HIlls Tennis Association

**Junior & Senior Conference 2019 – Minutes**

The Old Mill, Hahndorf

Mon 5th August 2019, 7.30 pm-8.50pm

1. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Gavin Fatchen (Nairne) and Littlehampton.

1. **Present**

(See attached scanned copy of attendance list)

1. **Welcome from the President**

(President position not yet formally filled, so this item was skipped)

1. **HTA matters**
	1. **Update Club contacts list**

It was noted that the Club contact lists – available at the rear of the meeting, needed to be checked and altered as necessary by those from each club in attendance. Ian Barry reinforced the importance of this given these were the contact points that HTA used, in particular for distribution of forms to secretaries.

* 1. **Ball orders due soon**

Association price available on August order only. It was noted that pricing had reduced from last year.

* 1. **Website**

Jo Casey confirmed this will be changing over to a new provider/host this season. Current website may not be sending updates to all, so club contacts were asked to check and re-register to receive updates from HTA website to ensure they are kept up to date. At least half a dozen attendees reported recent intermittent problems with receiving communications.

1. **Night Tennis**

Rob Chalmers advised that details for the season and nominations would be distributed in the next few weeks in the usual fashion.

1. **Midweek Tennis**

Robyn Starcic similarly advised that details for the season and nominations would be distributed in the next few weeks in the usual fashion.

1. **Junior matters**

**7.1 Nominations & Grading (Ian Barry)**

* Ed Coombes will email Junior Coordinators the new season nomination form (please ensure the coordinator details are correct for your club) within the next 2 weeks.
* Nom forms due Monday 16th Sept 7.30pm via email to Jayne Taylor (info on Nom form), with as much detail as possible about the nominated team to assist with grading.
* Due to Division 1 playing Friday nights in 2019/20 season (as a result of the majority preference from the survey monkey poll undertaken), Div 2 nominated teams will be asked if willing to play Friday nights (if they are graded higher).
* Reminder of ages:
	+ Orange ball – 8 and under by 30/9/19
	+ Green ball – 10 and under by 30/9/19
	+ Yellow ball – 17 and under by 30/9/19
	+ Permits may be applied for (for variations if there are only a few months difference and the player is not elite)
	+ Each club will receive by email the TA Competencies required for both Orange and Green Ball (these are clear guidelines for what players should be able to do).
* Grading will occur Thurs 19th Sept, Friday 20th September I have a meeting with TSA to start building the draw.
* Draw will be available 7 – 10 days prior to the season start.

**Junior Dates & General Information (Ian Barry)**

* 2019/20 Season dates:
	+ Start Fri 18 October/Sat 19 October to Fri 13 December/Sat 14 December and re-start Fri 31 January/Sat 1 February to Fri 28 February/Sat 29 February (14 weeks)
	+ 2 Week finals is a new initiative in line with other Associations. No more Friday night semi’s for Saturday competition.
	+ Semi’s: Fri 13 March and Sat 14 March (1v4, 2v3)
	+ GF: Fri 20 March and Sat 21 March
* 14 week season; starting once Term 4 has commenced; no matches Adel Cup Long weekend (9/3/19); finals to start after the long weekend, finishing 3 weeks before Easter (12/4/19 – 14/4/19)

**Friday Night Competition**

* Division 1 Boys/Girls will be played on a Friday night for the first time starting at 6.30pm. We are in initial discussions for this competition to be played at one venue for increased atmosphere and social event benefits.
* Fri night competition for GB & OB will continue to be offered after the successful growth over the past 3 years. This is in addition to the current Saturday morning Orange & Green ball competition.
* Friday night Orange & Green ball competition from starts at 6pm.
* The primary aim is to increase tennis participation: by offering this alternative there are greater options for players/families that may not be able to or want to play on a Saturday morning. It also means more flexibility for Clubs in court utilisation, and creates opportunities for community/fundraising around an evening comp if clubs wish.
* Separate nomination form has been developed for this Friday night comp – same deadline
* Number of divisions will be determined once nominations are received
* A section on nom form indicating if the team is willing to play on a Sat morning if insufficient numbers for Friday comp.

**Carnivals & Tournaments**

Ian noted that Country Carnival provided a great experience for juniors to play in January. This has been a country Tradition for decades and juniors playing lawn tennis in a team environment with kids from other club/or friends is a great experience. The HTA pays for junior teams at this event also, (there was some later discussion about whether some form of partial subsidy might be reinstated for adult teams also). Thursday January 9 – Monday13th at Kensington Gdns LTC and registrations will open soon after the season commences. It was noted that the Kensington LTC is a very pleasant environment with good courts and club rooms.

* Barker District School Carnival on 5th Sept Mt Barker TC
* Closed Tournament is still being discussed by the JAC with Mount Barker TC.

**Working with Children Clearance**

Ian noted that as of July 1 2019 volunteers require Working With Children Clearance WWCC and indicated that he had print outs available at the meeting describing the process for attendees to take. People can also apply for a WWC Check themselves now, as well as requesting Tennis SA to commence one. They are free for volunteers. To commence the process through Tennis SA, you can just email through to Darren Sahb (dsahb@tennis.com.au) the list of individual’s full name, DOB, email address and role in the club. Tennis SA acts as the registered organization for all affiliated Associations and Clubs in SA. Or go to the website at [www.screening.sa.gov.au](http://www.screening.sa.gov.au).

**Other Issues**

Other areas JAC have discussed lately

* Division 1 Juniors at one venue through season
* Playing Grand Finals at 1 venue (2 if needed) with 2 different timeslots. Eg 8.15am, 10.30am. This will reduce volunteer times with shields/medals pick up and add to atmosphere.
* Scoresheets will be supplied to clubs for juniors.
* A question was asked as to whether Mixed Girls and Boys teams were ok in the lower divisions and Ian confirmed this was so (Div 4+) as participation was the key.
* A question was asked as to Hot Shots accredited coaching and how to obtain this at Uraidla. Bill Walters suggested speaking to Uraidla primary about a partnership with Tennis Australia under the sports in schools program- this would avoid the payment burden falling on clubs. A teacher from Uraidla in attendance offered to help (noting the increased level of interest in playing tennis generally thanks to Ash Barty). Bill also mentioned Kate Rasheed from Piccadilly.

**7.3 Junior Development news (Bill Walter)**

* Hills Winter tennis underway with Southern Districts. Bill noted there were 15 teams (1 up from last year) – 10 boys and 5 girls, with 1/3 in the finals, and expressed thanks to the hosts.
* Foundation Cup – Berri – Bill noted that this was another great event for kids, with 50% Hills/Fleurieu participation. Ian Barry was organising uniforms. Would like to see more participation and nominations - especially Green Ball. Format was super 10s, 4 players. U13s, 15s and 17s usually do very well and it is a great week.
* Junior State League nominations are open 1-26/8. Season runs from 11/10 for 14 rounds. Age limit for 17&U is now the start of the season. Hahndorf put a team in last year, and Stirling might put one in – contact Bill or Nick Hall with any expression of interest.
* Green Ball State League prior season success meant this year there would be a 13 round competition from 18/10 – Friday night for 2-3 players. , 25 min matches, high quality but no restrictions – more information available from Tennis Australia’s web or contact Bill
* Compass Draw – deicide to merge with Les Tapp OAM competition. Hoping for a Memorial Drive location – like a Country Carnival experience but for Metro teams – good for strong players and more information would be available later.
* Bill spoke in more detail to the Hot shots competency document and gave some examples from it, strongly encouraging is use for grading purposes. Getting kids graded correctly led to a much better experience for all, and if this meant more divisions to be better attuned to individuals’ needs, that was all to the good.
1. **Combined Senior & Junior matters**

**8.1 Rules of Match and Play**

Jo noted minor changes relating to new format in doubles comp. A comment was made about the desire from senior players to be able to play a larger number of players to avoid restrictions on 2-set double – Jo responded that the rules changes will mean this is no longer a problem. A further comment was made that the restriction of doubles team numbers to 8 was still too tight, with a request for the cap to be raised to 10. This was discussed and received some support. Margaret said the issue will be further considered by the Doubles Committee and email submissions will be taken into account. A compromise of 9 was suggested from the floor.

**8.2 Country Carnival – 9th - 13th Jan.**

Clubs to organise own Senior teams. Individual nominations (junior & senior) can be made via the registration form that Ian will send out. Juniors can nominate who they want to play with. Ian Barry is the contact point for all submissions. Teams will need to nominate earlier this year – aim to be finished by mid December. Bill Walter volunteered to be the face of HTA at the event in Ian’s absence. A query was made about whether individuals who didn’t have a team could volunteer direct to be put into a team if available and this was confirmed. At this stage the issue of a potential subsidy for senior as well as junior teams was raised (it was indicated that this had been done partially in the past but didn’t seem to have made much difference to participation). The issue will be considered further.

1. **Senior Matters**

**9.1 Doubles Activities Committee members – Margaret**

Margaret Moseley, Brian Haddy, Katie Martin, Simon Ellis (observed from the floor that Simon had been unclear as to whether he was formally a member - confirmed by the Committee and the meeting with apologies for any confusion), Liz Lay.

**9.2 Traditional Senior Activities Committee members – Jo**

Jo Casey, Tarrant Hansen, Jen Robinson, Jono Abraham

**9.3 Senior Doubles Formats**

6 player teams (up to 8 players permitted). Each player plays 4 sets. Aldgate requested to allow up to 10 players – see earlier noted discussion above. In response to a query as to why there were 4 not 3 sets it was noted that this had been the majority preference from the polling undertaken. Rubber details were then gone through, with a note that any substitutions would have to maintain correct gender balances. Rules will be updated detailing all relevant changes.

**9.4 Senior Season and Nomination Dates and Process**

Jo noted that people requested more tennis, and SAC tried to include 2 extra playing dates in January – however TSA have requested that we don’t play on 11th Jan – Country Carnival. Dates as follows:

* 12th Oct - 14th Dec – 10 weeks
* 18th Jan – 1 week
* Long Weekend 25th Jan –– no play
* 1st Feb – 29th Feb – 5 weeks
* Long Weekend 7th March – no play
* Semi Finals – 14th March
* Preliminary Finals 21st March
* Grand Finals 28th March
* Easter – Friday 10th April
* 16 playing weeks in total
* Senior Nominations online, with word doc copy of all team members in order of merit to be sent to Trad & Doubles Committees. Open 29th Aug–15th Sept. Instructions will be sent out.
* In response to a query Jo indicated that Senior Grading would be done within a few days of 15/9 and released before the end of September.

**9.5 Senior Scoresheets, Fixtures Access to Information**

Jo noted that these were all online. All players should be registered to use Match Centre website, to allow them to access match info, ladders, stats etc. Instructions will again be sent out on how to:

* + - Register and link your tennis profiles
		- Print a scoresheet
		- Look up a single or season’s worth of fixtures

**9.6 Inter Association match (Great Southern v Hills)**

Jo asked whether anyone was willing to pick this up. Ian noted that while it hadn’t been run for a few years it would be good if it was picked up again and that Port Elliot was a good venue. Clubs were asked to consult with members.

1. **Any Other Business**

Robyn Starcic is chasing up various shields/trophies – and asked that clubs assist and return outstanding items ASAP. Robyn then went through the list of outstanding items and attendees from the relevant clubs agreed to ensure return of those items. The Committee noted with gratitude Robyn’s considerable work on behalf of the HTA.

There were some surplus balls and other items available as a result of prior ball purchase arrangements – these may be available for winter.

A suggestion was made from the floor that HTA consider a Best Junior/Best and Fairest award be made. The merits, complications and potential ways of implementing this were discussed further. Ian Barry agreed that JAC would examine this further.

**There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.50pm with thanks to all in attendance.**