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Royal Park Tennis Club Inc. Newsletter

MAY 2022



Happy Mothers' Day to all our mothers.



FACILITIES TOPICS –



Courts 11-13: Hooray! The court rebuild is finished! BUT – it's not Open Sesame!

There has to be a gradual staging of player return to the courts, as the surface is not yet fully bedded down and is liable to being damaged. First up, coaching and juniors have been cleared to play, and other groups will follow slowly – some damaged patches have already occurred when unauthorized players presumed they could try out the "spare" courts. So – please wait until Carole gives you the OK and releases the courts back into general use. Close attention to watering and bagging will be mandatory to qualify to get back on!!

Toilets: the plumbing and sewerage drama is also finished!

The space ships (portaloos) have flown back into outer space, and our regular toilets are available again! Much digging, decking upheaval, many pipe inspections and plumbing sessions were required, and there is now a new boundary trap out on the footpath.

JUNIOR CLASSIC

COVID-19 again influenced this annual tournament, held over 2 days of Labour Day weekend. Player entries trickled in, but a sudden rush in the closing stage meant 77 local juniors participated. Round-robin format was used in most events to give players in an opportunity to mix and test their skills. Star attraction again was the 10 & Under Boys "green ball" contest, and the winner medallions were very popular.

Club member *Otto Wiseman* was finalist in a very close tussle in the Boys 12 Section 1 singles.

And the tournament was again supported with sponsorship from Carlton Football Club.

Overall, the tournament ran well, gaining many favourable comments from players and parents.

All participants played in great spirit and with good sportsmanship, with no incidents.

Another positive feature was the greater participation by girls, with 25 registrants (+12 v 2021).

They had 4 events, and it's encouraging to see this trend reversal. The boys contested 6 events.

A regular band of court managers helped with the success of the tournament, in support of organizers Carole Houston, and Maria Keys. Many thanks to Alan Frigerio, Ernesto Estevia Eviila,, Michael Furey, Jennie Day, Vivienne Harangozo, Trish Lowe and Russell Grigg.

Women's starter coaching - This successful beginners' program is being run again in Term Two.

Classes have just started, and there are some limited places available. Feedback from previous courses has been extremely positive. The Thursday class 1:30 - 3:30 has two (2) places. Cost is just \$10 per lesson, including free hitting time, and you can join in **NOW**.

There are 6 weeks of classes remaining. If you are interested contact Aleks ASAP

At the club 9380 1259 or 0467 737 332



COMPETITION NEWS

(current highlights & happenings)



NSTA (Saturday afternoon)

Regrettably we don't have any teams this season. BUT – the Singles/Doubles format is likely to be continued in Spring, so we'll need players then!!

Co-ordinator: Jason Vochala 0419 132 423

NSNTA (night)

Autumn Competition: Matches are into the last rounds, and our 14 teams are doing their best!.

However fortunes so far are rather inconsistent. Ladies (4) are 50/50 in top4 positions, Mixed (3) are better placed, and Mens' (7) are 45/65! We have 6 teams likely to make semi-finals. Fingers crossed for more wins!

Spring Season: will run August-November; Forms are available NOW, and closing date is 21st May; \$s to be included please.

Co-ordinator is Jason Vochala 0419 132 423

GENERAL:

Team members are reminded of the following:

- You are representing our great club when you play competition – please observe the rules of tennis and Association dress code;
- Be courteous and well-behaved, both on and off court!
- Contribute to refreshments and cleaning up when hosting matches at our Club.

NSJTA (Juniors)

Season 1 – matches resumed 29th/30th April

With 14 teams participating we are well represented. (3 Mixed, 3 Boys, 8 Unisex) - A Reserve 1 to D6. Results to Round 10 vary, with a 50/50 TOP4 ratio, Boys & Mixed going well; Unisex are challenged. Strong hitting in the concluding rounds!

Season 2 – will run July-November

Player entries are now due - closing date is 13 May. Age limit has been extended to end 2022.

Contact is Karl Hession 0422 971 373

NSLTA – (ladies midweek)

Our team is well placed in Section 3. Best of luck for the last few rounds.

Pennant 2022

Players are back on court after the Covid hiatus!! We have 5 teams: Singles/doubles: 1 ladies'; 5 men's Match format is unchanged: Doubles & Singles are scheduled on the same afternoon – with 4-6 players. First round recorded quite a few tie-breakers, and a few runaway wins!

Queries: contact Jason Vochala 0419 132 423 or Carole Houston 0419 560 436

Metro Masters 50+ (Mens' Thursdays)

Our Section 1 team is in the mix at Round 13; Keep it going! Good luck for the finals!

COURT CARE & BOOKINGS

With Night Comp in full swing, and Pennant underway, tennis is very popular, and court availability is quite limited, especially from 5.00pm weekdays, and generally on the weekend.

You MUST book a court if you wish to play, & play on the court that you booked!

You MUST also pay a Visitor's Fee before playing if you invite a friend to have a hit.

Watering from fence to fence before you play is very important (if no rain!) – and you should water again at least every 30 minutes. We also request that the court surface is sprinkled before bagging the court – that helps stop the en tous cas from blowing away.

Please read the NOTICE on the back fence of the courts – it details court care requirements

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS 2022

Participation decreased quite markedly this year, with 66 entries from 46 players contesting just 7 of a possible 20 or more events. Only one Ladies' event was played, and there were insufficient entries for any Committee level categories. A Juniors' series was not scheduled, with uncertainty as to possible interest and availability.

There were many quality matches, with highlights being the tight 3 set matches in the Open Men's Doubles and the Open Vets Men's Singles. Several featured extended deuce games & long rallies.

Match scheduling was challenged by player availability and Covid situations. Highlights were:



- Round robin formats being used in the Mixed Doubles event to increase participation;
- Open Singles: a new champion - Zoran Josic – won the Men's title without dropping a set;
 - Estelle Suys won her first Women's Singles title with strong results;
- Open Vets: a repeat winner -Tim Callanan - successfully defended his title from 2021;
- Multiple titles won by Tim Callanan in the Open Veterans' events.

It was encouraging to see some new faces among the players, and “thank you” to organizers – Carole Houston & Maria Keys. Congratulations to our winners and finalists; A full list is below.

Winners Presentation: possible options for a gathering are being researched, with the objective of celebrating Winners and Finalists from both 2021 and 2022 events.

Many thanks to all contestants – your involvement was much appreciated – and there's always next year!! It would be great to have more entries too – to add more depth and participation from members.

Event	Winner	Finalist
Men's Open Singles	Zoran Josic	Aleksandar Ceran
Ladies Open Singles	Estelle Suys	Kim Summerill
Men's Open Doubles	David Tan /Ben Thompson-Star	Tom McGrath/Peter White
Ladies Open Doubles	Not held	
Open Mixed Doubles	Not held	
Presidents Men's Singles	Danilo Eduardo Gonzalez	Adam Klein
Presidents Ladies Singles	Not held	
Presidents Men's Doubles	Not held	
Presidents Ladies Doubles R/R	Not held	
Presidents Mixed Doubles R/R	Not held	
Open Veterans Men's Singles	Tim Callanan	Rob McRae
Open Veterans Ladies Singles	Not held	
Open Veterans Men's Doubles	Tim Callanan/Rob McRae	Nigel Christie/Laurie Pearson
Open Veterans Ladies Doubles C/P	Not held	
Open Veterans Mixed Doubles R/R	Laurie & Jenny Pearson	
President Vets. Events	Not held	
Committee events	Not held	

Some of the above also won events at the annual Easter tournament at Deniliquin. Many of the traditional intrepid group made the trip, with winners being Tom McGrath (Open Men's Singles), Rob McRae & Jenny Pearson (Open Mixed), Dawn Giltrap & Jason Vochala (B Mixed).

MANAGEMENT POLICIES

Our club has many roles, and there are some that are perhaps not so obvious on a day-to-day basis. As an Incorporated Association, an Affiliate of Tennis Victoria, and a lessee on Crown Land, we have regulatory responsibilities and “good citizen” principles to observe as part of our management framework and operational practices. Many of these are reflected in Policies that the club has developed, and recently the Management Committee has revised two of our current policies.

Environmental Sustainability:

We aim to promote good sustainability practices, to reduce the environmental impacts of our activities and to encourage our members and visitors to do the same. The relevant policy has been updated to address “single use plastic”, consistent with widespread growing concern with such commodities.



The following has been added to our Purchases and Resource Consumption statement:

- *Promote the use of drink taps and fountain and discourage the use of single use plastic drink bottles.*
- *Do not purchase or use disposable plastic plates, plastic cups and plastic cutlery.*

You can help in the following ways:

- Please don't bring single use plastic drink containers to tennis – adopt a reusable drink bottle; there are taps off court, bubblers on court, and a new **water fountain** now installed on the decking behind court 8.
- Avoid bringing/leaving disposable plastic containers, plates, cups and cutlery to the club. Try using bamboo cutlery & paper plates; club crockery/cutlery is also available.

Health & Safety:

Recognizing an increasing trend with smoking alternatives, and emerging medical advice, our “**smoke free**” statement has been updated as follows to include **vaporisers**:

The Club being a smoke-free organisation and not permitting smoking in or around the clubhouse facilities, courts or fields.

“Smoking” includes e.g. cigarettes, pipes, vaporisers.



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS:

We are again exploring potential links with local businesses to identify products/services that could be of benefit to our members and build our community engagement. Another such arrangement has just been confirmed, and it is a custom-styled partnership with Keiser Fitzroy. Details are:

RPTC members will receive a 50% discount on their first visit and \$20 off Kieser's standard physiotherapist cost of \$90.00 per session thereafter when they visit Kieser's facilities.

Contact Kieser 9445 7900 at 498 Brunswick St, Fitzroy

Members would be able to utilise the Kieser gym facilities under the guidance of specialized exercise scientists and physiotherapists, and their world renowned gym equipment would increase strength and conditioning. Please note that this offer is only applicable to the Kieser Fitzroy North office/gym facility.

MEMBERSHIP - more good news!

We now have more members than at this time last year, when COVID slowed down player interest and reduced the benefits of membership, such as competition and court hire. At end April, our numbers had increased to 459 (+1% on 2021). Since Christmas, some 50 new players have joined, the majority being for competition, and especially juniors. It's a promising trend, and great to see it happening!!