

President's Report – June 2026 AGM

Membership

During the recently completed summer season, the club fielded 6 senior teams, including 4 men's and 2 women's' teams. In addition, we had 10 junior teams (boys & girls) competing.

For the current 2026 winter season, we have 5 senior men's teams competing, with 1 consisting of junior players keen to gain experience at the senior level. Our goal is to encourage the transition of more juniors to the senior competition. Many thanks to Neil Taylor for his work with senior team co-ordination.

We are also fielding 3 boys and 2 girls' teams in the yellow ball and another 6 teams in the green and orange ball junior competitions. Thank you to Ben and Garry Byrne for their work in co-ordinating these teams.

Please refer to the Junior and the Senior Co-Ordinators' Reports for more details regarding competition tennis.

Coaching Arrangements

The club's resident coaches offer coaching for players at all levels, both junior and senior, in addition to running holiday clinics and other activities.

Garry & Ben Byrne also co-ordinate the junior competition teams. However, Garry has decided to step down as the supervisor of junior competition matches on Friday nights and Saturday mornings. We thank Garry for his wonderful service as a supervisor over many years, Ben Byrne is now supervising Friday night matches and we are **currently seeking a supervisor for the Saturday morning matches.**

Wei Lui was also appointed as a third coach and is assisted by Austin, Jeff and Jim. Wei was previously an assistant coach at Prospect and a high level senior competition player.

Ben and Wei conducted a successful Easter Junior Tournament for both yellow and green ball level players. The feedback from both players and parents was very positive.

Lease

The club's lease arrangement with the Burnside Council expired in March 2026. We have just recently received the draft documents for review and intend to seek a renewal for another 5 years.

However, rather than paying a peppercorn rent, we will need to make regular rent payments into a sinking fund from which future renewal and upgrades will be funded. Further, the council may be prepared to commit additional funds for projects that demonstrate a community wide benefit and would expect the club to source other grants and commit our own funds.

Further, it appears that the council will require coaches to pay court hire fees into the sinking fund when coaching non club members. Consequently, we will need to assess the impact upon our current arrangements with the coaches.

Finances

The club's financial position is healthy. We believe that the current cash in the bank is adequate to fund foreseeable court resurfacing and other maintenance costs. We could also potentially contribute to projects such as an upgrade to the clubhouse facility, but will review these plans once the new lease is in place.

The club made a net profit for 2025/26 of \$24,004, Please refer to the Treasurer's Report for details.

Thank you to Chris Bagley for his herculean effort in acting as both the club Treasurer and Secretary, in addition to his involvement with the Eastern Districts Tennis Association committee.

Awards

At the conclusion of the summer season, the following competition players received "Trademark" awards, being regarded as trusted, positive team players and having demonstrated fairness and respect for both their teammates and opposition players:

Senior Women's Winners:

- Div 2: Anya Ecimovic
- Div 3: Cathy Jiao

Senior Men's Winners:

- Div 2: Louis Raniga
- Div 4: Matthew Kok
- Div 5: Andrew Brook

Chris Bagley was also awarded the "Most Valuable Club Person", in recognition of his relentless work ethic, mental toughness, integrity and reliable, team orientated nature.

Junior Girl's Winner

- Sophie Prue (Div 1), who lost only one match all season.

Junior Boys Winner

- Lucas Sun (Div 3), who lost only two matches and represented Eastern Districts in the Les Tapp competition, winning 5 out of 6 matches.

Sponsorship

We are fortunate to have secured 2 new financial sponsors, whose signage you may have seen on the western clubhouse veranda wall and on the court numbers.

Lee Banh of Loan Market is an active club member and an expert in mortgage broking and home loan advice. Brandon Pilgrim of Ray White Burnside is a local residential property sales expert.

Powerhouse Sports on the Norwood Parade continue to offer a 10% discount on all items and also provide us with larger discount vouchers to use as special rewards.

Ballaboosta Café provided some free pizzas and vouchers which were awarded to players at our winter season Social Tennis Day event.

Corporate Hire

In March, 4 courts were hired on a Sunday (10qam-4pm), by a group who ran a “Chinese Tennis Tournament”.

Also in April, the Loan Market group hired courts on a Friday and utilised our BBQ and the clubhouse facilities for their corporate tennis day.

In both instances, the club earnt income and importantly, the participants reported having an enjoyable day.

Club Clothing

Our polo shirt supplier Apelle Apparel has created a club dedicated website, which can be accessed from the BTC website, to allow members to size, order and pay for their polos. The website was open for orders until 11th May and orders will be posted directly to customers or collected from the club around 4 weeks after the website closure.

Social Activities

Lee Banh has kept the bar stocked and serviced. Also, the Square point of sale system has enabled selected committee members to facilitate bar transactions when requested.

Some enjoyable social events were held during the year. These included a pre-Xmas dinner in the clubhouse that included a wine tasting by boutique Clare Valley winemaker Anthologist. Also, an end of summer season dinner was held at the Kent Town Hotel.

Finally, in early May, prior to the start of the winter season, a “Social Tennis Day” was held to allow competition players (including new members and junior players) to meet their teammates, players from other teams and our social player members.

Many thanks to Lee Banh for his tireless work in the areas of sponsorship, corporate hire, bar and social events and with formatting the newsletter.

Maintenance

Tai Nguyen continues to do a marvellous job keeping the courts and surrounding vegetation very tidy and ensuring that the bins are emptied and ready for use. A great effort which is much appreciated!

Newsletter

Editor Peter Roberts introduced the newsletter concept, which he continues to publish regularly. The aim is to keep all senior and junior (inc parents) club members well informed about club developments and to encourage more involvement at all levels, as required for the club to prosper. Great work Pete!

Clubhouse and Amenities

Think Architects were contracted to create a masterplan for the clubhouse renovations, which was delivered in March 2025. More detailed plans incurring additional costs would be required for an accurate costing and subsequent application for funding from the Burnside Council and possibly the Office for Sport, Recreation and Racing.

Since then, given the pending expiry of our lease and uncertainty regarding the new terms to be imposed by the Burnside Council, we thought it prudent to defer the renovation project at least until after the new lease is in force.

Pickleball

Later in 2025, we were approached by an external party interested in introducing regular pickleball sessions to the club.

The idea of offering an alternative sport to attract a wider cross section of the community is attractive as it also offers a transition pathway for some tennis players, would increase our revenue and enhance the probability of attracting funds for future development of the facility.

However, the conflicting needs of pickleball with tennis during the peak playing times of weekdays from 6pm (especially given the limited availability of lit courts) and Sunday mornings, along with a failure to agree upon court hire terms, resulted in the concept being rejected, at least for now.

A sustainable model that benefits all participants, including players, session supervisors/coaches and the club, would be required before its introduction is approved.

All the best,
David Siostrom