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Dear HKDTA members and friends,

Welcome to the July edition of **Around the Courts**.

### **Message from the President:**



Greetings all! Hopefully we are now through the worst of COVID-19 and tennis life at least is getting back to the “new normal” with physical distancing requirements still in place. Our regular competitions restarted this week (although Tuesday Night was rained out again!). A special thank you to Beate in the Office and Tim in the Pro Shop for all the extra steps they have undertaken during this COVID-19 period to keep HKDTA operating in a safe manner.

### **Resurfaced courts**

If you haven't been to Mills Park recently, when you next come you will see our two newly resurfaced courts (thanks to Hornsby Council for their assistance with getting this completed), and all other courts at Mills Park and Berowra have had specialist treatments to get the playing surface in as good condition as possible. Our remaining courts at both sites are getting close to the end of their lifecycle, and we will continue with our planned replacement of court surfaces over the next few years as long as our financial situation allows it.

### **Junior Competition changes**

I was excited to hear that Jordan Thompson (current ATP ranking 65), has accepted our request to name our Friday Junior Competition the “Jordan Thompson Cup”. This comp has had a major restructure and is now a team-based competition rather than individual or pair based. As someone who has played here as a junior, still trains here, and is performing at the absolute highest level of our sport, this is a small recognition of Jordan’s achievements so far. He is a fantastic role model for our young players and I think Jordan likes the team aspect of our revised comp. I’m sure he would agree that some of his finest performances on the international stage have been when he is playing Davis Cup for Australia.

Thank you to Lindy Enge who was involved in coordinating the previous Friday Junior Competition for the past 12 years. The Committee restructured this comp significantly and have added the duties of Co-ordinator to our Centre Manager Tim Brackenreg.

### **Mai Donnelly**



Finally, I would ask that you all keep in your thoughts and prayers our Life Member and long serving Centre Manager, volunteer and friend Mai Donnelly, as she battles serious health problems. Our thoughts are with both Mai and her husband Marc.

Eddy

### **Membership renewals for 2020/21 have been deferred**

Due to the suspension of our competitions and the short closure of all our courts, the renewal of HKDTA memberships have been deferred until 1 October, 2020. Members will receive an invoice via email in September.



**It's time to get back to competition tennis! And we couldn't be more elated!**

If you're like us, you've been feeling slightly agitated about not being able to play comp tennis, so thankfully, with many of the COVID-19 restrictions on gatherings now lifted, we've been given the go ahead to restart our competitions.

Restart dates:

Monday Morning Ladies – Monday 20 July

Monday Quick Mix – Monday 6 July

Monday Mixed Comp – Monday 20 July

Tuesday Night Comp – Tuesday 7 July

Wednesday Ladies – Wednesday 22 July

Thursday Mixed Comp – Thursday 23 July

Juniors – Friday 24 July

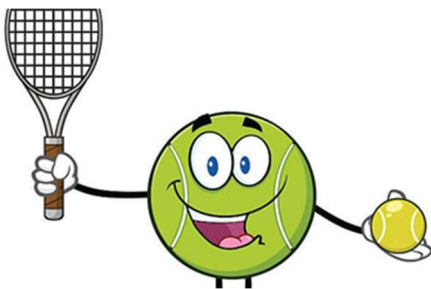
**School holiday camps are on now!**



Get the kids out of the house, off their devices and improve their tennis skills at Berowra Tennis Centre or Mills Park Tennis Centre this July. Flexible attendance is available.

For more information go to <http://hkdt.com.au/HKDTA-Camps.aspx>

**New competition at Berowra**



A new Berowra Monday Morning Competition commenced on the 22 June. It's not too late to join as a pool player. Two players in a team playing 3 sets of doubles from 9.30-11.30am.

For more information please contact the competition coordinator Melanie Seifert on 0414 950 719.

**Social tennis is back in full swing!**

Our social tennis at Mills Park have been well attended over June and July since we resumed doubles play. Due to not being able to provide shared food, we have reduced the price to \$14 per session for members. This includes new balls and organised graded sets.

Wednesday evenings 7:30 – 9:30pm (all standards)

Saturday afternoons 1:30 – 5:00pm (intermediate to advanced levels)

Sunday afternoons 2:00 – 5:00pm (all standards)

Get up to date information on social tennis at Mills Park and join the WhatsApp group. Send a text to Matt Noone on 0418 203 596 to join. Or email enquiries to [social@hkdata.net.au](mailto:social@hkdata.net.au)

### **Kevin saves the day as interim treasurer!**

We welcome big hitting Supercomp player and long-time member, Kevin O'Connell, as our acting Treasurer until the AGM in September (thanks Kevin!).

The role of the Treasurer is to monitor financial performance of the association, provide key information to the committee and to provide advice to the committee on decisions which have financial impact. The Treasurer also ensures that we collect all revenue, authorise payments, and ensure that our financial records are all kept correctly and provide complete and accurate information to our members. The role is heavily supported by Beate in the office and a bookkeeper so only top level input is required from the Treasurer.

### **From Tim in the Pro Shop**



#### **Pro Shop news**

COVID-19 restrictions are slowly easing and I will have the Pro Shop gearing up for a big second half of the year. Stock availability is tough in some products but here is light at the end of this tunnel and new stock from Wilson, Head and Babolat is due later this month. There has been a lot of talk in the industry about prices rising soon, so if you're thinking of investing in a new racquet now is the time to do it.

### **Centre Caretaking and Maintenance**

The past couple of months have seen a lot of attention paid to court surfaces. All courts at Berowra and Mills Park have been given a deep service clean. There is a small amount of follow up work to be completed but 99% of the work has helped to keep the surfaces playable and healthy whilst we progress through the resurfacing program.



Jordan Thompson (ATP rank 65) and Chris O'Connell (ATP rank 116), pictured left, recently gave court 5 a big thumbs up after a training session. Please be aware that there is currently an excess of sand on these courts, but as we get some rain and the courts are used this sand will settle in. A big thank you to all the members, coaches and kids who have made changes to their schedule whilst this work was being completed. Our plan is to continue this resurfacing program during the 2020/21 financial year, however, COVID-19 and the impact on grant funding may influence timing.

We have plans to make improvements to the facilities in a few different areas. There will be a bit of noise, dust or perhaps even paint fumes floating around in the coming month. Please be patient as we aim to make HKDTA the best place to play tennis in the north.

## **The Jordan Thompson Cup**



I am excited to be involved in the new version of our Friday Junior Competition. The past few weeks have seen an opportunity for us to trial a few new initiatives and we believe the new concept will be a winner for kids and parents alike. Teams will be comprised of players from all divisions and age groups with an emphasis on participation by all. We are looking for 24 of the most enthusiastic players between 5 and 15 to join us. The younger kids will be using smaller courts and lower compression balls to adapt the game to their size, and with every game earning a point for their team they will be just as important to the results as the teenagers using a full court.

\$100 is great value for the term and with registrations closing at 11pm the 17<sup>th</sup> of July it's important to book a spot early to avoid disappointment.

## **Thommo's Tennis Tip - Volleys**



When learning volleys try to make sure you absorb your opponent's pace rather than swinging or punching the ball until you learn how to control the feel of the racquet.

## **Congratulations Nikita!**

Nikita Volonski, one of HKDTA's outstanding juniors, recently won his section of the UTR Pro Tennis Series at Homebush in the return to professional level tennis in Australia.



## **Winners of the May/June Doubles 'Mini Competition'**



Monday Ladies: Ranu Kanogia & Wendy Hiley

Tuesday Night: Div 1: Wade & Alec Porter, Div 2: Matthew Noone & Robyn Flood

Wednesday Ladies: Div 1: Fiona Nguyen & Katie Jones, Div 2: Robyn Joscelyne and Theresa Johnson

Thursday Night: Mark Boniface & Tim Breckenreg

## **Are you an artist/graphic designer?**

We are looking at modernising our image, particularly for new signage around Mills Park and Berowra and are seeking ideas from members. If you have a flair for design or artwork please contact Eddy Watson (pres@hkdt.net.au or 0410 487 219).

