



# The Topspin Lob

June 2009

The Journal of the Noosa Tennis Club

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**4 Girraween Court  
Sunshine Beach**

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I'm sure you've all noticed and admired the new gazebo and gardens between courts 1 and 2. There are now openings in the fences on these courts for easy access to and from the gazebo. Once again we have to thank Len Steel, Barry Herbert and Frank Matus for their efforts in creating these gardens

Both the Friday Ladies Tennis and the Ladies Midweek Tennis Autumn competitions have just finished. All three teams playing these comps went up a division at the beginning of the last season and had a really enjoyable season playing great tennis, but didn't make it in to the finals. As we don't have any team competing in the finals Noosa has been chosen to host the Ladies Midweek Tennis finals on Wednesday 17 June. Many thanks to Viv Richardson who has undertaken the task of organising this event and providing food for the players (10 teams in total). **We would ask members to help out by making a donation of morning tea slices or cakes.** These need to be brought to the club by 8.45am on the Wednesday morning. We also need volunteers, so if you are able to help, **please call Viv Richardson on 5447 5247.**

## CLUB COMMENTS

Do you consider our Club has great tennis facilities located in one of the nicest places in the world? Or does it take a visitor to the Club to remind you of just how impressive the atmosphere and facilities are?

The more members there are who take an active interest in the Club and who can contribute to the ongoing maintenance and improvement of the Club, the better it will be for the entire membership. The Club needs your help and your input to continue to grow and provide great facilities and to enhance our activities and to grow our membership base.

We are sure the Club can be greatly improved by everyone working at growing the sense of 'Club' for all members. Any Club member, not just Committee members, is equally able to contribute to the functioning of the Club, as a number already do. It is appreciated that the prospects of being on the Committee are not attractive to some, for a range of personal reasons. Equally, the burden of responsibility can become too much for some who serve on the Committee after one or two terms. Part of this burden is that they may feel obligated to be available and commit to every Club activity and with the planning and running of it.

We would encourage members to think of the following as some examples of actions or contributions you may be able to make towards helping our Club grow and prosper:

- Operating the BBQ at 'Open Days', gatherings etc;
- Helping with Melbourne Club function;
- Organising a group of fellow members and undertaking some necessary grounds maintenance work;
- Supporting social & fixture tennis activities including any assistance with the administration to make them run smoothly;
- Encouraging friends and acquaintances who may be interested in playing tennis to come and play at our Club and hopefully enjoy the experience enough to join the Club;
- If you are at the Club and see a visitor arrive making them feel welcome and assisting them with their enquiry.

Let us work collectively together to make our Club grow and develop as the best tennis club on the Sunshine Coast.

## Noosa Tennis Academy

It seems some members are unclear what the division of responsibilities is between the Club and Noosa Tennis Academy (NTA, Dave McMahon's coaching and retail shop business operated at Noosa Tennis Club (NTC).

NTA operates under a contract with the NTC, which defines the responsibilities and obligations of both parties. The following is not a definitive list but addresses some of the areas where there may be some confusion about NTA's responsibilities:

- Operate the Pro Shop under a commercial agreement;
- Hire out courts to casual visitors, collect playing fees from non members playing at the court;

- Organise and conduct fixture competitions at the Club;
- Maintain the cleanliness of the Club rooms, toilets, verandahs, BBQ;
- Undertake general grounds and court maintenance within proscribed limits with the Club paying for the costs of any materials necessary to meet these responsibilities;
- Support the Club in the promotion of the Club and membership. This includes processing "walkin" enquiries regarding membership;

NTA is not responsible for:

- Organizing and managing social tennis activities;
- Administering junior tennis activities, including the logistical support for juniors entering into other regional competitions on the coast;
- Major maintenance or improvements tasks at the club.

Hopefully these points will assist in improving the understanding of members and dispel any confusion about what are NTA's responsibilities and what are the Club's responsibilities. What are NTA's responsibilities and what are the Club's responsibilities.

## TENNIS DIRECTOR'S NEWS

### Annual club Tournament

As foreshadowed in previous Newsletters, the annual Club Tournament will be held in September 2009. Events will be held over the weekends **5 & 6 September and 12 & 13 September**. At this stage I propose scheduling the following events (subject to sufficient nominations):

- Open Women's & Men's singles;
- A Reserve Men's singles;
- Open Women's & Men's doubles;
- Open Mixed doubles;
- Veterans Women's & Men's doubles;
- Over 60's Women's & Men's doubles;
- Junior girls and boys singles (< 13 & 13+ divisions)
- Junior doubles (doubles teams can be M&F, F&F, M&M).

Last year we experimented with giving players the option to play matches at times that suited themselves, but this was really practical for those events which used an elimination format as opposed to a 'round robin' one, as players need to be available at the same time. Due to the relatively small numbers of nominations most events (other than the open singles) were round robin events. Final nominations will determine what degree of flexibility can be used this year.

In general, the doubles events will be played on the first weekend and Saturday of the second weekend. The singles may need to spread over both weekends so that first round losers of the open can play in the A Reserve grade competition. As much as possible we will try and schedule **finals** matches for **Sunday 13 September**.

Over recent years the number of nominations has fallen away. There are a number of obvious assumptions that could be made as to why this is occurring, but I think one is that there are players who either believe they are not good enough to WIN or don't enjoy the competitive nature of a tournament. To anyone in these categories I offer the following thoughts for consideration:

- Is there a level or type of event that would encourage you to nominate? If so, please contact me to discuss and, if viable, I will be happy to investigate possibilities;
- The right level of event with effective grading (using our ITN system) could even out player standards to give players a greater chance of winning;
- To be able to have sets of tennis against fellow Club members in a friendly but competitive environment is something that should be enjoyed and savoured. At the same time it is building our sense of a CLUB.

I would love to be able to make the Sunday 13 September 'finals day' a real Club gathering with a BBQ lunch merged in with watching the Women's and Men's singles finals. Again, this will only work if club members (& non members) support it by coming along and helping create the atmosphere.

Anyone going into our Club kitchen would notice the array of trophies displayed along the bench and wall. It seems a great pity for them to be displayed with results for events in years past and no longer being actively competed for. I would welcome feedback on any of the Shields or Trophies that are on display in the Club kitchen which could be competed for or used in the annual tournament.

*Please mark your calendars and/or enter the dates into your Outlook Calendars (5,6, 12, 13 Sep) so that you can plan well in advance and be free to compete in this tournament.*

### Tennis Seniors Queensland – Sunshine Coast Championships Tewantin – Noosa 18 to 21 Sep

2008 was the first time that Tennis Seniors Qld held a tournament event at Tewantin (with many matches played at our Club due to the number of entries). A small number of our Club members played in the 2008 event and enjoyed the experience. Players come from all over the state to play with a range of age and event categories. I encourage all Club members to consider entering into an event – go to the web site [www.tenniseniors.org.au/qld/](http://www.tenniseniors.org.au/qld/) for more information. If you don't want to play come along and watch the events; you will see some great matches of both singles and doubles.

### Social Sunday Tennis

Please mark your calendars as a reoccurring event for these on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month. Ideally players should arrive at 9.00 and play until they are ready to leave but usually we finish by 12.00. The next Social Sunday is 21 June.

I see these activities as an opportunity for players who normally play at a set time each week with the same players the chance to widen their contacts within the Club. At nearly every Sunday activity we have held to date there have been new members of the Club who have come along to meet other Club members and get a sense of where they can fit into the playing activities of the Club. I encourage more players to come along to these events to support the process of welcoming new members and growing the tennis playing opportunities of the Club. Through this process we will develop the extent and variety of tennis played within the Club.

### Monday Night Doubles Tennis

Due to the numbers who registered interested in playing on Monday nights not reaching the "critical" number of 12

committed players the Monday night fixtures have not commenced. If you have an interest or can think of someone who might be encouraged to play please spread the word. It may be possible to run two parallel competitions on the same night (say an ITN 7&8 standard and an ITN 9&10 standard). Register your interest by contacting Dave McMahon at the Pro Shop.

### **New Tennis Activities**

Is there some tennis activity that you would like to play in but is not currently scheduled? Some thoughts:

- A weekend fixtures competition run over maybe 6 weekends playing at an agreed time on a weekend morning or afternoon;
- A regular weekend session of social tennis;
- A weekday fixtures competition.

Speak or email me, talk with Dave and give us your feedback. I would love to see more people playing tennis at our Club more regularly.

**John Fergusson**

This picture shows two famous tennis players before they were famous. Who are they??



Answer in the next issue of Top Spin Lob



Attached is the entry form for the Noosa Tennis Carnival which will be held in July. To find out more information please see the Entry Form attachment, as everything about the Carnival can be found there. Online entry is available, details are attached.

Noosa Tennis Club members receive a 50% discount on the entry fee, so what are you waiting for!