



The Whisper ~ August 2009

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70 YEARS - PLATINUM SEASON

From The President's Desk

As we recently held the Club's AGM there is not a great deal new to report to you as President, but please read the Captain's and social committee's reports for important information.

A landmark event at the AGM in July was the adoption of the Business Plan that had been circulated with the President's Report in the Meeting papers. The Plan sets out the Club's objectives over the next 5-10 years. It was endorsed by members attending the AGM and provides the Club with a clear, albeit flexible, path to follow, and is now in force. I encourage all who did not attend the meeting to familiarise themselves with its proposals. If you have any suggestions and especially if you think you can assist, please contact me. Although the Dalkeith Tennis Club was not chosen as one of the State's Regional Centres, we will continue to strive to attain the objectives we have set ourselves in the Plan.

Another important item at the AGM was the Club's recognition of two of our members by awarding them with Life Membership. Both Paul Olivier and Robyn Mazzucchelli (pictured right) have contributed greatly over the years towards the success and esprit de corps of the Club and deserve to be so recognised.



I am particularly pleased that all the members of last year's committee agreed to continue to serve and we have also got some "new blood" to join. Peter May and Paul Taylor are to be applauded for agreeing to help out.

The Club is on the improve. Membership numbers are up and the financial situation is more robust although much remains to be done if we are to achieve our objectives. We are not resting on our laurels and, thanks to the hard work of the Committee and their many helpers, we have in place a number of new initiatives which we hope will add further vitality to our playing and social activities.

Very soon you will be receiving your renewal notice for the 2009-2010 season. Fees have not been increased for next season and the cost of the social membership has

been reduced. This is partly due to the excellent response from past and present members in the first half of 2009 in supporting the Club; but mainly because the Committee have decided the future of the Club depends on attracting more members to the Club and improving utilisation of our facilities rather than charging our existing members more. We hope you agree with this approach and will help us to continue to improve and grow the Club by renewing your membership and by introducing friends and family to the Club's social and playing activities.

Volunteers play a crucial role in the success of the Club. They not only help raise funds but save the Club a lot of expenditure by helping out with work around the Club. This year we have included some options where you can indicate your willingness to help out. We encourage you to put your name down by ticking one or more of the tasks shown. If you have other areas where you think you can play a role please contact us. Alternatively, if you don't have the time, think about being particularly generous when it comes to the voluntary contribution

Our sponsors are an important part of the Club. They provide crucial financial and in-kind support and are often working behind the scenes when we need them. Please support our sponsors whenever you can.

Thank you for your support and on behalf of the Committee I wish all our members a safe and successful 2009-2010 season.

STEPHEN KEENIHAN
PRESIDENT

Captain's corner

I see my role as Captain is to get more people playing tennis. This will not be an easy task as the trend throughout Australia has been a gradual decline in the number and quality of recreational players.

Here at Dalkeith we see many groups that go about organising their own playing arrangements. Some of these groups are very successful e.g. The Junior Program and the Women's Wednesday Midweek Pennants. I see my job as facilitating all playing groups so that the individual groups can get more numbers involved in playing this great game. If anyone using our facilities needs my support please contact me and I will do my utmost to help.

Saturday Social : It is my intention to trial a system where members can book a court on a Saturday afternoon. There will be four grass courts available. Booking sheets will be available at the Captain's desk one week in advance. Visitors will be allowed to play with members and the normal visitor fee will apply. They will be allowed 5 visits and then expected to join the Club if intending to continue. Members using this

(Continued on page 2)

In this issue:

President's Report	1
Captains' Corner	1
Coach's Corner	2
Junior	2
Women's	2,3
Senior League	3
What's on mid-week	3
Social	4
Sponsors	5,6



(Continued from page 1)

system will not be supplied with balls. The rationale behind this is: some members are unhappy with the organised sets and can organise their own group of 4; the courts are presently under-utilised; and we will gain new members.

We hope members will use both systems as it will be possible to organise a four to play early and then join in organised sets or vice versa by booking a court at the finish of the day.

Club Tournament : This year we plan to have the following groups: Men's Championship Singles & Doubles; Ladies Championship Singles & Doubles; and Mixed Championship Doubles play their Tournament on the weekend of Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th October; exclusively on hardcourts. We hope to have the best players competing giving them valuable match practice before the pennant season begins on October 24th.

The main Club Tournament will be run round the same time as in previous years (March/April). The round robin format is particularly popular. Members can commit to playing only one weekend in the ladies or men's doubles and/or the second weekend when the mixed doubles will run. We hope that this will do away with the need for exemptions and make it more attractive to enter. These competitions will be played on grass.

State Grade : This year we have been fortunate to gain the services of Brendan Malarkey who will be joining MastaStroke as a coach and take on the number 1 position in our State Grade team. He currently coaches at Hyde Park in London and returns to Perth early October. Greg Chaine, Ryan Sceats, Mark Sewell and Goran Marijan have all committed to play again this year. In addition, Ben Tullett (Emma's brother) joins the team giving added depth.

The Ladies State Grade team has been relegated to Division 1 this year resulting in some of the girls moving on. Emma Tullett, Mary Ann Boulos & Nicole Chiam remain to form the nucleus of the Division 1 team and are aiming to get back into the State Grade next year.

Opening Day : Will be held on Saturday 17th October with organised set play from 2pm. Families are encouraged to attend as there will be activities (both on and off court) for children as well as adults. The official opening ceremony starts at 6pm; pennant shields & individual achievements will be awarded by Tennis West. The members of the Men's State Grade team and Ladies Division 1 team will also be introduced to club members along with the 2009/10 Club Committee. Hope to see you then, if not before.

**PETER RIGG
CAPTAIN**

Women's Night League

Dalkeith entered two women's night league teams for the winter season. Both teams successfully reached the semi-finals which was very exciting for all. Next time with a bit of luck the finals! The season had a few rain offs but by and large it is a pleasant time to play tennis as there is usually very little wind in the evening. The summer season is fast approaching so don't forget to put in your entry forms if you are interested.

**YVONNE ELLIES-HANCY
CO-ORDINATOR**

Coach's corner

As the winter comes to an end we are looking forward to a busy summer, including coaching, tournaments and League play.

MastaStroke® Tennis has conducted a very successful Ladies Tennis with Crèche program on a Monday morning along with Ladies coaching on Wednesday and Friday mornings. These programs will continue through the summer along with the "Men's Training Night" on Monday evenings. The Men's program is followed by organized sets and has proved popular among our weekend League players.

MastaStroke® Tennis will again offer a full range of coaching for junior players, starting with our Aussie Mozzie program for 4 – 6 year olds all the way up to specialized training squads for nationally competitive juniors.

Over recent years the modified learning program for younger players has developed and grown into a fantastic opportunity for all players under the age of 12 years.

In this program children will;

- Play with modified equipment that is appropriate to their size, age and ability
- Have fun and stay healthy
- Progress to full court tennis in a system that is appropriate to their developmental needs
- Meet new friends
- Develop tactical awareness and technical skills
- Have the opportunity to play in challenge events

Summer Tennis League for juniors starts on October 25th and is a great opportunity for our competitive players to develop their games. Registrations for this program close on September 7th.

For further information on any summer programs, please call the ProShop on 9386 6906.



**JOHN THORPE
CLUB PROFESSIONAL**

Junior League

Dalkeith had a very successful winter Tennis League season with 6 of 8 teams making the finals and competing strongly. Congratulations to all our players who trained and worked hard in their Sunday fixtures.

Any players that would like to introduce a friend and new Tennis League player to the Club for this summer is very welcome to do so. The summer season details:

Playing dates are Sunday October 25th to Sunday December 6th and February 7th to February 21st. There is no play during the summer school holidays. Forms will be due by Monday September 7th at 5.00pm.

Training will be Thursday evenings after school or a make-up session on Saturday morning.

For further information on any summer programs, please call the ProShop on 9386 6906.

**JOHN THORPE
JUNIOR PROGRAM DIRECTOR**

Senior Weekend League

The Women's division 1 team made finals comfortably as a result of to two hard fought doubles matches in the final home and away round, when they wrestled 3rd spot from Scarborough. The third set win by Penny Hendra and Debbie Singleton after dropping their first set 0-6 being the highlight. Unfortunately South Perth proved too strong in the semi-final.

The Women's team will now focus on Summer where we have been relegated out of the top State League division. The team is keen to rejoin to State's top grade next year and accomplish a win in Division 1 this year.

The Men's division 2 team found it very tough going over winter. Anchor man David Lark was in virtually a new team each week with the regular team experiencing more than its fair share of injuries and travel interruptions. Wins were hard to find and the competition seemed to be vastly improved this year. Thanks to everyone that was able to assist at a moment's notice and we now look forward to better results in summer.

The summer league application forms are now out and team selections have to be finalised by the first week in September. Please ensure that you lodge a form if you would like to join a pennant team for the upcoming season. Players from last year will not automatically be reselected. We have trialed an online system to keep track of availabilities over winter which seemed to work well and this will continue over summer. The web address is on the pennant form; it is a closed forum accessible only to DTC members. As well as posting player availability, it is a way for the team players to keep track of what's happening with pennants. Log on at <http://dtcpennants.proboards.com>.

SCOTT VAN HEURCK
PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Midweek Pennants

Well Dalkeith has had a great winter season! We had 4 teams competing and all 4 teams made it through to the semi-finals! On a bright sunny winter's day we had all 4 teams at home vying for a berth in the grand-finals! Unfortunately, despite some great tennis the Div 4 ladies captained by Liz Sutherland didn't quite make it.

The Division 2 girls, (captain - Linda Arnold) travelled to Kelmscott for the grand-final and were triumphant; a relief after losing in the semi's last summer.

Donna Stomp led her girls to a season win in Division 6 after a Derby grand-final at Nedlands.

Our Division 8 ladies with Linda Prendergast as their captain had a terrific season. They finished on top of the ladder at the end of round 10, however were just pipped at the post on grand-final day!

Congratulations to all Midweek Ladies, I think good tennis and friendship was enjoyed by all. Looking forward to seeing you all for the summer season and having our summer-only ladies back again.

ROBYN TAN
MID-WEEK LADIES' DAY PENNANTS CO-ORDINATOR

What's happening Midweek?

Ever wonder what goes on during the week? Here is a snapshot of the various organised groups playing Monday through to Friday that you may like to join.

This does not include any of the MastaStroke clinics. For info on these we suggest you contact John or Pierre on tel. 9386 6906.

Monday Night Men's League - This is a "drop-in" program specifically designed for our stronger players (>4.2) who enjoy high energy drills in a more competitive atmosphere. Drills with Pierre run from 6:30 to 7:30. This is followed by somewhat "anti-social" sets played until 9:00 or 9:30. If you can't make the drills, you are still welcome to join the sets at 7:30. The cost is \$15 for the drills and \$8 for the sets (to cover the lights and balls). For more information contact John Thorpe, Pierre Bezuidenhout, or David Ephraim.

Tuesday Day - 'The Movers & Shakers' - Organised doubles play 9.00am to 11.00am.

This group came to Dalkeith from Kings Park nearly 10 years ago. Some of the original members are still playing, with lots of new faces. All DTC members are welcome. You have the option of a \$2 per week fee which then entitles you to participate in social lunches held through the year. Whilst numbers drop in winter, come summer it is all shakin'! After tennis many stay on for refreshments in the clubhouse. For further information contact Brian Wallace on 9284 7454.

Tuesday Night - Organised tennis that has been going for over 10 years—started on Court 1 by long-time member Peter Jagger. There are now four or five groups playing for one and a half hours under lights from 6.30 pm onwards. Always looking for people to be on the Reserve list. Contact Lyn Micha (9313-1847) or Glenda Martinick (0412 388095) to add your name to the list. Good fun.

Wednesday Day - Women's League interclub pennant matches. For more information contact Robyn Tan at robynshiong@inet.net.au.

Wednesday Night - Men's Night League interclub pennant matches. For more information contact Jim Davies at jim@3o3.com.au.

Also Social tennis—join Judy Lange and others for social tennis starting 7pm. Come along and join in.

Thursday Day - organised mixed doubles play beginning at 9.00am through to 11.00am followed by refreshments in the Clubhouse. Just turn up ready to play.

Thursday Night - Women's Night League interclub pennant matches. For more information contact Yvonne Ellies-Hancy at yvonne@hancy.net

Thursday Night Ladies Social - A very popular ladies group playing 3 sets of doubles tennis under lights followed by BYO refreshments and a lot of laughs in the clubhouse. Contact Clare Werren to get your name on the list to fill any vacancies as they come up. Email: clarewerren@hotmail.com

Friday Ladies - organised sets 9.30am to 11.00am. 3 to 4 courts of ladies regularly play and then go off for coffee afterwards. Everyone welcome as the emphasis is on enjoying one's tennis in a relaxed format.

DEBBIE LONG
VICE CAPTAIN

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