

TENNIS EAST GIPPSLAND 2006/07 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Regional Council Status

As you will have read in our 2007 Country Conference Report, the Tennis East Gippsland committee is now to be regarded formally as the Tennis East Gippsland "Regional Council" within the Tennis Victoria structure, a title which should be used in any discussion with stakeholders, such as Shire Councils and sponsors.

A number of regions have been doing so for many years, and we have now fallen in line with this terminology.

To this end, I hope that this AGM will see our Regional Council comprise at least 5 active (and widely publicized within the tennis community) representatives assisting the President and Secretary to advance regional activities through our associations and clubs in the areas of Participation, Communication and Competition.

Pennant

The positive plans of last year following TEG and Central Gippsland discussions concerning the revamped Gippsland Tennis Association (GTA) pennant came to fruition with teams being entered from Bairnsdale and Sale (and Traralgon and Churchill) and it is hoped that the promise of further teams materializes for the coming summer season and the pennant grows in support across Central and East Gippsland clubs.

Whilst publicity was poor in our Region and the promoters of the pennant have been asked to improve this, it is generally agreed the pennant was a success.

The SHTA competition under the title "Tennis Gippsland" was supported in its first year of 2005/06 but was not continued in the 2006/07 season when the GTA was reborn.

The former Tennis East Gippsland (TEG) pennant which floundered in its sixth year with reduced support in 2004/05 and went into recess in 2005/06 does not appear to have attracted the necessary support from both ends of our Region in the past two seasons to be reintroduced, and unless interest is shown at this AGM the issue will bring the prospect to a permanent end.

I personally consider there is room for an East Gippsland pennant to provide players with a competitive stepping stone for our better players

Representative Teams

In our most successful year on record, TEG selected representative junior teams for the:

- John Fitzgerald Cup (13/U Boys – coming 4th)
- Foundation Cup (13/U Girls – **WINNING** for the first time)
- Ambassadors Cups (15/U Boys and Girls – coming 4th)
- Country Cup (17/U Boys and Girls - **WINNING** for the first time).

Some results can be viewed at <http://www.tenniseastgippsland.com/regionalnews.htm>, and I am endeavouring to obtain electronic versions of the balance.

No team was entered in the inaugural Frank Sedgman Cup (10/U), a position we hope to rectify next year.

Country Week teams and the Inter-Regional Championships team represented the Region.

Junior Circuit

Lead-in Circuit tournaments were conducted at Bairnsdale and Sale in an interrupted summer season. One tournament was cancelled during the bush fires, the proposed first Lakes Entrance event was reallocated when their facilities were not completed in time, and the proposed first Stratford event was reallocated when the club advised it was closed during the January pennant recess. The Masters Final was reallocated from Bairnsdale to Sale after Bairnsdale hosted the Lakes and Stratford tournaments. Results can be viewed on the website.

Country Conference

A separate report has been circulated and is available on our website, and I would encourage our clubs to follow the lead of some other Victorian Regions in more actively supporting the growth in inter regional activity.

Communication

Whilst comments continue about not knowing what is going on in the region, the regional calendar of events was published again on our website. Gathering entries from clubs was a little like drawing hens' teeth again and I implore clubs to forward their events and functions particulars for inclusion to make the calendar more useful for all of us.

Your comments on the functionality of the current calendar would be appreciated as we entertain improved options.

At the Country Conference, a bi-Regional project was suggested to investigate the use of the upgraded GippSport site (<http://www.gippsport.com.au/>) to incorporate our Region's and Club's calendars. Discussions are to be held soon with Morgan Cameron our area's GippSport representative.

Regional Work Plan

As Tennis Victoria Regional Development Officer, Julie has had another busy year.

The principal areas of attention remain participation, communication and competition and it is anticipated that work in these areas will expand to cooperation with Central Gippsland through the GippSport machine in the coming year.

Reinstated Tennis East Gippsland Championships

At last year's AGM, a request was made to reintroduce our own Regional Championships, although it was too late to do so during 2006/07.

It is proposed to conduct these at Bairnsdale around October 2007 and I seek ratification at this AGM.

Tennis Australia Baseline On-line Computer Administration program

This has been designed to encompass club membership and management, and will include association/club team competition draws and results within 18 months.

Through the trial process, some 40 clubs are now using the system. Bairnsdale has signed up and identified a number of shortcomings to our Tennis Victoria link, Christine Baumann, and will report on the progress in due course.

Whilst use of the system is optional, I believe within a very short period of time it will become a fait accompli for most clubs throughout Australia and I urge clubs to contact Tennis Victoria to arrange a good look at it.

Combined Player Registration (PR) and Personal Accident Insurance (PAI)

In the past, these two elements have been separate with PR at \$17 and PAI \$10.

PR, otherwise known as affiliation, provided funds for the structure under which our game is administered, plus club protection against litigation. Clubs pay this fee (some show it separately on subscription invoices) and, previously, even if a person played at more than one club, each club was required to pay the full PR fee.

PAI has been compulsory for entry to certain sanctioned tournaments and competitions, but because of its substantial benefits at such a low premium many members chose to participate voluntarily.

In 2007/08 and beyond, these two elements have been combined at a cost of \$22, and the now single fee is compulsory, and the utilization of Baseline should make the whole process easy.

The added benefits and efficiencies should be taken on board as a huge positive for all stakeholders

John Glynn

President Tennis East Gippsland

15/7/2007