

RLTA Newsletter – September 2006



One of the most dramatic trends in tennis clubs Australia-wide of the past 15 years has been the increase in popularity of mid-week night-time tennis fixtures at the expense of weekend day-time fixtures. There are probably many reasons for this trend, not the least of which has been the increase in Saturday afternoon shopping and the increased opportunities for part-time work. It would also appear that many players prefer to keep weekends free of sporting commitments to be more available for family activities.

Whatever the reasons, one of the impacts of this trend has been the lack of entries for our annual club championships, which have traditionally been conducted over two weekends. Interest in them declined to the extent that they have not been run now for several years.

Well, this year we have decided to resurrect the annual club championships, but this time by conducting them over several nights. It will be an interesting experiment that I hope will attract the best players to compete for the right to be called club champion for 2006.

Club Championships

These are to be held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings from the 26th September during the upcoming school holidays from 6:30 to 10:30 pm. All events will be based on a round robin format with the exact structure being determined by the number of entries in each event. Entry forms are available from the Pro-Shop and entries close on 16th September.

Junior Club Championships

It's been almost 10 years since the Junior Club Championships were held but it's back... These will be conducted over two Sundays in October (October 15th & 22nd) and there will be A, B & C grade for singles and A & B grade for doubles. Entry forms and more specific details are available at the Pro-Shop.

What's been happening around the club?

From an administrative point of view, there have been some subtle changes at the RLTA with Betty McCoy cutting back her full-time involvement to one where she is now our part-time club Secretary/Manager being largely responsible for the site and club activities. Jani and his Universal Tennis team have now taken full responsibility for all Pro-Shop activities (including court hire and collection of membership fees, etc) and for running the junior fixture program.

The new arrangements seem to be working out, with Betty finally getting the opportunity to come up for breath and even managed an overseas holiday in April. Smiling new faces helping Jani out in the Pro-Shop include Penny Rogers and Danielle Green. Our volunteer groundsmen Keith Collyer and Pat Cleary continue to do a wonderful job of keeping the site clean and the courts functioning smoothly. This year they have been joined by another volunteer in the form of Bev Hogan, who is helping out Betty with the book-keeping in the office.

There have been quite a few subtle enhancements at the centre this year, with many enthusiastic members helping out in working bees to clean the exterior walls and windows of the new clubhouse, paint the remaining better brick walls and umpire stands various shades of Griffin green, and erect new shade sails at the western end of the clubhouse. For those members who have something to say, there is even a new suggestion box at the clubhouse entrance (also painted Griffin green).

After a couple of attempts at getting it right, we now have a functional drain at the western entrance of our complex and some high-tech water control devices between courts 2 & 3 (check out the “Keithy-baby” bump next time you are down there). As a result, our clubhouse is no longer in danger of flooding and, of course, it has hardly rained since.

Redland Bay Junior Challenge

This was our first junior challenge match with the Redland Bay club and was organised by the two coaches from the respective clubs. It was held at Redland Bay on 12th August and was fun for all. Redland Bay proved to be the better team on the day winning 28 sets to 8...

According to Jani, the player of the day would have to of been the RLTA's Damion Gunn, a young man with a bright future in playing tennis and coaching. He won his singles 6-1 and split his two doubles. Most improved & promising juniors would have had to have been Sam Zubevich, Ben Goodale, Gareth Cheaney & Michael Davidson. These guys have a bright future in the club and have come a long way from their humble beginnings not that long ago

Next year, Jani is thinking about running a challenge with Beenleigh as well as that with Redland Bay.

Tom Ferguson Shield

On 13th August, 12 men and 12 ladies represented the RLTA at the annual Tom Ferguson Shield match between Redlands, Gold Coast, Beenleigh and Beaudesert. After winning the shield last year for the first time ever, our team was unable to defend it this time around. However, we did finish in second place behind Beenleigh, who were far too good for everyone on the day. There is always next year!

Redland Bay Challenge

On 27th August it was our club's turn to host Redland Bay in what has become the local derby with the Rosie Dunn Memorial Shield and a few egos at stake. A total of 28 players from each club participated in teams of 4, the players of which were all ranked to keep the tennis as even as possible. After the RLTA gave them a tennis lesson last year, Redland Bay returned the favour this time round, winning 28 set to 13. (Jani is claiming the forced withdrawal of key players, namely himself and Steve Parr, due to injury made the difference). Jani's choice for RLTA's man of the match was Heath Cleary, who did not drop one set for the day and inflicted his powerful shots on everyone that stepped on court with him. A great day was had by all and special thanks must go to Steve Parr and his father Lyle for their BBQ skills and the numerous people who were playing on the day and helped with the lunch and cleaning up. Flushed with their new-found success, Redland Bay would like to hold two such events next year.



Jani presenting Frayne Bloor of Redland Bay Tennis Club with the Rosie Dunn memorial Shield