

Racquet Talk



**BLUE
GUM
PARK**
TENNIS CLUB

NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2025



WORD FROM THE EDITOR

While most of us have been staying indoors keeping warm and dry during Winter, there have been many league players (especially Juniors) who have been braving this season's cold conditions. In fact, the Winter League Tennis Season involved **3 Men's teams and 20 Junior Teams**. Congratulations to the winning teams and all the players who represented our club. We are always looking for new ideas and photos for our club's newsletter. Please send these to:

marketing@bluegumtennis.org

Cheers, Clare Howells, editor & Penelope Martella, layout





CLUB NEWS

FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

NEW LED LIGHTS

Our new LED lights were installed on the synthetic grass courts during the first week of September. Although we suffered a few days of disruption to court use while the contractor completed the work, we can now look forward to many years of superior quality and lower cost lighting for social players, league teams, coaching staff, and public hirers.

Thanks to the generous financial support of the City of Melville, the State Government, and Tennis Australia, the Club's contribution to the total project cost of approx. \$80,000 is expected to be less than \$10,000.

Thanks again to new life member, Bruce Stubbs, and the rest of the project sub-committee for delivering this great improvement to our facilities.

SOLAR POWER

Planning is well underway for the club's solar installation project. Our sub-committee comprising Colin Lorrimar, Nanda Kumar, and Bill Thomas have sourced quotes, held onsite meetings with tenderers, and selected a preferred contractor. For the technically minded, the system will comprise:

- 118 x 505Kw panels mounted on the Squash Centre roof
- 2 x 15000W inverters
- 12 x 8Kwh batteries installed against the external south-facing clubhouse wall and protected by a steel cage

We expect annual electricity savings of over \$15,000 and the environmental benefits will be very significant.

A \$105,000 election pledge by Labor MLA for Tangney, Sam Lim, is expected to fully fund the project.

Target completion – within 6 months.

Bill Thomas





RECYCLING OF TENNIS BALLS

Have you ever wondered where all the old worn tennis balls end up from our tennis club? John Urbaniak, pictured is our club member who has taken on the job of finding a home for these unwanted tennis balls. Altogether, John has recycled 6 500 balls. He has distributed the balls to schools throughout W.A. as far north as Meekatharra, east to Mukinbudin, Bruce Rock and Kondinin and south to Manjimup. John has also donated balls to the Dog Refuge Home, Canning River Café and Orange Box Café. Recently, John's volunteer work at many schools, was featured in several Herald and Perth Voice newspapers- he's famous!



Apparently, the idea of recycling old tennis balls is not a new one. **Tricia MacWilliam** first came up with the idea. It was Tricia who with **Ray Stokes**, was first to approach local schools with the used tennis balls – even to schools around Broome through another mid-week lady, **Darinka Brooker**, who took the balls up north and distributed them to Aboriginal communities. Following this, **Barb Blewett** also became involved and took the old balls to the charity shop where she was working, to sell cheaply. They went like hot cakes apparently. Then following these two initiatives, **John Urbaniak** became involved as well.

It has been a most successful venture, starting from a spark - one small community-minded idea which was then developed by proactive club members as they built on the idea to become a wonderful community involvement across the state.

ATTENTION PENNANT PLAYERS

After your matches are finished, please return tennis balls, ball can and lid to the Captain's Box for recycling.

NO MORE HEAVY FLUFFY AO BALLS AT BLUE GUM

Last summer, many complaints were received by Life Member **Ray Stokes** from pennant players having to play with heavy, fluffy balls. With at least 25 years of experience being responsible for the purchasing and the distributing of tennis balls, Ray has become quite an expert on tennis ball quality. Ray spent hours deliberating over the problem of fluffy heavy tennis balls, even sourcing a separate batch of balls from the **Dunlop Australia Sport Manager**. These new balls were just as fluffy and heavy to play with (especially when wet!) So, Ray alerted the Board about the problem with a successful result swapping Dunlop AO All Court balls for **Slazenger** tennis balls. Hopefully, our pennant teams will benefit by this change, and they might bring home even more trophies at the end of the season!





COMPETITION TENNIS

WINTER LEAGUE WRAP-UP

Blue Gum Park Tennis Club was represented during the Winter League Tennis Season by **3 Men's teams and 20 Junior Teams**. Due to the wild and woolly winter conditions on many weekends, many junior teams missed out playing all their 10 rounds of tennis. Some junior teams missed as many as 3 rounds of tennis due to the wet weather conditions. Overall, Blue Gum Park Tennis Club had a very successful winter league season with 5 teams being victorious and 9 teams achieving 2nd place.

Our **Saturday Men's Division 1** team captained by Brendan Jayaprakash, came second to Mt. Lawley TC in the finals. The Blue Gum side, which was in first position throughout the season, was unfortunately missing its very strong number 2 player, Danny Neleman. Danny had his wisdom teeth removed the day before and wasn't up to playing in the final matches. Both Brendan and Danny have been under a tennis scholarship in the USA for the past year and decided to play winter pennants back here at Blue Gum. It was certainly a very high standard of tennis on show. Congratulations to their team for achieving 2nd place in this very tough men's competition.



L-r: Trevor Eastwood, Brendan Jayaprakash, Aden Rezvan, Harry Edgar.
Absent: Danny Neleman & James Hardy





Aden Rezvan



Brendan Jaraprakash



Trevor Eastwood



Harry Edgar





ADULTS

Saturday Men's Open	S/D	Div 1	Jayaprakash	2nd
Saturday Men's Open	S/D	Div 5	Spooner	5th
Wednesday Night Men	S/D 3P	Div 3	Xu	2nd

JUNIORS

COLOUR BALL COMPETITION S/D F4			
Orange Under 11	Pikachu Div.	Eaton	4th
Orange Under 11	Blastoise Div.	Huang	1st
Orange Under 11	Ninetables Div.	Farrell	2nd
Orange Under 11	Onix Div.	Huynh	2nd
GREEN BALL S/D F4			
Sunday MIXED 13 & Under	Div 1	Williamson	3rd
Sunday MIXED 13 & Under	Div 2	Lim	2nd
Sunday MIXED 13 & Under	Div 4	Spooner	1st
Sunday MIXED 13 & Under	Div 6	Ang	3rd
Sunday MIXED 13 & Under	Bugs Bunny	Gupta	1st
YELLOW BALL S/D F4			
Sunday MIXED 13 & Under	Div 2	Chi	2nd
Sunday MIXED 13 & Under	Div 4	Schildenfeld	2nd
Sunday BOYS 15 & Under	Div 1	Malaney	2nd
Sunday BOYS 15 & Under	Div 2	Gibbison	4th
Sunday BOYS 15 & Under	Div 3	Chung	2nd
Sunday BOYS 15 & Under	Div 5	Agrawal	3rd
Sunday BOYS 15 & Under	Div 7	Ho	3rd
Sunday BOYS 15 & Under	Div 9	Chang	1st
Sunday GIRLS 14 & Under	2nd	Chua	2nd
Sunday GIRLS 18 & Under	3rd	Swed	3rd
Sunday BOYS 18 & Under	4th	Willey	4th





AGM

The 2025 AGM was very well attended, enticed by beautiful sunny weather. Thank you to members who attended or sent apologies, your support is appreciated. The refreshments were delicious – special thanks to The Good Grocer, our Premier Sponsor for sumptuous sandwiches and club member offerings. Thanks also to the catering and bar teams as well as those members who pitched in to assist.

Beth Stubbs

CLUB AWARDS

Congratulations go to the 2024/2025 Club Award recipients presented at the club AGM.

Volunteer of the Year – Trevor Faulkner (*Kirsten Hoad received her award at the Presentation Night*)

Citizenship –Keith Growden, Ole Hammer (*Tricia MacWilliam and Catherine Brock received their award at the Presentation Night*)

Life Member – Bruce Stubbs

CLUB DIRECTORS

At this year’s AGM, many new directors were elected to the board. Thank you to the outgoing directors Jim Sewell, Beth Stubbs, Clare Howells, Bill Thomas, Claire Hitchens and Joe Sarsero for their dedication and generosity over the last 3 years. Many of these volunteers will no doubt continue to give service on various sub-committees and in different areas of the club. Congratulations to the newly elected 2025-26 Board of Management for Blue Gum Park Tennis Club. We hope that you will enjoy your time on the board and be able to bring about many positive changes to our tennis club.

Board Positions	2025/2026	Emails
President	Greg Paull	president@bluegumtennis.org
Secretary	Pam Formby	secretary@bluegumtennis.org
Vice President	John Mac Donald	vicepresident@bluegumtennis.org
Director of Tennis	Chris Spooner	tennis@bluegumtennis.org
Director of Business	David Capes	business@bluegumtennis.org
Director of Facilities	Colin Lorrimar	facilities@bluegumtennis.org
Director of Social	Joanna Williams	social@bluegumtennis.org
Director of Finances	Mike Wardell-Johnson	finance@bluegumtennis.org
Director of Marketing	Brad Bocking	marketing@bluegumtennis.org



SOCIAL TENNIS



Wati Hartley, Winner



Ray Bennett, Runner-Up

MAYAYSIAN CURRY NIGHT

On July 19th, 55 members from across the club came together for a delicious banquet of Malaysian curry, lovingly prepared by our resident MasterChef, Nanda Kumar. It was an evening of unity, with Juniors, Midweek, Social, and League players all enjoying a vibrant night of food and friendship.

Did you know:

- *How many islands there are in Malaysia?*
- *Nanda's full name, spelled correctly?*
- *Or how long the shopping, preparation, and cooking took for Curry Night?*

These were just a few of the trivia questions that challenged attendees at this year's ever-popular event. Those who had paid close attention to the invitation and previous newsletters had a distinct advantage—while others, caught sneakily consulting their phones, were quickly found out!

The feast featured an irresistible spread of **Nasi Lemak**, **Beef Rendang**, and delicious vegetarian options—ensuring no one left hungry. And for dessert? A marvellous selection of cool ice cream treats to round out the night.

A heartfelt thank you to Nanda, his family, and all the wonderful helpers who made the evening such a success.

Claire Hitchens (Social Director)



Nanda Kumar



MID-WEEK MEN - THE BLUE GUM NUTS

Congratulations to Tom Male who received the inaugural **Blue Gum Nuts Legends Award**. Tom has been a part of men's mid-week seniors (now called BGN) since its inception over 15 years ago.

Have you noticed a change as you walk from the carparks to the clubhouse?

In between their sets of tennis, the **Blue Gum Nuts** have swept and removed leaves and sand from the approaching paths. The leaves were stuck behind the temporary fencing which has now been removed.

THANK YOU BLUE GUM NUTS!



Judy and Tom Male

MID-WEEK LADIES

The **Tuesday Midweek Ladies'** group got off to a great start this year with a flood of new members. We now have a thriving group of mixed age ladies and no longer feel at risk of extinction! We kicked off the year with a morning tea when we officially welcomed some of our new members.

Next on the social calendar was our Hot Cross Bun morning tea at Easter which always goes down well.

Unfortunately, our planned French Open themed tournament event in June was jinxed by the weather. Having already postponed once due to rain, we had no option but to abandon the tournament on the second attempt due to more rain. However, our ladies had arrived with some wonderful French delicacies for our Parisien cafe theme lunch, we raffled off the tournament prizes and much fun was had by all.

Our recent soup day was also enjoyed by all and warmed us up after a cold morning of tennis.

Eve Bennett (Chief Organiser)



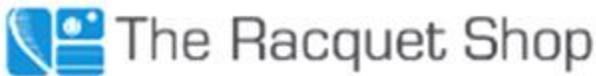
New ladies to the Mid-Week group.





Genny Gowing in her French beret and Wendy who won the raffle prize.

L-r: Barb Blewett, Eve Bennett, Ylonka Dowd, Jane Bwye, Suzy Attwater.



UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

Saturday 4th October: Busy Bee
Saturday 11th October: Opening Day
Saturday 18th October: League Competition starts
Saturday 9-12th October: Tennis West Junior Competition

