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Dear HKDTA members and friends,

Welcome to the May edition of "Around the Courts".

Message from the President:



I hope that you have all been keeping safe during this COVID-19 period!

HKDTA has been operating since April 4 under the COVID-19 guidelines put out by Tennis NSW. Whilst there is some level of activity at our centres, there has obviously been a significant decline in our operating income. With assistance provided by various levels of government and some cost cutting within our operations, we are aiming to minimise the impact of this event on

HKDTA's finances.

We continue to monitor advice from Tennis NSW and the relevant government authorities, and hope that we can get begin to transition back to normal operations soon. On Friday, we expect new information after the National Cabinet considers steps to the full resumption of sport both at the professional and community level.

Thanks to all those members and visitors who have been using the online booking system to book courts. The demand for court hire has been high at peak periods and we have had to turn away people who had not booked online. If you want to ensure you can play you must book online. That also allows us to know who has booked the courts and if a case of COVID-19 was identified on site, we can take the necessary steps as advised by NSW Health.

There are a few changes that have been made to the booking system which are detailed in the personal email that contained this newsletter.

Eddy

Committee member resignation



Last month, Mark Bloomer resigned as Treasurer of HKDTA. During his time on the committee, Mark oversaw some major changes in our accounting processes that enabled the committee to have a much more accurate picture of our financial position. He was instrumental in setting up the contract for the management and maintenance of Mills Park and Berowra Tennis Centres. He will also be remembered for telling very scary stories. Although he volunteered many hours helping with club matters, Mark often said working on the club committee tested his sanity. The last we saw of him he was running towards the car park yelling "let me out of here" (but he'll be back playing on Tuesday nights when our comps resume!).

Opening Hours at Mills Park & Berowra Tennis Centres during COVID-19



Berowra Tennis Centre is open from 8.00am to 10.30pm every day.

The reduced opening hours at Mills Park are:

Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Monday	8.30am to 5.00pm
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday	8.30am to 9.30pm

Please note that the Pro Shop will not be open at all times, but the courts will be open, with bookings to be made [online](#).

Membership number required for court bookings

As of Saturday 9 May, you will need to include your HKDTA member number when booking courts online to get access to the discounted member rate. Your membership number was included at the top of your email.

If you lose your membership number please email the [office](#) and it will be sent to you again.

Minimum court booking period is now 1 hour



As of Saturday 9 May, the minimum period that casual court users and members can book a court for has been increased from 30 minutes to be 1 hour.

From our Centre Manager



A crazy couple of months has kept everyone on their toes at Mills & Berowra courts.

Thanks for using the Online Booking system and for keeping your distance! With a number of impromptu visits from the police, it's important we stay the course.

Thanks to the committee who have been putting in extra hours and effort these past few weeks. They make a significant voluntary contribution that deserves recognition!

The pro shop is re-stocked and operational. It's not operating under the usual hours, but we can still look after your tennis needs with just a phone call or email. You can still get a treat or drink using your credit card, and we are fully stocked with grips, balls, a re-string, or perhaps even a new racquet.

We need your help!



During this period we have been working on various projects to maintain and improve our facilities at Mills Park and Berowra. Usually we would organise a working bee to take care of some of these matters, but in the current situation we can't do that.

If you have a few hours free at some stage during the week and would like to assist in some way please contact Tim in the ProShop, he can advise you of what tasks we are looking at completing (or you may have a suggestion of your own)! Some of the tasks to undertake include some minor building repairs, gardening etc. Under the law, volunteering is the same as paid work, it is an essential activity that you are allowed to leave home to undertake.

HKDTA Competitions & Social tennis events



Unfortunately, we cannot provide any concrete information on when we will be able to restart our competitions and social tennis.

Our best guess is that those events where we bring together 20, 30 or 60+ people at the same time to play will be the final stage of lifting restrictions on gatherings as we transition out of COVID-19. We are looking at options for some slightly different comps with staggered playing days and times and social tennis with restrictions on the number of participants.

Thommo's Tennis Tip

Coaching on a one to one level is still going ahead at Mills Park. As soon as we are allowed to run group coaching lessons again we will let you know.



Even if you cannot make it to a court to play at the moment, you can still work on your tennis technique. Try the "Bouncing Ball Racquet Drill":

1. Hold your racquet, palm up, in front of you. The hitting side of the racquet strings should be facing skywards. Bounce a ball off the strings as many times as possible without stopping (forehand side).
2. Turn your hand so that your palm is now facing down (backhand side). Now try to do the same, bouncing the ball off this side of the racquet strings as many times as possible.

