



# Newsletter - Spring 2023

## From Our President- Jim Sewell

### City of Melville Tennis Strategy



At the time of last year's AGM an enormous report provided to City of Melville by Otium Consulting and recommended for adoption by the City Council had, on request of the five tennis clubs, been deferred to allow clubs to consider the recommendations. We, the clubs, were unhappy with some of the wording and recommendations in the report. Club representatives met to workshop the proposals last year, and then, along with Tennis West, met with Council Members and relevant officers and expressed their joint views. With adjustments, the Tennis Strategy was finally adopted and endorsed by the City Council on July 18<sup>th</sup> 2023.

The following is a summary of the key points of the adopted strategy :

Agreement that there is not an oversupply of tennis courts in the City. There will be no pressure for conversion of grass courts to hard surfaces, providing clubs can maintain them and remain viable.

#### Recognition that

- Clubs need and deserve funding to improve and or maintain infrastructure. The City expects that court maintenance and development will be funded through court hire revenue.
- Commercial coaching businesses within clubs are an integral part of teaching and developing youngsters from a very early age.
- Fencing surrounding courts is a necessary fixture for functioning and safety, and not designed to deny public access. But multi-use facilities are strongly encouraged.
- Uniformity of duration of lease agreements for sporting clubs should be considered. This is a work in progress as existing leases are not consistent in this regard.
- Written acknowledgement received from the City that BGPTC's lease will be extended prior to its expiry in September 2024, but the term is yet to be agreed.
- Formal six monthly meetings will be held with City officers to discuss plans, projects, funding, financial viability.

We are hopeful that on the back of the focus that the Strategy has brought to Tennis in the City of Melville we are entering a new era of positive support and collaboration between the City and its Tennis Clubs.

**Jim Sewell - President**



# BGPTC BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

## Retiring Board Members

The President, Directors and Club Members extend their gratitude to the following retiring Board Members for their dedicated voluntary service and hard work, diligence, vision and meticulous approach to forward planning to maintain, develop and enhance our Club.

**Colin Lorrimar** – Vice President

**Alan Howells** – Director of Finance

**Colin Griffin** – Director of Facilities

**Malar Jayaprakash** – Director of Marketing



## Board Elections

At the recent AGM, the Board of Management for 2023/24 was duly elected. Congratulations to those elected and grateful thanks to them for volunteering for their designated roles, ensuring all necessary tasks for the day-to-day running of the Club and its future are carried out.

**Jim Sewell** - President

[president@bluegumtennis.org](mailto:president@bluegumtennis.org)

**Clare Howells** - Vice President

[vicepresident@bluegumtennis.org](mailto:vicepresident@bluegumtennis.org)

**Bill Thomas** - Director of Business Administration

[business@bluegumtennis.org](mailto:business@bluegumtennis.org)

**Ole Hammer** - Director of Facilities

[facilities@bluegumtennis.org](mailto:facilities@bluegumtennis.org)

**Seb Trim** - Director of Finance

[finance@bluegumtennis.org](mailto:finance@bluegumtennis.org)

**Brad Bocking** – Director of Marketing

[marketing@bluegumtennis.org](mailto:marketing@bluegumtennis.org)

**Pauline Foster** - Director of Social

[social@bluegumtennis.org](mailto:social@bluegumtennis.org)

**Claire Hitchens** – Director of Tennis

[tennis@bluegumtennis.org](mailto:tennis@bluegumtennis.org)

**Beth Stubbs** - Secretary

[secretary@bluegumtennis.org](mailto:secretary@bluegumtennis.org)





Existing Plaster

The most exciting challenge facing the Business portfolio presently is to upgrade the front walls of the eight squash courts in our squash centre.

The President of the Blue Gum Squash Club, whose members are the main users of the squash centre, approached us some months ago with a proposal to replace the surface of the front walls with glass. The existing plaster surface has been regularly patched over the years but is now past the stage where it can be maintained to an adequate playing standard. The adjacent photographs show what is proposed.



Proposed Glass

The tennis club, which built the squash centre back in the 1970s, leases the tennis and squash premises from the City of Melville. The squash centre is operated under a licence agreement by Mike Corren, who took over from Kane Fasolo earlier this year. Mike pays a licence fee to the tennis club, which is an important income stream for us.

An experienced, reputable contractor has been identified and has quoted on the works. Applications for grant funding have been lodged with state and federal governments and decisions are expected in the next few months. The squash club and City of Melville will also contribute to the project funding. The aim is to have the works completed before the end of this financial year.

Many thanks to my Business sub-committee: Bruce Stubbs, Greg Paull, and Wayne Walker.

**Bill Thomas**  
Director of Business Administration



Glass Installation

## REMEMBER TO RECYCLE YOUR OLD TENNIS BALLS

You can find the tennis ball  
recycle bins in the Clubhouse.



# VOLUNTEERS

Blue Gum Park Tennis Club is run by wonderful volunteers who give freely of their time to benefit and add value to our Club. Volunteers enjoy camaraderie and find fulfillment through team-work and commitment. To all volunteers - your efforts are noticed and appreciated with gratitude.

Below are three volunteers who received Club awards at the 2023 BGPTC Presentation Night.

### Volunteer of the Year for 2023 - John Urbaniak

John's enthusiasm and energy in identifying volunteering opportunities is contagious and an inspiration to the rest of us to strive to make our time at Blue Gum Park Tennis Club thoroughly fun and enjoyable.



### Citizenship Award - Clare Howells

Clare, with her creative and artistic eye, saw an opportunity to brighten and enhance the verandah space where members congregate and socialise and the new shaded seating pavilion where members and their families watch State and other League matches and tennis coaching sessions as well.



### Citizenship Award - Pam Muir

Pam regularly assists where she sees a need for a volunteer. Be it Bar Duty, making salad rolls in the kitchen for tournament players, baking afternoon tea delights for social players and visitors or organising nibbles on a Saturday evening. She proactively monitors and stocks the kitchen and bathroom supplies, including her favourite product "GUMPTION".





## LEAGUE COMPETITIONS

The Summer of 2022/23 saw a great spread of BGPTC teams at many levels of competition– a Men’s State League team (which finished 5<sup>th</sup> on the ladder), 13 men’s teams, four ladies’ teams, one mixed team and 24 junior teams – a terrific competitive commitment from all of these members.

Many thanks to Dawn Goodreid (Ladies League Co-ordinator) and John MacDonald (Men’s and Mixed League Co-ordinator ) for the organisation of teams and the allocation of courts.

The contribution of Ray Stokes should also be acknowledged with thanks. Ray is responsible every week for the tennis balls being set out for all junior and senior pennant teams, midweek and Saturday social teams.

## CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Adult Club Championships were held in April with 60 entries.

The Junior Club Championships weren’t held last year due to lack of numbers, but we’ll try to reinstate them this year and an announcement will be made when this is decided.

## MONDAY NIGHT TENNIS

This extremely successful program, (started by Bill Thomas) and now run by Greg Paull and Deb Leece is a great revenue raiser for the club and brings in new members. The overall standard is strong, but less experienced players are also welcome and is a great introduction to tennis for them.

## SOCIAL SATURDAY TENNIS

Greg and Deb, who have also demonstrated their great commitment to the Club and its members throughout the ten years for which they have served as Club Captains, have relinquished these positions. They have been replaced by Kirsten Hoad and Trevor Faulkner and their willingness to serve in these positions is appreciated by their fellow members.



Some of the Club’s annual events were:

- Australia Day Tournament – January
- Life Members Day – March
- Coaches Day: Dan and the Tennis Excellence coaches gave us fabulous tips on how to improve our tennis - March.
- Anzac Day Tournament: Gayle and Demir Bukey graciously hosted this event - April
- Fremantle Tennis Club Challenge: BGPTC members unfortunately didn’t win. Bring on next year! - May
- BlueGumbledon Tournament - July
- Opening Day: Scheduled for Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2023 with Busy Bee on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October

**Claire Hitchens**  
Tennis Director



## Mid-Week Ladies

The Mid-week Ladies Group has been a very transient one, with many of our members busy travelling the world. We had numerous wet Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout this winter which dampened our enthusiasm for tennis but not for socialising.

A Bring and Buy raised funds for our social events. These were a celebration of Easter with a Hot Cross Bun Morning tea, a small remembrance for ANZAC Day, organised by Beth Stubbs, WA Day and Soup Day, when we raised \$150 for Breast Cancer Research. We have also celebrated four very special 80th birthdays during 2022/23. Our Social visitors have attended many of these events.

The Ladies have three more functions to look forward to: our annual Beryl Jahn Tournament, Melbourne Cup Luncheon and, to complete the year, a Christmas Lunch. Our committee has worked well together for the past three years but will be very pleased to see a new committee formed for 2024/2026. Coralie Maloney, Maureen Whittle, Pam Muir, Kit Cherry, Jenny Holm and Ann Cook are retiring but I have offered to stay Tuesday Captain for another twelve months.

Many thanks to all the committee for their great help and generosity when supplying delicious meals and to all our ladies for their enthusiasm, friendship, support, and shared contributions to our events.

**Tricia MacWilliam**  
Mid-week Ladies' Captain



## Mid-Week Men



The Group's members had another great year at BGPTC with lots of good tennis and fellowship, including post-games gatherings at Denada Café for coffee and conversations.

About 26 members play each Monday and Thursday morning between 8.00 and 11.00, using two and sometimes three courts. This number of players allows sufficient cover for absences due to events such as holidays and appointments (and tiredness!) on game days.

The Group has arranged social events to recognise significant public occasions such as the Melbourne Cup and Anzac Day, plus our annual event at Christmas time joining the Midweek Ladies Group for tennis and lunch. Thank you to Joy Tipping for making the arrangements for this.

Also, thanks to all the members who helped with the painting of chairs, the alleyway and fencing. Special mentions to John Urbaniak for his work around the courts, Ross Sweeney for being our co-ordinator and spokesperson and Doug Hambour for keeping our contact list in order.

The members of the Group would like to express their gratitude to the BGPTC Management Committee for supporting them by providing access to the Club House and courts on their game days, plus other generous assistance such as supplying tennis balls.

In conclusion, a reminder that the Group will welcome all new players.

**Keith Growden**  
**Mid-week Men's Captain**  
**Contact: 0429 891 111**



## Saturday Social Tennis Roster

Please remember to check your Social & Tennis Roster. If you are unable to do your roster on that date, it is YOUR responsibility to find a replacement – and advise our Tennis Captains of the change.

The roster is emailed out, and on the notice board outside the bar.

When on roster, you are also responsible for setting up afternoon tea, with contributions of milk and some afternoon tea food or nibbles at the bar welcomed.



## TENNIS EXCELLENCE NEWS

Tennis Excellence is delighted to continue its strong partnership with Blue Gum Park Tennis Club.

We are catering for more players than ever, across more abilities and ages than ever!

Building from the base of local schools, we find ourselves integrated in the local community bringing all types of opportunities to the first time four-year-olds, to elite level junior and adults. We are lucky to have a terrific venue, which alongside terrific staff and club support allows us to thrive in what we do.

There is a genuine buzz around the club, with players and their families choosing to be here and enjoying their time spent in different capacities. The new under cover area is a massive hit for the spectators of group classes, TE cup, and pennants players.

Competition numbers and results have been very impressive, with 17 winter junior teams, eight making the grand final and six champions! The TE cup provides high level competition for Blue Gum and other local players each Friday night and our in-house SuperSeries regularly gets over 40 attendees in participation level competition.

As we continue to grow and adapt to the requirements of the community, we look forward to what the future has in store!

**Elliott Moyle**  
Centre Manager – Tennis Excellence



## Friday Family Nights

In conjunction with Junior Club, Friday Family Fun nights have become extremely popular as a relaxing end to the busy work and school week for our families.

It is a chance for parents and their children to get out on court together, and hit a few tennis balls before relaxing with some food, a drink and a catch-up chat.

Also on offer, is table tennis, pool, darts and a movie for children on the big screen – the complete family package. Participant numbers are strong with a marked increase in numbers and parent engagement.

Contact: Sue Redmond 0417 178 377  
Colin Lorrimar 0437 705 304

Keep up-to-date



# SOCIAL SCENE

Our Winter Social Function, a ‘Soup and Pasta Night’, was held on Saturday, 22 July 2023.

It was a themed ‘Decade Party’ recognizing ‘o’ birth years of Club members during the year. On the night seven members were celebrating ‘o’ birthdays ranging from 40 – 90. Members were dressed to represent the decade of their birth and some great outfits were on parade.



There were 26 members in attendance. It was an enjoyable night, with many great photos taken of their outfits.

Thanks to ‘Kitchen Angels’ Beth Stubbs, Kirsten Hoad and Pam Muir. Donations of food from Claire Hitchens, Sandra Gordon and Joanna Clark also thanks to Greg Hoad the ‘Chief Dishwasher’!



On 19 August many of Saturday Social players informally gathered in comradery to barrack for the Matildas Soccer Team. Although Australia didn’t win the match that night, BGPTC members were proud of the Matildas’ 2023 FIFA Women’s World Cup campaign.

**Pauline Foster – Director of Social**



# GENERAL NEWS



## Book a Court

The Book a Court system (BAC) operates smoothly if used correctly. Most issues are the result of the actions of the last person who entered/exited the courts and can be avoided by everyone following the correct procedures:

- It is most important to ensure that the gate is ALWAYS SHUT – please check it is shut before you enter your PIN and be sure to shut it again behind you as you enter and leave. This way the system will alert you if the PIN fails and will be ready and operate correctly for the next person.
- Ensure the light above the keypad flashes green after PIN entry and you hear two short beeps and the gate will allow you to enter. Your lights will not activate without correct PIN entry.
- The system will allow you access 15 minutes prior to your booking time and it is recommended that you arrive prior to your time. If the lights were already on and turn off because you have not entered your PIN on time, a cooling down period of 15-20 minutes, for synthetics only, is required before they will come on again.
- Do not hold the gate open for other users. Your considerate action may leave them playing in the dark if the above process is not followed correctly.
- Book your court at least 25 minutes prior to play to ensure that the PIN is active at the gate and be sure to book for the length of time you plan to play.
- Please use ONLY the court you have booked and finish your match on time to allow the next players to access the court without the need to wait or ask you to leave. If you wish to extend your play, simply log in and add another booking if a court is available (remembering that this will need to be done at least 25 minutes ahead to time).
- If someone is continuing to play on your court when your booking time has commenced, politely remind them that their time has finished. Playing on another court instead causes a knock-on effect and inconveniences others.
- Allow others to book the court if you are unable to play by logging in and cancelling the booking if you are unable to play.

Our courts are in high demand at times, so please cancel your booking if for some reason you are unable to play. This will allow someone else the opportunity to use it instead.

Thank you for your assistance

Please also refer to the BAC T&C's on the BGPTC website. [Court Hire | Blue Gum Park Tennis \(bluegumtennis.org\)](http://Court Hire | Blue Gum Park Tennis (bluegumtennis.org))

**Deb Leece**  
**Administrator**



## OUR SPONSORS

Our sponsors are vital partners in promoting and maintaining Blue Gum Park Tennis Club. For example, the financial support they generously provide assists the Club in keeping membership fees lower than they would be without this funding.

The Club's current sponsors offer professional services and commercial products to members. Please consider directing your own business to them whenever possible and take every opportunity to recommend them to others.

The Club welcomes sponsorship from new supporters who can help fund our activities and projects. Sponsors benefit from the advertising of their businesses and invitations to attend the annual Sponsors' Day celebration.

For more information about sponsorship opportunities please contact:  
Brad Bocking, Director of Marketing ([marketing@bluegumtennis.org](mailto:marketing@bluegumtennis.org)).



Grateful thanks to Newsletter contributors, photographers and editors!

