

TENNIS EAST GIPPSLAND

2009/10 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Regional Council (RC) was founded in the 1973/74 season.

As president, together with Julie as secretary, since 1989, I am pleased to have overseen the continuation of regional affairs during the period and announce that the coming year will be my last in this capacity.

There have been varying levels of support for RC activities over the years, and some fruitful and open discussion on a number of points of interest, participation and representation in the past two years.

The dominant positive for me has been the introduction of our Junior Masters Circuit in 2004. Similar circuits are now conducted in all country regions, and the Country Committee is now looking at the introduction of a Master of Masters event, if not in 2011, the following year.

The challenge will be for responsible representative to take on the mantle at the end of the coming year.

Our central point of communication – the TEG website and email – continues to be supported well, particularly with an increase in individual awareness of Regional activities from parents of juniors in direct nominations for events, now overtaking nominations through associations, clubs and coaches.

The production of the "Tennis In Your Region" brochure highlighting our Player Pathway has been a great initiative from the past year. The "I didn't know it was on is no longer an excuse" campaign has hit the spot. Interestingly, other Regions are now considering production of similar brochures. Our brochure will be updated this year.

We again fielded junior teams in each of the Junior Cups but were unable to do so for the first time in the Region/Association Challenge (12/U, 14/U, 16/U) with players choosing tournaments, and other activities, for the June 2010 fixture.

The participation of an East Gippsland team in the 2010 Inter Regional Championships in January followed the embarrassingly "please explain" from Tennis Victoria the year before. Hopefully, a full contingent can be found for the January 2011 event.

The continued absence of our own Intra-Regional Championships, reintroduced in 2007/08 after a recess back from 1991/92, was disappointing again, and reflects on our commitment at the post 16/U level.

As I stated at the last AGM, the Regional Council continues to work hard to provide our members with:

- a well defined Player Pathway;
- Junior Summer Circuit of Lead-in Tournaments culminating in a Masters Final in 10/U, 12/U, 14/U and 16/U age groups;
- teams in TV Junior Cups and Challenges (note Selection Criteria on website);
- support of the Gippsland Sports Academy tennis program;
- support of the Optus Junior Tour tournament at Bairnsdale in September/October,

all of which have been significant in providing our kids preparation for the next level of tournament competition.

The Region's Name

Our Region more or less covers the Wellington and East Gippsland Shires, it can be a bone of contention that we are known simply by the Tennis Victoria allotted name of "East Gippsland" Region after previously being known as "Region 13".

We conducted a competition to find a more suitable title during the year, and whilst receiving entries, the RC determined none to be suitable to apply a change. Nevertheless, the exercise was worthwhile in raising awareness.

Country Conference

Along with Julie, Glenn Schuback and Nick Board, I attended our Regional Council at the 2010 Country Conference at Grace Park TC in May 2010 along side around 50 attendees from all country regions.

The conference reviews and combines the efforts of Tennis Victoria, Regional Tennis Councils and Regional Development Officers. Julie is our Region's Regional Development Officer in the absence of a Regional Sports Assembly in this part of the world.

As always, a jam packed program of emerging issues drew great interest on all committed Regional disciplines.

The number of registered players reported to Tennis Victoria decreased by 139, although I find this incompatible with reports from a number of clubs that they thought numbers might be better.

Regional Pennant

As I reported have reported at previous AGMs, the former pennant floundered in its sixth year and went into recess in 2005/06. The promise of its reintroduction in the summer of 2008/09 was dashed at the eleventh hour.

I hope a positive step towards reintroducing competition in years to come but it will be up to others to initiate this.

Representative Teams

Our TEG selected representative junior teams achieved the following results in 2009/10:

- Frank Sedgman Cup – Aug09 Bendigo (11/U Boys and Girls) – coming 16th
- John Fitzgerald Cup – Nov09 Geelong (13/U Boys) – coming 5th
- Foundation Cup – Nov09 Traralgon (13/U Girls) – coming 4th
- Ambassadors Cups – Nov09 Rye (15/U Boys and Girls) – runners up
- Wayne Arthurs Cup – Dec09 Kooyong (10/U Boys and Girls) – coming 11th
- Alicia Molik Cup – Mar10 Kooyong (12/U Boys and Girls) – coming 14th

Results can be viewed at <http://www.tennis.com.au>

Junior Circuit

Lead-in Circuit tournaments were conducted at Sale (Oct09), Bairnsdale (Nov09), Maffra (Dec09), and Lakes Entrance (Feb10). The Masters Final was held at Bairnsdale. Results can be viewed on our website.

Appointment of Association/Club responsible persons

Whilst our communications are getting a more regular spot at association or club general committee meetings, formal appointment of a committee person to receive, disseminate, and act upon, these reports has only been done by a couple of clubs.

Hopefully, this will be rectified this coming year.

Gippsland Sports Academy Awardees

At presentation night in May, Bairnsdale's Barry Stokes, who passed away a week earlier, was posthumously awarded the Phil Shelley Award for service to tennis. In a wonderful gesture, a minute's silence was taken to honour Barry. Maffra's Mitchell Allman was awarded the Tim Forsyth Award for Most Outstanding Achievement in tennis.

John Glynn

President Tennis East Gippsland
4/7/2010