



November 2014

# The Player

Wembley Downs Tennis Club Inc.

## From the President – John Pritchard

### An Ideal Tennis Club

One may well ask “*what is an ideal tennis club*” and you will probably receive a number of answers. Jaydee often refers to the “five fingers” and I must agree with him. Using this analogy a club may be compared to the four fingers and thumb on a hand. A hand is not complete without all “five” fingers and a club is not complete without its five fingers i.e. Juniors, State Grade/Div 1, Competition Play, Social Tennis and Social Activities.

I am sure most of us can cite examples of clubs which have run into difficulties because they concentrated too much on one or two activities to the detriment of the others. Some clubs have a huge junior section but little else, others struggle to field league teams, whilst a few are purely social yet close at 6.30pm over the weekends. Many clubs in Perth close their courts over winter. At WDTC we have committees in charge of each activity and endeavour to strike a balance between all five. This I do believe is most important if a club is to survive. Should any member ever feel we are neglecting any one of these activities then please speak to me or bring it to Management’s attention?

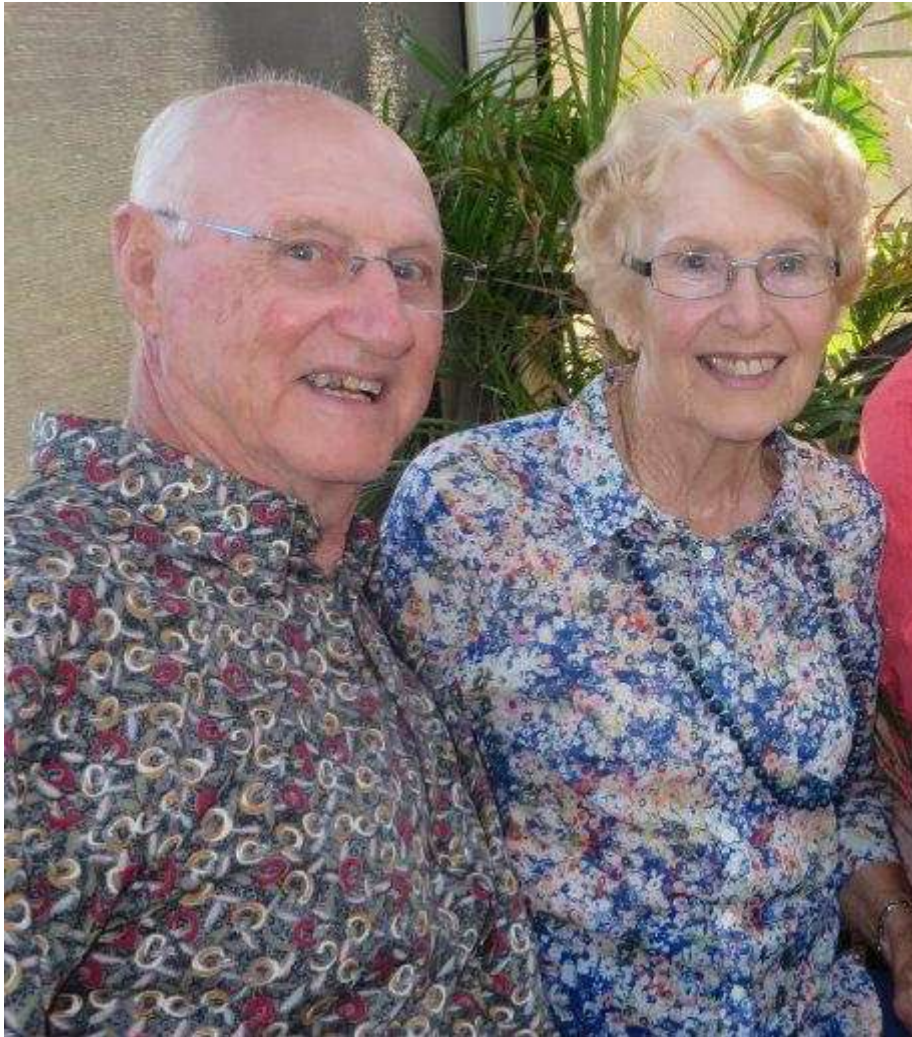
This season we have 18 junior and 10 senior league teams with regular social play on most days of the week. We have a wonderful, friendly and sociable spirit here and have some great times, whether it is bonding after tennis on a Saturday, at an organised social event or at our annual golf days – witness last month’s golf day! Players from other clubs often remark on how we “*have got it together*” with our grounds, uniforms, membership and facilities. Let us all continue doing our bit for the Club and our fellow members and strive to be “*simply the best*” in Perth.

### Uniforms

Congratulations to all the league teams and players who now wear our uniform. You look fantastic. I am very proud of every one of you and I have received several compliments from both visitors and members saying how smart our players look in their uniforms. We now know who to barrack for. There are still a few male players, junior and senior wearing different coloured shorts. Please, the Club shorts are plain navy blue.

W.D.T.C.  
SIMPLY THE BEST!

## Vale: Richard (Dick) Lancelot Watters



Dick joined WDTC in January 1974, a year after Glenys did and they both immediately got involved with the Club, Glenys on the Social Committee and Dick on the Junior Committee.

A measure of Dick's commitment and dedication to the Club was that for all of his nearly 41 years, he served continuously in various positions on different committees. The more important positions he held were:

- Men's Captain 1976 – 1979
- Vice President 1980 - 1982
- President 1982 – 1984
- Editor & Publicity Officer and member of the Tournament Committee for three years until 1987.
- Member of the Bar Committee from 1987 – 1994.
- In 1994 Dick was elected to Life Membership for his service to WDTC.
- Member on the House & Grounds Committee for six years until 2003.
- Trustee from 2003 until his death on the 15 November.

Not only did Dick serve the Club with distinction but he also achieved a degree of success on the court.

In addition to his regular weekend social tennis he won or was runner up in a number of intra club competitions. The two most important ones, for which his name is on the boards in the hall, were the Veterans Men's Doubles Championships in 1982 and 1985. His partner on both occasions was Bruce Robinson.

The American author, Robert Fulghum, in his book *"All I really need to know I learnt in Kindergarten"* wrote *"Every person passing through this life will unknowingly leave something and take something away. Most of this 'something' cannot be seen or heard or numbered or scientifically detected or counted. It's what we leave in the minds of other people and what they leave in ours. Memories. Nothing counts without them."*

We will all have memories of Dick and here are a few of mine. When I joined the club back in 1989 Dick was one of the club stalwarts with a wealth of service already to his credit.

During my first term as President I worked closely with Dick, as one of our Trustees and got to know him more than most. Besides enjoying a game of tennis with him, more so with him on my side than against me, I found him to be a very modest person for all he had achieved, yet insightful, efficient, supportive and always well meaning. He was always cheerful, engaging and with a quick wit. I don't ever recall him speaking ill of any member- he was a gentleman's gentleman and he and Glenys made a wonderful couple.

What I soon learnt about Dick was his love of tennis. Short of a tragedy he was always at the Club every Saturday or Sunday if he was not baby sitting in the early days or more recently watching one of his grandchildren play sport.

On and off the court he was as honest as the day is long. No one ever questioned his calls. If Dick said the ball was out, it was out.

Most of us preferred to play with Dick as few of us could out slice him. He loved nothing better than a windy day when he could chop and slice and spin a ball with the best of them. A drop shot over the net or a sliced serve with wind assistance always took the ball away from the hapless receiver, and his specialty - a heavily chopped and sliced lob high into the wind. That ball was so unpredictable - it moved erratically in the air and when it bounced it just took off in the most unlikely direction, deceiving the opposition and leaving all four players in fits of laughter.

Yes Dick had a lot of fun on court and it was always a pleasure to be with such a jovial player. He died doing what he loved.

I am sure I speak for all of us in the Club; he will be sorely missed both on and off the court. May you rest in peace, Dick.

John Pritchard  
President

## Members

A big, warm welcome to the following new members!

**Full** : Peter Schoolkate, Emma Dove

**Mid-Week** : Jordan Powell,

**Intermediate** : Scott Webster, Ben Dallinger,

**Juniors**: Colin Wirth, Steven Illic, Chesca Hanlin, May White, Tristan Schoolkate, Kenny and Wayne McNichol; Will Webster; Tom Walton; Cassidy Clatworthy; Anya Rajan; Zachary Bryan

**Social**: David Cross and Gary Booth

*Happy birthdays to Meg Simpson, Tina Lord, Sandie Bateman and Nola Carmignani and anyone else celebrating November birthdays!*

## Social Committee News – David Simpson

Well, we had a great Opening Day. What, with Loud “Background sound” and a visual display of how to turn green lawns to misty white and instant waterfalls, followed by an excellent meal ?

On 7 November the President hosted his annual President’s Cocktail Party. This is traditionally the one occasion when the President thanks all the committee members for their time and commitment to WDTC. Guests are those on the Club’s V (Volunteer) List and it is easy to get onto it by joining a committee. It was a great evening with fine food and plenty of refreshments and hangovers to boot the next day. Thank you to everyone who helped make it a successful night for the nearly 100 volunteers and other important dignitaries. (photo’s at end of Player)

Now for No 3. CHILDREN’S XMAS PARTY AND ADULTS XMAS DINNER – see poster end of Player

On 13<sup>th</sup> December, Father Xmas will arrive from the North Pole at aprox 4.45pm ( It’s a long way so we have to allow for Drift.) , when he will greet the children and then distribute gifts to them in the lounge. Our Social committee will follow up with treats for the children.

After they have gone to bed , at approximately 6.30pm, it will be time for the adults to share a drink( or 2) enjoy a fabulous Xmas Dinner and listen to/or dance to our very own famous DJ, Mr Terry Tinsley.

Cost will be : \$5.00 for each child ( \$15.00 Max present set under the Xmas Tree)

\$25.00 each adult for - Main course of ham, turkey and vegies

Sweets , Plum Pudding and custard

Plus a little wine on each table

Meg Simpson will , once again be the keeper of who has paid.

Please put your name on the “Wishing to attend “ list in the Club lounge early, to assist in our planning.

Also put in your diaries Australia Day Breakfast at the Club, followed by some crazy tennis, on Monday , January 26<sup>th</sup> .

## House and Grounds - Mark Sims

I hope that by now you will have noticed the nice new navy blue shadecloth over the walkway between the grass courts and the synthetic courts. Hopefully it will make it more comfortable for the spectators during the hot months.

Unfortunately we have to roll it back during the cooler months otherwise it causes a shadow on the grass courts and affects growth.

Many thanks to Bruce McKenzie, Terry Tinsley and Alan McLaughlin who helped me install it.



## Captain's Room – Mike Underwood

### Grass & Synthetic Court Availability during Sat and Sun 1:30 pm to 5 pm

On Saturday and Sunday afternoons from 1:30 pm to approximately 5:00pm the Club gives priority to organised social play. All full members are encouraged to join in either or both of these sessions.

If a member wishes to play non-organised play at during these times they must seek permission from the Day Captain.

Subject to court requirements on a Sunday the Day Captain may allow members to play on the hardcourts during 1 pm to 5pm. The other option, if members are keen to have a hit on the grass is to come to the Club at 5 pm and check on court availability.

### League Update

From a result perspective we have all of our 5 midweek teams in their respective top 4 divisions after round 4 (two teams are in the same division) which is a very good effort.

Weekend league is mixed with 6 out of 11 in top 4 positions. We have made sure a few of the higher division teams are well supported which has sometimes impacted negative on lower divisions however now with the bulk of exams over our player stocks will improve.

### Handicap Tournament Results

Handicap Mixed Winners Ann McKenzie and Ross Fisher with Tammy Reddell and Brian Fricker the Runners-up.

Handicap Mens Singles Winner Dean Gardiner with the Runner-up Chris George

Handicap Men Doubles Winners David Drake and Terry Orrell (no runner up decided)

Handicap Ladies Doubles Winners Jan Hibbard & Deidre Coombe with Runners-up – Laraine Penberthy & Debbie Simmonds (see photo below of all the teams). A very disappointed pair, Janet Paterson and Ann McKenzie, just missed out despite winning 16 of the possible 18 games.



We didn't have nearly enough entries for the ladies events with at least 8 men left out for the Mixed Doubles. Tournament Committee will be reviewing the time of the year the events are run to see if we can move the events outside of the league season to increase numbers and provide members with valuable match practice.

A big thank you to Alan McLaughlin for both running the events and providing the prizes. For new members you can spot Alan in the photo above surrounded by the lovely Ladies Teams. This month's bio interview is with Alan.

### **From the History Vault**

This month we travel back in time to our very first league shield win in 1966. The team comprised of Dale Phillips (Captain), Bobbie Edwards, Eileen Nelson (deceased), Lyn Wakefield and Irene Perry. Most of the ladies still have some association with the club which is absolutely fantastic coming up to 50 years on. The biggest challenge the team had during the season was the player rostered off had to look after all the babies and little kids very close to the side of the court. Please see the photo of the team below and notice how different the club looked back then.



And whilst on the topic of players balancing tennis and looking after babies one of our new members this year Emma Dove has rejoined her previous team in Div 4 after recently having a lovely baby girl. Welcome to the club.

### **Etiquette Tip**

**“If you can meet with triumph and disaster and treat those two impostors just the same”**

You hear many tennis players quote Rudyard Kipling's poem above which I understand is on the doorway where players walk out from the changerooms at Wimbledon. It is great advice for tennis players of all ages and abilities. I must confess to having been a little bit of a sulker when I have lost in my youth (under 50 years old). However I now aspire to behave exactly the same win, lose or draw and encourage all members to do the same. It definitely makes tennis more enjoyable that is for sure.

### **Vets World Champs**

Bobbie Edwards recently competed in the Vets World Champs in Turkey. They stayed in Manavgat at a resort called Ali Bey which is a Club Med type of arrangement on the coast with 52 clay courts, numerous eateries, bars, fitness centre, evening entertainment and loads of organised activities for children. All the teams stayed at this centre. Their team did okay although heavy rain curtailed the event somewhat. 52 clay courts is very impressive for a resort in Turkey and is a great place to visit.



## Bio Interview – Alan McLaughlin

Alan has 2 daughters living in the UK and USA respectively along with 5 grandkids so as you can imagine he travels a bit. As a Chemical Engineer no doubt he would have travelled the globe and he is still consulting a couple of months of the year. And of course having some other languages always makes things easier particularly with work.

Alan joined the club in 1985 not long after relocating from Iran and had never played tennis previously. Like last month's interviewee he also likes the flair of French Players and Gael Monfils is his preferred player. Other sports Alan has played are soccer (sorry football) rugby union and down-hill skiing. The professional sports Alan follows most closely are Tennis and Athletics.



## Mid-Week Ladies – Linda Townsend

### *Upcoming Events*

Craft Day – 4<sup>th</sup> December

Christmas Lunch – 11<sup>th</sup> December

## Global Tennis – Joe McCarthy



Joe McCarthy

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[www.globaltennis.com.au](http://www.globaltennis.com.au)

## WDTC Uniforms

The Club has available stocks of new WDTC white shirts and tops (in a variety of styles) in time for this summer season.

All pennant players are expected to wear the shirts/tops with plain navy blue shorts/skirts or skorts.

## Defibrillator



Please remember to check out the following link, which gives a short, 3-step demonstration on how to use the club's defibrillator (press Ctrl + click to follow link).

<http://www.healthcare.philips.com/main/products/resuscitation/products/onsite/demo.wpd>

## Upcoming Events – please mark them on your Calendar!

**CHILDREN'S AND ADULTS XMAS PARTY- Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

**AUSTRALIA DAY BREAKFAST – Monday 26<sup>TH</sup> January 2015**

**ST PATRICKS DAY – Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

'Like' Wembley Downs Tennis Club and you'll see all the latest notifications, offers, photos and news! Your participation will encourage others and give our club exposure to possible new members. Thanks to those who have already checked in!



### Quote of the day

**Good Players  
Inspire Themselves  
Great Players  
Inspire Others**

## The Funny Side





## Club Sponsors

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WEMBLEY DOWNS TENNIS CLUB

# WDTC XMAS PARTY



13th December 2014



## CHILDREN'S PARTY

- 4PM: CHRISTMAS CRAFT
- 4:45PM FATHER CHRISTMAS
- 5:30PM PARTY FOOD
- COST: \$5 PER CHILD
- (PLEASE BRING A SANTA GIFT UP TO VALUE \$15)

## ADULTS' PARTY

- 6:30PM ONWARDS
- INCLUDES SOCIAL COMMITTEE DELICIOUS HOME COOKED TWO COURSES.
- COST: \$25P/P



Please add your name to the list & make payment to Meg Simpson prior to Wed 10th Dec so numbers can be confirmed for catering



# PRESIDENTS COCKTAIL PARTY





