

GREENWICH TENNIS CLUB

**Incorporated ABN 38 123 445 400
PO Box 5023 GREENWICH NSW 2065**

Web page www.greenwichtennis.com.au **Email:** admin@greenwichtennis.com.au

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2020

The Club is incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 1984.

The Club is also associated with the Northern Suburbs Tennis Association ("NSTA"), organiser of the area tennis competitions.

Objectives

The objectives of the Club are:

- To facilitate and encourage the game of tennis
- To provide facilities for the game of tennis
- To advance knowledge and skills concerning the game of tennis
- To encourage and promote competition in the game of tennis amongst members and guests.
- To promote social activities amongst members and persons interested in the objectives of the Club
- To raise and receive money by any lawful means for the purpose of furthering the objectives of the Club

Executive Committee

The 2019 committee comprised 10 members as listed below:

President	Peter Walton
Vice President	Dave Williams
Secretary	Regan Bull
Treasurer	Anna Cullinane
Booking Secretary	Caroline Elliott
Committee Member	Mark Faigen
Committee Member	Dennis Karp
Committee Member	Duncan Ramsay
Membership	Richard Hawkins
Competition Secretary	Tim Thacker

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Membership Fees

Joining fees remained free of charge and membership fees were held steady again this year

	2019	2020
Annual Fees:		
Full Adult Member	\$125*	\$125*
Junior	\$35	\$35
Family	\$250*	\$250*

*A timely payment discount of \$10 is offered on full adult member annual fees received in August.

Visitors Fees:		
Per Visit	\$5	\$5
Casual Hire Per Hour	\$15	\$15

Membership

At this date, comparative membership comprises:

	2019	2020
Full Adult Members	243	260
Honorary Members	8	8
Graded Juniors/Students/Juniors	167	170
Non-playing Parents	21	13
	439	451

We are only a small club, but membership continues to grow each year as a result of our family friendly policies.

Despite the large number of members and only two courts; members have reported very few problems in the use of the courts.

Club Championships

The 2020 Club Championships were played as usual during the latter part of October/early November. The tennis throughout was played in great spirit, sometimes in the rain, and to a high standard. It is gratifying that the once struggling Ladies Open Singles event is still gaining momentum. A big thank-you goes out to all the ladies who participate and make this possible.

For only the second time since 2004, we had enough men's singles entries to conduct the Men's Singles Plate that is played for by the first and second round losers in the men's open singles.

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Again, this year the Special (Handicap) events were conducted in a round-robin format, which has proved extremely popular with participants. It was very encouraging to see lots of entries as this gives those who are not necessarily the best players a chance to be on the courts over the two weekends.

The 2019 winners are:

Men's Open Singles	Andy Bennett
Ladies Open Singles	Regan Bull
Men's Open Doubles	Not yet played
Ladies Open Doubles	Sharon Morse & Gil Thacker
Mixed Open Doubles	Not yet played
Men's Singles Plate	Not yet finalised
Men's Handicap Singles	Duncan Ramsay
Ladies Handicap Doubles	Sharon Morse & Gil Thacker
Mixed Handicap Doubles	Not yet Played
Men's Handicap Doubles	John Wardman & Vincent Lo

Thank you in particular to the ever-energetic Tim Thacker and Richard Hawkins, who ran the Club Championships and contributed hugely to their success.

Junior Club Championships

The Junior Club Championships are normally held in May with "Round Robin" singles competitions held for girls and boys in the Under 12 and Under 9 age ranges with a fun barbeque held for children and parents afterwards.....

However, with this crazy COVID year of lockdowns and social uncertainties it was thought prudent to cancel the event altogether.

Coaching & Juniors

This year we have seen some sixty junior members coached by Andrew Bennett and Tim Thacker. The feedback has been tremendous, and we would like to congratulate Andrew for his efforts with this programme.

Junior coaching, after the peak of COVID lockdown, continued in a scaled-back fashion on a one-on-one basis, or family basis. By the end of the year coaching was back to some semblance of normality as social restrictions eased.

SOCIAL & ANTI-SOCIAL

In 2020 we quickly learnt to become anti-social creatures; or face the spread of a deadly virus.

The GTC found itself in a position of closing all facilities for several months. The first re-opening saw us playing singles or family doubles liberally coated in hand sanitiser. Always under the guidance of Tennis Australia we eventually opened to a socially distanced form of doubles tennis albeit with no access to the clubhouse. This allowed for the resumption of Saturday afternoon mixed doubles "round robin" which is the beating heart of the club and everybody breathed a sigh of relief.

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Some of the legacies of COVID-19 include wiping down surfaces, restricting the number of people in the clubhouse, clicking rackets rather than shaking hands, and meetings held outdoors or on Zoom. Not a big imposition considering other possible outcomes.

Christmas Party

The last annual Christmas party was held on Sunday 8th December 2019.

With the venue again located at the clubhouse and under the camphor laurel tree all had a great time.

A highlight of the evening was entertainment performed by Jo Cunningham, her sister Merran, and Ross.

The Xmas party is usually heavily subsidised by the Club, prompting the committee to revisit the format for 2019 to make it inclusive of more members.

This was approached by having an earlier start time (5.30pm) and by each family bringing a plate of food to avoid the \$35/head catering cost.

There was no marquee, but a wet bar was set up and paid for by the club.

The evening was a great success, with the usual awards ceremony and prizes for adult and junior championship winners.

Internal Mixed Doubles Competition

A huge thank-you goes to Bill Oliver who continues to run this immensely popular competition for members on Saturday afternoons.

Big thanks also go to the ever-ready team captains; Jane Marquard (Sky Blue), Sharon Morse (Nike Red), Janice Gibson (Lime Green) and Annabelle Burley (Royal Purple) who ensure their teams are fully represented each week.

There are about 65 members active in the comp.

Members continue to show great enthusiasm for this competition, always putting their hands up when we need someone to back-up to ensure we can fill the required 16 places for the event to work

The end of year winner in 2019 was the **Green Team**. Congratulations to Janice and the team.

Early winners this year were the **Purple Team**, which won the Summer Competition, and the **Green Team**, which won the Autumn Competition.

The end of year winner in 2020 was not known at the time of going to print.

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Once again, the competition proved popular with members of all standards with the two time-slot format (based on club handicap) ensuring the games were evenly matched.

There is always room for more players; just contact Bill Oliver at w.oliver@bigpond.net.au or any team captain.

Player of the Year Award

This award, given to the member who has participated the most in the Club's playing activity over the calendar year has continued to excite interest. In 2019 it was awarded to Edy Sirca. Congratulations Edy.

The 2020 winner will be decided on the points system as published on the web site. Points are awarded for participation in the internal Saturday competitions and the club championships.

The award (\$100 plus a trophy) will be presented to the winner and the winner's name will be inscribed on the clock shield displayed in the clubhouse.

To make the award more inclusive, the committee has decided that no member will receive the award over more than two consecutive years.

Arthur Harrison Trophy

The Arthur Harrison Trophy was donated by Arthur Harrison who, for many years lived across the road from the courts and spent much of his time looking after the courts. The club presents the trophy annually to an individual who has made a special contribution to the club and improved their tennis during the year.

The trophy winner in 2019 was Regan Bull for her very professional management as secretary of the club, support of junior tennis and for attracting young families to the club.

Maintenance and Improvements

The "new" court surfaces, now 6½ years old seem to be standing up quite well, and drainage after rain is very quick.

All Grass Sports Surfaces is contracted for a quarterly maintenance visit to clean drains, spray algae and weeds, and to distribute sand around the courts by hand grooming or blower.

Some of the fencing is showing signs of stress at lower levels. Consequently, the fences are under constant surveillance.

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The sightscreen on court 1 was fitted with new tension springs during the year. Club members carried out the work. The screen cannot be raised any higher due to the consequent wind forces on the old fence, and risk of damage.

Sewer inspection and/or maintenance is an annual event because of tree roots invading the old clay pipe joints.

All the above items are paid directly from Club funds.

A sinking fund provides an allowance for the artificial grass surfaces to be renewed every 10 years.

Financial

The position of Treasurer was in the capable hands of committee member Anna Cullinane.

The audited financial statements which can be found on the Club's website (under documents) show that the Club is in a sound and healthy position. The cash reserve as at 31 July 2020 was \$89,706 (\$81,251 in 2019), which is adequate to meet the anticipated future expenditure. The club also has a short-term provision for maintenance and refurbishment, which as at 31 July 2020 was \$5,000 (\$5,000 in 2019). The long-term provision for maintenance and refurbishment as at 31 July 2020 was \$27,000 (\$22,000 in 2019).

Acknowledgments

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to all committee members for their support over the year. All members have contributed in their own way and it was indeed a pleasure to work in a spirit of goodwill and friendly co-operation.

Thank you especially for your wise counsel during the COVID lock-down crisis over many months. We had to make some scary and unprecedented decisions.

2020 is certainly a year we will never forget.

Peter Walton
President
November 2020