

TENNIS EAST GIPPSLAND

2007 COUNTRY CONFERENCE REPORT

Held at Grace Park LTC Friday 25 May 2007

Tennis Victoria/Victorian Country Tennis Association

After 25 years separation and work over recent years, the VCTA and its members will become affiliates of TV, presumed around August 2007. The VCTA will retain its identity within Country Victoria meanwhile ensuring efficiencies of administration and service provision as well as an integrated player pathway through a Service Agreement.

Whilst having no local effect on East Gippsland, this is great news for Victorian tennis. The VCTA's 240 clubs and 12,000 members will bring to 600 the number of country clubs and to 35,000 the number of members under the TV banner.

New Registration (Affiliation) System - Benefits

Personal Accident Insurance (PAI) for ALL players will now be included in the Players Registration (Affiliation) payment made by clubs. Volunteer PAI is now to be included as part of Affiliation.

Computer Solution - "Baseline" is an on-line membership and competition (metro only at this point) management system for clubs and associations. Located at <http://www.baseline.net.au> this will provide major benefits to clubs and associations in administrative efficiencies and optional promotions. Shortly, TV will be providing a facility to enable transfer of existing membership bases from Excel to Baseline.

Player Pathway Update

TV has finalized their funding application to the 2007/08 State Sporting Association Support Grants and are confident of success in July. This provides for the zoning of Metropolitan and existing Country Regions in a fully integrated multi dimensional pathway.

Regional Sports Academies

Further RSAs are to be introduced (East Gippsland already accesses the Gippsland Sports Academy) in the coming year(s).

High Performance Academies

HPAs are proposed to sit above RSAs to be located in and close to Melbourne coinciding with the Player Pathway development.

Junior Development Series Tournaments

Being developed throughout Victoria for 8 to 11 year old juniors (one of our Tennis East Gippsland Junior Circuit Lead-in tournaments will be as a JDS event).

Regional & Association Cups

These are now well established and almost unilaterally supported through country Victoria.

The 2008 Inter-Regional Championships have been transferred from Horsham to **Warrnambool** due to drought conditions.

Regional Development Officer Program

TV has been thrilled that the "3 issues" based work plan process of RDOs over the past year has seen marked advances within the regions. Initiatives worked on in 2006/07 were Junior Masters Series, Websites, booklets, calendars, email networks, coach networks, volunteer training, participation programs and disability programs.

"Regional Council" Obligations

Each region has certain obligations (with which East Gippsland complies) and the head body should be regarded as a "Regional Council" (which we will do from now on). TV is encouraging, and will assist,

Regional Councils to undertake additional programs which focus on these groups – multicultural, people with a disability, indigenous.

Tennis East Gippsland has been operating very successfully with a skeleton structure over the past 15 years but it is our hope that the upcoming AGM will see more people assist in further developing our RDOs ongoing areas of concentration – Participation, Communication and Competition, as well as the suggested additional programs

Other Country Initiatives

Glenelg, Northern Mallee, Wimmera, and North East will join East Gippsland in the **Tennis For Life** initiative for isolated communities in the coming year.

Workshop

President, Secretary/RDO and our Country Rep (Ann Harrison) joined the Central Gippsland Secretary (Sue Grumley) and Central Gippsland RDO (Dawn Martin, who is also the Wellington GippSports Officer) to discuss issues across tennis in Gippsland. It was resolved to continue efforts to support the GTA pennant expansion, and also to look at a cross regional communication website plan which may involve an application for funding through TV.

General Business

TV Board Member, Geoff Stone, addressed complications with the rapid rise in players and spectator behavioural problems and associated litigation and outlined the urgent need for regions, associations and clubs to be policy ready in case they encounter such difficulties.

The incoming Tennis East Gippsland committee needs to address how this upsurge in behaviour and litigation activity impacts on not only the region, but also associations and clubs.

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