# ROYAL SOUTH YARRA LAWN TENNIS CLUB NEWSLETTER ENTRE COURT OUT TO THE COURT TO THE









# President's Report

The grass courts are now open and being thoroughly enjoyed by all, and the weather is conducive to members' drinks and meals whilst relaxing on the balcony overlooking match play. We are fortunate that RSY really is the ideal place for members and guests.

### **Grounds & Clubhouse**

The complete re-build of porous courts 1 and 2, and the re-surfacing of porous courts 5 to 7 has also made competition and social play more satisfying.

Similarly the introduction of LED lighting to porous courts 1 to 4 has substantially improved the quality of light, and enabled further economies in operating these, including less frequent globe changeovers.

The air conditioning plant servicing the Norman Brookes Room, Como Room and the Members Dining Room has been in operation since the 1994 clubhouse refurbishment and as many members will have experienced, has become unreliable. This equipment has therefore been replaced, ensuring more consistent conditions in these rooms no matter the extremes of weather.

Refurbishment of Apartment 4 in the Mont Verdant Apartments is well underway with completion scheduled pre-Christmas. Also the development of our new website which is being designed to be friendly to all platforms, including tablets and smartphones has commenced, with a launch of the new site targeted for February 2015.

### **Master Plan**

Long term site master planning has commenced under the leadership of the Honorary Secretary, Jonathan Roberts, with both Roger Poole and Derek Skues assisting in this exercise.

### **Foundation**

We have welcomed two new trustees to the RSY Foundation, Cathy Moore and Phillip Gray, and note Susie Strangward and Peter Clarke have stepped down from these roles in November. There are some exciting plans to refresh our Foundation's activities and approach.

### **Reciprocal Clubs**

I am pleased to see we have added two new reciprocal clubs to our list; the Kelvin Grove Club in Cape Town and the British Club in Bangkok.

### **Tennis**

The winter pennant season was completed in September with eight teams reaching their Sectional Final, but no pennants were won by the Club.

This year we introduced the Captain's Trophy, as an intra-club tennis event played over several months, and this proved a great success. As this copy goes to print the Club will again field a men's team in the Asia-Pacific Tennis League in November.

Our juniors tennis program has grown significantly, and has been augmented by the new Tennis Hot Shots program for younger members (tennis' equivalent to AusKick).

### Squash

The Club fielded five squash teams in the autumn season and four teams in the spring season, including co-fielding one or more of these with Royal Melbourne Tennis Club. This is a good arrangement for both clubs.

### **Member Activities**

It's been a busy period since the autumn edition of Centrecourt and I'd like to list and record some of the events enjoyed by members since then.

We held our 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary Club Cocktail Party in March with over two hundred and thirty attending. In April we held our Anzac Day parade and lunch as well as the RSY Kooyong Tennis Challenge (the Koots Cup, retained by RSY), in May our Winemakers Lunch (featuring Tellurian Wines) and the Squash Championships, and in June the Trivia Night and Members Art & Craft Show (which attracted many visitors and included exhibits from 65 artists).

In July we held our annual Sports Dinner, and in mid-August the Yarrayong Ball in conjunction with Kooyong Younger Members – this event was a great success, hosted by RSY young members with over three hundred and fifty attending. In October we held a Spanish Winemakers Lunch.

We have had two 'New Members Nights' in May and September, and it's worth reminding members that we now take three intakes of membership annually.

The Club will also organise many Christmas and end of year 'wind up' events for various groups, including our Christmas Cocktail Party on Thursday 4 December. I hope you can attend this with other members, or some of the other end-of-year celebrations.

In conclusion, I look forward to catching up with many of you at the Club over the coming months and wish you and your family a happy Christmas and New Year.

Peter Lie

# Contents

Page 4 RSY Sports Dinner

Page 5 Captain's Report

Page 7

Tuesday Tennis Group

Page 9

Pennant Profiles

Page 10 - 11 Juniors

Page 13

Table Tennis Championships

Pages 14 - 16 Young Members

### Front Cover

Lloyd Havlik winner of the Warren Kennedy Trophy and Gussie O'Sullivan winner of the Ethel Le Neveu Trophy.

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Dianne Hepworth

## New Reciprocal Clubs

The British Club Bangkok was founded in 1903. It is centrally located in the heart of Bangkok's business, shopping and entertainment district close to public transport and is often described as "an oasis in the heart of Bangkok". It is a popular venue for business and social entertainment and is a cultural centre for the English-speaking community in Bangkok.

The dining facilities include – poolside restaurants, balcony bar, verandah café and function rooms. The relaxed and friendly atmosphere offers a wide range of sporting and social activities – a fitness centre, tennis, squash, badminton, bridge and junior sports. No accommodation available – www.britishclubbangkok.org

The **Kelvin Grove Club** in Capetown is the largest sporting Club in South Africa. It was founded in 1925 and has a membership of 7000. It is a unique Club with history, heritage and tradition and is part of a community of all ages and cultures.

The dining facilities offers a choice of restaurants, each with its own menu and bar facility – a terrace lounge, a family and informal restaurant, champagne bar, terrace and wine cellar, coffee shop, poolside bar and function rooms, inclusive of a ballroom. Leisure activities include – eleven tennis courts (five floodlit), eight squash courts, rugby/cricket field, bowling greens, a croquet lawn, swimming pool, fully managed fitness centre and bridge. No accommodation available

- www.kelvingrove.co.za

A full list of reciprocal clubs can be obtained from our website.

### **Tennis Shoes**

The Club has acquired made-for-tennis shoes (Dunlop Volleys), which are available for members to purchase from the Courtyard Bar at a cost of \$30-00. Please be mindful that made-for-tennis attire, including shoes, must be worn by all members and their guests whilst playing on both porous and grass courts.

# Christmas & New Year Trading Hours

Christmas Eve Wednesday 24 December 2014

Normal trading until 4:00pm, at which time the Club will close

Christmas Day Thursday 25 December 2014

Closed

Friday 26 December 2014 Sunday 11 January 2015

Gym & Pool: 7:00am - 7:00pm

Clubhouse, Presidents Bar, Courtyard Bar & Racquet Lounge: 7:00am - 7:00pm

Dining (All Day Dining Menu only): 10:00am - 6:00pm

Monday 12 January 2015

Normal trading resumes

**Fitness Classes** 

Fitness Classes will not be conducted from Monday 22 December 2014 – Monday 30 January 2015 inclusive.

# Air Conditioning System

A considerable investment was recently made in upgrading the Club's air conditioning system. The aging units, dating back to 1994, servicing the Como Room, Norman Brookes Room and Members Dining Room were, as many members will have experienced, becoming increasingly unreliable in hot weather. Therefore, as part of the Club's on-going asset maintenance programme, and to ensure members' comfort, the air conditioning plant in these three areas has been completely re-newed.



### Queen's Birthday Honours

We would like to congratulate Mr John Bryan Westacott OAM who received an award in the 2014 Queen's Birthday 2014 for service to golf.

### **Obituaries**

Our sincere sympathy is extended to the families of our esteemed members:

Suzanne Mary Bell Playing Member - 1955

Ann Maureen Braham Restricted Playing Member - 1987

Joan Margaret Dumbrell House Member - 2006

Margot Jane Hartl Restricted Playing Member - 1998

Ruth Homewood Playing Member - 1980

Mary Margaret Lockwood Non Playing – 2000

Timothy Gordon Loveless Playing Member - 1987

Douglas Hugh Reid OAM Playing Member - 1963

Elizabeth Ritchie House Member – 1984

Ernest George Peter Targett Playing Member - 1955

Patricia Ann Warner Life Member – 1949

# **RSY Sports Dinner**

On Saturday 23 August, one hundred and twenty-two members and guests filled the Como Room for the annual RSY Sports Dinner. This dinner provides recognition for and is a celebration of all competitive sports at the Club.

Guests were thoroughly entertained by MC, Cedric Mason, and a video of 'Our Club - Then & Now' featuring Club Captain Tony Joubert, the guest speakers and Club member, Peter Johnston, and Greg Champion from the 'Coodabeen Champions'.

Our 2014 pennant award winners were:

Warren Kennedy Trophy: Lloyd Havlik

Ethel Le Neveu Trophy: Gussie O'Sullivan

Judy Dalton Trophy: Miranda Lansell & Jacqueline Nelson

Junior Trophy: Annabelle Hicks

Night Tennis Trophy: James Joseph

**Dick Doyle Squash Trophy:** David Fabinyi

On behalf of the Club, we would like to congratulate all the award winners and nominees. We also congratulate all competition players who represent the Club with such distinguished integrity and talent at every level of competition.



























# Captain's Report

The Captain's Committee have had an extremely busy time over the past six months with the organisation of winter pennant and ensuring we are ready for the 2015 grass court season bring on the summer!

### **Grass Court Tennis**

This year we would like all tennis playing members to be aware of the grass court calendar. The calendar includes four marquee interclub events:

- President's Day –
   Friday 14 November, 2014
- Club Championships 13, 14, 15 & 20, 21, 22 February, 2015
- Presidents vs Captain's Tennis Challenge – Sunday 29 March, 2015
- Captain's Trophy conducted from Sunday 29 March, 2015

A Pennant Hit-up will be conducted on a Saturday afternoon:

- Grades 1 6 convened by James Freeman
- Grades 7 10 and Juniors, convened by David Hepworth

### **Winter Tennis**

As a Club, we are represented in various competitions almost every day of the week. At pennant level, we were the second largest Victorian Club this year with twenty-two pennant teams competing in the competition.

In total there were fifty-three teams across the various forms of tennis and squash:

- Tennis Victoria winter pennant 22 teams (11 men's & 11 women's)
- Eastern Districts Mid-week Ladies competition – 7 teams
- Blackburn & District Night competition – 8 teams
- Bayside Regional Tennis Association competition (summer) – 1 team
- Bayside Regional Tennis Association competition (juniors) 8 teams
- Tennis Victoria Hot Shots Program (juniors) – 3 teams
- VRSA Club Circuit (squash) 4 teams.

During the year our new scholarship members have settled in well and been actively involved in the success of the women's and men's pennant competition.

### Upgrade of the tennis courts & lights

We are excited to announce the refurbishment of the porous tennis courts. A full refurbishment of courts 1 and 2 has been completed. The refurbishment of courts 3 and 4 has been scheduled for next year, and surface repairs will be carried out on courts 5 to 7. In addition, the new LED lights installed on courts 1 to 4 have received favourable comments from members.

### **Junior Tennis**

The plan to reinvigorate junior tennis has started to gain traction. The Hot Shots program (similar to the Auskick program) targeted at the 7–10 age group is now gaining momentum. Royal South Yarra is leading the way with over fifty children enrolled and the only club to provide three teams for the inter-club competition. We congratulate the convenors, led by our Head Coach Conrad Lim, Hugh Mosley and the members of the Junior Tennis Sub-committee.

Tony Joubert

# President's Day

To celebrate President's Day and the opening of the grass courts forty four players enjoyed round robin tennis on the evening of Friday 14 November.

This day recognises members who volunteer for the Club in sub-committee or other capacities, as well as giving all members an opportunity to play organised tennis and to meet other members. Our Sports Director,

Jarrad Wright ensured play on all ten courts was appropriately graded and a fun format provided.

Court winners on the day were: Sue and Tony Walker, Sally Cameron, Phillip Gray, Belinda Henry, Caroline Fernando and Sally Lie.

Matches were followed by drinks and dinner in the Courtyard Bistro. James Fien and his team surprised us with a Spanish vermouth based aperitif and prepared slow cooked lamb and roasted peppers.

I would like to express my thanks to our Committee members, as well as the overall numbers and breadth of membership attending, and I encourage all to consider joining this fun event next year.

Peter Lie





# **SMARTennis**

### **Net Play - Tennis Singles**

The crucial job of a player at the net is to get the ball back into play. The reduced distance the ball travels when a player is at the net puts enough pressure on the opposition without having to do anything extra or special. Overplaying volleys leads to too many mistakes and massively influences the amount of pressure that can be applied by being at the net.

If you think about your wing span with your arms and racquet outstretched, then this area is the only responsibility of the net player. More advanced players have the ability to move and cover a bigger area but the important thing is that within this area, you continuously get the ball back into play.

In singles when approaching the net, it is paramount to not be moving forward when the ball hits the opposition's racquet. This can be called a split step but being balanced and able to move both left and right directions is of the utmost importance.

Enjoy net play as it is the most underutilised facet of the modern game of tennis! With Roger Federer trying to come into the net more, surely others will catch on and it will become a dynamic part of the game once again!

### **Net play - Tennis Doubles**

- Always be aware of your partner's position in the court and be ready to move to cover the court that has opened up because of partner's movement.
- Because there is usually at least one player from each team at the net, lobs are a far more important part of tennis doubles strategy than in singles. Thus, in doubles you need a reliable overhead smash that wins points.
- It is often good tennis doubles strategy to hit down the middle or between your opponents. Sometimes you will win the point because neither opposition player takes the shot. Sometimes there will be a clash of racquets resulting in a miss or weak return
- **Be active at the net**, but never predictable. (Easier said than done!).

On the reverse side of the coin, look for patterns in your opponent's net play. See if you can predict when the opposing net player is going to poach and when they will hold their ground.

• From the baseline, hit hard, deep shots to an opponent who is also at the baseline. This often draws a weak return that your partner at the net can put away.

The standard starting formation in tennis doubles is as seen in this diagram. 'S' represents Server and 'R' represents Receiver and two 'Ns' are the net players. Note the position of the 'Server's' net player (near the net) as opposed to the 'Receiver's' net player (positioned at the service line T). If the Server can produce a strong serve it should induce a weak or poorly directed return which their partner at the net can volley for a winner. The 'Receiver's' partner is in a defensive quasi-net position allowing the best chance of intercepting a volley from the opponent's net player.

### Andrew McLean



# RSY v Kooyong Tennis Challenge

The RSY v Kooyong Tennis Challenge was held at Royal South Yarra on Sunday 27 April. Twenty-two players from each club contested the Koots-RSY Challenge Trophy.

The weather was perfect for tennis and the competition was highly competitive with Royal South Yarra winning 141 games to 128, retaining the trophy and winning their fourth consecutive challenge. Trophy presentation was held in the clubhouse when players enjoyed beverages and canapés.

A great day was had by all and we look forward to the return challenge at Kooyong LTC in 2015.



Jock Holland & Cindi Damian

# Blackburn & Districts Night Tennis Association

Nine teams represented the Club in the 2014 autumn night competition. Three teams reached the semi-finals with the Monday night Section 2, `RSY The Mighty Allsorts' finishing runners-up to the 'Greythorn Madpac Two' team.

The team consisted of Lachlan Beer (co-captain), Andrew Meagher, Portia Morgan, Alex MacCallum, Catherine Martyn, Stuart McRae, Edwina Affleck (co-captain), Jennifer Langford, Kate MacNeil, Sophie Trotter and Huyen Nguyen.

# **Tuesday Tennis Group**

The Tuesday Tennis Group has been well supported with up to thirty-five members attending on a regular basis. We play on grass and porous courts as allocated. Our rostered Court Captains do a great job each week ensuring we enjoy an even standard of tennis and have an opportunity to meet and play with different members.

Badge Days are keenly contested and our winners to date include:

### MARCH

### Silver Section

Winner – Brigitte Claney Runner-up – Caroline Russell

### **Bronze Section**

Winner – Sophie Rigg Runner-up – Jenny Smithers

### MAY

### Silver Section

Winner – Mandy Woodard Runner-up – Sue O'Brien

### **Bronze Section**

Winner - Libby Appleby Runner-up - Bibi Wilkinson

### JUNE

### Silver Section

Winner - Marg Neeson Runner-up - Deb Skues

### **Bronze Section**

Winner - Liz Rayward Runner-up - Annabel Holmes

### JULY

### Silver Section

Winner – Jen McCormick Runner-up – Bibi Wilkinson

### **Bronze Section**

Winner – Liz Bostock Runner-up – Wendy Potter

### **SEPTEMBER**

### Silver Section

Winner - Carolyn Martyn Runner-up - Marg Neeson

### **Bronze Section**

Winner - Annabel Holmes Runner-up - Rowena Shew

### **OCTOBER**

### Silver Section

Winner - Bibi Wilkinson Runner-up - Deb Skues

### **Bronze Section**

Winner – Ann Mulcahy Runner-up – Jane Roberts

On Tuesday 2 December, the Badge Day finalists will be playing for the Joy Fair Perpetual Trophy with the winners announced at our annual end of year luncheon.

Interested players can contact the Convenor, Pauline Saunders paulinesaunders2001@yahoo.com.au or 0438 335 850.

## Mid-week Ladies Competition



The Mid-week Wednesday ladies competition meet twice a year for a tennis and lunch get-together.

# **Pennant Teams**

### **MEN**

### Grade 1. Section 2

David Vukasinec Jeremy Beale Oliver Casev Harry Lim Conrad Lim (Capt.) Rob Tucker Andrew Poustie Jordan Szabo

### Grade 2, Section 2

Alexandros Yiappos Yuri Mijic (Capt.) Adam Freeman Carl Wood Ruben Digby-Diercks James Freeman

### Grade 3, Section 2

Marshall Street Alec White Ryan McLean Matt Camenzuli Scott Anson Andrew Del Papa (Capt.) Luke Bratchford

### Grade 4, Section 2

Graeme Campbell (Capt.) James Brearley Ben Andrew James Bull James Everitt Harris Irwin

### Grade 4. Section 3

Campbell Salmon Ricardo Iniesta Oliva Hamish Salmon (Capt.) Terry Batistatos Chris O'Farrell lan Jarman Drew Fenton John Randabel Nick Salmon Stephen McGlaughlin

### Grade 5. Section 2

Charlie Joubert Marsel Stanisic Nic Bennison Alex Molnar Stuart McRae Lachlan Beer (Capt.) Nick Speer Tony Joubert

### Grade 7. Section 1

James Gilson Andrew Spargo Tim Spargo Edwin Jupp (Capt.) John Albrecht Alex Joubert Barnaby Findlay

### Grade 7. Section 2

Nick Broomfield (Capt.) **Andrew Clements** Llovd Havlik Archie Trotter Marcus Stathos Tim McDonald Liam Albrecht

### Grade 7 - Section 4

Richard Ralph George Colman Dean Park (Capt.) Hugh McDonald Andrew Meagher

### Grade 8 - Section 3

**Huw Gatford** Ed Wilmoth Ethan McRae Lachlan Hicks (Capt.) Sean Wilson Jonas Holk Darmos Rupert Mosley Andrew Adams

Master's 50+, Section B Max Pettman David Hepworth (Capt.) Peter Lie Andrew Wharton David Dunstan Jonathan Roberts Jonathan Harris Alex Drutchinin Richard Joubert Rowan Sawers John Dixon

Jeremy Nestel

### **WOMEN**

### Grade 1, Section 1

Marie Monterosso (Capt.) Mary-Ann Jessup Georgina Jupp Audrey Teo Imke Barnard Grace Buchan Lisa Newman Loretta Sheales

### Grade 1, Section 2

Tavla Stenta Ashleigh Capannolo Gussie O'Sullivan Bianca Horsley Taylor Capannolo (Capt.) Sasha Alexander Gemma Goodland Rani Goodland

### Grade 2. Section 1

Natasha Van Bemmel Piper Priestlev Jovana Stanisic Zara Parker Caroline Fernando (Capt.) Rebecca Stafford Simone Munro Mia Heffernan

### Grade 2, Section 2

Danijela Mijic Rachel McRae Gemma O'Farrell (Capt.) **Emily Collin** Maddison Stark

### Grade 3, Section 1

Ellie Capannolo Olivia Fowler (Capt.) Chelsea Armstrong Sue Albert Vanessa Calvert Rebecca Murray Cathy Moore

### Grade 4, Section 1

Sasha Kenna Georgia Rogers Ellie Rogers Anna Collin (Capt.) Philippa Warnock Emma Heeps-Eriksen

### Grade 4, Section 2

Claudia Trotter Sophie Trotter Sue Gatford Jennifer Langford (Capt.) Lisa Millar Charlotte Fenner Kate Warnock

### Kate MacNeil (Capt.) Sarah Robinson Belinda Henry Skv Doualass Phoebe Jefferson

Grade 5, Section 1

Alex MacCallum Claudia Albert Isobel McFarlane

Alice Warnock

### Grade 6. Section 1

Sarah Kemp (Capt.) Jessie Gleeson Penny Roper Elise Ashley Jessica Nelson Eliza Gannon Georgia Hinton

### Grade 6. Section 2

Libby Hicks Sunny Brearley Laura O'Farrell Bella Happell Annie Hicks (Capt.) Emily Jarman Joanna Bell Annabel Joubert

### Grade 6, Section 2

Annabel Rothfield Rebecca Rothfield Mietta Leckey Meribel Lennon (Capt.) Eliza Lennon Juliette Cody Gigi Lennon

# **Pennant Profiles**



NAME: Gemma O'Farrell

**AGE**: 20

PLAY: Right Handed

PENNANT GRADE & POSITION:

Grade 2, No 3

**MEMBERS STATUS:** Playing Member

I am a third generation member compliments of my mother, Penny O'Farrell and grandma, Elizabeth Hodgkins who won an A Grade pennant for Royal South Yarra in 1973. I am related to a number of families who are Club members – the Court and Champion de Crespigny families and squash legends David Court and Rob Warnock.

# How long have you been playing tennis?

I started playing tennis when I was seven years old, playing in school holiday clinics, and was lucky enough to have an opportunity to hit with Evonne Goolagong Cawley. Up until 2007, I played junior competition, Grade 7 Tennis Victoria pennant and tournaments. I had a foray in to Badminton but reverted back to tennis and after a few lessons with Andrew McLean I resumed playing Grade 5 pennant, representing the Club. However I graduated to Grade 2 in 2014.

### Tennis Achievements?

2006 and 2007 Junior Levellers Series

2007 - Runner-up 13U Schoolgirls

2014 - Open Singles Winner at Kerang Easter Tournament

2014 – Playing Grade 2 Women's Pennant

2014 – Runner-up Tennis Victoria Grade 2 Pennant Player of the Year with an undefeated record

# In terms of tennis, where do you see yourself in the next five years?

Keeping up a high standard of tennis for fun and fitness, playing pennant and enjoying competition and social hits with friends and family.

# What is your favourite shot and court surface?

My favourite surface is grass; it reminds me of playing tennis in summer and Club Championships. I don't have a favourite shot, but my strengths are consistency and keeping a positive mindset. I enjoy the challenge of running down every ball.

# Who would be your ideal tennis role model?

My role model would be my grandma, Elizabeth Hodgins, she has so much tennis experience.

### Do you play other sports?

As well as tennis and badminton, I really enjoy running and dancing. I've been dancing (jazz, tap and classical ballet) for 14 years and have an amazing group of friends! Ballet has helped me with core strength for badminton and tennis.

# Have you enjoyed success in the RSYLTC Club Championships?

2011 I won the Ladies C Grade
Doubles with my mother
Penny O'Farrell. 2013 I was runner-up in
the Ladies B Grade Doubles partnered
with my mother. 2014 I won the
Ladies B Grade Doubles partnered
with Sharon Werka.



NAME: Stuart McRae

**AGE**: 23

PLAY: Right Handed

**PENNANT GRADE & POSITION:** Grade 5 – Doubles specialist

MEMBER STATUS: Playing Member

How long have you been playing

tennis?

Approx. 15 years.

### Tennis Achievements?

Playing pennant final series – always very tough to do.

In terms of tennis, where do you see yourself in the next five years?

Hopefully still enjoying the sport.

What is your favourite shot and court surface?

I love to serve and volley; therefore I love a good grass court.

If you had the opportunity, which Grand Slam event would you like to win and why?

Wimbledon; with all the history on those courts it would be amazing just to play there.

Who would be your ideal tennis role model?

Hewitt's fighting spirit is something every tennis player can learn from.

Do you play other sports?

I play football and cricket in my home town of Horsham.

Have you enjoyed success in the RSYLTC Club Championships?

I won the Men's B Grade Doubles with Andre Del Papa earlier this year.

# JUNIORS

The Junior Tennis Sub-Committee continues to focus on two goals - inclusion and improving the standard of junior competition tennis.

The development of juniors is vital to the success of tennis at the Club and has over five hundred junior members with about sixty playing competition tennis on a regular basis. There is a significant opportunity for increased participation. If you know any budding or interested junior players, please encourage them to participate in one of the iunior activity days or one of our many competition teams. We have teams of all standards, providing an ideal way to improve your general tennis skills and match play, while also making a few new friends. Contact the Sports Director, Jarrad Wright for information regarding junior competition tennis at the Club.

In recent months we have had two very well attended junior round robin tournaments. These days are 'fun and inclusive' tennis days in which juniors of all standards mix together. This allows our junior members, who may not have played regularly at the Club, to play tennis with other members. It also allows friends of members, who may be interested in joining the Club, to see what is on offer.

Our Bayside Regional Tennis
Association pennant teams were
valiant in the autumn season, with all
teams moving up several sections.
In doing so, more challenges and
fewer wins were experienced. This
was balanced with more learning and
improvement. Our Section 7 team of
Hugo Druce (Captain), Maxim Fisher,
Declan Albrecht, Henry Campbell and
Vivienne Johnston did exceptionally
well by reaching the semi-final.

Early indications of the spring season suggested the competition would be good with more members coming through from the Hot Shots program.

The development of the Hot Shots program is a key part of increasing the number of tennis playing juniors at the Club. The program is a variation of tennis for younger children. It employs smaller courts, lighter racquets and low-compression balls that don't bounce as high as full compression balls, making learning tennis fun and easy for children, allowing them to start rallying much earlier in the sport.

In May we ran our only non-tennis event, the very popular Year 8 Disco. Once again this event went extremely well with two hundred enthusiastic junior members and their guests enjoying a successful and well organised night.

Hugh Mosley

### **Junior Round Robin Tournaments**













### Teen Tennis Tournament

On Sunday 19 October, Royal South Yarra hosted Kooyong LTC at the Teen Tennis Challenge. This challenge is for members aged between 13 and 16 years who represent their Club to compete for the prestigious Cedric Mason Trophy.

Kooyong have been victorious at the previous three encounters and this motivated our team of twenty-eight teenagers, who were desperate to win back the trophy. Players were placed into teams of four; spread

across seven porous courts, playing three doubles matches each over a two-hour period. The competition was of very high quality with many gruelling twenty stroke rallies played in a warm 27dgs. Players were pitted against adult pennant and top junior competition players, making the day a phenomenal exhibition for the gallery of spectators.

At the completion of the challenge, players feasted on a delicious gourmet barbecue prepared by the hospitality team. The Sports Director, Jarrad Wright announced the winning team of Royal South Yarra who were the victors at 128 games to 94 games. This was a comprehensive victory.

Our team captain, Liam Albrecht made a gracious acceptance speech and was honoured at receiving the perpetual trophy from the legendary figure, Cedric Mason.

We look forward to playing for this trophy in 2015.



# Adult & Child Tennis Day

The Adult & Child Tennis Day which includes the Welcome to New Junior Members was held on Sunday 22 November.

The day was a great success with twenty-two pairs playing doubles tennis on the porous courts.

Presentations were held in the Como Room, and players enjoyed a delicious gourmet barbecue served on the Western Terrace.

The winners on the day were:

Peter & Vivienne Johnston Ella & Jeremy Lansell Toby & Fiona Ralph Nick Bartlett & Richard Rice Isabella & Charles Hornor Archie & Andrew Abbott



Chloe Joubert & Ava Lansell



Isabella & Charles Hornor



Archie & Andrew Abbott



# Sports Director

Over the past six months our sports calendar has been eventful with participation levels continually increasing! We entered twenty-two pennant teams this season, which is a Club record, with eight of these teams reaching the finals. Three teams were successful in winning a sectional final and on behalf of all staff; we congratulate the Men's Grade 4 – Section 2, Men's Grade 2 – Section 2 teams

It has been an exciting period for the sports department with the mid-week ladies, night competition, junior competition, hot shots, and squash teams dominating on the courts throughout autumn, winter and spring.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the inaugural Captain's Trophy which has been a huge success (this is a tennis event where players arrange their own time and date to complete their matches).

The Squash Club Championship finals were held in May with James Kavourakis, Sophie Temple and John O'Sullivan winning the Men's Open Ladies' Open and Men's Handicap events respectively. The Table Tennis Championships were held in October, and we completed the finals of the Billiards and Snooker Championships in November.

Many sporting events have occurred since April including the pennant tennis and squash get-together, two junior round robin tournaments, two electric light tournaments, the annual croquet tournament, teen tennis tournament and the major drawcard on the sports calendar, the RSY Sports Dinner.

Fitness and swimming classes remain very popular which is testament to our fantastic fitness staff. It's heartening to see so many members using the tennis and squash courts, gymnasium, free weights room and swimming pool on a daily basis.

I look forward to seeing you on the courts and around the Club over the coming months. Please ensure you continue to view the 'Happenings at RSY" email and take note of the upcoming sporting activities listed on the Club's noticeboards.

Please don't hesitate to contact me for further details via sportsdirector@rsyltc.org.au

Jarrad Wright

# Squash

Earlier in the year, the Squash Club Championships were played where we watched James Kavourakis defeat Rob Warnock and win his seventh consecutive final in the Open event. James is one of the top players in the state and put on a fantastic display of shots and pace against Rob, one of our regular finals contenders over a number of years. The Women's Open event was held for the first time since 1966 with Sophie Temple defeating Sharon Werka and the Handicap event was won by John O'Sullivan who defeated Rob Warnock, (yes – Rob made the finals of both competitions).

With live video streaming (compliments of the Club's new video camera) of the Open match into the Norman Brookes Room for the first time – we were able to cater for a larger group of spectators than the courtside gallery allows, which augurs well for future squash events.



James Kavourakis, Sophie Temple & John O'Sullivan



Sharon Werka & Sophie Temple

# Table Tennis Championships

The club's Table Tennis Championships have now been running for seventeen years and continually evolving.

This year's event was held on Monday 20 October with thirty entrants competing on four tables set up in the Como Room.

This event attracts a diverse range of male and female members varying in ages from 12 – 68 years. In addition to the on-court action, the championships have become something of a social occasion with drinks burgers/pizzas and tacos being served courtside with plenty of spectators in attendance to catch the action.

The lively social atmosphere at this year's event did not in any way detract from the quality of the competition, particularly as we headed towards finals time. The men's semi-finals were of an especially high standard this year with Ed Bickford defeating former singles champion, Adam Freeman and Andrew Spargo defeating Huw Gatford in an absolute classic, which included a 28-26 set!

Huw's forehand was something to behold and he would have to be a big chance to win next year's men's singles event. In the final of the men's singles, Andrew Spargo defeated his doubles partner Ed Bickford 21-16, 21-12.

The women's event also culminated in an exciting final with accomplished tennis players Jovana Stanisic and Marie Monterosso as opposing competitors. Marie has won the women's singles title twice and this year she added a third championship to her name in a tightly contested match which she won 22-20, 21-16. Marie's consistency and calm temperament under pressure were again on display, with Jovana providing much of the attacking throughout and Marie defending and counter-attacking with precision.

The Men's Doubles event saw Ed Bickford and Andrew Spargo each pick up a second trophy defeating Marsel Stanisic and Adam Freeman 21-14, 23-12. In the Mixed Doubles event, Marie Monterosso and James Bull defeated father and daughter team of John and Steph Bull 21-15, 21-19.

I would like to thank Graham Lockwood for his attendance at this event and presenting Andrew and Marie with the perpetual trophy. Graham founded the Royal South Yarra Table Tennis Championships in 1998 and represented the Club in pennant table tennis in 1953 (along with names such as Neale Fraser, Warren Kennedy, Neil Thomas and Norman Cahill).

I would also like to thank our Sports Director, Jarrad Wright for organising this event and ensuring it ran smoothly.

James Bull Convenor



James Bull & Marie Monterosso



Andrew Spargo



John & Stephanie Bull



Marsel Stanisic & Adam Freeman



# Young Members

# Yarrayong Ball

Royal South Yarra hosted a magnificent night of mystique and elegance for the RSY and Kooyong Young Members on Saturday 16 August at the Yarrayong Masquerade Ball. Tickets were hot property for the sell-out event. Entertainers and staff dressed as Masked Footmen greeted the three hundred and fifty guests in the Norman Brooks Room for cocktails before partying in the Como Room. The night was a huge success and thanks must go to the Club's staff and the Young Members committees of the RSY and Kooyong for their efforts in organising this event.

















































# Croquet Tournament

On Sunday 26 October members and their guests enjoyed the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Croquet Tournament held on the grass courts; the only thing outshining the sun was the fantastic competition and camaraderie on the pitch.

Forty-eight competitors battled it out under perfect conditions with an attractive group of supporters and onlookers keenly watching the strategic and creative manoeuvres of players.

This year we had great representation from the Club's younger and more seasoned members with an age gap of more than seventy years between some of the competitors!

Some amazing croquet was played on the day, worth noting was a skilful series of jump shots by David Court to seal a hotly contended hoop, however David needed more than a couple of crafty shots to make it to the final.

The final came down to a classic twelve shot peg shootout where the two final teams each have six attempts to hit the peg.

John O'Sullivan and Michael Kirwan

(the team earlier assisted by our own Sports Director, Jarrad Wright) took on Judy Roach and Jill Richards in a nail biting grand finale. The gentlemen were close, but unable to make contact with the elusive peg, amidst a great deal of cheering and bated breath from the crowd it was Judy who was able to masterly strike the peg on the final shot of the shoot out! Jill and Judy take the day and now join the exclusive list of RSY Croquet Perpetual Cup winners. Congratulations to both the winners and the runners-up, and all competitors for their enthusiastic participation.

A special thanks to David Myer and his assistants Carolyn and Ben from the Victorian Croquet Association for making the tournament possible. Thanks is also extended to the Sports Director and the hospitality staff who organised a great day, and an amazing spread which gets better each year.

We look forward to seeing everyone on the pitch next year, the annual Croquet Tournament is held in late October of each year before the opening of the grass courts.



Judy Roach, Jill Richards & James Cameron







# Billiards & Snooker Championships

The 2014 championships were played in good spirit with the finals held on Wednesday 12 November.

In the snooker competition
Tom Cameron won his third
consecutive title, winning The Eric Wells
Memorial Trophy. The runner-up was
Richard Walpole.

Warwick Loton was the winner of the Handicap Billiards with Tom Cameron runner-up. Warwick Loton won the Handicap Snooker with Nick Armstrong runner-up.

Jonathan Harris Convenor



Tom Cameron

# **Art & Craft Show**

Over a four day period, in June a total of 450 visitors attended the 2014 Members Art and Craft Show viewing 258 exhibits received from 65 artists.

So many members volunteered their expertise at all levels to present a thoroughly professional team event. The talent from our members surprised everyone. Much of the work was too precious to sell but 43 pieces were eagerly purchased.

The art and craft work covered a range of disciplines including sculpture, jewellery, millinery, embroidery, photography and painting. The youngest artist was eight and a ten year old exhibited a painting. It was wonderful to see families involved.

Warmest thanks to all those who so willingly contributed – fellow members, artists and supporting staff. The result was a successful and happy event.

Cynthia Wynhoven Convenor



The opening night of the Art & Craft Show began with a wonderful cocktail party attended by ninety-nine members and friends, eager to see this year's contribution of wonderful works. Over the two hour party and viewing there were delicious canapés served on artists' palettes, accompanied by drinks.

James Fien and his staff were busy keeping up with the large crowd which delighted in catching up, on this occasion, for the sake of art. Sipping champagne and perusing the fabulous works which exposed the added talents and pastimes of tennis players, was both exciting and inspiring. It was great to see exhibitors displaying their works and sharing their inspirations with fellow exhibitors and guests.

During the four day exhibition, which began as early as 8:30am to capture gym users and corporate the late attending member through to 7:00pm, allowing for interesting pre dinner drinks for both diners and art goers who could also purchase a palette of canapés with a glass of champagne as a package which added to the glamour of the event.

Overall a fabulous and fun time to introduce a well patronised art and craft expo.

Sally Gillon Convenor















# Winemakers Lunches

### **Tellurian Wines**

The Club welcomed a relative newcomer and rising star from the Heathcote region for the first winemakers function for the year on Friday 16 May. What a stunning introduction the team from Tellurian Wines (Toolleen, Victoria) provided.

We try and keep these functions memorable for the food, the wine and the fellowship, and we were not disappointed.

Tellurian is the brainchild of Ian Hopkins an engineer by profession but a Vigneron by choice! His son Daniel runs the show and their very experienced and accomplished winemaker, Tobias Ansted makes arguably the best Rhone style wines in the region. They have their own signature of pedigree and quality and it is credit to their collective dedication.

Our Head Chef, Peter Villinger was on leave and our skilled Sous Chef, Andre Trecate excelled in his absence.

The following describes the food and the wines and the excellent matching.

A lovely crisp and inviting 2013 Viognier commenced proceedings, no wonder this wine has been scooped up by British Airways for their First Class wine list.

A subtle yet well textured Marsanne 2013 was married with a delightful scallop and crab ceviche.

The next course saw a Nero D'Avola (A Sicilian red grape) a combination of berry and spice with a firm tannin finish matched with Pork Charcuterie and a collection of preparation styles that was a new experience for most. If it was a Master Chef competition 10/10..!!

The following course saw the often blended Mourvedre 2011 served as a straight varietal, it was remarkable, cherry and savory flavors with a bold finish; a wonderful example of clever winemaking. The accompanying dish of Cotechino Sausage with lentils and wild mushrooms sent many into mild delirium! (No names mentioned!)

The pièce de résistance and final course showed what can be done with Slow Cooked Lamb Shoulder, barley risotto, herbs and an olive tapenade.

The two stars of the stable were clearly on show at the conclusion, shiraz has a special place in Heathcote and these two were no exception. The Pastiche Shiraz 2011 is a medium bodied wine but with lovely fruit, acid and tannin to round off a beautifully balanced wine. The big brother is the Tranter Shiraz 2012, what a ripper, great intensity and class, plums, cherries, spice, herbs the imagination soars, great structure; this is a keeper, rewards ahead!

We cannot let the occasion pass without thanking James Fien for his ubiquitous style of management and control, we are in good hands.

And finally, you the members for your ongoing support, it's like a huge, private dinner party...thank you!

Adrian Bell Convenor

### **Spanish Aquisition Wines**

An enthusiastic and warm group of seventy five members and guests gathered to enjoy a fine day of Spanish wine and fare in the Norman Brookes Room on Friday 24 October.

Scott Wasley the man behind the Spanish Acquisition made sure we were well briefed and educated on fine Spanish wine and the kitchen created some wonderful regional dishes to make the experience a most enjoyable occasion.

We were entertained by Nathan (Segovia) on his imation guitar with some fine background music of Espana to get us in the mood.

The wines were from Capcanes, a Catalan village in the north east of Spain, Garnacha or Grenache was featured. We were also treated to some fine wines from Alicante further south on the east coast, the Monastrell

varieties featured prominently and these were all high quality wines and priced accordingly, most over one hundred dollars per bottle.

We have been lead to believe that Spanish wines were cheap and light... far from it, this is seriously good wine and we were all the better for the experience.

Once again, the hospitality team lead by Andre Trecate did a remarkable job, the service staff under the direction and leadership of James Fien kept us well hydrated!

A most rewarding and enjoyable day.

Adrian Bell & Phil Walkom. Convenors



# The Verdant Group

Summer is here with its refreshing renewal of nature, warmth and spiritual up-lifting and we are looking forward to the remainder of our program through to Christmas.

We report with pleasure on the great success of our September visit to The Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne, where we walked and had a train tour through these superb gardens at their optimum springtime period. The highlight of our day, however, was the wonderful picnic lunch for our forty-seven members presented by the Club's Hospitality Director, James Fien and Executive Chef, Peter Villinger. The quality and variety of the food and wine, offered in a chosen situation of great beauty, was of the highest

standard and all who participated were delighted.

The October activity commenced with a morning guided tour of the superbly renovated Healesville Wildlife Sanctuary in fine warm weather. It was a true delight with their new bird aviaries and with the highlight being the unique Flying Display of their Raptor Birds. A fine lunch followed at the RACV Healesville Country Club to finish a lovely day.

In November we visited the Stokes Art Collection in Mt Macedon, which included their beautiful Forest Glade surrounding garden. This was an outstanding activity as the collection is extraordinary and very special. Friday 12 December: This will be the date of The Verdant Group Christmas Lunch to be held in the Club's Como Room. Your attendance on this happy day is absolutely essential, you will be provided with the finest food, surrounded by good friends and entertained principally by the "Boardwalk" Barbershop Quartet with their fine Four-Piece Harmony.

The group encourages new members, your guests and in particular single participation.

We look forward to greeting you at one or both of our final activities of the year.





Healesville Sanctuary



Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne

# **Bridge**

Bridge continues to be very popular at the Club and this year has been extremely busy and most successful. Five Red Point Duplicate Days were held throughout the year. A "Bridge for Brains Day" was held in May when sixty-eight members and guests enjoyed lunch and bridge raising \$1,125 to support the research into Alzheimer's disease. Four Duplicate Bridge and Dinner evenings were held on a Wednesday evening for members and guests. A Duplicate Bridge Guest Day was held in June and social bridge continued on the first and third Tuesday of each month. Bridge Lessons continued throughout the year for Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced players from February - December.

During the year Ben Kingham conducted two free bridge lessons when members obtained valuable knowledge about the game of bridge. Sue and Lawrie Kelso conducted our Duplicate Days. Lawrie is a high regarded Bridge Director throughout the world, being a Director of the Australian Bridge Conventions and

World Conventions.

The Club was represented in the teams' matches against Royal Melbourne, Commonwealth, Kingston Heath and Victoria Golf Clubs. Bridge matches were held against Peninsula Golf Club, MCC, Kooyong LTC and the Alexandra Club, with Royal South Yarra winning the matches against Kooyong and the Alexandra Club, and won the two matches played against the MCC, retaining the perpetual trophy.

### 2014 Duplicate Trophy winners:

### April

N/S - Sally Graham & Caroline Brain E/W - Patricia Donges & Sally Marshall

### May

N/S - Jo Olsen & Sue Walker E/W - Virginia Cameron & Kathleen Gannon

### June

N/S - Elaine Dickson & Anthea Hone E/W - Norma Browne & Mary Church

### July

N/S – Sue Kinnear & Norma Browne E/W – Anne Gunst & Shirley Philpott

### **August**

N/S - Virginia Monahan & Jo Wenzel E/W - Sally Graham & Susan Sandaver

### September

N/S - Elaine Dickson & Anthea Hone E/W - Patricia Donges & Sally Marshall

### October

N/S - Dorothy Baenziger & Rosie Lill E/W - Patricia Donges & Sally Marshall

I would like to thank our Treasurer, Judy Foreman for her professional assistance throughout the year, Sue Head for organising the social bridge, and Joan Gray, Pru Court and Virginia Cameron for their assistance throughout the year. We look forward to seeing all our bridge players at the Christmas Lunch on 9 December, when Duplicate and social bridge will he held.

Mary Church Convenor

# Trivia Night - Shaken not Stirred

The biennial RSY Trivia Night was again held in June this year featuring a James Bond theme. The Como Room was creatively decorated by James Fien and his team, with every team table representing a different Bond film. Tables included "Octopussy" which had a real, albeit dead, giant octopus as the centrepiece, "Casino Royale" with its myriad of dice, cards and gaming chips and "The Man with the Golden Gun" with, you guessed it, a gold gun!

After seven rounds of questions, including one round dedicated to Bond films, there could be only

one winning table which was 'The Spy Who Loved Me' captained by Jennifer Milne who stormed to the win. Other games enjoyed on the evening included "Who am I", paper plane throwing and a spaghetti and marshmallow construction challenge for the engineers in the room.

Thanks must go to the irreverent MC for the night, "Hinton, Rob Hinton" who was ably assisted by Andrew Meagher and Lachlan Beer as well as the club staff that kept guests heartily contented with a steady stream of delicious food and drink throughout the night.



# **Footy Tipping Competition**

Sally Osmond won the Footy Tipping competition with a respectable 148 winners giving an average of 6.43 per week. Runner-up and third place were Peter Lie and Richard Roberts respectively.

We congratulate Sally on her fine effort. 1st Prize \$1,300 2nd Prize \$375

3rd Prize \$185

# Welcome to New Members

In May and September fifty-nine new members were inducted to their Club membership. The new members were introduced to the members of the General Committee, the Membership Board and key staff.

After the warm welcome given by the President Peter Lie, new members along with their proposers mixed with other guests and enjoyed canapés and drinks.















### **RSY Christmas Drinks**

### Thursday 4 December

Christmas drinks will be held on the Balcony, in the Racquet Lounge and Members Dining Room.

Let the Christmas spirit sparkle with a glass or two of Taittinger champagne and delicious finger food.

Christmas Carols will be sung by the Monash University Choir.

Time: 6:30pm - 9:00pm

Guests: 3 guests per member

Cost: Members \$70-00, Non-Members \$75-00

Dress: A touch of Christmas Ladies - Cocktail Men - Jacket (Tie Optional)

RSVP: Samantha Dove – eventsmanager@rsyltc.org.au or 9829 1516.

# Summer Barbecue & Guest Tennis Evening

Friday 6 February

A social mixed, men's and women's doubles tournament played on grass followed by a barbecue on the Western Terrace.

Time: Tennis courts available from 5:00pm, barbecue from sunset.

Meet: On the Grass Courts

Guests: 3 guests per member (no visitor's fee applicable)

Cost: \$25:00 per person – cash bar, drinks at bar prices

RSVP: Friday 30 January 2015

Early bookings essential, first in, best dress

Minimum booking four (4) players per court. Tennis balls provided.

Convenors:

Di Hepworth - 0407 547 834 Lachlan Beer - 0403 786 007

### Club Championships

13, 14, 15 & 21, 22, 23 February

Playing, Restricted Playing and Junior members, and Scholarship Holders are encouraged to enter the tennis Club Championships.

The championships will be played on grass courts and it is a great way to gain valuable match practice for the upcoming pennant season.

- New members are encouraged to participate - all standards of tennis are catered for
  - Partners can be arranged for doubles events
  - Online Entry @ www.rsyltc.org.au

Enquires:

Sports Director, Jarrad Wright 9829 1533

### The Vintage Member Lunch

Sunday 23 February 12.00pm for 12:30pm

This special lunch is held in honour of all members aged eighty years and over.

The tennis Club Championship finals played on grass courts can be viewed after lunch.

Invitations will be sent to members early in the New Year.

### Book early for the Australian Open Tennis

19 January - 1 February

The Club has purchased Australian Open tennis tickets for the Rod Laver Arena and the Margaret Court Arena for day and evening sessions. The cost of tickets range from \$64-00 - \$134-00 subject to choice of date. Members can purchase four tickets per session, maximum of three sessions.

### RSY Goes to the Australian Open Tennis

On Thursday 22 January champagne and chicken sandwiches will be served at the Club before heading off by bus to the Rod Laver Arena.

Cost: \$120-00 per person. Tickets are strictly limited to 30 - BOOK NOW!

For details relating to tickets contact the administration on 9829 1556.

# Save the Date

**JANUARY** 

Thursday 22

RSY Goes to the Australian Open Tennis

**FEBRUARY** 

uesday

Tuesday Tennis Group commences
Bridge commences

Friday

Summer Guest Tennis & Barbecue Evening

Duplicate Bridge Afternoon

Friday 1

Club Championships – Senior & Junior Member's Drinks Night on The Balcony

Club Championships – Senior & Junior Club Championships – Evening Barbecue

Club Championships - Senior & Junior

Club Championships - Senior & Junior Friday 20

Young Members Drinks Night Club Championships – Senior & Junior

Club Championships - Senior & Junior

Sunday 22

Club Championships – Finals & Presentations

The Vintage Members Lunch

luesday 2

Duplicate Bridge Afternoon – Trophy Competition

MARCH

Sunday

Visit to West Brighton Club — Barefoot Bowls & BBQ

Tuesday

Tuesday Tennis Group Badge Day Duplicate Bridge Afternoon — Red Point Competition

Tuesday 10

Duplicate Bridge Afternoon – Red Point Competition

Criden 1

RSY Club Gala Event

Sunday 1:

Junior Open Day

Tuesday 17

Duplicate Bridge Afternoon – Red Point Competition

Sunday 2

Young Members Sunday Session

Tuesday 24

Duplicate Bridge Afternoon – Trophy Competition

Wednesday 24

Duplicate Bridge & Dinner Evening

Friday 27

The Verdant Group

Sunday 2

President's vs Captain's Tennis Challenge

