



Redlands Lawns Tennis Association Inc.

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RLTA President's Annual Report 2012

This past year has been a positive one for the Redlands Lawn Tennis Association. We started the year by welcoming a new head coach/site manager in the form of Damian Waddell and his Adrenalin charged team. Along the way we added our long-awaited ninth tennis court, on schedule and under-budget. And, by the end of the year, our total revenues had finished higher than we had budgeted and higher than we have had for some time.

Administration

In January, Damian Waddell (Adrenalin Tennis) took over the role as manager/coach and was quick to establish a team of experienced and well-qualified coaches and pro-shop staff, many of whom were familiar to RLTA members as they had been previously working at our centre for Dean and Sophia Toparis. The team were very popular and well-regarded around the club and in June, Damian was offered a two year extension to his contract, which I am pleased to report he has accepted.

The RLTA Club Administration team for 2012 comprised Patron: Lena Bandeira, Auditor: Bruce O'Connor, President: Ian Somers, Vice President: Les Finney, Treasurer: Bill Tapper, Secretary: Betty McCoy, Assistant Secretary: Cherie Chasling, Assistant Treasurer: Reg Griffin, Committee members: Vivien Carlsson, Shane Keeffe, Bruce MacLean, Maureen Hilzinger, Jan Hill and David Young. Other volunteers who did not serve on the RLTA committee but still performed critical roles for the club in 2012 included Yvonne Willson (fund-raising coordinator), Tony Barton (Tuesday evening social tennis coordinator and barman), Ray & Eleanor Lambley (Monday night fixture coordinators), Kym Reimers (Saturday A Grade fixture coordinator), David Wilson (photographer), Keith Collyer (caretaker) and Pat Cleary (groundsman). On behalf of the club, I would like to thank them all for the valuable roles they have filled in the past year.

Without pre-empting the Treasurer's Annual Financial Report, I would like to at least say that our club appears to be in a sound place. We have a centre that is still envy of most other community tennis clubs in south-east Queensland, we have enough cash reserves to meet court replacement needs for the foreseeable future and our annual provision for capital works cash reserves has enabled us to make the timely investments we have in recent years for such things as upgrading the bases for courts one and four, renovating the original clubhouse (Keith's Castle) and the construction of court nine.

As a result of changes at Tennis Queensland, our TQ affiliation fees will now be charged on the basis of the number of courts rather than the number of members. As a result, individual RLTA membership fees will be reduced in 2013 (first time ever), a discounted family membership fee will be introduced, and the membership year will begin on 1 March and run until the end of February. For 2013, membership fees will be \$75 (adults), \$40 (juniors) and \$135 (families with a minimum of 1 adult and two children). All fixture players must be financial members.

Tennis – Club Championships

The RLTA Club Championships were held over four evenings during the first week of the September/October school holidays. Club Coach Damian Waddell did a fantastic job, organising, running and participating in the event, while running holiday coaching clinics in his spare time. Damian's initiative to stage all finals on the Friday night proved very popular and attracted a large enthusiastic crowd.

The final results of the 2012 Club Championships were as follows:

Mens Singles Champion:	Luke Johnson
Ladies Singles Champion:	Courtney Sorrensen
Mens Doubles:	Damian Waddell & Luke Johnson
Mixed Doubles:	Damian Waddell & Debbie Miller
B Grade Ladies Doubles:	Jenny Farr & Sharon Franich
B Grade Mens Singles	Nick Kurylo
B Grade Mixed Doubles	Alec Muga & Dawn Holling

Juniors

Boys Singles Champion:	QV Ho
Girls Singles Champion:	Courtney Sorrensen
B Grade Boys Singles	Sam Morely
B Grade Girls Singles	Sophie Clucas
C Grade Boys Singles	Flynn Hicks
C Grade Girls Singles	Lily Loyd

Tom Ferguson Shield

The annual inter-district competition for the Ferguson Shield was hosted by Beaudesert and Jimboomba on August 26. The RLTA finished second behind Gold Coast, with Beenleigh third and Beaudesert/Jimboomba fourth. The weather was perfect for tennis, the competition was close and intense, and while we finished a creditable second, it was a significant improvement on the previous year. Gold Coast won the day with a total of 37 sets (257 games) followed by Redlands with 25 sets (207 games), Beenleigh with 24 sets (208 games) and Beaudesert 10 sets (132 games).

The RLTA selectors, with one eye on the future, took the opportunity to blood some of the younger up and coming juniors for the match. Along with Gemma Tapson, we had Nick Thompson, Daniel Wilson and fourteen-year old rising star Courtney Sorrensen competing against some of the best adult players from these other districts. And the good news is that we should all be very proud of their efforts as they all handled themselves well and were very competitive. Next year will be the Redlands turn to host the event and we can only hope that our investment in youth and the home court advantage might see us climb to the top and regain the Shield..

Redland Bay Challenge

The annual challenge match with Redland Bay was played at the RLTA centre on 29 July. The final score for the day saw the RLTA down 14 sets to the Redland Bay Tennis Club's 46 sets. Despite the unfavourable result, the quality of tennis, camaraderie and sportsmanship exhibited by the RLTA club representatives was commendable and something to be proud of.

Wynnum Challenge

Wynnum and Redlands Tennis Associations have shared a friendly rivalry going back many decades. The two bayside tennis neighbours have been opponents in many inter-club challenge matches and, in the past at least, have competed with each other at inter-district Tom Ferguson Shield matches. This rivalry was revived with an inter-club challenge match played on 15 April at the RLTA centre with Redlands taking every bit of the home court advantage to post a convincing win (34 - 14).. Four teams of six players from each club played matches of 12 sets, the result being decided on the aggregate sets won and lost. Thanks must go to the chief organiser, negotiator, selector and rule-maker Greg Morris. A former Wynnum player, Greg has strong links with both clubs and was the ideal person to get such a match off the ground.

Redland Shire Perpetual Tennis Shield

The Annual Redland City Council Perpetual Shield Seniors Tournament was August 26. This event is held every year in conjunction with other 'Seniors in the Redlands' events. Although we only had 30 players this year using three courts, the weather was perfect and everyone enjoyed a great four hours of tennis. Eleanor Lambley repeated her effort from last year by winning the ladies event while John Dunnett won the mens event with 24 games. Eleanor and John were presented with the City Council Perpetual Shield by the Mayor of Redland City, Karen Williams.

Family Doubles Day

One of the traditions that fits well with the family atmosphere at our club is the annual family doubles tournament. Head Coach Damian Waddell saw fit to maintain this tradition and another great day was held in October this year. The day was destined to be a success with perfect weather, forty excited family pairs (and their many supporters), co-ordinated outfits, party balloons, a sausage sizzle and 125 cupcakes! It was contested over four categories but even behind the friendly family facades, these were some very competitive teams, providing entertaining tennis matches.

Club Fixtures

The RLTA continued to offer regular internal fixture competitions for its members in 2012. Adult doubles competitions were run Monday nights, Wednesday mornings (Ladies), Thursday night and Saturday afternoon. Junior fixtures were run on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons. A new initiative by Head Coach Damian Waddell was to introduce a Singles fixture competition on Friday evenings. With participation by Damian and members of his coaching team, these matches were of the highest standard and offered an excellent pathway for RLTA juniors to transition to adult competition.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the fixture coordinators 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 (Saturday afternoon social), Tony Barton (Tuesday night social) and Cherie Chasling who helped Damian with the junior fixtures.

Changing of the Guard

This past year represents the 11th and last year that I will have had the privilege and honour of being president of this great club. But now is the time for change, for new ideas and for more input from the younger brigade. As we have been planning for some time, I and a couple of other long-serving members of your management team will not be standing for re-election at the AGM in February. I am very confident that the new team will serve the club well and that they will have a wonderful base on which to begin.

However, before I ride off into the sunset, for the record, I would like to reflect a little on the achievements of the past 11 years and to say thank you to the management team that helped make those achievements a reality. My time at the helm of the RLTA has been one with a focus on a major redevelopment of the site which has included the following projects over the period.

- Replaced court fences with black rust-resistant polycoated chainwire
- Moved two courts to make central space for a new clubhouse
- Constructed our new clubhouse with shaded verandahs
- Replaced all court lights with more effective energy-efficient lights
- Resurfaced court eight (now six) to bring it line with our other courts
- Renovated our original clubhouse, converting it to offices (Redfest) and a ground store
- Upgrading court bases (courts one and four so far) to help weatherproof our tennis activities
- Landscaping of court surrounds (northern and southern tree buffers, shrubs & gardens on southern embankment)
- Negotiated lease extensions (time and space) to accommodate our growth
- Construction of court nine and landscaping of its surrounds.

Over this period, we successfully sought and received State Government grants totalling almost \$600,000 as well as a \$75,000 interest-free loan from Redlands Council which, combined with careful financial management of our own RLTA revenues, made the above list possible. But the key ingredient in all of this was the volunteer manpower provided by club members. These efforts not only made each dollar go further, but also helped create unbreakable bonds between the working bee participants and a greater sense of ownership in our community-based club. To me, this will be the most enduring and rewarding memory I will have of my time in office.

Ian Somers

President RLTA.