

Tennis Seniors Australia

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



*The Executive of
Tennis Seniors Australia Inc.
(TSA) presents their report on the
activities of TSA for 2019 and the
financial results
For the year ended
30 September 2019.*



SUMMARY

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

The past year has seen a lot of activity on court, but also a lot of activity off court as the administrators of seniors' tennis around Australia grapples with the issue of how we should position ourselves for the future.

We kicked off the year with an excellent two weeks in Shepparton, enjoyed by 86 teams in the carnival and 288 individual entries. SLTC again hosted a great event. In particular the social functions were most enjoyable, including the two Happy Hours that TSA sponsored.

As the year progressed players enjoyed great tournaments conducted around the country, including the Oceania Regional Championships run by TSA at Kooyong. We are very fortunate that Kooyong and South Yarra open their facilities to us, and this event goes from strength to strength with 299 entries this year. TSA is stepping back from this event and in 2020 it will be run by Tennis Seniors Victoria. We wish TSV the best of luck.

Australia was well represented in Portugal (Seniors), Croatia (Super Seniors) and USA (Young Seniors). Our teams played well and fairly, but alas were not rewarded with gold or silver this year. It was heartening to read how many of the Captain's reports spoke positively of the experience and how well their teams had bonded. We thank Tennis Australia for their continuing support.

Our players did taste success in the individual world championship events and we extend our hearty congratulations to Glenn Busby and Kerry Ballard for winning their singles events, and to the following players who won in doubles – Mike Ford, Glenn Busby, Brenda Foster, Ros Balodis, Kerry Ballard, Bob Howes, Bruce Rehn, Adrienne Avis (doubles and mixed), Helen Worland, June Simpson, Don Biddle and Claude Wenzel.

Off the court, I flagged in my report a year ago that the seniors tennis scene was at something of a crossroads with an inefficient governance structure, aging executives and limited human and financial resources that only allow us to service a tiny percentage of the number of over 35 tennis players in Australia. In particular we are aware that the seniors' tennis bodies have no relevance to the vast majority of club players. The Adult Participation Strategy, which is being rolled out aggressively across the country by Tennis Australia and its state bodies, was seen as a way of creating pathways for players to participate in a broader seniors' scene involving competition play and social events. Already TA has signed up more than 1,000 clubs to this program.

Therefore both TSA and TA realized there was a need to recalibrate our relationship and discussions on this process commenced about a year ago. The proposal we ultimately received from TA was that TSA would wind up, and that TA would take over our functions. TSA cannot vote on its own winding up, so that was something that had to be referred to our members (the State and Territory divisions) and a 75% vote (based on membership numbers) would be required for the winding up resolution to be passed. TSA agreed a robust process with TA under which the States and Territories over an extended period would receive all of the information they needed to be able to make an informed decision. The vote was held in August and, although five divisions voted for the proposal and three against, based on membership numbers the for vote was well short of the required 75% threshold.

So for TSA life goes on as before. Except it won't. The issues I referred to earlier have not gone away. On top of that the ITF is introducing stringent requirements for ITF tournaments and it will become increasingly difficult for well-meaning volunteers to meet those requirements. The relationship with TA has not been recalibrated and there is no clear role for the seniors' bodies in the Adult Participation Strategy. On top of that, in the information sessions with the states and territories leading up to the vote, it became very clear that the various divisions have very different needs and aspirations.

It is impossible for the seniors' bodies in Australia to speak with one voice or plan for the future when they cannot agree on what they want. To be able to service a broader customer base we will have to become more professional, which probably means relying less on volunteers and more on either paid employees or TA. I believe the first step is for all of the seniors' bodies to use their best efforts to agree a Strategic Plan which sets out an agreed vision and common objectives for over 35's tennis in Australia.

As I write this it is less than two months to Busselton which promises to be a terrific event. We are very fortunate to be able to use the old and new facilities near the seashore, and of course many of us will make a foray to the Margaret River wineries. This will be the last tournament held at the old facilities before they are demolished. The enthusiasm of the organizing committee has been contagious and we can expect a very warm welcome to WA.

During the Busselton event the AGM for TSA will be held and at that time I will not be seeking re-election, and neither will the Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. Enid Besant-Ryan, Pat Moloney and Peter Froelich have worked tirelessly in their roles and have been the backbone of TSA for the last decade. We thank them for their service and hope the new executive can find replacements who are able to fill those very big boots.

Peter Dighton
President
Tennis Seniors Australia.



Peter Froelich, Pat Maloney and Peter Dighton at the Newcombe awards 2019

MEMBERSHIP

It is so encouraging to see membership numbers of the States. This means that Total membership at Sept 2019 was 3522 Slight decline from 2017 however the same as 2018

TENNIS SENIORS AUSTRALIA																			
MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATIONS																			
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019		2019		2019		
Division													2019 delegates	GM delegates		Rego fees	Delegates		
TSNSW	724	754	697	721	733	743	890	1,397	1,412	1,450	1,424	1,354	7	25%	1,326	7	27%	1,326	7
TSACT	143	161	148	154	153	149	155	135	159	158	149	159	3	11%	157	3	12%	157	3
TSSA	533	480	522	499	491	514	571	663	631	587	750	723	5	18%	-	2	8%	701	5
TSV	423	416	400	364	342	314	307	407	440	507	448	393	3	11%	608	4	15%	608	4
TSQ	954	981	990	623	706	532	482	615	606	573	637	541	4	14%	403	4	15%	403	4
TSNT	25	25	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	25	2	7%	-	2	8%	94	2
TSWA	736	629	566	510	466	428	401	423	376	376	353	332	3	11%	208	3	12%	208	3
Ann Return	3,538	3,446	3,348	2,871	2,891	2,680	2,806	3,640	3,624	3,651	3,791	3,527	27		2,702	25		3,497	
TAS	50	70	69	65	-	-	-	90	90	40	61	25	1	4%	25	1	4%	25	1
TOTAL	3,588	3,516	3,417	2,936	2,891	2,680	2,806	3,730	3,714	3,691	3,852	3,552	28	100%	2,727	26	100%	3,522	29
Note:																			
Figures are for membership numbers as at 30 June (WA- 30 April and Qld- 30 September) in the year shown in the column heading.																			
Tasmania is a provisional member and, as such, is entitled to one delegate.																			
Delegates: Each Division gets 2 delegates for the first 100 members, thereafter 1 delegate for each additional 300 members or part thereof.																			

SOME PARTICIPATION STATISTICS

	Carnival Teams	Individual Entries
2019 Shepparton	86	288
2018 Gold Coast	114	397
2019 Oceania		299
2018 Oceania		278

OCEANIA REGION SENIORS TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2020

OPEN TO SENIOR PLAYERS 35 YEARS AND OVER FROM ALL NATIONS THIS IS A CLAY COURT

Hosted by Tennis Seniors Victoria

Commencing Thursday 5th March to Monday 9th March 2020

Please note - play commences Thursday 5th March at noon – this starting date and time is ONLY for men's singles and ONLY where the draw exceeds 16 entries and ONLY for players who do NOT have a first round bye.

All other play commences Friday 6th March at 8am



Entry withdrawal deadline Tuesday 25 February 2020

Enquires to the Tournament Director Bill Sale on 0487 664 224 or wisale01@gmail.com

WORLD CHAMPIONS RESULTS

Young Seniors

Runner Ups

Richard Sampson/Cameron Venables MD40

Seniors

Winners

Glen Busby MS60 Michael Ford MD60 Brenda Forster MX55 Ros Baldodis MX60

Runner Ups

Glen Busby MD60 Kerryn Cyprien/Matthew Ilott MX50

Super Seniors

Winners

Kerry Ballard WS70/WD70 Adrienne Avis/Helen Worland WD65

Bob Howes/Bruce Rehn MD80

Adrienne Avis MX65 Don Biddle/June Simpson MX80 Claude Wenzel MX85

Runner Ups

Bob Howes MS80 Robert Barwick MX85

