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Dear HKDTA members and friends,

Welcome to the March edition of *"Around the Courts"*.

From the Pres



Welcome to the first "Around the Courts" for 2020. As seems to be the usual, much has been happening around Mills Park in the first few months of the year, and some more changes are due to come soon, which others will expand upon in this newsletter. Mark has some good financial news for us all!

I hope that you all took advantage of the offers for free entry to the ATP Cup opening rounds in Sydney in January. Those offers are one of the benefits you get as a member of HKDTA. The event was a great success and brought to Sydney the highest quality men's tennis seen for a number of years.

Our Facebook Co-ordinator, Matthew Noone, has done a spectacular job in reinvigorating our Facebook page and using it to promote HKDTA. If you haven't done so already, [check it out](#). He is always keen for new content so if you have any interesting pics or videos send them to him at vp@hkdt.net.au.

The Open Court Sessions, which were promoted by Tennis Australia at the ATP Cup and the Australian Open, have been running very successfully at Mills Park on Wednesday nights. Congratulations to Matt and Tim for getting this organised, and to Gavin for helping run the sessions.

Your Committee has been, and is, working on a number of projects to revamp some of our tennis programmes, including competition and coaching options. There are times when we want to trial new ideas to test how they work, and we appreciate that members have been willing to work with us to experiment a bit with how we operate. Our goal is to find new ways to improve the tennis experience at HKDTA.

Eddy Watson

HKDTA President

Treasurer's Update



Dear Member

Firstly, I would like to thank all of you who told me that you read my last Halloween edition report; (you are now three of my best friends). But don't worry, today's report will not be long or scary.

What happened last summer?

Since I last reported, in the four-month period ended 29 February 2020 we managed to navigate the most challenging period for the club. Most of the comps and tennis activities stop or reduce for the summer holidays. It is difficult to adequately reduce costs to compensate for this; however, we did remarkably well and managed to breakeven over this quiet period.

On an eight-month year to date basis, the club has recovered its operating performance and now established a solid level of profitability. And, we are well on track to achieve the target annual

earnings required to fund the first part of our significant capital works programme, which is about to start and will continue for a number of years.

Our comps have been performing well, except for Thursday night and Friday night juniors which have declined. We are looking into the lesser performing comps. Social tennis, general court hire, and coaching revenue are all contributing solidly.

Our comps are extremely important for the club and its members. We understand that most players like to play their matches on a regular weekly basis. Despite this, many matches are lost due to rain, injury, or other personal commitments. However, we can run some of the comps for more weeks of the year by extending play through school holiday periods (summer excluded), involving all teams on final day by having several play-off matches (not just the final two), and, where possible, maintaining a continuous flow of comps without a break. We have started introducing these changes to the night comps – this will provide more play for members and should improve funding for the club.

Obviously, our members' support of club activities and initiatives is critical to our success. If you think we can improve things so as to increase your participation level, or introduce new members, please talk to one of the Committee members or Tim, not me (I just do analysis and write reports - they prefer I don't actually talk to people).

Courts 5 & 6 are about to turn blue

We have substantially completed the plan for capital expenditure and, in particular, court surface replacement. In light of the recently improved club cashflows, we are now in a position to, and will, commence a programme of court surface replacement. We will resurface courts 5 & 6 over the next few months. We managed to obtain 50% funding for this from the Council (our landlord). We are also looking to resurface two further courts (probably 9 & 10) next year subject to our cashflows being maintained at current levels and getting similar Council funding.

With regard to the other courts, we are about to engage a tennis court maintenance organisation to conduct a service of the courts including cleaning and top up of sand (we have managed to get 50% Council funding for this too). This should make the courts more enjoyable to play on and extend their lives until we get the new ones.

Can anyone help the President?

Further to my last report, we still need volunteers. Despite advertising for assistance, you did not respond, and we remain chronically short of volunteers for certain roles. Things have got very bad. It has got to the stage where the President has had to start doing more than just walking around the place looking important. Aside from all the presidential stuff, Eddy is now doing all sorts of tasks that we would normally expect other members to help with, including managing the night comps. To cut a long story short, if Eddy burns out, or gets fed up, I think we may be stuffed – so help is urgently required.

Details of open positions are on the website. However, in particular, we need people to run each of the night comps. The comp secretaries are supposed to coordinate, organise and manage the players and teams to ensure everyone turns up each week and plays against the right people (more details are available to applicants). **We are offering free participation in these comps, or tennis credits** towards other club activities, for successful applicants taking on one or more of these comp secretary roles. The role also comes with great social status and personal satisfaction (which are a bit hard to put a value on).

So, once again, if you think you can help, please contact Eddy (sorry, more work for him), or Tim, or someone else. But please be quick as we may be about to get a rush of applications.

Mark Bloomer

HKDTA Treasurer

Jordan Thompson spotted training at Mills Park



Current world number 64, Jordan Thompson, was back at Mills Park last week for a training session with his father, Mills Park head coach, Steve Thompson. Jordan was back in Australia preparing for the Davis Cup tie against Brazil in Adelaide which Australia won 3 rubbers to 1.

Player warning! Do not attempt to play shirtless unless you have muscles like Jordan. A code violation may be issued!

Platinum membership now available to members



Are you feeling motivated to play and practice tennis at a time that suits you?

Our Platinum Membership represents incredible value and is a great way to involve your friends and family in your tennis.

For less than \$30 per week you can hire a court at Mills Park Asquith or Berowra Tennis Centre and play for up to 2 hours per day whenever a court is available. Any day! And every day if you wish!

For more information [click here](#) or contact the Proshop at proshop@hkda.net.au

Do you find it hard to find a practice partner?

And especially one that never makes an unforced error or a bad line call! We have just invested in new balls for our ball machines which are available to hire day or night.

Members can hire the ball machine and balls for up to 90 minutes for only \$35 (price includes court hire).

Tim, our Proshop Manager, will help you set the machine up and show you how it works, and you can set the machine to your own speed, level of spin and ball direction. It's also great for volley practice.

For regular ball machine hirers we are offering a special deal where you can prepay for 10 hires for a cost of only \$250 (\$25 per hire).





From the Mills Park Tennis Centre Proshop



Tim Brackenreg

New Year, new stock!!! Shoes on special. Size runs in the store are not long but I can order your size quickly if the style and price is right!

- Mens' Wilson Rush Pro 3.0 clay court shoe on sale for \$120 to members [\$180rrp].
- Ladies' Kaos 2.0 Clay court shoe also on sale for \$120 to members. [\$180rrp].
- A range of Babolat and Wilson "Quicklace" tennis shoes starting at \$80
- We also have new racquets in store. The Technifibre Fight Range [used by Medvedev and Millman] \$295 with free set of strings installed to your tension.
- The Classic Wilson Pro Staff 97L is on special at \$150 [\$100 off RRP]

We are building the new website. www.tennisproshop.com.au is a step closer to going live. Keen to add more news in this space next month!!!



MILLS PARK & BEROWRA MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

- The **resurfacing** of Courts 5 & 6 at Mills Park is surging ahead. Expect a little disruption around the April/May period as we complete these works. Access to the centre via the Eastern dirt track and Eastern gate will be closed to all members & staff whilst this work is undertaken.
- Thanks to the **volunteers** who helped remove the fruit from our taller palm trees. I am confident our nocturnal flock will find a food source away from the courts.
- We have **new balls for the ball machines**. Available for hire for members and non members, it's a great way to tighten up your skills.
- Patronage is on the increase this past month. With Open Court Sessions a huge success, social numbers on the increase, and new comps kicking off it's been a great start to the year! Please plan ahead and **book a court online when possible**. I would also appreciate if you could **say "G'day"** before you proceed to the court. Helps me manage the centre as well as getting to better remember the many names here at Mills Park each week!!!

Join the fun at Open Court Sessions

We have been hosting Open Court Sessions at Mills Park for adults returning to tennis every Wednesday night since January. It's not tennis you would have seen before, with mini courts, smaller racquets, low compression balls and games of 'triples'. A bit like hot shots for adults, with a focus on fun and fitness. Tim and Eddy run the sessions with enthusiasm and relentless encouragement. Check out some videos and more photos on [our Facebook page](#). We play music, have snacks afterwards and our players must like it, because they keep coming back!



Have fun, meet people and get back into tennis at Open Court Sessions

The event is popular with people who have played tennis in the past, but are not quite ready to play "proper tennis" again. However, some players are already moving into our conventional social tennis events and we see Open Court Sessions as a fun and accessible pathway into our range of tennis offerings at HKDTA. Open Court Sessions will continue at least until the end of March, when we will gauge interest in extending the season into April. Please encourage your family and friends to join us, every Wednesday from 7:30pm. The cost is \$20 per session and you can book online via www.play.tennis.com.au



Thommo's Tennis Tip of the month – Ground Strokes



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

Steve Thompson
HKDTA Head Coach

Like HKDTA on Facebook

New players are essential for our club to thrive and survive. The committee is promoting HKDTA offerings and events via Facebook to promote HKDTA and encourage more people in the local community to try the range of tennis offerings available at Mills Park and Berowra Tennis Centre.

The number of people viewing our Facebook posts has risen dramatically, with over 16,000 views in February 2020. Our subject matter is varied, but there are lots of photos and videos of players and comp winners. Last week our video of World No. 64, Jordan Thompson training at Mills Park went viral! Many of these posts are being posted on local Facebook posts such as the Asquith Families group.

This is certainly translating into more people hiring courts, increasing numbers of new players for comps and more people playing social tennis. If you are one of the 70% of adult Australians who regularly use Facebook, we encourage you to check out our page and like us.



Want to know your Universal Tennis Rating?

Tennis NSW is promoting the use of the FREE Universal Tennis Rating (UTR) system to rate tennis players. All competition and tournament players at HKDTA have ratings (separate for singles and doubles), which you can check online now. Players can see their own UTR score to two decimal points and you can see anyone else's UTR to the nearest whole number. Most comp players at HKDTA have a UTR between 4 and 8, with only four players in the world with a UTR of over 16 (Djokovic, Nadal, Federer and Tsitsipas). The UTR is based on your past 30 results and updates regularly. You will find that you have very close matches against players with a similar UTR. There is also a UTR app available for smartphones which makes it really easy to monitor your own UTR and those of your partners and opponents.

To check out your UTR go to <https://www.myutr.com/for-players>

