

TENNIS SENIORS AUSTRALIA ANNUAL REPORT 2018

World Team Championships 2018

Young Seniors – Miami, Florida

35 ladies 10/15

35 men 11/18

45 ladies 9/16

45 men 9/21

Seniors – Ulm, Germany

50 ladies 13/19

50 men 11/21

55 ladies Silver

55 men 9/22

60 ladies GOLD

60 men Silver

Super Seniors – Umag, Croatia

65 ladies Silver

65 men Bronze

70 ladies 11/24

70 men 11/24

75 ladies 5/10

75 men 4/19

80 ladies 6/8

85 men Silver



TSA Annual Report 2018

I am pleased to present this report on behalf of the executive of Tennis Seniors Australia.

It has been said that there are two certainties in life – death and taxes – but I would add a third - change. The first change was when I took over from President Clive Wilkinson who retired from the role mid-year. The entire tennis community should be grateful to Clive for the energy and enthusiasm he brought to the role.

In fact we should all be grateful to all the 2018 executive (Ian Worland, Pat Moloney, Di Cassel, Peter Froelich). They are a serious bunch of individuals who work hard behind the scenes and sometimes have had to make some very difficult decisions. In every instance the executive debated the matter fully and followed due process – this is the most that any not-for-profit organisation can expect from its directors. In addition, we are grateful to the work of our contractors who work hard to help us achieve our goals – Enid Besant-Ryan (Teams Administrator), Gail Bates (Rankings), Ian Somers (IT) and Steve Longworth (Tournament Manager). Well done team!

On the topic of change, the TSA board has been considering the future of adult tennis in Australia, and in particular the best way to service the maximum number of players. When any board needs to make a decision its members must always try to put self-interest at the back of their minds, and this is what the tennis seniors community generally needs to do over the next few years. We are at something of a crossroads, and all of us must contemplate what is best for all adult tennis players in Australia going forward.

I hasten to add that we are not facing a crisis. On the contrary, our calendar is jammed full of events from country round robin events through State and national titles and the Oceania Regional tournament, the finances of TSA and the States are in excellent shape, and Australian players continue to taste success on the world stage. There is no doubt TSA and the State divisions are efficient operations.

But in planning the future of seniors' tennis in Australia, we need to be mindful that our governance structure may not be the most efficient, and in some cases there is not a clear succession plan for aging executives. At the same time, Tennis Australia is very enthusiastic about its Adult Participation Strategy, which will create pathways for adults (not just 35+) around Australia to learn and/or improve. This programme is intended to cover the whole gamut of coaching, social playing activities, fixtures and tournaments.

Tennis Seniors Australia supports the Adult Participation Strategy, but practically speaking we have limited human and financial resources, which prevents us from doing much more than what we are doing today. We have had discussions and a stakeholder workshop with TA, and I think it is fair to say that we recognise that the overall strategy will need to come under the umbrella of Tennis Australia. While there is still work to do on the rollout programme, the overall concept is:

1. Over the next couple of years TA may take over the main functions of TSA in accordance with an agreed timetable. Specifically, these functions are the Australian representative teams, ITF approvals, the annual calendar, the running of the Oceania championship and the supervision of the Australian titles and teams carnival. We hope that this will benefit everyone – at one level with increased membership, social events, fixture competitions and entries in regional tournaments. At the representative level we will push for a “new deal” between TA and players where financial subsidies are increased in exchange for players committing to certain obligations as part of representing their country.

The over-riding concern of the TSA executive is that there should not be any compromise on the quality of the services that we currently provide. To that end, TA proposes establishing a Seniors Advisory Committee that will consist of experienced seniors’ administrators. It has been recognised and accepted that the seniors’ bodies run their calendar of events very efficiently.

2. The bulk of the work, at the grass roots level, will need to take place in the States and as I mentioned earlier, there is limit to the resources the various seniors organisations can devote to the exercise. Therefore it has been proposed that the State (and Territory) divisions work closely in each state with the Member Association for that State, with the intent that there will be a co-ordination plan for each state. The level of co-ordination may vary greatly from state to state, and again this will be highly dependent on resources and competencies, and may take some time for agreement to be reached between each State (or Territory) division and its Member Association.

Summing up, we all need to accept that in the future things may well be different, but the intent is that we will be able to better service consumers, namely players, of all standards.

While on the topic of the future, we are really looking forward to the Teams Carnival and Individual championships in January. The people of Shepparton gave us a very warm welcome three years ago and we look forward to returning. I have great memories from that event, including sitting on the deck at the courts having a cold Furphy at the end of play. On that topic, this time TSA is hosting Happy Hours on the Wednesday afternoons of both events at Shepparton. Our thanks to Tennis Seniors NSW and the Shepparton Lawn Tennis Club for all their hard work in pulling these events together.

After giving you a glimpse of the future, may I sum up the highlights of 2018, of which there were many.

In January TSQ hosted a terrific carnival at the Gold Coast in which 116 teams participated, with Queensland winning overall. The combination of location, weather and camaraderie resulted in a wonderful event. My abiding memory is of the Japanese ladies’ team – they spoke little English but that did not prevent them having a ball.

The following week TSQ hosted the Australian Individual Championships and we were treated to some scintillating tennis. We extend our heartiest congratulations to the winners.

March saw the annual Oceania Regional championships at Kooyong. In a few short years this event has become one of the highlights of our tennis calendar and is our highest ranking tournament in Australia. We are grateful to Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club for granting us the use of their facilities each year, and in particular wish to thank the tennis manager Cedric Mason. We are delighted to announce that Cedric has agreed that we can submit his name to the AGM to be appointed patron of TSA. Anyone who knows Cedric knows that he is one of nature's gentlemen, and he has an impeccable tennis heritage, having played on the circuit in the golden era of the 1950's. We also thank Royal South Yarra Lawn Tennis Club and other suburban centres for allowing us to play overflow OR matches at their facilities.

We tasted success in the Seniors world championships held in Ulm in Germany. In the teams we won the Alice Marble Cup for women over 60 (Ros Balodis, Lynn Mortimer, Judy Buzza and Suzie Ellis) and were runners up in the Maureen Connolly Cup for women over 55 (Narelle Raftery, Brenda Foster, Wanda Howes and Leanne Swaysland). The Men's over 60 team (Glen Busby, Steve Myers, Stephen Dance and Mike Ford) were pipped at the post for the Von Cramm cup. Kerryn Cyprien, Gary Nadebaum and Brenda Foster all won world championships in doubles at the individual events.

July saw the re-emergence of seniors' tennis in the Northern Territory, with a tournament at the new Darwin tennis centre. Entries were modest, but every journey begins with a single step. NT has our full support in their endeavors and we wish them success.

In September the Super Seniors competed at the world championships in Croatia. The attitude of the Super Senior participants is fantastic and they are an inspiration to all of us. There have been two international studies this year that found that regular tennis play can extend one's lifespan by up to 10 years. Helen Holcombe, Andrew Rae and Joy Rigter all tasted success in the individual world events.

In October we rounded out the year by sending four teams, two men's and two women's, to the Young Seniors world teams' championship in Miami. Matthew Breen and David McNamara were winners in the Over 40's doubles in the individuals event.

The TSA Treasurer, Peter Froelich, was the winner of the Newcombe Award for the Most Outstanding 35+ tennis senior in recognition of his contributions both on and off the court.

On the topic of legends, our Hall of Fame which will be launched at Shepparton. The Hall of Fame has been well received as a great initiative. Our objective is to not only recognise those outstanding players who have performed so well at the Australian and international level, but also to provide an incentive for younger players to be included in the future. It is important that tennis seniors recognise the rich history of the last 50 years while we are looking to the future.

So what does 2019 hold in store? As I mentioned, we are all looking forward to Shepparton and there is a packed calendar for the year. Three of our ITF tournaments have been upgraded, including the WA championships which will be our closed tournament in 2019

(meaning IPIN and non-IPIN players can participate in the same event). The WA championships will be a good lead up event for the Australian teams and individuals to be held at Busselton in January 2020. TSWA and Tennis West are excited about hosting the event and we should all be excited about the location, with courts on the beachfront and in close proximity to the Margaret River.

We can all look forward in 2019 to more quality events for tennis players, but in the background your executive will be wrestling with how best to structure seniors' tennis for the future. I look forward to seeing you either on the court or at one of the associated social events.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Dighton', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Peter Dighton

President

TSA New Incentives 2018

- Hall of Fame

LEGEND - Carol Campling
ELITE - Ros Balodis
Liz Allen
Andrew Rae
Bob McCarthy
INDUCTEES - Peter Froelich
Bob Howes
Glenn Busby
Kerry Ballard
Beverley Rae
Margaret Waite
Margaret Robertson

- The Induction of 3 new Life Members - Who will they be????



- Happy Hours at the Australian Carnival fortnight
- International Players packs for all ITF tournaments throughout Australia

TSA look forward to a fantastic year of Tennis for all in 2019