

RLTA Newsletter – February 2007



Club Championships

Like they were in 2006, the club championships were again conducted over several evenings during the September school holidays. The popularity of last year's event prompted even more entries this year with lots of tennis being played.

The Club Champion for 2007 is our resident coach Jani Kroyherr. The final was played against Justin Schneider, his nemesis from last year, in front of an appreciative, noisy but knowledgeable crowd. Jani won the final 6 games to 2.



The 2nd Division singles saw a record number of entries (14) in what was a very keenly contested event. The final pitted Clive Manser, the former club champion of 30 years ago against the intimidating youngster Austin Ward. In a close final, Austin proved too big and too strong to win 6 games to 4.



The Men's Doubles crown went to Damien Gunn and Jani Kroyherr for the second year in a row, however, they did not have it all their own way. Down four games to one and break points in their semi-final match against the wily and cunning senior combination of John Dunnett and Ian Somers, they were made to work very hard to climb out of a big hole before progressing to the final against the up and coming pair of John Baxter and Justin Schneider. The final was also a hard fought affair in which Damien and Jani prevailed eight games to five.



The 2nd Division Doubles was a relatively dim affair, especially when someone who shall remain nameless, inadvertently turned the court lights off. The match brightened up when transferred to another court and the result went to the scratch pairing of Paul Smith and Trevor MacLean who beat James Ashdown & Clint Beavis six games to two.



The Mixed Doubles provided the trifecta for Jani Kroyherr who teamed with the young agile Laree Barney to defeat the more mature combination of Les Appoloni and Michelle Bowden eight games to five in a keenly contested final.



The 2nd Division Mixed Doubles was a triumph for the scratch pairing of Selina Zwolsman & Clive Manser who defeated last years winners, Alec Muga & Lynley Taylor, eight games to five in the final.



Club 18 & Under Junior Championship

On Friday the 28th of September we played the 18 and under junior club championships for the first time since 1988. We had a solid turn out of plays having enough for a 16 player draw in the singles and a 8 player draw in the doubles.

In the doubles we had a solid final between two very even teams. The team leaders were Matt Simos and Damien Gunn. Mat was partnering with Ben Goodale, a consistent performer on the Dunlop tennis tournament circuit. Damien Gunn partnering with up and coming squad player Gareth Cheaney or, as the girls call him, "G-Man". With some shake and bake tennis Damien and G-Man gelled better as a team with great communication and team work that even impressed Jani the tennis coach. It was a close battle that saw Damien and G Man win 6-4.

In the singles we saw Damien and Matt play an epic match that was one of the most exciting matches I have seen in a long time. Damien was either struggling with his fitness or had gone on one too many dates that week and was in desperate need of a good night's sleep. Damien was dominating Matt, shooting to a 4-1 lead. But this is when the wheels fell of. To his credit, Matt lifted his performance and made Damien

work for every point. With some dramatic points and some serious trash talk and racket throwing done by Mr Simos the two gagsters headed to a tiebreak. The match came down to 5-5 in the breaker with Matt being the aggressor making Damo run around the court like a little boy, however at 5-5 Matt had back to back easy smashes that he missed to hand Damien the honour of getting his name engraved on the Junior Club Champion board in the club house.

New Club Shirts

An exciting new initiative around the club has been the re-introduction of club shirts. The shirts are made from a material optimised for sport wear. They are light and comfortable to wear, are in fashionable club colours with the matching club logo on the left chest, and come in a range of styles (mens and womens) and sizes (from kids sizes right through to sizes large enough to fit the more mature full-bodied adults). Buying in bulk has kept the prices at an affordable \$32. A range of sizes is available in the Proshop to help you choose the right shirt for you.



Yvonne Willson modeling one of the new club shirts.

RLTA wins the Tom Ferguson Shield

For the second time in its 80-year history, the Redlands Lawn Tennis Association has won the prestigious inter-district Tom Ferguson Shield. This year the one-day event was hosted by the Gold Coast and was contested by some very talented teams from Gold Coast, Beenleigh, Beaudesert and the Redlands. While rain made life somewhat difficult for the organisers, nothing was going to dampen a red-hot Redlands team decked out in their new Redlands-red uniforms. Results showed that while the Redlands may not have had the best players in the top divisions, they had sufficient depth of talent to carry them through as the only undefeated team on the day.



The victorious RLTA team in their new representative uniforms holding the Tom Ferguson Shield

Upgrade to Court 8 completed

The Queensland Government recently provided \$13,192 to the RLTA to assist our club in upgrading our single remaining hard court (court 8) to synthetic grass, bringing it in line with our other seven synthetic grass courts. The work was completed in late July.

Redland Shire Perpetual Tennis Shield

As part of Seniors Week celebrations in Redland Shire, the more mature tennis players in our district took part in a tennis competition at the Redlands Lawn Tennis Association's complex at Cleveland showgrounds.

This year, the Redland Shire Council Perpetual Shield was won by John Dunnett and Lynn Howe and was presented to them by the Mayor, Cr. Don Seccombe. During the presentation of prizes, tribute was paid to the many Redland Shire businesses that

support the tournament with donations of vouchers and products.

The RLTA co-ordinator for the event, Bruce Maclean, said that it was unfortunate that players had to battle the elements as well as each other, but there were few complaints from the 30 competitors in relation to the much-needed rains. The tennis was played in a very friendly atmosphere and when play was finally halted, Lynn Howe with thirteen games was the clear lady winner. However, two men, John Dunnett and Paul Smith, were equal with thirteen games each and the winner was decided by the toss of a coin.



Lyn Howe & John Dunnett - 2007 winners of the Redland Shire Perpetual Shield

The Legendary Bunty Cass

At the recent Seniors Tennis competition held at the Redlands Lawn Tennis Association, not all of the stars received trophies from the Mayor. One such leading light answers to the name of Bunty Cass who surely qualifies for an “OBE” (Over Bloomin Eighty).

Bunty is one of the true characters in our senior’s community and was one of the first entries received. At eighty-one years of age, Bunty is testament to staying active to stay healthy, especially as one accumulates lots of birthdays. Her fellow players consider her an inspiration.

Originally from South Africa, Bunty and her husband Buster followed their daughter to Australia in 1986 and settled on Stradbroke Island. A keen tennis player since her early teens, Bunty continued playing throughout her life and, while she has never taken her tennis playing too seriously, she does enjoy winning on occasions.



When her husband Buster retired in 1992, the couple moved to the mainland to be closer to family and Bunty made lots of friends through her involvement at the tennis club. It was the family and friends who were there for her when she sadly lost Buster, her partner of 42 years, to cancer.

Nowadays, Bunty lives in a small Granny flat within her daughter's home at Capalaba and part of her regular stay-fit regime is to take the family's two poodles for their daily walk. But come Wednesday mornings and Saturday afternoons and you can always find Bunty lacing up the tennis shoes ready to give those youngsters a few lessons on how to play the game. Bunty's zest, enthusiasm and love continue to flow through in everything she does.

One of her many friends at the RLTA summed her up perfectly... "She leaves you at the end of the day with the feeling that to be a senior citizen with such an enthusiastic and selfless attitude to life is an irreplaceable gift".

Bunty will always be a winner!