

## President's Update - January 2024

It has been a busy summer at the tennis club so far, with high volumes of court hire, strong enrolments at the Holiday Coaching Camps and the Pride Night last Thursday was an amazing success.

So, to keep the fun times rolling, the Committee has decided to make **court hire free - all day in February**. This is available to members and visitors alike. To secure a court, please use the online booking system. The system will not prompt you for a payment when you book. Please spread the word to family, friends and colleagues and encourage everyone to take up the free offer. The committee has organised for free racquets and balls as well as Pop Tennis equipment to be available outside the clubhouse to anyone, so there is no reason to hold you back!

### **Online Bookings**

Thank you to those that have been booking their courts online, it certainly helps during the busy periods. There have been a few situations where people who have booked online, have arrived to discover that their courts are being used already. Thankfully these situations have generally been resolved amicably. If this situation does arise, please remember that an online booking takes precedence over all else. This may be difficult to understand but the club cannot offer online bookings unless we can guarantee the court that is booked is available. The committee understands the shift to online bookings is a big change to the existing members who have been used to the honesty system for many decades. We are hoping to make this easier with the rollout of updated signage and QR codes on the court gates to make it easier to access the booking system. Please understand we are trying to balance a lot of different factors into shifting more towards online bookings.

**The Seniors Tournament** is running from 16-18 February, so there won't be any court hire available over that weekend. This is the biggest event on our calendar and the organisers have been working hard for the last couple of months planning for roughly 250 players to enjoy our courts and hospitality.

More than ever, we need our members to volunteer their time in the lead up and over the weekend to assist with all sorts of jobs e.g. gardening, set up, kitchen preparation, baking, canteen sales, coffee making, bar sales, BBQ, clean up etc. Please reply to this email or contact Sali Hepples on 0447 500 745 if you are able to volunteer some time.

**Monday Ladies Competition** kicked off on Monday January 29.

The organisers are still looking for some reserve players, so if you are interested please contact Pam Germyn on 0412 362 041.

**Monday Men's Competition** begins next Monday February 5 at 7pm.

If you would like to join, please contact Andrew Barnet on 0411 687 033.

We are also looking at starting up a **Singles & Doubles Competition on Wednesday evenings**.

To get it running we need 16 players registered. If you would like to play, please contact Damien Gilkes on 0412 026 287.

**Thursday Night Social Group** will be resuming and are looking for an organiser.

Please reply to this email if you would like to take on that role, or if you would like to join the group.

**Junior coaching** begins again this Saturday morning. Any new players looking to join please contact Kevin Murphy on 0417 359 721, beginners and all levels of Junior players can be accommodated.

Our volunteer baristas will be in action again this Saturday morning fine-tuning their skills ahead of the Seniors Tournament. Come along and enjoy a barista style coffee for a gold coin donation.

**The Junior and Senior Club Championships** will be held from 8-10 March.

Entries will open soon and there will be further correspondence at that time.

### **Marketing**

Finally, the Committee has been working on developing new signage at the club and increasing our presence in the wider community with the aim of growing tennis at the club. As part of this process, we have engaged a consultant, run workshop groups with members and visitors, as well as coordinating with Tennis NSW.

A key outcome from this process was to develop a consistent brand and message that can be communicated across a wide variety of platforms to both existing members, new visitors and the whole community. The current logo has served the club extremely well over the years however we feel that now is the time for a refreshed logo to be better compatible with updated signage, marketing material both in print and online, merchandise, social media etc. Check it out below and look out for the new signs which we are hoping to have in place soon.

Thank you,

Paul Metzler

President

Milton Ulladulla District Tennis Association

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