

VANTAGE

The Morningside Tennis Newsletter

DECEMBER 2012

IN THIS EDITION

- From the President's Desk
- Centre Operator Update
- Coach's Corner
- Dedication Ceremony
- Lucky Door Prize Winner
- Building Works
- Members' Update
- Members' Clubhouse - Conditions of Use
- Membership 2013

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Welcome all to Summer 2012. Summer brings the Brisbane Open and the Australian Open, Christmas and for some, annual holidays. Now is the time to dust off those racquets and see the new and improved tennis facilities at Morningside.

About 50 guests and members witnessed the dedication of the Club House to the memory of Brenda Dale. It was her bequest that has allowed the Club to continue and improve our facilities. There is a separate report later in this newsletter on that most successful event.

A short general meeting on the 11 Nov approved a reduced membership fee for 2013 saving most members around \$30 per annum.

Our building program is now 70% complete. The patience and understanding of club members during this very disruptive period has been appreciated.

Work done to date has delivered 2 new courts, new fencing, refurbished court surfaces, a pro-shop, a Club House, 2 decks, wheel chair access, a substantial car park, and a re-aligned driveway. The remaining 30% includes:

- Roof over decks
- New court surfaces between the courts
- Fitting out and furnishing the Club House
- Landscaping
- Refurbishing the existing court shelters
- Benches around the court
- Rubbish bin enclosures
- Shade structure between courts

There will be some inconvenience when the work starts on replacing the surfaces between the courts. The finished surface will be the same as the tennis courts and some areas will be set up with hot shot courts. It will look fantastic. Sale of band aids are expected to fall dramatically - no more skinned knees much to the delight of parents.

The Centre will look like a million dollars when all work is finished. So it should as that will be the total project spend.

To mark the completion of building works, we will be holding a gala opening on Sunday 28 April 2013 - mark you diary now!

The licensed operator (Mark Bloomfield) has almost completed the first year of a ten year contract. The QCLTA faced different issues in the previous 12 months when it was an employer with staff running the Centre. The day to day issues in running the Centre are now the responsibility of the licensed operator - much to the relief of the Committee! We have been very pleased with the progress made in the first 12 months and exceptionally pleased with the appointment of Rob Daley as the Centre Manager. With an end in sight to the building works, your Committee will turn its attention to other matters.

We expect to have an operating surplus in future years and we need to put in place programs that will encourage and develop tennis for all our members.

All ideas will be considered.

A new committee will be voted in at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 28 April 2013. We are looking for new members to serve on the Committee.

If you are interested, please let me know.

Have a safe and happy Christmas with plenty of tennis.

Peter Skinner

PRESIDENT
QCLTA

petergskinner@optusnet.com.au

CENTRE OPERATOR UPDATE

What a fantastic way to end 2012! All of the work is nearly complete at the centre and participation numbers have been extremely pleasing across the board since the opening of the new clubhouse and members' area.

For all of those players keen to expand their games as opposed to their waistlines over the holidays we'll be running a host of programs at Morningside Tennis to cater for players of all standards. Ross Orford and our coaching team will be running two Holiday Programs for juniors, a Pre-Christmas Clinic (18th-20th December) and an Australian Open Clinic (22nd to 24th January) to celebrate Australia's biggest tennis event. There's also our Summer League and Social Tennis available for adults keen to keep their eye in or you can simply pop down, hire a court and enjoy a relax on the new deck.

The centre will be closed from December 25th through to January 1st however booking arrangements will be available throughout that period. Feel free to contact our staff on 07 3899 8110 for more information.

On behalf of Mark and everyone at Morningside Tennis, thank you for all of the support throughout 2012 and I hope everyone has a fantastic and safe Christmas and New Years! We're looking forward to an

exciting 2013 and hope to see everyone in action over the holidays!

Rob Daley

Centre Manger

Morningside Tennis Centre

07 3899 8110

COACH'S CORNER



It is good to have a stroke that you can be confident with and know that you can win the point whenever you need to.

GRIPS TO USE

The two most used are the semi-western and western grips.

READY POSITION

The feet should be shoulder width apart with the knees bent and the racquet held out in front of the body resting in the unused hand at the throat of the racquet.

The main mistake most players do on their forehand is poor

positioning when they are about to hit the ball. Do not hit the ball when (a) it is too far away from you (b) too close to you (c) behind you.

BALL CONTACT POINT

The ball should always be hit at your comfortable reach and in front of your front hip.

RACQUET FACE

Avoid a closed racquet face. Players of all standards must learn to hit the ball with top-spin. To create this you must brush up the back of the ball with the swing.

SWING

When executing the forehand top-spin swing it should always be a low to high on the contact point and the follow through must then chase the ball out with the racquet head following around the opposite shoulder.

STANCE ON CONTACT

There are two methods used to make contact these days. The side on position – is where the right handed player steps forward in front with the left leg and the left handed player steps forward in front on the right leg. The front on position – is where the player is parallel to the base line.

WEIGHT TRANSFER

To be able to execute the forehand perfectly, you must have very good balance. As you take your racquet back the knees must bend with the hip and shoulder turning side on to the net at the same time. As soon as you start to swing forward that is when the body starts to uncoil with your weight transferring forward which creates the power for the stroke. The non-

dominant hand should be held out in front for balance.

I hope these small tips help you play better tennis in the future

Ross Orford

Head Coach

DEDICATION CEREMONY

A special event was held at Morningside Tennis Centre to dedicate the Club House to the memory of Brenda Dale.

Peter Skinner, the President, in opening the occasion, welcomed:

- Aaron Dillaway MP, Member for Bulimba - our local member, and representing Steve Dickson, Minister for Sport
- Shayne Sutton, our local Council representative,
- Ken Laffey, President of TQ
- The 3 trustees of the Brenda Dale Trust – Michael Sparksman, Ron Hambelton, and Sandra Field,
- Mark Bloomfield, the operator of these facilities,
- Michael Blomer, the project manager for the new courts and court refurbishment,
- QCLTA's oldest life member, Merv Warren who is 98
- And last, but not least, all club members and friends.



Left to Right: Michael Sparksman, Shayne Sutton, Peter Skinner, Ron Hambelton, Merv Warren, Aaron Dillaway, Sandra Field

Part of speech by the President is reproduced below;

QCLTA is a very old club dating from the early 1920's. I want to start just after the Global Financial Crisis. QCLTA borrowed heavily for these facilities. Part of the loan was called in after the GFC. If it were not for the provision made by Brenda Dale in her will, QCLTA would have folded at that point. We exist today only through the generosity of the late Brenda Dale

Our refurbishment program will be around \$1m. So far, we have spent about 70% of that amount. Spending over the next 6 months will make this facility one of the best in QLD.

Our funding came from 3 sources. We are grateful for TA and TQ for their substantial grants. As you admire the new court surfaces, we all should thank our affiliation with the tennis fraternity. Our annual fees that we pay TQ have been returned to us by a factor of 10. We are especially grateful that we could engage TQ's Michael Blomer as a project officer. He has been fantastic.

The two new courts and refurbishment of the existing 10 courts were made possible by a grant from the State Government.

We are extremely grateful for the State Govt's contributions.

The Brenda Dale Trust funded the refurbished pro shop and club house, the new car park, the new decks and will also provide funds for the roof over the deck, landscaping, new surfaces between the courts and many other improvements. They also repaid our loan. We owe so much to the bequest from Brenda Dale.

I would like to thank Lois Palmer and Noel Toscana for their efforts in organizing today's event. I would like to make a special mention of Carl Yap who oversighted these building works. He and Grace are attending a tennis tournament and sent their apologies. Carl was here nearly every day and his efforts made it possible for the contract to function effectively.

A special thanks also to our builder, Brett Blacklow, who overcame considerable obstacles, and pulled out all stops to complete work for this function today.

Other speakers were the trustees - Michael Sparksman, Ron Hambelton, and Sandra Field. All spoke from first hand knowledge about Brenda Dale. The universal message was how proud she would have been to see her bequest furthering the interests of tennis and the development of juniors through tennis.

Shayne Sutton spoke next followed by Aaron Dillaway. Both spoke of the opportunity given to the local community of Morningside's tennis facilities through the generous bequest from Brenda Dale. Both

emphasised the importance of sport and exercise for all ages.

Finally, Aaron Dillaway officially dedicated the building by pulling the cord and revealing the plaque that is now on the inside of the Club House.

For those who have not seen the plaque shown below, the inscription reads:



The Queensland Community Lawn Tennis Association, as owner of this Morningside Tennis Centre is grateful for the generosity and life of Brenda Dawn Dale (1941 - 2009), whose bequest has made it possible for the QCLTA to become financially secure, construct this Clubhouse and improve this tennis centre. Brenda was an accomplished Australian ranked tennis player, dedicated and talented tennis coach, tireless tennis administrator and a deserving life member of QCLTA. Brenda Dale's selfless devotion to the QCLTA extended over 50 years, but her legacy is far more than in this Centre or the countless tennis players coached by her or playing tennis because of her organisational skill and enduring gratuitous efforts. Her life is an inspiration to those who wish to make a positive difference in the lives, health and sporting activities of young Australians.

The QCLTA commemorates Brenda Dale's life by encouraging tennis to be played here and elsewhere:

- *in a sportsmanlike manner,*
- *respectful of the rules, other players and officials,*
- *to enable the great game of tennis to be enjoyed by all participants.*

LUCKY DOOR PRIZE WINNER

Di Fox, the wife of the late Greg Fox, QCLTA's longest serving President, drew the lucky door prize winners for our meeting on 11 Nov 2012.

Winner of the \$200 voucher at the Pro Shop was Terry Carroll.

Second and third prize went to Brian Fox and Kathy Myers



Presentation of lucky door prize

BUILDING WORKS

The clubhouse renovation contract has now been completed. The original contract for the new courts has also been completed with only some additional fencing and the planting of 80 native trees in the remaining green areas to be undertaken.

MEMBERS' UPDATE

Here are some events dates for Q.C.L.T.A. for 2013 to place in your calendars:

Sunday 10 February
Invitational
Gympie/Morningside Annual Match

Sunday 24 March
American Doubles Round Robin
Tournament open to members and visitors

Sunday 14 April
Morningside / Wynnum match

Sunday 9th and Sunday 16 June
Annual Club Championships

MEMBERS' CLUBHOUSE - CONDITIONS OF USE

This Clubhouse and facilities are for the benefit of and use of QCLTA members only on the following conditions:

- The key will be held by the operator at the Pro Shop
- Individual members will not be issued with a key
- A member will need to sign in at the Pro Shop to use the clubhouse to ensure the room is left clean and tidy after use

- The room and kitchen area must be left clean and tidy before leaving
- No member or group of members have exclusive rights, the facilities are to be shared
- The room cannot be booked
- No personal belongings are to be stored or left on a permanent basis
- Air-conditioner is to be used only when necessary and switched off when leaving
- Children using the room must be under adult supervision at all times
- Any dispute between members in relation to use of the room will be resolved by the operator in the first instance or by the QCLTA Committee if unresolved

MEMBERSHIP 2013

Membership for 2013 is now open.

Advantages of membership includes:

- Reduced court hire rates¹ (saving of \$5.00 per hour)
- Reduced social tennis rates (saving of \$5.00 per session)
- Ability to make permanent court bookings
- Reduced tennis lesson rates
- Discount on pro shop purchases
- Personal injury insurance cover
- TQ membership² with its associated benefits

including early purchase of tickets to the Open and Brisbane International

Membership costs:

- \$55 for an adult
- \$35 for a junior (less than 18 at time of membership)

Join now at the pro shop.

- 1. All players must be members for the court discount to apply.*
- 2. No membership cards will be given but each player will be asked for their name and membership is automatically checked when payment is made. TQ will send a separate membership card to your preferred address.*

On behalf of the Queensland Community Lawn Tennis Association Committee and the Centre Operator, we would like to wish everyone who is a part of the Morningside Tennis community a very Merry and Joyous Christmas and New Year period. We look forward to seeing you all again next year for what will undoubtedly be another great year of tennis.