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Dear HKDTA members and friends,

Welcome to the May edition of "Around the Courts".

Message from the President:

Winter is coming... so let's try to get our comp matches underway on time so that you can be at home before it gets too cold late at night!

Start time for our night comps are 7pm (apart from the Monday Quick Mix Comp), but if we don't arrive until 7.15pm, then get on court at 7.20pm and have a 15 minute warm up, the first sets of the night aren't starting until around the time they should be finishing. Please try to ensure that you have at least enough players to get one set started at 7pm, limit your warm ups to 5 minutes, and get that first set underway at 7.05pm. If you like or need a longer warm up, there are usually some courts available before 7pm that you can use.

The installation of the electronic locking system and booking online at Berowra has gone extremely well over the first 2 months of operation, with a substantial increase in income from casual court hire.

Recently, a member brought to our attention a government program to encourage energy efficiency. For a small fee, we can replace all the old fluorescent tube lights we use with new more efficient LED ones. This initiative will be happening soon. If you come across any similar initiatives that might be applicable to HKDTA, please let us know about them!

Our long serving Treasurer, Tristan Conybeare, asked to step down from that role, and the Committee has asked Mark Bloomer to take over for the role. Tristan will remain as a general committee member until at least the next AGM. I'd like to thank Tristan for the fantastic job he has done as our Treasurer for the past seven years, and welcome Mark to the position. He is a retired Chartered Accountant and spent many years in the corporate world as a CFO or CEO of national and international companies. Mark will also give our members a regular (probably quarterly) report on our financial situation and other financial developments through this newsletter so that you are aware of our status. The first of those reports is in this month's newsletter.



Eddy

HKDTA Financial Update

Hi Fellow Members

I have been playing tennis at HKDTA on and off for about 30 years. One day I made the mistake of saying to Eddy that I was probably overdue to spend some time volunteering on the Committee – it was one of those casual comments that you don't actually think anyone will act upon, but a year later, here I am. I joined your Committee at the last AGM, and took over as Treasurer a few months ago.

After many years of working in large corporates, trying to operate in a small club environment has provided a bit of a shock to my system. However, I think I am okay now, and I am ready to provide this first report. And more importantly, I hope I will be able to help implement some useful ideas for the club.

I have already started making a number of changes to the financial and accounting systems. The common focuses of these changes are: (i) to get better control over the monies due to the club; and (ii) to improve the quality of information available to manage the club. Many of these changes will not be obvious to the average member, so I may talk more about these in future updates.

Turning to the financial performance of the club, for the ten-month period ending 30 April 2019, revenues declined and costs increased compared to the corresponding period in the prior year. Some of the decline in revenue is due to the different timing of comps each year; however, there is also a general decline, mainly in comp income. The cost increases are mainly inflationary related. As a result of these changes, for the last few months, the club has operated in a net loss situation. And, regrettably there is a reasonable likelihood that by 30 June 2019 the club will record a net loss for the financial year; (last year the club reported a net profit of \$9,958).

The Committee has been working on a number of initiatives to help improve the performance of the club. This includes reviewing the various tennis offerings provided to members. Other initiatives involve putting better controls in place to ensure all monies are being collected. For example, we are seeking to move control over the collection of fees and other amounts due to a central office function, and encouraging payment by direct debit or credit card so as to reduce handling of cash. The introduction of the online booking system and the Berowra court locking system will also be beneficial. At the April meeting, the Committee approved, for the first time in many years, increases to court hire rates, membership fees and competition fees; (details are reported elsewhere in this newsletter). Club expenditures also need to be carefully monitored.

It is also notable that in coming years significant capital expenditure will be required at both Mills Park and Berowra to resurface the courts, and we would like to bring our amenities to a more modern standard. We have started discussions with both council and Tennis NSW regarding these and other improvements to our facilities.



Mark

Pro-Shop opening hours and services

As you will be aware from the email late last month, Marc and Mai Donnelly have had to reduce their involvement in HKDTA for personal reasons. Again I'd like to thank them for their fantastic service they have given to HKDTA over the long period of their involvement, and look forward to the day when they will be able to once again be back playing tennis with HKDTA and involved in other ways (although Marc is continuing to play comp on Tuesday nights and is the Monday Quick Mix Competition Secretary).

You would have seen in recent weeks a number of Committee members have volunteered their time to staff the Pro-Shop at various times in this interim period until other permanent arrangements are made. If you would like to volunteer for an hour or two at any stage during the week please contact Eddy Watson on 0410 487 219.

Don't forget that the best place to check if courts are open or to make a booking is our website (www.hkdta.com.au).

If you need a fill-in player for a comp team, please contact your Competition Secretary. We are working on getting a pool player list available on the website to assist in finding pool players. To find the contact details of a Competition Secretary go to www.hkdta.com.au, click on Tennis Programs then [Competitions](#)

Mills Park Maintenance and Pro-Shop contracts

A number of members have been in contact with us expressing their interest in taking on some of the roles previously covered by Marc and Mai Donnelly. If there is something that you think you may be interested in exploring further, please contact Mark Bloomer (email treasurer@hkdta.net.au) to discuss the scope of the contract and the particular services that we are looking to contract out. We are keen to look at any proposals or ideas from our members at the same time as considering contracting this work out.

JUNIOR SUPERSTARS:



ANDRE FILEP

Runner Up U14's NSW State Age

PAVLE MARINKOV

Winner U14's Nepean Age



Thommo's Tennis Tip of the month – Ground Strokes

When trying to improve your forehand and back hand, visualize the stroke and keep the swing as simple as possible. Also remember that repetition will allow your natural swing to progress.

Tuesday and Thursday Night Competition Secretaries

We are currently looking for people to take on the role of Competition Secretary for the Tuesday and Thursday night competitions.

This role includes establishing division structures and organising entries for new comps, as well as being the main communication between HKDTA and team captains for management of each comp and assisting in the search for pool players when required. A full description of the tasks in this role will be provided to people who are considering it.

If you are interested, please contact Eddy Watson on 0410 487 219.

Social tennis on Wednesday nights



Our new fast sets social tennis is very popular with members and other players. They enjoy playing 4 carefully graded and/or balanced sets with new balls and a minimum of time off the court. The first sets start at 7:30, but you are welcome to arrive later and start at 8:00 or 8:30 if you prefer. After 9:30 is free style social tennis if you wish to play a bit more. We think you will enjoy it. Bring a friend. \$15 members/\$20 registered players.

New Sunday morning coaching sessions & squad activities

As Mai Donnelly is not currently able to run the "Tennis Fitness" event on Sunday morning, we have replaced it with some all ages coaching and squad practice activities. The first session was last Sunday with 7 children being coached and 4 adults hitting lots of balls. The structure of these sessions is still very fluid and being developed in line with the needs of the participants. If you are interested and would like further information please talk to our Head Coach, Steve Thompson (0414 708 701), Shane Hiscox (0403 310 074) or Eddy Watson (0410 487 219).



Interdistrict 2019

The entry date for Interdistrict teams to represent HKDTA this year is end of May, so if you are interested in playing in this prestigious Sydney wide comp please contact the following people:

Juniors – Steve Thompson (0414 708 701)

Adults *(have to be 15 or older to play)*

Open Men's – Ian Choat (0419 275 174)

Open Ladies – Robyn Flood (0421 611 222)

Veteran Men (Over 35 and over 45) – Eddy Watson (0410 487 219)

Veteran Ladies (Over 35) – Robyn Flood (0421 611 222)

Veteran Men (Over 50 and over 65) – Matthew Noone (0418 203 596)

Fee increases

At the April HKDTA Committee meeting the following fee increases were approved, effective from 1 July 2019.

1. Annual Adult membership fees will increase from \$45 to \$60;
2. Annual Junior membership fees will increase from \$30 to \$40.
3. Court hire for members will increase from \$15 to \$16 per hour during daytime and from \$20 to \$21 per hour at night.
4. Social tennis events for members will increase from \$13 to \$15 per event (\$20 for non-members)
5. Comp fees will also increase by differing amounts, however, most comp fees will remain less than \$15 per person per event.

The Committee wishes to ensure members continue to enjoy tennis with HKDTA at competitive rates compared to other clubs and competing activities. Your Committee hopes you will understand the need for these increases and that you will continue to support the club.

Pool Players needed

We are creating an online pool players list for all our weekly competitions to make it easier for teams to find fill ins when required. This list will be displayed on the HKDTA website, with a mobile phone number and/or email.

The competitions we are looking to create pool lists for are:

- Monday Morning Ladies
- Monday Night Mixed Comp and/or Monday Night Quick Mix Comp
- Tuesday Night Comp
- Wednesday Morning Ladies
- Thursday Night Mixed Comp

Of course, you can nominate to be on the pool list for more than one competition and you can ask to be removed at any time.

Please note, to be a pool player you must be a paid member of HKDTA.

For more information about our competitions please go to our website www.hkdta.com.au.

Please email office@hkdta.net.au with your details to include on the pool list, including which comps you would like to be a pool player for.

HKDTA Competitions



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MONDAY NIGHT QUICK MIX WINNERS:

Smashers Division:

Winning team: The Regulators

Best Male Single Score Winner: Nuwan

Best Female Single Score Winner: Alison

Slicers Division:

Winning teams (equal scores): Sweet And Sour & "T" Time

Best Male Single Score Winners (equal scores): Rodger & Dave

Best Female Single Score Winners (equal scores): Dani & Tiphania

Most valued Partner: Peter C.

AND OUR MONDAY LADIES WINNERS:

Green Division:

Winning team: Thompson

Best Single Score Winner: Bev

Gold Division:

Winning team: Barty

Best Single Score Winner: Helga

