



MATCHPOINT

What a wonderful place to play tennis.

To pick up the big stick, run around and hit that fuzzy little ball is a bloody privilege.

The occasional win, getting a return in or not double-faulting also makes it special.

So here we are again, Easter already, that special time where we all sit around with a six-pack of Crownies and a kilo of prawns, reminiscing about things and wondering what's on the tele.

The Junior Clinic wasn't on the tele, but was thoroughly enjoyed by lots of local kids during the school holidays, fantastic to see and thank you to the special few who made it possible.

We are welcoming more and more juniors to the Friday sessions, some may say it is because of the sausages, but those who run it say it is the tennis.

Our competitive teams have started combative tennis again- 10 teams, 8 divisions and all enjoying the games, some are even holding their own (winning games, that is).

Your committee continues to toil away, sustaining, planning, cleaning, maintaining, accounting and occasionally laughing. Of particular note is our recent grant application for a fourth court.

We have the full support of the Witta Sports Grounds Users to construct a court to the west of the existing grass court. Plans have been drawn, council notified and the grant funding pending.

Social tennis continues to flourish; Saturdays and Monday mornings are as popular as ever. If you would like to organise a hit on other days then please contact me. The social and casual guidelines are posted in the shed and on the website.

Enjoy your tennis

Mike



Australian Seniors' Championships *with Denis O'Neill*

Queensland was having trouble getting enough players to form a Men's 70-74 Years team to play in the 2014 Australian Seniors' Championships at Hobart in January. That changed with a phone call to Denis O'Neill asking if he would be willing to play with the 'juniors' rather than with his 75 and over team.

All too eagerly Den agreed - without fully appreciating he would become the fourth member of a team of only four. A team which would have to play two matches a day (4 sets per player per match) for possibly five days. The old adage "too much tennis is never enough" was going to be well and truly tested.

The Qld team comprised two players from Gold Coast, one from Brisbane and our Witta club rep. At such events most teams will select six or more players per team to allow for rest and rotation. But hey, David vs Goliath or not, surely four Queenslanders should be enough to mix it with teams from NSW (2 teams), Victoria and the 'home' side Tasmania. Bring it on.

Undaunted, in heat and wind, and in a number of really scenic locations around Hobart, the Queenslanders played their hearts out (well, they actually plugged away solidly and purposefully without overdoing the flair). Bodies and limbs began to falter badly - it seems the over 70s weren't born with a sufficient number of spare knees and shoulders to play that many competitive sets over so few days.

Nobody broke down completely, but they certainly slowed down. A round robin event played over five days can be pretty exhausting. Playing mornings and afternoons each day requires the right measure of pain relief drugs - so the pubs in Hobart did well in January.

Eventually the Queensland team came through to win the Division 1 Men's 70s 'gold medal' as 2014 Undefeated Champions.

While it seems oldies can have a win now and then, does it always have to be this painful?



Junior Competition

Friday afternoon competition commenced in early February with the re-introduction of singles and doubles format. This has been a lot of fun and a good learning curve for most of us – umpires included.

We are pleased that some of our players have improved so much that they have started playing in competitions at Landsborough and the Sunshine Coast. At the same time we are very excited that in the last term we have welcomed seven brand new players to the club.



Thanks to our regular volunteers, Paula, Aki, Jeannie, Libby and Maree. Competition resumes on 2 May.

Congratulations to one of our Witta boys, Will Lapsley, who has been selected for the Glasshouse Districts Primary School Tennis Team and will be playing in the Regional Trials in Kawana 23/24 April.



January Junior Clinic

Another three lovely days of sunshine were enjoyed during Katya's Junior Clinic held in January. A total of 20 children enjoyed three days of ball skills, tennis drills and games – not to mention lovely homemade cakes and cookies.



Thanks to our volunteers: players, machinery experts, cooks and photographers - Paula, Maree, Peter, Aki, Jeannie and Tom.

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**ANDERSON PLUMBING
& ROOFING P/L**

Brisbane International

With some top-class players entering the tournament this year there was a lot of interest in the Witta Tennis Bus Trip to the Brisbane International. We booked 30 tickets to the tennis (24 adults and 6 children) and chartered a bus. Everyone agreed it was possibly the best day to attend, with great women's matches including Sharapova and the highlight of the day – Rodger Federer in a nail-biting doubles match. Some people stayed on to watch the late-starting Hewitt match while the rest of us headed home.



Witta Social Tennis

Monday 8:00am Thursday 7:00pm

Saturday 1:00pm

All Welcome

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FIXTURES TEAMS

Wednesday Ladies

It has been a long journey from Division 6 to Division 1 for the **Witta Wasps**. But it is unanimous – We Love It! Winning definitely isn't everything (though it would be nice) as the tennis is so good. This season we have averaged over 24 games (and a set or two) each match. We are hopeful our tennis and/or our lovely lunches are good enough to keep us in Division 1 till the end of the year. Wasps Autumn 2014 are Stacey English, Jeannie Thorne, Annie Stewart, Chris Bower and Maree Hooley.



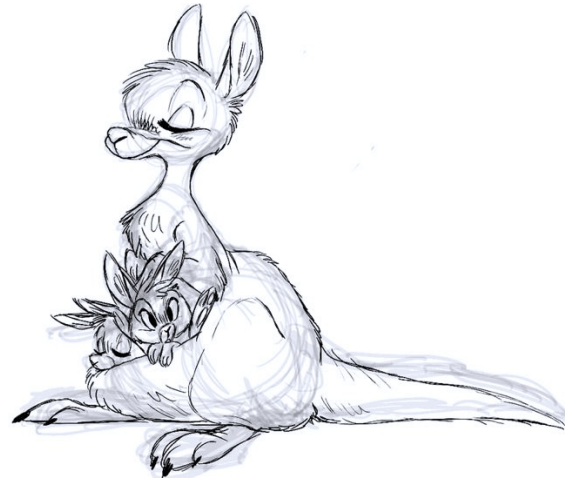
Witta Hitters players Jill, Elaine, Sonia, Christine, Claire, Liddie, Libby, and Suzie have started the season playing great tennis and have won some of our matches.

New players have settled into the team well and we look forward to great tennis being played by all.

Our team is enjoying the company and sportsmanship of the teams we have played against. We look forward to a successful end to the season.

Thursday Night

Wallabies have enjoyed a majority of wins in the Thursday Night Ladies Competition this season – finishing the end of the first round in equal first position. Wallabies this season have been Paula Cudmore, Maree Hooley, Karen Cook and Stacey English– who will hopefully be able to play when it doesn't rain!



Friday Ladies

Whistlers is having a hard season. Lots of tight games, up and downs. But we are having fun playing and socializing with other teams, as usual. And of course, great tennis every Friday. Now the second round is starting, so we will see how we go.

Team is Liz Mellish, Brenda Warner, Donna Kuskopf, Maree Hooley and Aki Lepper.

Wildcats started the season with lots of injuries and team members on holidays. Everyone's back at the moment and hopefully staying injury-free. We're in division 2 and we'd like to stay there but it's a hard task. Currently we're .03 of a point away from 4th position with one round to go. Team members are: Pauline Fraley, Annie Stewart, Sue Vockenson, Jeannie Thorne, Stacey English and Michelle Macaree (who is still enjoying Brighton).

A big thank you to Penny Gregg for stepping in at the beginning of the season and helping us out. We'd like to make it to the finals series but it'll be a hard slog.

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Veterans

Witta Wackers have had a slightly less than stellar start to the new season, having recorded one loss and one wash-out, but we have enjoyed both matches.

We are playing in Division 3 this year in a field which includes many of the old faces and teams we've battled with over the past few years, but also some new teams from Murgon, Kandanga and Nambour to add some variety - and extra miles to travel. We are delighted to have three new faces in our ranks this year (Libby Howlett, Lynne Eckhardt-Fisscher and John Windred) who are adding strength and depth to our store of team members. Bring on the rest of the season!



Here we are in the big time, the **Wikings** in 2014 getting into Division 2. We got off to a flyer, trouncing Tewantin 11 sets to one, but in the following game we got nailed by Nambour something to something.

Great tennis throughout and good to see faces that have become familiar over the years. Our next game is away at Yandina and we hope to welcome back No John No, after his trip up a mountain with a motorised push bike, and Pauline, who makes her first start following a near career-ending injury last year.

As always, thanks to the team - JB, Andy, Larry, Jeannie, Kevin, Maree, Pauline, Peter and Mike.

Pictured : Kev ensuring he's old enough to play Vets.

Team Wompoo

After brilliantly dominating last season's Div 2 comp the Wompooos charged up to Div 1 this season all bright-eyed and bushy-tailed - and then the big brick wall appeared! Two matches so far for two resounding losses. But there is always the next challenge on the horizon for this never-say-die team, so watch out for the Yandina vs Wompooos result later this month. Big things are being promised by the Wompooos (like maybe we could pick up a set or two, even). Ah, does it really matter, after all tennis is the winner – and in spite of the tough times the team of Liz, Paula, Sean, Bob, Andrew and Denis will always front up for the battle.



Who am I?

*If you can start the day without caffeine
 If you can always be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains
 If you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles
 If you can eat the same food every day and be grateful for it
 If you can understand when your loved ones are too busy to give you time
 If you can take criticism and blame without resentment
 If you can ignore a friend's limited education and never correct them
 If you can resist treating a rich friend better than a poor friend
 If you can conquer tension without medical help
 If you can relax without booze
 If you can sleep without the aid of drugs*

Then
 You are the family dog

From *Mike*

Your canine-obsessed president



Witta Cup

Witta Cup

*February the 16th the sun turned up
As well as 24 hopefuls for the Witta Cup
Brandishing proudly their national hues
Switzerland and Swaziland, to name a few
They smashed and volleyed to take their place
In the glory of the finals at a hectic pace
Fill-ins were called for to cope with the stress
So the Cudmore girls were put to the test
After sweating and grunting and appeals for some light
Maree's team was victorious right through the night
A wonderful day full of fun and guffaws
And all thanks to Aki for keeping the score*

All reports were positive after our first Witta Cup, which saw mixed teams of 4 playing in a fun format of doubles. Players were kept in the dark as to who their team mates would be until they turned up on the day. Aki, Denis and Paula did a great job formulating teams at the last minute and everyone enjoyed great camaraderie and high-quality tennis. Plenty of tennis was played (the finals were played under lights) and we all look forward to a similar event later in the year. Thanks so much to those who participated.



Aussie Open Day

The MDSRC held its first Aussie Open Day at the Maleny Show grounds on 26 January. Local sporting and community groups had the opportunity to demonstrate and talk about their clubs and seek new members.

We joined in with Maleny Tennis Club and set up the ball machine and invited everyone to play. Brian Kronk from Maleny organized some games for adults and kids. Witta Tennis had a lovely display tent and had brochures, show bags and tennis balls to give away.



On the same day, Witta Tennis Club President, Mike Hooley, was presented with his Australian Citizenship by local Federal member Mal Brough.

Who's Who

Mike Hooley (President - Governance and Grants)

Aki Lepper (Treasurer and Veterans' SC Rep)

Maree Hooley (Secretary and Junior Development)

Denis Hickey (Scheduled Social Tennis)

Jeannie Thorne (Match Point)

Pauline Fraley (Media)

Denis O'Neill (Courts and Gardens)

Paula Cudmore (Special Events)

Andrew Blowes (Special Projects)



