

RLTA President's Annual Report 2007

It with great pride that I present the RLTA Annual Report for 2007. The past year has been a successful one both on and off the court. The club won the inter-district competition (Tom Ferguson Shield) for the second time ever, won the annual derby with the Redland Bay Club (Rosie Dunn Shield) and won financial support from the State Government for the upgrade of our hard court to synthetic grass.

The only dark cloud this past year has been a decline in membership numbers (from 500 in 2006 down to 420 in 2007, mainly mid-week ladies and juniors) at a time when we have been optimistic about growing the club. Despite this, the club has a wonderful mix of amazing people that share a common interest in tennis, fantastic facilities that continue to improve, and remains financially sound with an asset base valued at close to \$1 million.

Administration

Our administrative structure remained the same as for the previous year. Our club's part-time Secretary/Manager (Betty McCoy) was responsible for the site management and club activities, while our club coach, Jani Kroyherr, and his Universal Tennis team managed court hire, fee collection and the junior fixture program through the Pro-shop. Jani's coaching contract with the club has now been renewed for one more year, with the option of an additional two years.

Betty was assisted in her role by club volunteers Keith Collyer (caretaker), Pat Cleary (groundsman), Bev Hogan (book-keeping) and Tony Barton (barman). On behalf of the club I wish to thank them all for their efforts.

With Penny Rogers off saving cheetas in the wilds of Africa last year, Jani's team gained a few new faces and increased responsibility all round. The ever-smiling Dannielle Green had to learn the Pro-shop ropes very quickly to keep things functioning (and to keep Jani focused and on-track). Also helping in this regard was Jani's new full time assistant coach, Damian Gunn. Special mention should also be made of David Young who has not only come through the junior ranks at our club to now be assisting Jani as a coach but has also survived a baptism of fire in helping to run the beginners section of the junior fixture program. The junior fixture program is also indebted to parents Di Green and Wasiela Weary for their efforts in keeping the matches on track and on time.

Courts

After considerable discussion, it was decided that the club's one remaining hard court (court 8) should be upgraded to synthetic grass in line with all of the other courts. The State Government assisted financially and the upgrade was completed in July.

Court 1, which is due for resurfacing in early 2008 is to have a new foundation laid at the same time. Courts 1 to 4 have synthetic grass laid directly on the original decomposed granite court surface and as a result tend to hold water compared to our other courts. In time, all of these courts are to have a new road-base foundation with better drainage.

Special thanks is due to Keith Collyer and Pat Cleary who have made it their mission to ensure that the courts are in top condition for the benefit of our members.

Furniture

Early in 2008 will see the arrival of a complete set of new chairs for the clubhouse. The Veterans and in particular, Yvonne Willson, deserve special thanks for their fund-raising efforts to purchase these chairs.

Former clubhouse (Keith's castle)

The fate of the former clubhouse still remains unresolved though there appears to be a light at the end of the tunnel. Originally destined to be demolished, it quickly became apparent that it would continue to serve a useful purpose as a much needed ground store and caretaker's workshop. To

this end, we have been negotiating with Redlands Council with regard to refurbishing it (with their financial support) so that it might also provide part-time office space for the Cleveland Showground staff. Watch this space...

Club Shirts

An exciting new initiative around the club has been the re-introduction of club shirts (a club edition and a representative edition). 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). Special thanks must go to Steve Parr who has been able to source these shirts for the club at cost price.

Tennis – Club Championships

Like they were the previous year, 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 winners for 2007 were:

A Mens Singles:	Jani Kroyherr
B Mens Singles:	Austin Ward
A Mens Doubles:	Jani Kroyherr & Damien Gunn
B Mens and Ladies Doubles:	Paul Smith & Trevor MacLean
A Mixed Doubles:	Jani Kroyherr & Laree Barney
B Mixed Doubles:	Selina Zwolsman & Clive Manser

On Friday the 28th of September we played the 18 and under junior club championships for the first time since 1988. We had enough players for a 16 player draw in the singles and a 8 player draw in the doubles. The winners for 2007 were:

18& Under Singles:	Damien Gunn
18& Under Doubles:	Damien Gunn & Gareth Cheaney

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.

Redland Bay Challenge

On Sunday 17th June, Redland Bay Tennis Club played host to our club in what has become an annual local derby, with the Rosie Dunn Memorial Shield and another year's bragging rights at stake. A total of 24 players from each club competed under a beautiful clear winter's sky at the Redland Bay tennis centre, and the tennis was of a high standard and played in a great spirit.

This is the third year that the event has been held with the honours having been shared in the previous two. Thus it was not surprising that this year's contest was very close, so close in fact that at the end of the day both teams were even on 24 sets each. With everyone waiting anxiously, a count-back revealed that the Cleveland team were victorious by just 16 games.

Redland Bay Junior Challenge

The junior team from Redlands Lawn Tennis Association at Cleveland once again took on their counterparts from the Redland Bay Tennis Club in the annual junior challenge match between the two clubs. Played in perfect spring weather at Redland Bay, the home team again proved too strong,

winning by a total of 23 sets to 13. However, according to RLTA coach Jani Kroyherr, while his team may not have won on the day, they considered the event was a wonderful success. In the same event last year, the Cleveland team was on the wrong side of a very one-sided contest.

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.

Club Fixtures

Club fixtures remain strong with Monday and Thursday night competitions running at close to full capacity. The Saturday A Grade fixtures continue to use three courts each week, with the Veterans social tennis of a Saturday afternoon growing to the extent of making full use of the remaining five courts. With fewer teams competing in mid-week ladies fixtures, only 7 of our 8 courts are currently being used on Wednesday mornings.

The junior fixtures continued to run in three separate divisions that were played on three separate days (Wednesday and Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings). The Friday and Saturday groups with the more experienced players ran well, but the Wednesday fixtures with mainly inexperienced players (and parents) required more attention, supervision and support in the second half of the year.

Thank you's

I would like to thank all of the RLTA committee for their support in 2007, especially the honorary secretary Bruce Young and the honorary Treasurer Bill Tapper for their help in keeping the club functioning and the bills paid. Special mention must also be made of the increasingly important role that Reg Griffin, our assistant Treasurer has been undertaking in helping to manage the clubs finances and prepare budgets for the forthcoming year. I would also like to add that it has been a pleasure working with our secretary/manager Betty McCoy, our coach Jani and his Universal Tennis team, and our band of volunteers (Keith Collyer, Pat Cleary and Bev Hogan). Thank you one and all.

Ian Somers

President RLTA.