

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 2021

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 2021 committee comprised nine members as listed below:

President / Membership	Richard Hawkins
Vice President	Peter Walton
Secretary	Regan Bull
Treasurer	Dave Williams
Booking Secretary	Caroline Elliott
Competition Secretary	Tim Thacker
Committee Member	Duncan Ramsay
Committee Member	Andrew Robertson
Committee Member	Bill Oliver

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Membership Fees

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

Annual Fees:	2020	2021
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, \$5 discount for Juniors / Uni Students.

Visitors Fees:	2020	2021
Membership per Visit	\$5	\$5
Casual Hire Per Hour	\$15	\$15

In late October comparative membership numbers were:

	2020	2021
Full Adult Members	260	253
Honorary Members	8	8
Graded Juniors/Students/Juniors	170	165
<u>Non-playing parents</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>
	451	438

While we are only a small club, our membership has steadily grown each year as a result of our familyfriendly policies.

During 2020 / 2021 tennis became a very popular sport with more demand for court time due to COVID movement restrictions. As a result, the committee decided at the beginning of 2021 to limit new adult membership until at least the end of 2021.

During the June to October COVID lockdown period changes were made to comply with COVID restrictions and to free up court time for members. The Saturday competition was put on hold, as was the Wednesday Ladies competition and many of the term bookings were freed up as doubles play was not possible during this period. Procedures were also put in place to limit waiting time when courts were busy. After some initial difficulties, members reported a good level of satisfaction with the tennis arrangements during the year.

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Club Championships

The 2021 Club Championships were delayed due to Sydney's COVID restrictions, not starting until late in October (at the time of writing this report). We are yet to see the registrations for the competition and the results will not be known until Finals Day on 28 November. Results will therefore be published in the 2022 President's Report.

For the record, the winners of the 2020 Championships, which were not fully completed by the time of last year's report were:

Men's Open Singles	Andy Bennett
Ladies Open Singles	Regan Bull
Men's Open Doubles	Nima Kermani & Jackson McGenniss
Ladies Open Doubles	Sharon Morse & Gil Thacker
Mixed Open Doubles	Brett Geary & Jane Marquard
Men's Singles Plate	Stephen Green
Men's Handicap Singles	Duncan Ramsay
Ladies Handicap Doubles	Sharon Morse & Gil Thacker
Mixed Handicap Doubles	Peter McIlwaine & Gillian Thacker
Men's Handicap Doubles	John Wardman & Vincent Lo

Junior Club Championships

This year the GTC Junior Club Championships were held, after last year's event was cancelled due to the COVID situation. And it seemed that last year's cancellation made this year's event that much sweeter!

We had a tremendous turnout and some brilliant tennis was played. The tournament was in a fun, round-robin format where all matches were the best of 5 games so that everyone got to play everyone else in their age group, with the serving rules catering for all standards.

It was the first time many had played in a real game situation and they enjoyed the thrill of competing (and the challenge of scoring). The Sunday BBQ was a winner - as was the tennis! Thanks to all of the parents for making the weekend possible and special thanks to Regan Bull and Caroline Elliott (Committee Members and parents) for scheduling and managing the games over the weekend.

Well done to all and congratulations to the following competitors - who will be awarded prizes at the club prize-giving, planned for Sunday 28 November following the Club Championships.

Age	Winner	Runner-up
U 14 Girls	Sybella Hawley	Zoe Halliday
U 12 Girls	Vitalia Hulak	Anastasia Hulak
U 12 Boys	Sean Adamson	George Williams
U10 Boys	Nicholas Marran	Ben Dielman
U 8 Mixed	Graeme Allan	Alex Marran

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Coaching and Juniors

Coaching in 2021 was similar in many ways to 2020 – constantly negotiating the ever-changing COVID restrictions. The first half of the year up to June was business as usual – with 50 – 60 Juniors being coached by Andrew Bennett. With the virus outbreak between June and October there was a high demand for tennis, and coaching as well – one of the few social exercise options available in the community other than walking. However coaching was limited to one on one or family groups. As at October, coaching is back to normal again with afternoon junior groups starting up and private coaching lessons continuing.

The feedback on coaching as always has been tremendous, and we would like to congratulate Andrew for his efforts with this programme.

Thankfully there has been TENNIS

In 2021 we began the year with an optimistic outlook. The virus seemed to be relatively contained (to the Northern Beaches mostly) and life in the rest of Sydney seemed to be returning somewhat to normal, albeit with people wearing masks and being somewhat careful about who was nearby. NSW seemed to be the pariah state with most other states taking great joy in closing borders at the hint of any new cases in NSW. And by June when cases began to rise in NSW we were well and truly on our own – locked out and locked in until September / October.

Fortunately there has been TENNIS! This has been one of the few forms of social exercise / sport that could continue during these 4 – 5 months, and has been a great way for our members to get outside and enjoy this great place that we live and this great community facility that we have at Leemon Reserve. I hope you have taken the opportunity to get out and enjoy your tennis club.

Christmas Party

The last annual Christmas party was held on Sunday 8th December 2019 ... that seems a long time ago now! In 2020 it was decided that the risks of virus spread were too great and so the much anticipated Christmas Party was cancelled.

But this year in 2021 the Christmas Party will be going ahead, due to the high vaccination rates. It is planned for Sunday 28 November, the Tennis Championship Finals Day. The venue will be at the clubhouse and under the camphor laurel tree and it will be in a similar format to the 2019 party – starting at 5.30pm, with each family encouraged to bring a plate of food to share. A wet bar will be paid for by the club and there will be prize giving for the 2021 champions and hopefully live music again.

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 again 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.

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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. There are about 65 members active in the comp.

In 2020 the end of year Spring Competition winner was Sharon Morse's **Red Team** who came storming home on the very last (13th) weekend of the competition to take the trophy from Annabelle Burley's **Purple Team** in a very exciting finish. Congratulations Sharon and team!

Not to be outdone in 2021 though, Annabelle Burley's **Purple Team**, took the Summer Competition at the end of March (well done Purple, for the second year running) and Jane Marquard's **Blue Team** took out the Autumn Competition finishing in June (Congratulations Jane and team!).

The end of year Spring Competition winner in 2021 was not known at the time of going to print.

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 2020 it was awarded to Edy Sirca – who also won it in 2019! 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 2020 was awarded to Peter Walton, who has been Club President since 2015 and a committee member for over 10 years. Peter has also been responsible for organising maintenance of the clubhouse and the tennis courts and plays tennis regularly.

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Maintenance and Improvements

The “new” court surfaces, now 7½ years old seem to be standing up quite well, and drainage after rain is very good. All Grass Sports Surfaces is contracted to undertake quarterly maintenance including cleaning drains, spraying algae and weeds, and to distribute sand around the courts by hand grooming or blower. The courts come up like new after this work is completed. Although some of the fencing is showing signs of wear the cost of replacement is not considered worthwhile and so the club continues to undertake minor repairs as required.

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

David Williams took over the role as Treasurer from Anna Cullinane during the last 12 months and we thank Anna for her contribution as Treasurer over the previous 2 years.

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 financial position. The cash reserve as at 31 July 2020 was \$102,496 (\$89,706 in 2020), 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 2021 was \$5,000 (\$5,000 in 2020). The long-term provision for maintenance and refurbishment as at 31 July 2021 was \$32,000 (\$27,000 in 2020).

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.

During the last 12 months there have been many decisions required, particularly in relation to the club’s response to the ever-changing COVID situation. It has been a pleasure working together with the committee team to respond to these requirements.

Our particular thanks goes to recently departed committee members Mark Faigen and Dennis Karp who had been the Club Treasurer and the Club Secretary respectively for more than 10 years each as well as serving on the committee before that. Their contribution to the club has been outstanding. Mark has driven changes to the membership system and the website which have helped streamline the club’s administration. Dennis, in addition to his contribution as Secretary has had a significant input into the coaching arrangements at the club and supported his wife Jane for many years with the Junior Tennis program. He was also an integral part of the committee for many years.

2021 and 2020 have been years that we won’t forget in a hurry. Personally, I’m looking forward to the Christmas Party and 2022!

Richard Hawkins
President
October 2021