviously became all too much for her and she promptly fell into the ball well - therefore losing the match. Wendy was lucky this time...but all members should take heed of the incident and think carefully before playing tennis pissed!!!

- Two more new faces around BTC this month. Members should welcome new BTC members **Jon Dugdale** and **Rod Unmack** to the Club. Both are keen to get at it and have made impressive starts so far. Welcome aboard guys!
- **Michael Williams** is in love!
- Did you know Club member **Laura Le Marshall** now has a business card design business? Speak to her about it if you are in the market.
- Club member **Tim Graham** is starting a new Club tournament called the "Secret Tournament". Members interested in information about it should contact Tim on 1800WACKYIDEAS.
- Although the description of what it feels like to be beaten 18/1 in Doubles Pennant cannot be printed in the pages of our Club newsletter – members interested in finding out should speak to Club member **Jeremy Johnson** who described the sensation so "eloquently"!! Well put Jeremy!
- Club member **Brian O'Grady** has been relegated to the BTC "Shame File" this month for the equivalent of child abuse towards other member's pets! Fellow Club member and trout enthusiast Greg Armstrong takes an enormous amount of pride in his stocking of trout into his son-in-laws country dam - and has gone to some effort in the nurturing of his "little babies" over the last couple of years. On a recent excursion out to the property however, Club member Brian O'Grady wasted little time in capturing and "murdering" several of Greg babies and did his best to avoid the detection of this most hideous of crimes. What's more, when confronted about the murders Brian seemed to show little remorse and even more pleasure in eating the deceased afterwards. Shame on you Mr. O'Grady!!!

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.



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