

TENNIS SENIORS QUEENSLAND INC.

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2012 Volume 4

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

2013 QLD TEAMS FOR PERTH

2013 Aust. Individual Championships—Perth

2012 TSQ—AGM Executive & Qld Selectors Aust Teams for 2013 ITF World Sen- ior Cup Champs - Turkey Nominations for selec- tion at 2013 ITF World Super-Snr Cup Champs—

Results: 2012 ITF World Super-Snr Cup & Individual Champs— Croatia—September

Results: ITF Sunshine Coast Championships— Tewantin— September

Results: Toowoomba Veterans Brisbane Seniors Clays

VALE— TOM DOWNIE (Vic)

Report on 2012 China Tennis Tour

2013 AUSTRALIAN TEAMS CARNIVAL—PERTH—6 TO 11 JANUARY

We have only three teams competing in Perth—one womens team and two mens team. Three of our women players are playing in combined teams with other States as we could not field a team for them. Two of our men players have also been accepted to play with another State for the same reason.

WOMENS TEAM

35-49 Group

Kym Ireland
Karen Pearce
Liz Ireland-Jones
Charmaine Nixon
Susan Rheinberger (Capt)

MENS TEAMS

50-59 Group

Greg Ploetz
Tony Devine
Peter Dighton
Reg Baxter (Capt)
Kevin Bradley
Ian Dugdell

60-69 Group

Max Bates
Ray West
Terry Mc Lellan
Ian Somers (Capt)
Dennis Kronk
Dennis Biggs

Heather Van Peperzeel will be playing in a Combined ACT team with players from NSW & SA in 60-69 Group. Joy Rigter and Jill Taylor will be playing for WA team in 70-74 Group. Reg Trevaskis will play in combined ACT team IN 60-69 Group and Ron Hambleton is playing in a combined NSW team in 70-74 Group.

We wish all Queensland players good luck with their teams and hope they all enjoy the weeks tennis in the Australian Teams Carnival.

CLOSING DATE FOR THE AUSTRALIAN INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS in PERTH is December 26th, 2012. Entries **MUST** be made online at www.itftennis.com/ipin for the IPIN events, as well as at www.92computing.com.au for **ALL** events and payment of your entry fees before the closing date. Late entries will not be accepted.

The fee for 2013 Seniors IPIN membership remains at \$US20. Players will be able to renew their IPIN for 2013 from 1st November. Please note that if a player has played fewer than 2 tournaments in 2012 their IPIN membership will automatically extend for 2013. Should you play any further ITF tournaments between now and 31st December 2012 and reach a total of 2 tournaments or more played on the ITF Seniors Circuit before 31st December, then your membership will be terminated on 31st December 2012. You will then have to renew your membership for 2013 after 31st December 2012.

To renew your IPIN membership please log in to your ipin account at www.itftennis.com/ipin and go to “My Profile” section and select the “Registration link”. The automatic extension is purely related to the ITF Seniors Circuit.

If you need assistance with any of these tasks, please ask your friends or Divisional Secretary to assist (Coral Vickers Ph 3349 4339; Mob 0429 487 823 or Email: tsq.tennis@bigpond.com)

TO ALL AFFILIATED CLUBS

2012 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of Tennis Seniors Queensland was held during the Tewantin tournament on Sunday 23 September 2012 at Tewantin Tennis Club.

Current Executive were duly re-elected:

PRESIDENT Phil Waight VICE PRESIDENT John Rivers SECRETARY Coral Vickers
TREASURER Michael Russell COMMITTEE PERSON Gail Bates

Queensland Selectors were named at the meeting: MEN Warren Arnell; Greg Ploetz and John S Walker
WOMEN Susan Rheinberger; Donna Walker and Joy Rigger

TSQ 2011 SENIOR OF THE YEAR AWARD. There were no nominations received for the award this year.

AUSTRALIAN TEAMS FOR THE 2013 ITF SENIOR CUPS COMPETITION to be held in Antalya, TURKEY
From 18 to 23 March. Individual Championships to be held from 24 to 31 March. Players chosen are:

WOMEN

LENGLEN CUP 35+

Kelly Bisinella (VIC)
Karen Kleverlaan (VIC) (c)
Joanne Walter (NSW)
Res: Claudia Chan (NSW)

YOUNG CUP 40+

No team selected

COURT CUP 45+

Karen Pearce (QLD)
Narelle Follington (NSW) (c)
Julie Dybendahl (QLD)
Diane Cassel (NSW)
Res: Fiona Medina (VIC)

BUENO CUP 50+

Brenda Foster (NSW) (c)
Kerrie Douglas (VIC)
Wanda Howes (VIC)
Narelle Raftery (ACT)
Res: Fiona Walker (VIC)

CONNOLLY CUP 55+

Roslyn Balodis (ACT) c
Suzanne Ellis (NSW)
Helen Shea (NSW)
Wendy Harrison (VIC)
Res: Leanne Scott (VIC)

MEN

ITALIA CUP 35+

Adam Alessandrini (SA) (c)
Rhys Mc Dougall (QLD)
Paul Kleverlaan (VIC)

TRABERT CUP 40+

Damien Pound (WA)
Martin Richards (SA) (c)
Kurt Robinson (WA)

DUBLER CUP 45+

Garry Nadebaum (SA)
Steve Casey (VIC) (c)
Chris O'Mara (QLD)
Greg Westwood (NSW)

PERRY CUP 50+

Simon Arms (VIC)
Edward Myers (VIC)
Manuel Radic (NSW) (c)
Martin Warwick (VIC)

AUSTRIA CUP 55+

Glenn Busby (VIC)
Gary Thoroughgood (NSW) (c)
Mike Ford (QLD)
Colin Holgate (ACT)



2013 ITF SUPER-SENIOR CUPS COMPETITION to be held in Prostejov, Czech Republic & Poertschach, Austria-
from 9 to 14 September. Individual Championships to be held in Poertschach, Austria from 15 to 22 September.

Players who wish to nominate for selection in a representative **2013 Super-Seniors ITF Cup team** must apply via the internet on www.92computing.com.au/teamsnomination.htm Nominations **CLOSE** on **Sunday 17th March, 2013** and can only be made **ONLINE** via this website.

ON THE SICK LIST.

John Wakely and Bill Deacon have both had some health problems recently. We wish them a speedy recovery and hope to see them back on court soon.

LATEST NEWS.

Our condolences to Dennis Kronk whose brother, Terry was tragically killed in a tragic plane accident on Darling Downs recently.



2012 ITF SUPER-SENIORS CUPS COMPETITION held in Umag, CROATIA—September 10 to 15

<u>RESULTS</u> ITF CUPS	<u>MEDAL WINNING NATIONS</u>		
	GOLD MEDAL FIRST	SILVER MEDAL SECOND	BRONZE MEDAL THIRD
<u>MEN</u>			
60+ VON CRAMM	USA AUSTRALIAN PLACING	FRANCE	GERMANY SIXTH
65+ BRITANNIA	USA AUSTRALIAN PLACING	SPAIN	FRANCE SIXTH
70+ CRAWFORD	AUSTRIA AUSTRALIAN PLACING	NETHERLANDS	GREAT BRITAIN EIGHTH
75+ BITSY GRANT	USA AUSTRALIAN PLACING	GERMANY	CZECH REPUBLIC NINTH
80+ MULLOY	USA	CANADA	AUSTRALIA
<u>WOMEN</u>			
60+ ALICE MARBLE	USA	NETHERLANDS	AUSTRALIA
65+ KITTY GODFREE	FRANCE AUSTRALIAN PLACING	USA	GERMANY FIFTH
70+ ALTHEA GIBSON	USA	AUSTRALIA	GERMANY
75+ QUEENS	USA AUSTRALIAN PLACING	GERMANY	SOUTH AFRICA FIFTH
80+ DORIS HART	CANADA AUSTRALIAN PLACING	USA	NETHERLANDS FIFTH

2012 ITF SUPER-SENIORS INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS held in Umag, CROATIA—Sept 16 to 21

<u>RESULTS</u>	Australian players featured in gold medals in six events		
	GOLD MEDAL	SILVER MEDAL	
60+ MS	Andrew Rae (VIC)	A Vayssett	6/2 6/4
60+ MD	Max Bates (QLD) & Quentin Maisey (NZ)	F & V Puncec (RSA)	on a forfeit
70+ MD	G Milesi (ITA) & P Pokorny (AUT)	Dennis Bindon (NSW)/Maurice Broom (VIC)	6/2 6/2
80+ MD	Robert Barwick (NSW)/John O'Brien (NSW)	G Mc Cabe & S Snyder (USA)	6/3 6/4
85+ MS	Jose Castelano Del Campo (CHILE)	Doug Corbett (NSW)	1/6 6/3 3/6
85+ MD	M Novik (RUS) & A Sala (ITA)	Doug Corbett (NSW)/Pehr Svenshammar	6/4 7/6 (1)
70+ WD	Margaret Wayte(NSW)/Judy Hancy (VIC)	S Garaguly (AUT) & H Orth (GER)	6/4 6/4
65+ XD	Carol Campling (NSW)/Hans Adama Van Scheltema (Netherlands)	H Toth (AUT) & J Velasco Ramirez	6/2 6/2
70+ XD	Bruce Rehn (/Charlene Hillebrant	Mary King (VIC)/Maurice Broom (VIC)	6/3 6/3
80+ XD	J Jones & S Snyder (USA)	Doug Corbett (NSW)/Margaret Fisher (NSW)	6/7 (3)/6/3
70+ MS	Maurice Broom (VIC)	C Kileff (ZIM)	5/7 7/6 (3)
Consolation			Super tie-break 10-8

KRIMSON LILY designing tennis wear

Choose your garments; choose your print; choose your colours.....then Krimson Lily will individually create your own outfit; limiting the chance of seeing yourself across the net!!

Team outfits for fixtures? Of course! Same garments; same print but different colours perhaps; you decide.

Need more info/ Check the website www.krimsonlily.com.au or call Jo Taylor : 0410685985

Email: jotaylor@krimsonlily.com.au

2012 TSQ Sunshine Coast Championships—21-24 September—Tewantin, Queensland.

The Tewantin Tennis Club at Tewantin was once again host to the TSQ Sunshine Coast Championships along with the Noosa Tennis Club at Sunshine Beach as the second venue. 185 players competed in the 5th championships. There were players from Malaysia, New Zealand, New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory, South Australia, Victoria and Queensland. All were delighted with the welcome they received from President Lester Holmes and his committee at the Tewantin Tennis Club.

It was wonderful to welcome some new players to seniors tennis and also see some players returning to the game after a number of years absence. Glen Philp former No.1 ranked player in the Open in Queensland returned after a 6-year break and reached the final of the 35/40 Mens Singles going down to the No.1 seed Chris O'Mara 1/6 6/3 7/5 in a tough match—welcome back Glen.

Other singles finals saw Sunshine Coast coach Jamie Fletcher win the 45 Mens Singles against NSW player Greg Westwood in another 3-set final. The 50 Mens Singles was an all Victorian event with Chris Arms winning over Malcolm Pearson 7/5 7/6, Juan Los Santos from Malaysia won the 60 Mens Singles over local Allen Hooper in a hard fought 3-set match 7/4 3/6 7/6. Thank you to all the players for competing and with the numbers up on last year we hope to see you all back again next year.

A few showers delayed play early in the tournament and the last session of the Mixed Doubles was washed out on the Monday afternoon, otherwise the weather was warm and sunny for the weekend.

Thanks to Moya Mc Girr, the referee, Assistant Tournament Director, Warren Arnell, ably assisted by Coral Vickers TSQ Secretary again and her husband Nev for all their help, also Helen Russell for her assistance at the Noosa venue. A special thanks to the ladies in the kitchen at Tewantin Club, excellent as usual and all the Tewantin Committee members who assisted during the event. Look forward to next year.

Gail Bates (Tournament Director)

RESULTS

Winners

Runners-up

35 MS	Chris O'Mara (Toowoomba)	Glen Philp (Gold Coast)	1/6 6/3 7/5
45 MS	Jamie Fletcher (Sunshine Coast)	Greg Westwood (NSW)	3/6 7/6 6/4
50 MS	Christopher Arms (VIC)	Malcolm Pearson (VIC)	7/5 7/6
55 MS	John Henning (Sunshine Coast)	Stephen Fine (Brisbane)	6/4 6/1
60 MS	Juan Los Santos (MAL)	Allen Hooper (Sunshine Coast)	6/4 3/6 7/6
65/70 MS	Lee Taylor (Gold Coast)	Neville Rodwell (ACT)	6/2 2/1 Ret'd
75MS	Ron Hambleton (Brisbane)	Tony Harkin (NSW)	6/3 6/3
35 WS	Yuka Akiyama (Gold Coast)	Joanne Walter (NSW)	3wins/2wins
40 WS	Brenda Foster (NSW)	Julie Dybendahl (QLD)	6/2 6/3
45/50 WS	Diane Cassel (NSW)	Fiona Medina (VIC)	6/3 6/0
55/60 WS	Helen Webb (NSW)	Jane Collings (Sunshine Coast)	3wins/2wins
35 MD	Andrew Mc Menamin/Stephen Williams (Sunshine Coast)		
	Chris O'Mara (Toowoomba)/Jason Sparksman (Brisbane)		3sets/24 to 2sets/22
40 MD	Chris O'Mara/Marco Corrado (Hervey Bay)		
	Jamie Fletcher/Stephen Williams (Sunshine Coast)		3sets/22 to 3sets/21
45 MD	Robert Ferguson (QLD)/Greg Westwood (NSW)		
	Warren Arnell (Gympie)/David Evans (Brisbane)		FINAL 6/3
50 MD	Phil Waight/Kevin Smith (Brisbane)		
	John Colley (NSW)/Stuart Owen (Gold Coast)		4sets28 to 4sets27
55 MD	David O'Brien /Tony Scott (Brisbane)		
	Graeme Sticka (NSW)/Dennis Kronk (Toowoomba)		4sets24 to 3sets21
60 MD	Allen Hooper(Sunshine Coast)/Gary Petterson (Sunshine Coast)		
	Noel Cheshire (Murgon)/Terry McLellan (Brisbane)		5sets27 to 5sets26g

Cont'd.

2012 ITF TSQ SUNSHINE COAST CHAMPIONSHIPS—September 21 to 24

RESULTS (Cont'd)

65 MD	Les Apolloni /John Gradwell (Brisbane)	
	Noel Cheshire (Murgon)/Raymond West (Gold Coast)	FINAL 6/1
70 MD	Don Anderson/Stuart Mc Lay (Sunshine Coast)	
	Tony Harkin (NSW)/Denis O'Neill (Sunshine Coast)	3sets23 to 3sets 22
75 MD	Ron Hambleton (Brisbane)/Tony Harkin (NSW)	
	Kerry Burke (Gold Coast)/Garth Wenck (Sunshine Coast)	5sets30 to 4sets27
35 WD	Sharon Hoole (Brisbane)/Julie Dybendahl (Gold Coast)	
	Brenda Foster (NSW)/Helen Webb(NSW)	FINAL 6/4
40/50 WD	Brenda Foster (NSW)/Helen Webb(NSW)	
	Sharon Hoole (Brisbane)/Julie Dybendahl (Gold Coast)	FINAL 6/1
45 WD	Liz Ireland-Jones/Susan Rheinberger (Sunshine Coast)	
	Christine Luhrs (SA)/Fiona Medina (VIC)	3sets24 to2sets 23
55/65 WD	Jill Breckenridge/Donna Kuskopf (Sunshine Coast)	
	Noelene Meacham/Liz Mellish (Sunshine Beach)	3sets24 to 2sets19
60 WD	Noelene Meacham/Sue Bell (Sunshine Beach)	
	Lyn Stamper (Gold Coast)/Heather Van Peperzeel (Brisbane)	6/1 6/5
100 CMD	David Evans/Tony Scott (Brisbane)	
	Reg Baxter (Brisbane)/Mark Hall (Sunshine Coast)	4sets24 to 3sets19
110/120 CMD	Mark Henesey-Smith/John Rivers (Brisbane)	
	Olav Nordby (Gold Coast)/Haydyn Craven (NZL)	3sets24 to 2sets17
130/140 CMD	Dennis Biggs (Brisbane)/Ray West (Gold Coast)	
	Terry Mc Lellan (Brisbane)/Noel Cheshire (Murgon)	FINAL 6/4
150 CMD	Don Anderson/Stuart Mc Lay (Sunshine Coast)	
	Kerry Burke/Garth Wenck (Sunshine Coast)	4sets24to 3sets21
100/120 CWD	Marian Donnelly/Ros Evans (Sunshine Coast)	
	Christine Luhrs (SA)/Barbara Slade (Sunshine Coast)	2sets16 to 1set12g

2012 BRISBANE SENIORS CLAY TOURNAMENT—IPSWICH—October 27 to 28

77 players competed at this tournament on the Claycourts at George Alder Tennis Centre, Ipswich.

	<u>WINNERS</u>	<u>RUNNERS-UP</u>	
35 MS	Scott Barlow	Michel Humair	3sets24 to 2sets16
40 MS	Michael Walters	Guido Schouteten	6/2
45 MS	David Evans	Peter Proost	6/2
50 MS	Paul Mooney	Michel Humair	6/2
55 MS	Max Bates	Stuart Owen	6/4
60 MS	Max Bates	Howard Nielsen	6/2
65 MS	Lee Taylor	John Gradwell	4sets24 to 2sets20
75 MS	Ron Hambleton	Bill Deacon	3sets21 to 2sets15
35/45 MD	Warren Arnell/David Evans	Kevin Bianchi/Greg Ploetz	4sets24 to 2sets18
40/50 MD	David Glinster/Kevin Smith	Kevin Bianchi/Greg Ploetz	3sets19 to 2sets20
60 MD	Les Apolloni/Neal Healy	Noel Cheshire/Terry McLellan	3sets24 to 2sets17
65 MD	Noel Cheshire/Terry McLellan	Dennis Biggs/Ed Dodd	4sets25 to 2sets20
35/55 LD	Aki Lepper/Karen Pearce	Liz Ireland-Jones/Susan Rheinberger	3sets24 to 2sets20
50/60 LD	Margaret Daniell/Heather Van Peperzeel	Julianne Daniel/Irene Martens	3sets21 to 3sets20
CMD	David Evans/Tony Scott	Kevin Bianchi/Chris Clurey	5sets30 to 4sets27
35/50 XD	Abandoned due to rain		
55/60 XD	Abandoned due to rain		

2012 TOOWOOMBA VETERANS TOURNAMENT—October 12-14

There were 116 players competing in this tournament. Many of our country Seniors Clubs were represented such as Bundaberg, Murgon, Brisbane, Gold Coast, Gympie and Hervey Bay. Two members of Toowoomba Veterans came from Chinchilla to play and two ladies from NSW also traveled up to compete.

WINNERS

RUNNERS-UP

35 MS	Chris O'Mara	Michael Walters	8/3
45 MS	David Evans	Brad Hubbard	3sets24 to 2sets 23
50 MS	Paul Mooney	Peter Dighton	7/6
55MS	Frank Byrnes	Glen Gray	4sets24 to 3sets22
70 MS	Alan Searle	Tony Brown	4sets24 to 4sets24
(Alan 8 games against & Tony 15 games against)			
75 MS	Bill Deacon	David Abramovich	2sets24 to 2sets15
35/45 MD	Jason Sparksman/Michael Walters	Kevin Bianchi/Greg Ploetz	6/1
40 MD	Greg Schultz/Craig Ward	Greg Morris/Mark Twomey	4sets24 to 2sets21
50 MD	Kevin Bianchi/Greg Ploetz	Michel Humair/Olav Nordby	3sets24 to 2sets18
55/65 MD	Ray Cush/Mike Evans	Noel Cheshire/Terry McLellan	4 sets24 to 3sets21
60 MD	Noel Cheshire/Terry Mc Lellan	Kevin Bradley/Mike Evans	5sets30 to 4sets28
75 MD	Bill Deacon/Bryan Mc Connell	Bob Balmer/Les Hodson	3sets21 to 3sets20
35 LD	Aki Lepper/Karen Pearce	Leeza Hewitt/Jan Johns	3sets24 to 2sets16
40 LD	Charmaine Nixon/Karen Pearce	Leeza Hewitt/Jacqui Prendergast	4sets24 to 2sets16
45 LD	Pat Bailey/Judy Fleming	Jacqui Prendergast/Val Willett	3sets21 to 3sets19
50 LD	Pat Bailey/Judy Fleming	Maree Metcalf/Sheryl Rummell	3sets24 to 1set15
55/65 LD	Ann Cosgrove/Jenny Griggs	Annette Pratt/Helen Richardson	5sets30 to 4sets26
60LD	Ann Cosgrove/Jenny Griggs	Lyn Stamper/Heather Van Peperzeel	3sets22 to 2sets17
35/40 XD	Chris O'Mara/Annette Pratt	David Evans/Aki Lepper	4sets24 to 3sets21
45/50 XD	Brad Hubbard/Charmaine Nixon	Michael Bandholz/Karen Christoff	4sets24 to 3sets22
55 XD	Kev Hogan/Jenny Griggs	Frank Byrnes/Helen Richardson	3sets24 to 2sets22
60 XD	Paul Donovan/Heather Van Peperzeel	John Gradwell/Alison Peters	3sets24 to 2sets23
70 XD	John Blaydon/Norma Fallon	Alan Searle/Betty Searle	3sets24 to 2sets23
100 CMD	Michael Bandholz/Glen Hocking	Aldolfo Garcia/Bob Murtha	4sets28 to 3sets27
120 CMD A	Noel Cheshire/Terry Mc Lellan	Ray Cush/Robert Kentish	5sets30 to 4sets29
120 CMD B	Keith Barton/AlanSearle	Timothy Antonio/Warren Jensen	3sets24 to 2sets22
CLD FRIDAY	Lyn Stamper/Heather Van Peperzeel	Robyn Anderson/Betty Searle	4sets29 to 4sets29
(Lyn & Heather 14 games against & Robyn & Betty 15 games against)			
90/100 CXD	Dennis Kronk/Karen Pearce	Brad Hubbard/Charmaine Nixon	4sets24 to 3sets19
120 CXD	Robert Kentish/Annette Pratt	Paul Donovan/Heather Van Peperzeel	4sets24 to 3set22

SENIOR DRESS CODE

Many of us 'Old Folks' (over 50) are quite confused today about how we should present ourselves. Feeling 'young', we try to conform to current fashions and present a youthful image.

Contrary to what you may have seen on the streets, the following combinations DO NOT go together and should be avoided:

1. A nose ring and bifocals
- 2.. Spiked hair and bald spots
3. A pierced tongue and dentures
4. Miniskirts and support hose
5. Ankle bracelets and corn pads
6. Speedo's and cellulite
7. A belly button ring and a gall bladder surgery scar
8. Unbuttoned disco shirts and a heart monitor
9. Midriff shirts and a midriff bulge
10. Bikinis and liver spots
11. Mini skirts and varicose veins



A Tribute to Tom Downie (13.3.42—28.10.12) by Murray French

The Australian Seniors Tennis community was shocked to hear of the sudden death of Tom Downie. Tom passed away suddenly in the Shepparton Hospital. Although he had been unwell for some time his death was a total shock to us all. Tom was a legend in Seniors Tennis. A common description of Tom is, he was the life of the party and everyone's friend. He had a wonderful sense of fun and loved taking the "mickey" out of us all.

Tom was a member of Tennis Seniors Victoria for many years. He was a good organizer and loved booking accommodation for our teams when we travelled interstate. Like many of his friends Tom's tennis took off when he started playing veterans' tennis. He was always one of the first picked when Victorian teams were selected and generally would be the organizer and captain. Tom won many Australian Championships while playing for Victoria. He was an outstanding doubles player and represented Australia on three occasions and enjoyed overseas trips to Florida, Turkey and New Zealand. He won world titles in the Australian team and also the doubles in New Zealand. My recollection is Tom won two World Championships and was runner up in three others. He loved telling you he was a World Champ! He won seven Australian doubles titles and at least one Victorian Singles title.

Although Tom was a wonderful tennis player we will all remember him as one of the most friendly and popular people on our tennis circuit. A guy we all wanted to sit next to at dinner. I had the pleasure of being Tom's doubles partner and looking back I realize how lucky I have been.

Thanks to Murray French for this tribute.

2012 CHINA TENNIS TOUR

A group of Aussie tennis players has recently returned from a wonderful 10 day Tennis Tour to China. This was our first Tennis visit to China and the tour included matches against the locals at clubs in Beijing and Shanghai, as well as sightseeing in a country that has everything from amazing sights and things to do to an exciting nightlife and a culture and history of thousands of years. Justin Wight and Dean Landy were the tour leaders and they have developed a good relationship with tennis clubs in China.

We landed in Shanghai where the weather was still warm and caught the world's fastest train, the Maglev which reaches 431 km per hour, to our 5 star hotel in the city centre. Whilst in Shanghai we were treated to a welcome dinner of typical Chinese cuisine and a spectacular river cruise taking in the sensational lights, sounds and sights of the Shanghai skyline. Some of us also were lucky enough to spend 2 days at the Shanghai Tennis Masters to see Federer, Djokovic and Murray in action at one of the world's best tournaments played in a 15,000 seat stadium.

We played tennis at the Shanghai Racquet Club, an exclusive sports club where we had a narrow loss to the Shanghai locals on distinctive grey clay courts which was a first for our players. We also took in the amazing Shanghai Acrobatic show which featured incredible stunts and performances by world class athletes. Some evenings were spent wandering the streets teeming with people bustling, bright colours against the background of city noise and the luxury of trendy restaurants and bars.

We departed Shanghai on the afternoon bullet train to Beijing. With its fully reclining airline-style seats and a top speed of 350 km per hour, the new Beijing-Shanghai express embodies China's race to the future. In Beijing we took in all the sights including the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, the Olympic venue including the Bird's Nest and Water Cube. To climb The Great Wall, the pride of China and one of the Seven Wonders of the World was a spectacular and memorable experience for all. Justin, Dean and Noel even took the opportunity to play perhaps the world's first tennis match on the Great Wall, until the ball disappeared over the side! There was also a Rickshaw tour of the old town (hutong), including the usual 10 course lunch in a local family house. Food, food and more food was a constant tour theme. Just as well there was plenty of walking and tennis to keep the kilos off!

In Beijing we played 2 matches against the locals, winning one a piece and sharing the honours in a friendly, yet competitive atmosphere. With the success of Li Na, tennis is set to boom in China and is an ideal game for the people there who are suited to fast racket sports and quick movements around the court. There is much tennis centre development going on there, particularly in Beijing, so look out for their players in 5 to 10 years time! The night life was a real feature of the tour, with trendy and modern restaurants, bars and clubs now a highlight of the bigger cities. With 20 million people living in Beijing there is certainly something for everyone. Every moment of the day is interesting for the tourist, where there is never a dull moment.

We concluded our tour in spectacular fashion with a journey to Xian, the home of the Terra Cotta Warriors. Discovered by villagers in 1974, this vast underground army was created to protect the tomb of the first Emperor of China in readiness for the after-life. One of the greatest archaeological discoveries of the 20th century, the incredible life-size terracotta warriors have captivated audiences around the world.

You could go back to China a hundred times and still not see everything. So plans are underway to do another tennis tour there next year, so if you haven't been to China, take the opportunity to combine your tennis with a holiday of a lifetime. Once next year tour itinerary is finalized shortly, you will receive all information and details.

Thanks to Dean Landy, Tour Organizer, for this report on the tour.

