

TENNIS DIRECTORS ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE 2009 YEAR

This report provides an overview of the tennis activities of the Club for 2009.

The annual Club Tournament was conducted in a new time slot in 2009; September instead of May. The change of date was one of a number of changes that were implemented. Others were the decision not to apply event nomination fee's as a way of supporting members of the Club and encourage participation, to not seek sponsorship and not to have prizes for winners of events. Notwithstanding these changes, the numbers of players to events was still quite low. I continue to think that some of the Club players who may play regular tennis have reservations about playing in an event with a connotation of competition. This event is not intended to be only for the top players but for all players in all categories. I encourage members to support this event. I would welcome any constructive comments / suggestions from members about what changes would make it more attractive to a greater number of players.

Fixtures events on Wednesday and Thursday night's were generally well supported. These 2 nights involve players in 2 sets of doubles and 1 of singles. I am aware that there are some players who do not particularly want to play singles. For people in this category there had been for many years a "doubles only" night competition. This was played on a Monday night. A particular effort was made during 2009 to revive this night fixture but unfortunately there was insufficient interest to make it viable.

There are several ladies teams who play in external / district competitions. There are 2 teams who play in Mid Week Ladies competition as well as a Ladies Friday team. There is a Noosa District Tennis Association competition but our Club has not had teams participating in this competition for several years. For those Club members who are keen to play in a fixture activity and find that the internal Club activities don't suit their time availability, then perhaps you might consider getting a team of like minded members together and participating in this comp.

There are a number of social tennis groups playing throughout the week. The main and most popular of these activities is the Monday & Thursday morning groups. I believe there is scope for there to be more social tennis played. The main requirement for this to eventuate is for someone willing to organise and coordinate some fellow players. It is extremely important that there always be a willingness to welcome new players along to these activities so that the level of participation can grow. Having a "closed shop" approach will eventually lead to the demise of these social events.

For the early part of 2009 I facilitated a monthly Sunday social activity open to all levels of players within the Club (as well as non members). Whilst these events were not well supported, there was always a few who turned up and quite often new – or potential – members to the Club. They often used these activities as a way of meeting other Club members. Unfortunately, for a number of reasons, I was not able to promote this activity for the second half of the year and it has fallen by the wayside. If there is sufficient interest then this could be reactivated, but it would help if someone else was willing to help with promotion and coordination.

We have wonderful facilities and a superb environment in which to play tennis. I encourage all members to support the club activities, promote the club to potential new members and overall make our club a place where people come to play tennis in a happy, good spirited manner. The more players we have at all levels the better the tennis opportunities that will be on offer. We always welcome non members so encourage them along. With the experience the club offers they may well become members.

Like many community organisations, we are suffering from lack of volunteers who are willing to assist with the administration of the Club by being on the committee. Our constitution requires there be 8 committee members. Without these volunteers the Club could be forced to engage an Administration Manager. I hope that we are never faced with this dilemma, and encourage members to consider a committee role. It is not a pre requisite that you have been in the Club for many years before you could be on the committee.

John Fergusson
Tennis Director