

# The Network

NEDLANDS TENNIS CLUB NEWSLETTER MAY 2023

## Inside this Issue

- President's Report - 2
- Vice President's Report - 3 & 4
- Captain's Report - 5
- League News - 7
- Coaches Corner - 8
- Bar Duty & Tea Roster - 11
- New Members - 12



## Our Newest Club Championship Singles Finalists



Izzy Criddle & Susan Tay

*Congratulations to the winners*

ISABELLE CRIDDLE

JON DARMAGO



Scott Van Heurck & Jon Darmago

All enquiries to:

[nedlandstennis@bigpond.com](mailto:nedlandstennis@bigpond.com)

PO Box 234 Nedlands 6009

mobile: 0411 181 096

## Committee Members

President:	Neil Crocker
Vice President:	Nathalie Smalberger
Treasurer:	Dave Mofflin
Secretary/Manager:	John Detwiler
Sponsorship:	Nathalie Smalberger
Club Captains:	Peter Schmitt, Soni Bailey, Alex Tang
Men's League:	Neil Crocker
Women's League:	Mel English
General Committee:	Suresh Sakar Michael Nowak Warren Vickers Frank Sweeney Michelle Smith



**Announcements, Events and Dates for your Diary**

Awards Night - Saturday May 13

Our Sponsors - Page 6

Farewell to Sam - Page 9

2023 Annual Dinner - See Page 12

Quiz Night - Saturday September 9



# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## Written by Neil Croker

The recent change in weather and closure of many grass courts for annual maintenance provides a reminder we are now into Winter season.

I am pleased to report our 2022/3 Summer season was a success from many perspectives.

Contrary to predictions in the last Network, we were invited to host the State Senior's Championships at short notice, and thanks to the fabulous efforts of Nathalie Smalberger and her team of passionate volunteers we can be proud of the results.

Soni Bailey, Peter Schmitt and Alex Tang have been doing a great job as co-Captains along with their support team of duty captains and, as a result of that and our enthusiastic cohort of friendly players, our Saturday social tennis remains the envy of most other clubs.

Congratulations to the winners of our 2023 Club Championships - Men's Champion: Jon Darmago; Men's Doubles Champions: Jack Whitehead and Suresh Sakar; Mixed Doubles Champions: Warren Vickers and Direshni Bennett and Ladies Doubles Champions: Emma Hammond and Direshni Bennett. As Network goes to press the Women's Championship final is yet to be played between Isabelle Criddle (one of our outstanding junior players) and Susan Tay.

I would like to also acknowledge the belated 2022 champions (whose finals were only recently played): in the Men's doubles: Jack Whitehead and Suresh Sakar and in the Mixed Doubles: David (Rocket) Rees and Brid Dawson-Najem.

The Club is in a healthy financial position with the Committee now considering "what's next" to improve facilities as part of our longer term planning.

The club had a number of successful Summer League teams and a high percentage of teams competing in finals. The Winter season is also shaping up well. I am delighted we will be fielding 9 junior league teams. In the Women's League we have 6 teams entered and in our popular Men's intra-club competition we have 8 teams with a number of new faces .. including multiple time Ladies Club Champion Siobhan Drake-Brockman who is making a welcome return to the club to take on the men.

And, for the first time in Spring we will be running a nighttime hard-court club competition equivalent to our club championships. This is a closed event for members, so we will be looking to your support and participation to make it a success.

Importantly, please take a moment to appreciate the support from all of our sponsors :

Without their support we would be struggling to make ends meet.

As always, retaining and attracting members is critical to the Club, so if you have friends or family who might be interested in tennis please invite them for a hit and hopefully our friendly vibe will inspire them to join or visit again.

If you have any feedback on how to improve the club it is always welcome. Your friendly Committee is happy to take suggestions (preferably not while we are playing!) and even happier to take volunteers.

*Neil*



# TENNIS SENIORS WA TOURNAMENT 2023

Written by **Nathalie Smalberger**

## **TSWA Done and Dusted – A Collective Effort – A Collaborative Success**

Another one bites the dust...NTC's annual hosting of a tournament (or two) has been and gone. By all accounts it was a success, not the least for the Weather Gods that shone bright on us during those four days of the Tennis Seniors Tournament WA on April 21 -24. We had a very high participation rate from our members and some successful outcomes.

Congratulations to David Rees and Brid Dawson-Najem for winning their respective mixed doubles division. We also had a few runners up in their respective doubles divisions: Gary Hing and Richard Clarke, as well as Direshni Bennett and Liz Schmitt. Runners up in the mixed doubles in their division was Suresh Sakar and Susan Tay. Stjepan Maticevic was very busy playing three events and did a great effort to be runner up in his Group in the Men's Singles event. Many other members participated with various degrees of success, but unanimously enjoyed participating.

As in any successful event, it cannot happen without the mobilisation of an army of volunteers. As usual our roster was quickly filled in by our many members, who put up their hand for the cause. The cause is a worthy one – not only does the club hosting the event promote the game of tennis, which is our core raison d'être, but in doing so, it assists the club greatly when we apply for grants for future development. It shows NTC as an active and vibrant community club worthy of support. It also acts as an important fund raiser for the club and, by extension, is of benefit to its members.

The net profit from the TSWA was just short of \$ 5,000 over 4 days. It was made predominantly from canteen and bar sales, and some from club and court hire fees. This amount raised without having entry fees (Tennis West ran the Tournament) is an absolute almighty effort. We thank, in no particular order: Jenny Jones, Trish Heath and Direshni Bennett for their sublime baking that complimented the canteen fare of healthy and delicious offerings, Rachel Palmer for having the canteen ticking better than the finest Swiss watch. Michelle and Simon Smith got a special mention from Deanne from TW for making coffee worthy of the best barista and keeping the caffeine kicks going all morning long. Mel English was our runner and 'go to' reserve for all stations over all four days and organised the very successful French Champagne Table and sponsored the friendly waiter, Sam English – as is usual with bar events at the club, despite planning a generous amount of Champagne, we ran out and had to send in for some more reinforcements. The club was also the recipient of a generous donation from one of our longest tenure members, Phil Holten, in the form of 2 beautiful Gazebos which provided much cover and shade, and I suggest, from now on, when in use, should be known as the Phil Holten Pavilions.

(continued)



# TENNIS SENIORS WA TOURNAMENT

(Continued)

Volunteers were many: men and women, old and young, established members and newer members, playing and spectating, all coming together to lift to the occasion. Listed below are all those who gave up their time during those 4 days; if I have forgotten your name, you know who you are and please forgive me, there really were so many of you. A special mention must be made of Barb Nowak and Trish Heath who took on the canteen on the busiest day, Saturday, on a double shift, but they are old hands and a slick team, so the Saturday lunchtime mayhem was always going to be under control, if not their buckling legs at the end of the day after standing for hours on end. Direshni Bennett not only played, volunteered, and baked, but she also found us some lovely young MLC ladies coming in to do their community service. We would like to thank Lexi Bennett and Catalina Carvajal-Ruena from MLC for their delightful presence and wonderful assistance in the canteen and in general. Despite 198 entries in 40 events over 4 days, if our facilities were pristine, it was no fluke, but it was simply Sian Evans. Sophisticated, elegant and always witty, she nevertheless wields a fierce broom and a very caustic sponge and in cleaning mode, is not to be taken lightly. Every day for 4 days, at dawn Sian came in and fearlessly tackled the bathrooms – please note the plural here gentlemen! – this is one of the most important housekeeping jobs of all. How can we thank you enough Sian, not to forget the lovely biscuits you baked for the canteen ladies.

A special thank you goes to our club manager John Detwiler. Long after most of us are gone, John will be around making sure the bins are empty and things are as they should be. He also agreed to do the bar duty two nights shift in a row on the busiest days. Competing for valuable service is none other than Peter Schmitt. Peter arrived on Thursday to put up all the score cards and was the last to leave on Monday in the late afternoon when the last match of the tournament was played. In between he was on the bar, putting up the Gazebo and doing many other jobs here and there.

Thank you to Brandon, our groundsman, for having the courts in great nick and for coming to mark the lines in the rain. A lion's share of the credit for the courts are also due to Frank Sweeney who goes above and beyond for his job liaising with the groundsman and ensuring the standards are what they should be.

Finally, we thank Annette Livesey and the Dalkeith Tennis Club for welcoming those NTC social members on Saturday 22 April, and we thank our social members for their gracious understanding that the courts had to be closed over these four days.

## Volunteers Thanked:

**Alan Bruce, Ian Love, Michelle Smith, Pip Micalizzi, Ali Webster, Jen McGillivray, Mike Nowak, Rachel Palmer, Amanda Thomas, Jenny Jones, Monika Peterson, Richard Clarke, Anne Love, Jim English, Nat Smalberger, Sian Evans, Barb Nowak, John Detwiler, Neil Croker, Simon Smith, Carolyn Choong, Julian Goldsworthy, Nick Palmer, Suresh Sakar, Cathy Clarke, Leslee Mordaunt, Nigel Shaw, Susan Tay, Direshni Bennett, Liz Schmitt, Peggy Darmago, Thibault Mortier, Frank Sweeney, Lucia Agnello, Penny Oldfield, Trish Heath, Helen Morgan, Mel English, Peter Schmitt, Ying Mortier**

*Nathalie*

# CAPTAIN'S REPORT

**Written by Peter Schmitt**

Social tennis has been ticking along nicely with up to 9-10 courts in use most weeks. Many thanks to our weekly Captains and to Soni for coordinating the duty roster and making sure the set makers are organised.

On that subject many thanks to Ali Choong who has retired to concentrate on her studies for her all-important year 11. A big thank you also to Carolyn who has always been a great support to Ali, filling in regularly when Ali has had other commitments during the afternoon.

Dalkeith kindly invited us to join them for social tennis last Saturday while the tournament was on. There were 10 of us took them up on the offer and joined their 12 members for a hot afternoon of continuous tennis. Would have been nice to have had a tea break to refresh, makes you grateful of our roster system. 😊

Alice McLellan is joining Mathew as a replacement for Ali to make up our social sets, please make Alice welcome. Well recruited Soni.

Thanks to President Neil and helpers for organising another successful veterans round robin tournament and congrats to the winners. Natalie and her team did another magnificent effort in supporting Tennis West run a very successful Seniors tournament at our club.

These events make good revenue for the club but entail a lot of work by the volunteers. Doing bar duty on the final day and being the last contact for Tennis West, I can vouch they were very appreciative of the work done by Natalie and her super workers.

Thanks to Alan Bruce for organising a social hit on Anzac Day and Jenny for the Anzac bickies. The 10 hardy types who showed up got a couple of drenchings but those who stayed for drinks were treated to a great finish to the Anzac Day game at the MCG even though the Pies won the day.

Thanks to all members for your support of the club and happy hitting. Look forward to seeing you all on Saturday (winter start time is 1.30pm) and at the club windup and presentation night on 13th of May.

*Peter*





# OUR SPONSORS



The club and its members appreciate your support and all the help that you have given us

Please get behind all our great sponsors and advertisers where you ca

## ADVERTISERS

For Sponsors and Advertisers seeking to support the Club please contact Nathalie for advertising opportunities.

Nathalie Smalberger

[smalberger@westnet.com.au](mailto:smalberger@westnet.com.au)

Advertisers can have their business logo promoted through our newsletter and website for \$500.

Please support all our great Advertisers. Thank you to the following advertisers.

Say 'Nedlands 10' for a 10% discount



SIMPSON ESTATE

# LEAGUE NEWS

**Written by Mel English**

A competitive Summer 22/23 campaign culminated in 5 out of 9 ladies' teams qualifying for finals!

Thursday Night team Palmer (Rachel, Liz, Direshni, Lisa, Emma and Mel) were victorious in their Div 3 competition – taking the title from rivals Hensman with a solid home final win on courts 15 & 16 overlooked by a rowdy crowd on court 17. Direshni Bennett also achieved the MVP for Division 3.

Brid Dawson-Najem was the MVP for Thursday night Division 6 and Jenny Cook was the MVP for Saturday Div 3. Fabulous work girls! - all awards (and blue towels) will be presented on Open Day.

The men (team Flicker) were briefly triumphant in Div 1 in the Wednesday night Mens' Doubles 8 set competition – however due to a technicality had to forfeit the crown after a finals eligibility issue was raised by opponents City Beach after the match. I have had a request for blue towels to reward their efforts and the winning score on the night!

As we go to press the men will again run a Winter Wednesday night intra club competition and no doubt will keenly support the bar revenue. Whilst the women are fielding 2 Winter Wednesday teams (div 3 and div 6) and 4 Winter Thursday Night teams (div 2 and div 5) in the Tennis West Leagues. The prospect of keenly contested derbies as well as the unveiling of new team outfits are tantalising.... we just have to hope weather, injuries, illness and travel can align to allow the tennis to shine.

Thanks to all members who have volunteered to be team Captains and also to those that help out as reserves – you are appreciated and supported by your teammates and we couldn't run teams without you!

**Mel**



# COACHES CORNER

Written by Warren Vickers

## COACHES CORNER

I am writing this column from my office desk, overlooking the courts currently being used by a bunch of juniors at our holiday program. Outside on the verandah are roughly 40 adults getting ready to compete in the 2023 State Senior event, the club is looking spick and span with hard work from our groundsman and club volunteers. Courts are looking pristine and there are a number of players out on them warming up. With a number of our volunteers at the bar, on the BBQ and in the kitchen the club is a busy place today. It's great to be a part of it.

## JUNIOR LEAGUE

We had another successful summer season with 17 junior teams competing from first time orange ball players to our Junior State League girls team. We had three teams take home the league wins, congratulations go to all players but special mention to our winners:

Team Majidi, Team Abbotsford and Team Schmiede

For our winter season we have nine teams, which is slightly above our capacity of hard courts but we thank the groundsman for keeping the grass playable through the year.

## ADULT COACHING

We spend a lot of our time encouraging the youth of today to learn our wonderful sport, but its not just for the kids! We love coaching our members, regardless of their tennis goals we want to help out. There are ladies league drills, mens night drills, cardio tennis for all ages and abilities. We do team training sessions, hitting sessions and of course private lessons.

There are adult beginner and adult fundamental classes for those at the most basic level and those progressing with their tennis. If you have a partner or friend who has always wanted to give it a go but never taken the next step, send them our way!

## FAREWELL

It is with sadness that we have said farewell to coach David Micalizzi, a proud name in our club. David has been a member his whole tennis life, coached by myself, then worked as an assistant coach for a number of years. Upon enjoying his coaching he completed his accreditation and took on a senior role with Tennis HQ. He has been an integral part of our coaching team for ten years but it is now time for him to pursue other opportunities. We wish him all the best for his future endeavours.

**TIP OF THE MONTH** – There are two common “errors” in the majority of players out there at social tennis each week; these are some bad habits that players could take steps to improve to help their games.

#1. Late preparation; so often players are not getting their racquet into a position where they can easily accelerate into the ball, early preparation is not as simple as taking your racquet behind your body, but can include footwork and movement and balance. The most important part of preparation is tracking the ball and watching it leave your opponent's racquet; there are signs are there about where the ball is most likely to go and therefore where you should be and what shot you should play. Your tactical planning for your stroke execution is based on all the options available to you and the sooner you recognise where the ball is going to be in you court the sooner you can plan for your next stroke.

Once you see that ball heading toward you, pick your stroke and use an upper body turn to get your body and racquet prepared WHILE you move, then when you reach the ball you'll have nothing left to do but smack a beautiful shot!

Stay tuned for the next Network, for common mistake #2

Warren





# From little things, big things grow!

SAM ENGLISH

NTC wishes one of our members best wishes and good luck as he continues his tennis journey overseas. Sam English has had an amazing 12 months of tennis achievement: 2022 Cottesloe Men's Singles Champion, Captain of School Tennis for Christchurch Grammar School, Captain of WA Schools U18 winning Pizzey Cup Team and All Australian Team representative, Winner of ITF Juniors doubles title, Qualification for National U18 Championships and most recently State League Winner as part of the victorious Cottesloe team. He is now set to embrace the next chapter, having been recruited to play tennis for Pomona College – a US Liberal Arts College in Claremont, Southern California. He will be heading to America in August. Sam has been a part of Nedlands since he was 3 and played his first league tennis for Nedlands as a junior. He has been roped into playing in the round robin events with his mum, won the Club Champs Men's Singles in 2021 and recently also played a couple of times as a reserve for the Men's Wednesday Summer div 1 team (Sweeney).





# Around the Club



She said she was heading down south, but apparently she was practicing for the Coronation



After the Pennants, Girls just want to have fun!





Welcome  
New Members

**Peter Crossman**

**Phil Smart**

**James Case**

**Jeff Lee**

**Bernice O'Connell**

**Joseph Collier**

**Yuxia Hu**

**Flynn family**

**Joseph Swan**

**Siobhan Drake-Brockman**

Please let us know if you  
have changed your  
personal details so that we  
can update our records  
and keep in touch

**2023  
ANNUAL DINNER**

Come dressed as your favourite fairy tale character  
or what you would do so you were...

*Happily Ever After*

**SATURDAY 13 MAY**  
7 7PM -12PM @NTC

**TICKETS ONLY \$30 WHICH INCLUDES:**

- COMPLIMENTARY DRINK UPON ARRIVAL
- A BBQ MEAL OF WEIR'S FINEST MEATS
- PRIZES FOR BEST DRESSED
- MUSIC PROVIDED BY A PROFESSIONAL DJ

**OR ... BYO SALAD TO SHARE  
AND RECEIVE A \$10 DISCOUNT**

**RSVP BY MONDAY 8 MAY**  
NEDLANDSTENNIS@BIGPOND.COM

Dear Members, if you have  
any news or photographs you  
would like to have included in  
the Network, please pass  
them onto Committee or  
Coaches (no promises but will  
attempt to incorporate in  
future editions)



# Seniors Tournament at Nedlands



The 2023 Tennis Seniors WA State Seniors Championships took place at Nedlands Tennis Club during 21st – 24th April. 198 players participated in over 25 events with a total of 350 matches played. Big thanks to Tennis West and the Nedlands Tennis Club for organising and hosting a great event.





*Michelle*



*Carolyn*



*James & Tom*



*Peter & Michelle*



*Jon Darmago*



*Helen, Susan, Liz, Anne, Mel*



*Jon, Alan, Suresh, Jack*