



WELCOME TO THE NEW WHISPER

WE HOPE YOU LIKE THE NEW LOOK WHISPER.

Its been many years since The Whisper layout and design was reviewed, and with the advent of digital technology and the low cost of colour printing, the Committee felt it was time to upgrade. Big thanks go to Club member Charlotte Lufino who designed the new masthead, the publication look and feel and laid out the contents, as well as to Glenda Martinick for

editing the submissions and organising production.

This first edition of the new Whisper is being posted on the website and a link emailed to our database of email addresses. Some printed copies will be available at the Club. Future editions will be emailed as a pdf and be on our new website as a download saving considerable postage, printing cost and production time.

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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

The season kicked off in style with a fantastic fashion show and successful Open Day. The fashion show continues to be a real highlight of the season and it worked well having it the night before Open Day with so many people back involved with the Club. Andrew Stanbury, CEO of Tennis West, officially opened the Club the next day and presented plaques to winning pennant teams.

It is wonderful to see the courts full again in summer with so many members and visitors having fun, making friends and keeping fit. The benefits of membership extend way beyond simply playing tennis as we aim to create a

social environment that adds to quality of life and general well-being. The success of our volunteer base and the support of our social activities clearly indicate that many people get a lot more out of the Club than just playing tennis even if this is the main reason we are all here.

Despite this, it's clear from the statistics produced by Tennis West that participation in tennis is in decline and at Dalkeith we are no exception over the years. It seems tennis has almost skipped a generation, with young adults having different priorities and values.

It is easy to forget what makes Dalkeith such a strong club. We continue to be one of the largest clubs in Western Australia; last year our membership



JIM WITH JUSTINE HENIN AT THE HOPMAN CUP PRO AM

grew for the first time in a while and this year looks like being no exception. We were recognised as one of only 28 major regional centres in Australia in Tennis Australia's review of facilities nationally and as a result will benefit from extra attention and funding. Regional centres were selected based on their size, facilities, location, coaching expertise and management.

We have the most successful Junior Programme in the State, with 18 junior pennant teams. There are some genuine prospects of excellent players amongst our junior ranks who are performing well in ranking tournaments. A number of juniors attended the Hopman Cup accompanied by Shaun Rose; they were the winners of our Friday Club draw which took place at the Club Christmas party. Sam McManus, the GM of Hopman, came down to the Club to draw the winners and was amazed at the sheer number of kids involved at the Club.

We are continuing to invest in the courts with the completion of the four Blue Plexipave courts. The quality of our grass courts, thanks to Michael at TurfCare, is, I believe, the best in the State. We are exploring the possibility of some clay courts to replace grass courts on 15 to 17; this is a major undertaking for which we have received early support from Nedlands Council, Department of Sport and Recreation and Tennis West. There is still a long way to go and the Committee is aware of the cost and maintenance issues.

The more contemporary branding of the club has started with the installation of two new signs on Beatrice Road and Victoria Avenue. These position the facility as a Tennis Centre to attract new players who don't necessarily want to join a Club. Of course the Centre always will have a vibrant club at its heart. A new logo for the club has been developed giving it a smart modern image.

A new look website with greater functionality and our own content management system is in development. Watch out for its launch - it will be the place to go for anything and everything to do with Dalkeith Tennis Club.

Your committee encourages Masterstroke to be innovative and John Thorpe has responded by being more proactive with the Hot Shots program for Juniors. In 2011 we plan to hold four Hot Shots tournaments at the club for the first time. John has plans to introduce Cardio Tennis in 2011, an exciting tennis based workout programme which will have broad appeal. A number of members tried it on Open Day and can vouch that it's an intensive workout that will also improve your tennis.

I look forward to seeing you all on the court soon or at one of our upcoming social events. ●

Jim Davies



THE SOCIAL SCENE

AT DALKEITH TENNIS CLUB

Dalkeith Tennis club is made up of numerous sectors within the Club as a whole. There are the Tuesday and Thursday morning groups who play between 9.30 - 11am. These are mixed social groups who get together after social play to share a cup of tea and cake. The groups are always on the lookout for members to join in with the tennis and there are plenty of courts available for play!

Thursday night girls love nibbles and drinks after their play between 7.00 - 8.30pm. This is a particularly social group who enjoy good tennis and good nibbles! The majority of the group is made up of ex-pennant players who want to keep their friendships going. There is a reserves list for people who are interested in joining in. The numbers are constrained by the availability of night courts.

Tuesday night mixed group is probably one of the most social

groups in the club! They are a great bunch of people who have an annual get together to celebrate their annual tennis achievements. There is a reserves list for people who are interested in joining in. I believe Champagne is the drink of choice?

Friday morning sees the younger set on the courts. So if you are female and would like to join with others, many with young families, for a few sets of tennis - come down at 9.30 and join in now school is back.





Friday nights there is twilight tennis for those seeking cooler conditions and balmy evenings for a BBQ and a bit of tennis. See the DTC website for details of dates.

And of course Saturday afternoons for nibbles and drinks after play. The Saturday group is in need of a volunteer to lead the group in all things social. This is not a fundraising position but simply a position to encourage a vibrant social scene for those players who like to kick on after Saturday play.

If any member has any ideas on areas of the Club where things could be improved or new initiatives put in place socially, please speak to a Committee member as the Club highly values member input and volunteer time.

The big ticket item for the club in a social/fundraising sense is the upcoming "Shiraz and Jazz" evening being planned by your committee on Friday the 13th May so keep this important date free and mark it into your 2011 diary!!!

We are hoping to attract record

numbers to this fun packed event so start thinking about getting your own table organised as it will be first in best dressed!

Finally another acknowledgement to Gaye Hayes and Julia Allen for the outstanding Fashion Parade which kicked off the start of the 2010-11 tennis season at DTC. It was such a pleasure to see so many people of varying ages all together having such a wonderful time.

Yvonne Ellies-Hancy



The 2010/11 season has got off to a great start. We enjoyed a good turn out on Opening Day and numbers have been solid since.

This season DTC is particularly well represented in the Saturday Pennants with 4 teams of younger members taking advantage of our new fee structure and organising themselves in the competition. Tennis West has made a bold initiative in dividing the summer season for Saturday Pennants into two sections. The first half was completed before Christmas with one Dalkeith team (Division 12) winning the Pennant. The second pennant season started on Saturday 5 February.



The Premier League (State Grade) competition started at the State Tennis Centre on Saturday 29 January. We have taken a completely new route this year and have invited several of the top younger players to represent Dalkeith. They are Alan Mackin, Dylan McCloskey, Ben Dallinger, Alistair Baker, Sam Rundle, Kyle Mackin and Matt Roso. We have also invited Mark Heather to manage/mentor and train this group. This prestigious event carries the rewards/burden of promotion or relegation. Whilst we have a very young group we are keen to do well and maintain our place in this elite competition.

The midweek ladies recommenced their day and night competition with round 9 on Wednesday/Thursday 2/3 February. The Juniors recommenced with round 7 on Sunday 6 February.

At the President's request we have abandoned the trial of running the gold leaf events (Club Championships) prior to season opening. All the club championships will be conducted Friday/Saturday/Sunday 8/9/10 April and Friday/Saturday/Sunday 15/16/17 April. These will include Senior, Junior and Round Robin events. **PUT THESE DATES IN YOUR DIARY!!**

The last social event was the Long Table Lunch under the Gum Trees on Australia Day. It was a big success with over 60 members attending.

On Sunday 27 February the club will participate in a triangular social event with Nedlands and Claremont - to be played at Claremont. This involves a few sets of tennis followed by a shared buffet. Participating players need to

contribute some food to the buffet. There will be a booking sheet on the sets desk early in February with more details.

Finally I would like to make some comments/recommendations regarding Saturday afternoon social play. I am of the opinion that this group has to take responsibility for the management of the play for this day. Perhaps it is possible for a roster (similar to the nibbles roster) to be drawn up so that the work load is spread evenly. It may be necessary to employ someone to run the computer whilst the rostered member just oversees the final makeup of each set. I would be very interested in some feedback from members of this group. ●

Peter Rigg



This summer, we have again managed to field 3 competitive teams, despite being plagued by injuries and relocations. With the second half of the season remaining there is still plenty of good tennis to be played, and hopefully they'll be rewarded with a finals berth!

I would like to thank the team captains: **Summer** – Liz Sutherland, Robin Ephraim, Linda Prendergast; **Winter** – Siobhan Dormer and Anita Powell for their patience, efficiency and IT skills, especially with the introduction of the new computer system. Well done Ladies and thanks for keeping me sane!

Any Ladies wanting to join the Night Pennant teams, new or seasoned players, please contact me (Nikki) on **0429-621859**. ●

Nikki Newton
(Ladies Night Co-ordinator)

During the exceptionally dry winter, Dalkeith fielded 2 Ladies Night Pennant teams who relished the opportunity to make the most of the good conditions. Our Div 5 Ladies, who were in a very tough Division, struggled at first to find their feet but towards the later part of the

season came through with increasing confidence and unfortunately just missed out on a semis berth by a point or two. The Div 3 Ladies did amazingly well to reach the semis, only to be knocked out by a rejuvenated, and strengthened Bayswater who eventually took out the title for the division. Next time Ladies?

NAMING AND BACKGROUND OF THE WHISPER MAGAZINE

Most organisations have a newsheet to inform staff and members of “the latest” - social, cultural, managerial news things happening about the place.

For the past three plus decades the Dalkeith Tennis Club has communicated to members recent events, new occurrences on pages called “The Whisper”.

Question - Just where did the “Whisper” name originate? Circa 1970 there was available a magazine throughout Australia headed “The Kings Cross Whisper”. Now for those Members unfamiliar with Kings Cross, it is one of the livliest spots in Sydney. The only “tourist attraction” is the waxworks museum out of the Village centre.

However coffee shops stay open until the early hours of the morning. It is a place of high-rise tourist hotels and low dives. Coffee bars rub shoulders with sex shops and the ladies of the night now ply their trade openly. It is the centre of Sydney’s drug scene and although it is really safe enough to walk around, the odd ugly incident does occur from time-to-time.

The authors of this organ, “The Kings Cross Whisper”, were rather poison-pen types, always looking for ill-gotten gains - very smutty, obscene with talk, pictures and stories - everybody copped it: right and left wing pollies, people in high places with propaganda and biased information. It was a real scandal sheet.

Eventually the censorship laws caught up with it and court cases resulted which led to its withdrawal and the proprietors receiving gaol sentences.

The Club’s Singles Champ in those days was John Barwood, an upstanding man of integrity and sincere principles and the Ladies Singles Champ was Judy Laing, a fine lady with equally strong morals. They, with the assistance of the Committee of impeccable standards, thought they would use the word from this decadency of the Kings Cross Whisper and name the Club’s initial news sheet “The Whisper” - a name that prevails today.

John Barwood set the whole thing up and was the foundation editor. In the meantime many, many Members have contributed stories. ●

Dave Pyett





2011 GRAND SLAM TICKET BALLOTS

Each year, Tennis Australia receives a small allocation of tickets for the French Open and Wimbledon. To ensure there is a fair and equitable distribution of these tickets, a ballot is conducted by Tennis Australia to allocate these tickets. As applications for tickets far exceeds supply there is no guarantee that applicants will receive tickets however every endeavour will be made to make an allotment to as many people as possible.

To be eligible for the ballot you must be a current member of an affiliated tennis club, Australian Open member, Tennis Australia Coach or Official member. To obtain your member number contact Elle Dignan at Tennis West on 6462 8303.

The **dates for French Open 2011** are Sunday 22 May - Sunday 5 June.

The **dates for Wimbledon 2011** are Monday 20 June - Sunday 3 July.

How to apply

1. Applications to the French Open ballot will be accepted from Monday 21 February and must be received by Friday 11 March 2011.

2. Applications to Wimbledon will be accepted from Monday 21 February and must be received by Friday 18 March 2011.

3. Successful ballot applicants for French Open tickets will be advised in writing by Friday 25 March 2011.

4. Successful ballot applicants for Wimbledon tickets will be advised in

writing by Friday 15 April 2011.

5. Tickets for the French Open will be sent to successful ballot applicants in early April 2011.

6. Tickets for Wimbledon will be sent to successful ballot applicants in late May 2011.

Please note that ballot forms will be available online from the dates detailed above. Alternately ballot forms can be obtained from the start date of the ballot by emailing aotickets@tennis.com.au or by calling the Tennis Australia ticketing department on (03) 9914 4000.

For more information, please visit the following website:

<http://www.tennis.com.au/tournaments/grand-slams/tickets>

SPONSOR BENEFITS FOR MEMBERS AND OUR CLUB

A number of our sponsors offer discounts to Club members:

Tennis Only offers a 10% discount on racquets, balls, clothing, shoes, restringing and more.

Cooper and Lourie will give 10% off all things optical, a great idea for those of us that need our eyes

testing out there on the courts.

Gordon Davies Real Estate and Robertson Real Estate offer, for every sale / purchase that results from DTC member's or DTC member referral, DTC will receive \$1000. This is a very productive way for the club to make money.

Flight Centre in Dalkeith will also send us a commission when you book flights and holidays with them. Just mention DTC when booking.

Please support all our sponsors who do a great job of supporting the club.



JUNIOR CONVENER'S REPORT



The summer pennant season has been very busy with 18 teams involved. We look forward to having a large number of teams making the semi-finals and then hopefully finals.

The fundraising from the BBQs on Sunday has been used to buy 20 scoreboards which have been put to good use helping especially the younger members. We have also bought a new table tennis table.

Term 4 was also busy with the running of very successful "Friday Night Summer Tennis" gatherings for the Juniors. In the new format the evening was split into two sessions, one for younger members and the other for teenagers which encouraged teens to come down and have a hit with their friends. The evening concluded with a meal and drinks provided by volunteers.

At the end of 2010 we had our annual Christmas party which saw over 90 juniors attend. There was a big slippery slide and tug of war to keep everyone entertained, as well as Sean being chased by many for the lolly scramble. There was a raffle for a number of tickets for some lucky Juniors to attend the Hopman Cup.

We look forward to having many Juniors participate in the Dalkeith

Tennis Club Championships later this term.

On a final note I would like to thank Tania Sydney-Smith and all the wonderful volunteers who have given their time to help and support the juniors at the club. ●

Louise Sang



DALKEITH JUNIORS AT THE HOPMAN CUP WITH SHAUN

DTC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, 13 February	Family and friends Sunday Sundowner from 4pm
Friday, 18 February	Twilight tennis from 5.30 BYO BBQ
Saturday, 19 February	Ciccibello's Gourmet Pizza night from 6.30pm
Saturday, 26 February	Margaret River Invitational at MRTC from 1.30
Sunday, 27 February	TriClub Tournament Claremont TC from 2pm
Friday, 4 March	Twilight tennis from 5.30 BYO BBQ
Sunday, 13 March	Family and friends Sunday Sundowner from 4pm
Friday, Saturday and Sunday 8/9/10 April	Junior and Senior Club Championships
Friday, Saturday and Sunday 15/16/17 April	Club Championships continue
Friday, 6 May	Junior Club Restarts (Term 2)
Friday, 13 May	Shiraz & Jazz (End of Season Finale)

UNDER THE GUM TREES



THE CAPTAINS TABLE



LUNCH UNDER THE GUM TREES AUSTRALIA DAY 2011



DAVE PYETT'S AUSTRALIA DAY 2011

A big thanks to all the Members who came to tennis on Australia Day. About 60 people attended and enjoyed 5 sets in idyllic conditions on the grass. Dave Pyett, who has organised this event for many years, lead the singing of the national anthem at 11 o'clock and awarded his annual trophy this year to Wayne Spilsbury. Wayne, who has been an Aussie for 6 years, was delighted and promised to keep it in pristine condition until next year.

Morning tennis at Dalkeith is a delight with often lower temperatures and less wind and so it proved to be this year. The tennis format was the same

as used for Saturday social. A big thanks to Peter Rigg (and his two Aussie dogs), for organising the sets. At midday the bar was open and tables were set up under the gum trees for lunch with many members enjoying a BBQ and great conversation amongst friends. This epitomises why the Club continues to attract such a strong following. Even the galahs in the trees seemed to be enjoying themselves (what about the ones under the trees? Ed)!

Is there any better place to enjoy an Aussie lunch on Australia Day? 🍷

For more Australia Day photos go to the DTC facebook page (see DTC on Facebook)

Jim Davies

DTC ON FACEBOOK

The club now has its own facebook page where we can post and share photos, and show upcoming events amongst other activities. To start we have uploaded all the photos Fern took at Australia Day lunch. Give it a try and you should be able to download photos to your own computer if you have a facebook page of your own.

Go to www.facebook.com/pages/Dalkeith-Tennis-Club/113907092008436

To take a look copy and paste this into your browser its that easy.

To create your own Facebook page go to the Facebook home page then when you go to our site hit "Like" and become a friend and start sharing photos.

MEMBERS' CORNER

This is a new service that gives all members the opportunity to promote anything and everything to other members.

Jim and Dorothy Davies have a beautiful **Holiday house in Eagle Bay** which is available for rent at certain times of the year. It sleeps 8 and is fully equipped, unfortunately it doesn't have a tennis court but just about everything else. For more details call Dorothy Davies on **0414465585**.

Travelling to London? Looking for accommodation? Rodney & Noelle Udall have a three bedroom, self-contained flat in Chelsea available for holiday rentals. The flat sleeps four in one double and two singles. Everything's made ready for your arrival - just walk in and walk out! For more details, please contact the Udalls on **9284 6515** or by email: rudall@iinet.net.au

House-sitting - mid-September. Lesley Sullivan's son David, his wife and two young children [one 2 1/2 and one due in March] want to come back to WA for two/three months from mid-September. If anyone is looking for a house sitter during that time, could they please contact Lesley on **9386 7153**.