



Redlands Lawns Tennis Association Inc.

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RLTA President's Annual Report 2011

Administration

This past year represents the end of an era at the RLTA. For the past three years, Dean and Sophia Toparis have been very popular site managers at our club but have chosen not to renew their contract with the club in 2012, instead choosing to downsize and re-focus their endeavours solely on their own tennis centre at Sheldon. On behalf of the RLTA, I wish to thank them their professionalism while at the club and wish them all the best for the future.

The Club has appointed Dean's former right-hand man, Damian Waddell to take over as the manager/coach for what we hope will be the start of a new era for the club. Damian is well-known and well-regarded around our club and is very popular with the juniors and their parents. Damian has also committed to retaining most of the existing pro-shop and coaching staff that have served Dean and Sophia so well and so we hope that there will be little disruption despite the changes.

But there is another even more compelling reason why 2011 marks the end of an era. March saw the passing of one of the RLTA's legends, Edna Finney. Edna and husband Jack were two of the people who helped make the RLTA a reality. Both were foundation members and helped raise funds to construct the original four decomposed granite courts at the Showgrounds. Edna was the one who started the mid-week ladies competition and was its first President. She and Jack helped raise the funds to build our original clubhouse and in her spare time, Edna coached junior tennis players at Thornside. Both Jack and Edna were made life members of the RLTA in recognition of their years of service to Tennis in the Redlands and while our former Patron Jack still soldiers on, Edna will be dearly missed by all those who knew her. As a tribute to her contributions to our club, the Mid-week Ladies have created an Edna Finney Memorial Shield which is awarded annually to the mid-week lady player with the highest individual average for the season.

In yet another event of historical significance, the Mid-week Ladies joined with the rest of the club in a financial context. As a result of a Special General Meeting in January, Mid-week Ladies memberships are now paid directly to the RLTA and are administered by the Club Treasurer and Management Committee, of which the Mid-week Ladies are part.

For the record, the club's Administration in 2011 comprised Patron: Lena Bandeira, Auditor: Bruce O'Connor, President: Ian Somers, Vice President: Les Finney, Treasurer: Bill Tapper, Secretary: Betty McCoy, Assistant Secretary: Vivien Carlsson, Assistant Treasurer: Reg Griffin, Committee members: Shane Keeffe, Bruce MacLean, Trish McGregor, Maureen Hilzinger, Jan Hill and David Young. Bruce MacLean has continued to publish the monthly club newsletter, while Yvonne Wilson (18 raffles in 2011) continued her fund-raising activities. On behalf of the club I wish to thank all of these people for their help. This past year is also a personal milestone as it is now a decade that I have served as your President, something of which I am very proud, but also something for which I would welcome change in the near future.

Clubhouse and Grounds

Our caretaker Keith Collyer and groundsman Pat Clearly have again helped ensure our courts were playable and our site was clean and tidy. Keith is now an octogenarian and we should never take for granted the important role that he and Pat perform so that we have such a pleasant place to play and enjoy out tennis. While I wish to acknowledge their efforts and thank them on behalf of the club, I would urge you all to make a special effort to thank them personally whenever the opportunity arises. A special thanks must go to Reg Griffin and those volunteers who organised and attended the club working bee in April, replacing concrete steps to courts three and four and lowering turf on the western footpath to assist drainage, attaching shade cloth to the eastern fence of court 1, painting the retaining wall at the northern end of courts 1 to 4 and

washing down the clubhouse. Keith and Pat smile a lot more when they see other club members rolling up their sleeves to help.

In relation to our courts, we are boasting three new surfaces and an additional new court to follow in 2012. The normal life expectancy of our synthetic grass is between eight and ten years depending on the amount of use. However, our Court 5 suffered compaction and glazing problems within the first four years and at the beginning of last year, the problem became so acute that the manufacturer agreed to replace it free of charge. The new surface (with a more expensive denser pile) was laid in March. Courts six and seven were resurfaced in July using high density synthetic grass from a local manufacturer (Urban Turf) which has proven very popular with members in the latter half of the year.

In December, the RLTA finally had its wishes answered when the State Government announced that it would subsidise the construction of a new court at our Showgrounds complex. The planning for this additional court has been in train for the past 10 years and its completion in mid-year 2012 should also herald significant change to our centre and help overcome the existing participation limits.

Tennis – Club Championships

The 2011 RLTA Club Championships, organised by David Young and Dean Toparis, were played in the evenings from Monday 19th September with the finals being contested on Thursday 22nd September. The tournament again proved popular with members and was well supported. The standard of tennis in the finals was very high and nearly all the matches were very evenly contested.

The final results of the 2011 Club Championships were as follows:

Mens Singles Champion:	Scott Stephan
Ladies Singles Champion:	Claudia Waschier
Mens Doubles:	Peter Coleman & Greg Morris
Ladies Doubles:	Jenny Farr & Sharon Franich
Mixed Doubles:	David Wilson & Lindy Spindler
Junior Boys Singles Champion:	Nicholas Kurylo
Junior Girls Singles Champion:	Gemma Tapson

Tom Ferguson Shield

The RLTA teams headed to the Gold Coast in August to do battle with Beenleigh, Beaudesert and the Gold Coast in the annual inter-district Tom Ferguson Shield match. Our entire contingent arrived at the Southport Tennis Club, as instructed, by 8 am for the 8:30 start, but no one else from the other districts turned up, not even the Gold Coast hosts. It is true that it was steady rain by this stage (in fact it had been raining for several hours previously on the Gold Coast), but despite David Young's best efforts to contact Gold Coast officials, we were alone. It would appear that somehow all the players from the other districts had inside knowledge but we can only deduce that the carrier pigeon got lost on its way to the Redlands. Despite this minor setback, the group still managed a few laughs together over coffee at a nearby cafe as we all watched the rain tumble down. This event was eventually played a couple of months later. The point score was as follows: Gold Coast 43, Beenleigh 30, Redlands 13 and Beaudesert 10.

Redland Bay Challenge

This inter-club competition was held at Redland Bay on Sunday 19th June. David Young reported that the Challenge was held in fine weather and went well, apart from the results. Redland Bay won 39 sets to 25.

Redland Shire Perpetual Tennis Shield

The annual Seniors Week Tennis Tournament was held on 28th March. The winner of the ladies event was not decided until the final set, when Eleanor Lambley came out the winner with 22 games, only one ahead of Margaret Downs. The contest between the men was also very competitive, with Alec Muga the winner on 22 games and John Dunnett and Keith Collyer just trailing with 19 games each. All the players were pleased to see Keith Collyer do so well, because at 80 years of age he was probably the oldest player in the tournament. Eleanor and Alec were presented with the Redland City

Council Perpetual Shield by the Redland City Council Mayor, Melva Hobson, who paid tribute to the 40 fit seniors who took part in this annual event.

Club Fixtures

Fixture coordinators still ensure that our various tennis activities run smoothly and I would like to take this opportunity to thank these individuals on behalf of the club: Ray & Eleanor Lambley (Monday night), Betty McCoy, Di Green and Les Finney (Thursday night), Kym Reimers (Saturday), Maureen Hilzinger and Jan Hill (Mid-week ladies), Bruce MacLean (Vets), Tony Barton (Tuesday night social) and of course the coaches and parents who helped Dean and Sophia with the junior fixtures.

Ian Somers

President RLTA.