



President – Paul Metzler’s End of Year Update

Hello to all our wonderful members!!

Time has flown since I was elected as the new President of the Milton Ulladulla District Tennis Association at the Annual General Meeting in August. An update to the members has been well overdue, but since August, we have had several successful events at the club and are well into planning for the summer and the beginning of next year. I have put together a summary of the role changes at our AGM and a recap of the recent events as well as what to look forward to in the first quarter of next year. Apologies for the long read but there is always something happening at the club.

Annual General Meeting & New Faces

Pauline McIlveen

Our AGM was held in August and with it our long-standing president Pauline stepped down to become our new vice president. Her 6 years guiding the club through the uncertainties of Covid, lobbying to secure strong investment to continue developing the facilities and in particular the new lighting upgrade, has been invaluable for the club and I thank her for all her efforts!!

Norm Holcroft

I am extremely grateful Norm Holcroft is continuing as our treasurer, providing the most measured and stable hand in advising the committee and managing the clubs' finances. We all can rest easily knowing that Norm has the club in a strong and sustainable position. The huge job in managing the clubs' finances can easily be something that most members are not aware of, but it is shown in the high standard of the facility and the continued ability for the committee to reinvest back into the club. Thanks Norm!

Mary Lou Barclay

Mary Lou has stepped down from the secretary role but is staying on the general committee, maintaining her focus on running the Summer Games senior's tournament, which is open to anyone over 30, can you believe it!? The tournament is raved about by everyone that has ever participated and attracts players from all over the state. As secretary, Mary Lou has applied for successful grants to fund the resurfacing of courts 4 & 5 in the beginning of next year and sustained the club's position in maintaining tournament dates ensuring the clubs growth to be a greater regional tennis hub. Thank you so much for your time and continued efforts!!

Clive Ogilvy

Clive has agreed to take on the maintenance at the club. So, if you see anything that you think should be addressed, please contact either Clive or anyone else on Committee.

Andrew Barnet

Now onto our new secretary Andrew Barnet. Without Andrew I would have felt quite daunted about taking the responsibility of being president of the club. Through our discussions prior to the AGM, Andrew and I found we share a similar ideology about tennis and the possibilities for the future of the club. One of Andrew's great strengths is his personality and ability to connect with people around the tennis court, gauging their interests, ideas and talking tennis. Please reach out if you see him and have a chat about your tennis experiences, ideas and interests and think if you can contribute to anything at the club.

Lisa Masters

We also have a new Member Information Protection Officer (MPIO) in Lisa Masters who has also previously been treasurer of the club. Thank you, Lisa! The role of the MPIO will be communicated in more detail in time but provides a contact person at the club to ensure that the centre is a safe and inclusive environment for all members and visitors. The committee is working on a draft Member Protection Policy which will be communicated to members in time. All members of the committee are required to have a Working with Children Check (WWCC) and we are now required to role this out to all volunteers of the club that help at any Junior event. We encourage any member that may have helped in the past or would be interested in volunteering in the future to obtain a WWCC. It is free for volunteers and can be completed easily online and in person at Service NSW. So please anyone who drops into Service NSW or is completing an online application through Service NSW can you please consider getting a WWCC at the same time to enable a greater pool of volunteers for the club.

Kevin Murphy

Our amazing coach and soul of the club Kev is a constant face to everyone that steps into the centre, not only providing excellent coaching, but also giving out balls and racquets to absolutely anyone, fixing things before anyone knew they were broken and looking out for everyone. We as a club are lucky to have him. Thanks Kev!

Outgoing Committee Members – Jenny Rutherford and Alan Pycroft.

Jenny your contribution to the club over the past few years has been outstanding, you have left big shoes to fill. Alan you were instrumental in the club getting the best lights possible. Thank you to you both.

Other Recent Events

Club Championships

Anne Milligan, at 12 years old, took out the Women's singles in the club championships in September. I may be fact checked but I have a feeling that would be the youngest opens winner in the club's history! Anne has also recently achieved strong results in NSW and national level tournaments. Well done, Anne! The women's doubles were a close encounter with a super tiebreak needed to split the young guns of Anne Malligan and Keitara Matthews from the winners Cindy McKenzie and Laraine Dunn. I was lucky enough to take out the Men's singles against Ryan Murphy and the doubles with Damien Gilkes against Ryan Murphy and Gavin Sheppard. The mixed doubles were the last event on the Saturday evening with Cindy McKenzie and Paul Metzler defeating Laraine Dunn and Benji Chee. Thank you to everyone that played, and we are already planning for next year in March!

Champion of Champions

The club hosted the regional Champion of Champions Junior event in November with our local Will Ferris participating in the 10 and under event. Will played very well coming in 3rd Place.

Will played in the State Regional Champion of Champions and came in 11th.

It was great to see some fresh faces helping to volunteer for the club whilst watching the exceptional tennis. Anne Malligan received an award as the highest point scorer for U12 in the team's champion of champions throughout the year.

Congratulations go to both Will and Anne.

Special mention to Sali Hepples and Andrew Barnet for coordinating the volunteers and providing a fresh take on the coffees and canteen. Thank you to everyone for your efforts, the number of positive comments we have received since the tournament has been amazing and has set a new benchmark for the club.

Todd Woodbridge Cup.

Tennis NSW representatives ran these hot shots event which was extremely successful. There were 12 hot shot courts running on courts 4, 5 and 6. Five schools attended this even covering a wide range from Kangaroo Valley to Young. Our thanks go to Madeline Farac, Amanda Culceski and Patrick Landy from Tennis NSW for running the event.

South Pacific Open

The South Pacific Open is part of the Tennis Australia Competitive Play calendar which is targeted towards a high standard of state level players. The club has not been able to run the tournament since December 2019 due to the double rounds of Covid followed by the construction work of the new lighting upgrade. The decision was made to run the South Pacific Open event in October this year with reduced entries to build the tournament profile with an eye on increasing the entries for next year. There was a great atmosphere with local players participating in the tournament against most players from the ACT. The feedback about the facility from the visitors was incredibly positive with most looking forward to returning next year in July. The winner of the men's singles Dylan White was coached by Kev as a junior and partnered with one of our locals Thomas Hatcher-Nee, who is now based in Canberra, to take out the men's doubles. Unfortunately, there was not enough entries to run any of the women's events, but we have increased the security around the date for the event next year in July and can begin marketing the event early in the new year.

To the Future & Upcoming Events

The club has continued to increase the standard of the facility over the last 5 years with upgrades to the court fencing, lighting and gardens now cementing the centre in Ulladulla as one of the best centres in the state. At least that is what every visitor says when playing at the venue for the first time! The committee is now shifting the focus from developing the facility to encouraging growth in tennis in the area, leading to more people on the court and new members. The club has engaged a consultant to help assess the existing brand, presence and offerings of the club as well as reviewing our communication with the membership, visitors, and the wider community. This will help us to develop a strategy and provide a clear focus for the committee to work towards both in the short term and over the next few years. Through the initial stages of this process, we have identified some simple areas like clear signage, understanding how to access the facility for the first time and knowing what is on offer as being obstacles to new people playing tennis. The committee are looking at how to best remove these obstacles to kickstart growth in tennis. We are aiming to rollout some early changes over the holiday period and into the beginning of the year as the season of tennis begins.

Australian Open Pride Night

The Australian Open is the highlight of the tennis calendar. Our club has been selected by Tennis Australia as one of about 30 clubs to host a Pride Event during the tournament. We have secured funding from Tennis Australia to contribute to the running of the event. The committee is still working through the details, but we are planning an evening / night of free tennis, free food, and hopefully streaming the night session of the Australian Open on a big screen. The event will be open to all people in the community so lookout for more information soon. We are also coordinating a subcommittee to help with delivering the event so please contact myself or the committee if you would like to get involved and help.

NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE YOU ARE WELCOME

The Summer Games Seniors Tournament

The annual Summer Games senior's tournament will run over the 16-18 February with entries already filling fast. This event attracting over 280 players. This year will see the introduction of a Wine and Cheese night on the Friday 16 February 2024 and a Lamb spit on the Saturday evening 17 February 2024.

We will of course rely on our band of Volunteers.

Thank you to our valuable sponsors for this event, Mollymook Golf Club, Milton Ulladulla Bowling Club, South coast business and Financial Solutions, Furniture 4 U, Baker's Delight.

Memberships

As some of you may have noted we have reduced the adult membership from \$60 to \$40 with less than 6 - 7 months remaining before renewals are due at the end of June 2024. The committee are currently looking at ways to restructure the membership offering by providing different packages with the goal of encouraging more people to become members as well as making it easier for existing members to play more tennis. There are also several existing membership benefits that will be communicated clearly and expanded in new offerings. We are also looking at potential options to transition memberships into a yearly subscription from the date of purchase rather than in line with the financial year. There are several benefits with this transition, and it will allow us to rollout the new structure in February / March next year in line with Free February before extending the structure to all existing members as their renewals are due in June.

Club Championships 2024

The Club Championships will move to a new permanent date in 8, 9 & 10 March 2024. We are looking to expand the format of the Championships and will release the entries early in the new year to encourage more players to participate.

On behalf of the management committee, we would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We hope to see you all on the court!

Paul Metzler

President

Milton Ulladulla District Tennis Association