

## What a great two weeks and what great organization



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Tennis Seniors New South Wales, Tennis Seniors Australia and Shepparton Tennis Club are to be congratulated for the organization of an excellent two weeks of tennis for players 35 and over.

For approximately the past thirty years, a long list of dedicated volunteers has managed to organize such events. Without the support of these volunteers, these events cannot be staged and TSA has built administrative structures to make these events successful. Well done to these organizations. All players are indebted to these volunteers.

The cooperation among all the state associations and Tennis Seniors Australia is vital for these events to be staged successfully. This year it was Tennis Seniors New South Wales' turn to host the event. Although Victoria and TSA staged the events in Shepparton three years ago, the choice of Shepparton by TSNSW was a wise and appropriate decision.

With the support of Shepparton Council and the Shepparton Tennis Club, TSNSW, under the leadership of Mick Bruton and the outstanding work of Robyn Castle and Arthur Olsen, ensured that these Championships will long be remembered. The support and hard work of Ian Grose which came under notice to most senior players three years ago was repeated this time. 'Thank you, Ian' for your hard work. Ian's day started long before 6.00 am and he was still working at 10pm.

Australia's sustained heat wave reached Shepparton and made play impossible in the hot hours of the afternoon and evening. Even the long-range forecast did not predict temperatures as high as we experienced. Steve Longworth is to be congratulated for realising the problem and its ramification early in the organization, and together with Ian Grose was able to arrange last minute additional courts with Shepparton Council and an early start to ensure all matches could be played. I understand it did cost an additional sum of money for security and use of the courts. It did mean an earlier start for Steve and he was on site around 6.00 am each day to ensure that all of his careful planning went smoothly.

In accord with the rules of tennis and the rules of the ITF, our dedicated referee Louise ensured that all went smoothly. I have witnessed many tournaments overseas where the referee conducts the tournament from his office and never steps outside to see how play is proceeding. Louise conscientiously supervised play, settled dispute, answered questions and ensured the tournament ran smoothly. Of prime importance was the health of players throughout the hot conditions.

No matter how much planning and careful organization, the tournament can only be successful with the cooperation and participation of all players. For those who played, congratulations and well done. Volunteers and players produced many hours of excitement for all involved. It was a great two weeks under challenging conditions.

Tom Hancy

Life Member  
Tennis Seniors Australia