

RLTA President's Annual Report 2004

The past year has been somewhat of a milestone for the RLTA with the State Government finally giving the green light to subsidy funding for our new clubhouse. As I write, the building has reached the lock-up stage and is expected to be complete by the end of the first quarter of 2005.

Some might say that the club has been saving for this new clubhouse for the past 30 years; however, it has only been the past few years that the redevelopment has taken a definitive shape. We must acknowledge the work of immediate past-president Brian Chenoweth and coach Jeff Schneider who started the ball rolling, but it was not until they invited architect and club stalwart Shane Keefe to become involved in the project that it built up enough momentum to get us to where we are today. Many months of deliberations with our building committee to fine-tune a layout and design and three years of applications to State Government have finally culminated in a clubhouse of which we can all be very proud.

The end of 2004 is also a significant milestone in that Jeff Schneider, our coach/manager of the past 10 years, has decided to move on to a new challenge in his coaching career. Jeff has now moved to the UK as a full-time coach of professional tennis players, a role for which he is eminently qualified. We are most appreciative of his contribution to the RLTA during his time here and wish him well in his new career. Jeff does expect to be back to visit us from time to time and has promised to be here for the opening of the new clubhouse in 2005.

However, the end of one era also marks the start of a new era. The RLTA management committee decided to split the multiple roles that Jeff undertook in his time here and appointed Jani Kroyherr as the new head tennis coach and Betty McCoy as the new office administrator.

Jani is just 26 years of age, yet has had more than 10 years coaching experience both in Australia and overseas. He is an Advanced Level coach with Tennis Coaches Australia, is a qualified Professional coach with USPTR, and is a qualified VicFIT Gym instructor. While his primary role at the RLTA will be to foster the junior development program, Jani will also run the pro-shop and be assisting Betty McCoy with the day to day running of the club.

Betty McCoy has been a life member of the RLTA for several years now, has served many years on the management committee and has helped run the Junior fixtures at the club for the past 16 years. Her new role as the club administrator is to take over the myriad of club-related tasks for which Jeff previously had responsibility. As the position is part-time and we will be reliant on a number of helpers to ensure that the club continues to function smoothly.

Tennis Activities

With all the chaos that turned our complex into a building site, tennis has almost taken a back seat. Our membership has been down a little on previous years but at around 450 is still very strong. While the night competitions and mid-week ladies competitions continue to thrive, we have seen a slight drop in both juniors and veterans competitions. With the completion of new clubhouse and the appointment of the new coach, we hope these be a catalyst that will spark renewed interest in tennis from those potential RLTA members in our community. However, for this to happen, it helps for current members to share Redlands best kept secret with their tennis-playing friends and tell them what our great club has to offer.

Beaudesert was the host last year of our regular inter-club competition (Tom Ferguson Shield) with Gold Coast, Beenleigh and Beaudesert. Redlands again finished third but then, as anyone who has been part of these days knows, everyone goes home a winner.

The regular inter-club fixture competition that has been held at Wynnum and Cleveland has proven very successful and our hopes are to extend this format in 2005, the details of which are still be worked out. We are hopeful that a junior fixture competition will evolve which includes Redlands, Wynnum and Redland Bay.

Thank you's

On behalf of the RLTA, I would like to formally thank Jeff Schneider for all of his contributions to our club over the past 10 years. Jeff was one of the most talented players and coaches that the RLTA has had in its 75-year history. In his first few years at the club, he enjoyed great success in building our junior development program and had even organised an elite junior squad of tournament players.

But Jeff brought more to the club than just his tennis expertise. He helped bring our club into the electronic age by transforming our office administration with a variety of systems. The club computer is now used to run all of our financial accounting as well as our fixture draws and results, our tournaments, our court bookings and our communications. As Jeff's knowledge and expertise broadened, he developed, published and maintained our club website, and introduced our membership to electronic newsletters. Jeff has survived (and thrived) ten years working for a club executive committee – a significant feat in its own right that underlines his outgoing personality and communication skills. In all those years he has acted professionally, and presented written reports at all of the executive meetings. We wish him all the best in his new career path.

Two others that must be recognised for their continued contributions to the club are our treasurer Bill Tapper and secretary and junior fixture coordinator Betty McCoy. Bill stepped into the breach at a time when we were undertaking our major site redevelopment program and his financial reports have enabled the management committee to monitor and manage our cash flows closely. Betty has always been one the quiet achievers in the club and, as mentioned earlier, the club has now extended and formalised her role to that of club administrator.

I would also like to thank Vice President Les Finney and the rest of the Management Committee for their support and guidance during what has again been a very busy year at the club. With so many talented people contributing to the running of our club, it has made my job so much easier.

Ian Somers

President RLTA.

