

Tennis Seniors Australia joins with Tennis Seniors New South Wales and the wider Seniors' Tennis Community to pay tribute to Alan Bailey

RIP Alan Edwin George BAILEY
8/6/1929 - 2/2/2022

To beat Rod Laver after he returned to Australia from one of his early successful overseas trips is something very few tennis players could claim. This is only one of many highlights in Alan's long, outstanding tennis career.

At 18, Alan joined the Strathfield Tennis Club in Sydney, where he played 1/1 Badge for 35 years. As a junior he had the pleasure of playing all the greats of Australian tennis, including Adrian Quist, Dinny Pails, John Bromwich, Frank Sedgman, Neale Fraser and Laver. In 1959 he went to New Zealand and played 6 tournaments. This was the start of his overseas tennis career.

Remember that tennis in those days was strictly amateur and getting to England involved a 6-week boat trip. In the lead up to Wimbledon on his first trip his performances were good enough to gain direct entry into the main draw where he won two rounds of singles, doubles & mixed at the All England Lawn Tennis Club.

After Wimbledon he stayed in England where he worked and studied Optometry. Later he would be highly regarded in Sports Medicine, specialising in Sports Vision and Visual Skills Development. On his return to Australia, Alan established his own Optometry business at Bondi Junction and he joined the nearby White City Lawn Tennis Club where he won a number of club singles championships.

He played his first Seniors (then called Veterans) tournament, the Canberra Easter tournament at age 41. Alan has a remarkable record in Seniors' tennis having represented Australia on 12 occasions 1975 & 1981 -45's; 1986 -55's; 1991 & 1992 -60's; 1994 & 1996 -65's; 1999, 2001 & 2002 -70's; 2004 -75's; 2009 -80's.

He also won the following Australian Seniors Titles: 8 Singles Titles 1980, 1982 & 1984 -50's; 1991 & 1993 -60's; 1995 & 1996 -65's; 2004 - 75's; 6 Doubles Titles 1978 -45's; 1982 -50's; 1991 -60's; 1996 -65's; 2000 & 2001 - 70's; 1 Mixed Title 1994 -65's.

In our Australian Seniors Hall of Fame List Alan is ranked 17th. What a fabulous career!

Aged 92 Years, Alan passed away last week. Dearly loved husband of Mavis, father of Mark, David, Tanya and Megan; father-in-law of Doogs, Meg, Gareth and Andy, proud grandfather of Sam, Nu, Ella, Jack, Rohan, Ink, Mia and Angie. Also loved stepfather to Carl & Michelle, Mark, Kristen & Peter and their children, Max, Jade, Oscar, Ashleigh and Stephanie.

Prepared by Tennis Seniors NSW – February 2022