

Around the Courts October 2020



"These workouts are making me thirsty".

Jordan THOMPSON v Jerry SEINFELD

Sounds like a mouth-watering exhibition match, but in fact we found out that off the court former HKDTA junior, Jordan Thompson (currently ranked 54 on the ATP Tour), is a HUGE fan of the 90s TV show Seinfeld.

We put him to the test with some trivia questions based on two episodes of the show where the theme is tennis.

How would you go against Jordan? Beating him at this quiz may be your only chance to say you were better than him!

In the episode titled 'The Switch', Elaine has to borrow a tennis racket for her boss Mr Pitt:

1. Who does she borrow the racket from?
2. What brand is the racket?
3. Mr Pitt needs the racket for an important match. Who is the match against?

In the episode titled 'The Lipreader', Jerry meets a lineswoman at the US Open Tennis:

4. What is the lineswoman's first name?
5. George nicknames her a 'B L'. What does 'B L' stand for?
6. George is caught on camera at a concession stand with food all over his face. What is he eating?

Answers at the bottom of the last page.

Jordan Thompson Cup



Ace Attack was the winning team of the inaugural Jordan Thompson Cup - a weekly competition for our junior players. Pictured left to right is the winning team of Jay Chen, Tim Sutulov, Sebastian Parsa, Jinkai Zhang, Alex Gondo and Lucas Korth (*Jinkai Zhang and Alex Gondo not pictured*).

The Cup is our premier junior competition and takes place on Friday afternoons from 5pm to 7pm at Mills Park. All standards of juniors are involved and players

experience both singles and doubles play.

The singles championship was very close with five players in with a chance to take out the championship on the last night. Jay Chen was the eventual singles champion.



Mehda Lingham won the inaugural President's Award. Medha was singled out for this award by showing consistent effort, sportsmanship, teamwork, participation and poise in victory and defeat. Her coach, Alan Stopford, was full of praise when told of the award. Alan said, "Medha has improved her game in the past few months and brings great energy every week. Congrats Medha, well deserved". Medha's dad Yogi mentioned it was Medha's first award but said, "This won't be her last". "Medha loves her tennis. Perhaps this is the start of something really special for her tennis career!".

Spotlight on HKDTA's newest committee members

The 2020 AGM was held in September, and four new members were elected to the committee. Here's what Jonathon and Tony had to say when they were asked about tennis in general and their new roles at HKDTA. Henry Chim and Theresa Johnson will be featured in our next edition.



*Jonathon Gray
(Treasurer)*

Jonathon, what do you see as the future of tennis?

I see the future of tennis as evolving into a more multi-culturally acceptable and played sport in a similar way to the way football (aka soccer) has evolved in Australia to include various minorities and cultures. I think it needs serious attention in the "lifecycle" beyond juniors as there seems to be a serious gap between sub 13yr olds and 40+yr olds.

What business or personal experience will you draw on to improve HKDTA?

I want to draw on my experience of a decade as a practising chemical engineer developing projects of many kinds from concept to commercial operation; together with 15+ years of investment banking experience in terms of legal, commercial and funding experience.

What will inspire you and motivate you to make change?

I strongly desire to reset the Association's cost base to a lower one wherever possible as well as reduce the environmental footprint in the process. Ideally, the lease renewal process invokes an opportunity for widescale redevelopment of the Mills Park complex into something more useful to the community than just tennis courts.

Tell us about a recent 'lightbulb moment' you've had with your tennis game?

Undertaking some personal coaching (of which I've had about three lessons in my life) to change my swing pattern, grip and other elements for both forehand and backhand to make it more accurate, impart more topspin and deploy more power. Still working on the accuracy quotient.



*Tony Foster
(Committee)*

Tony, what do you see as the future of tennis?

I think Cardio Tennis should be part of a national advertising campaign to get people onto the courts. Tennis is excellent for cardiac and circulation, balance and agility, it helps keep us fit and it does so with little risk of physical damage. Given the issue of obesity in our society, a focused national campaign by Tennis Australia seems to me an obvious initiative to get more people onto tennis courts.



What business or personal experience will you draw on to improve HKDTA?

My many years of working in and teaching marketing, advertising and design.

What will inspire you and motivate you to make change?

The desire to help others achieve club improvements.

Tell us about a recent 'lightbulb moment' you've had with your tennis game?

With a tennis game like mine, I should focus more on chess!

In memory of Mai Donnelly



We know that Mai loved her roses and had quite a few planted in pots outside the proshop that she would tend and water attentively. To honour Mai's memory and the impact she had on HKDTA, a working bee was held in August to create the Mai Donnelly Rose Garden.

We had a great turnout and thank you to everyone who came to lend a hand.

Mai, when the roses bloom, we will think of you and remember the love you had for your club.

Meet our coaches

Good coaches are the bread and butter of any tennis club. They are often the first people that new players, or players returning to tennis after a break, seek out for help with their game. They have to be skilled, knowledgeable, diplomatic and have to really enjoy the game of tennis.

In a series of articles, we'll be meeting our HKDTA coaches and finding out what makes them tick on and off the court. Let's get started as we introduce...

Gilly Blackwood and Trevor Hodge from Berowra Tennis Centre

Ed: Hello Gilly and Trevor! Tell us, what do you think makes a great tennis coach?

G and T: Passion, patience, sense of humour, ability to adapt to the student's needs and adapting to new ideas.

Ed: What trait do you have that complements each other?

G and T: Flexibility. We both emphasise good technique and effective tactics whilst valuing each other's contrasting playing styles (attack v defence).

Ed: What advice would you give a young person pursuing a career in tennis?

G and T: Be aware that it is not as glamorous as it seems! But if you start young and work hard and surround yourself with like-minded players, it helps to get to where you want to be. Obviously good diet and excellent fitness is essential. Most importantly, have fun! If the enjoyment is not there it is hard to maintain the passion.

Ed: Not everyone can make it as a professional! What advice do you have for the average tennis player?



G and T: By learning good technique and tactics and playing regularly, you will be surprised by how good you can become. It is never too early or too late to start so long as the enthusiasm is there. It's also such a fun way to keep fit.

Ed: Thanks Trevor and Gilly. Some food for thought for all those aspiring (and not so aspiring!) players out there.



Contact Gilly on 0402 110 904

Trevor: 0408 977 787

Email: berowratennis@optusnet.com

Working bee at Berowra



After the success of our working bee at Mills Park, it's time to give the same facelift to Berowra Tennis Centre. We'd love to see you on Sunday morning on the **25th October** anywhere **between 8.30am and 1pm**. Even an hour of your time will be appreciated and help share the load. Enjoy an afternoon of free tennis from 1pm.



We've been aiming to increase the number of people who "like" our Hornsby Kuring-gai Tennis Facebook page. Why? Because this gives our page and posts more prominence without paying to advertise. In October 2019 we had 131 likes. It is now 249: a 90% increase. Our aim is to get to 400 likes by the end of March 2021!

This type of free advertising through social media will bring new players through our gates which adds variety to our comps, improves our finances and opens up the game of tennis to new people.

It's not all about money...but it helps!

You will be pleased to know that your Association is in good financial health. The generous waiver of rent for April-June this calendar year by Hornsby Shire Council (HSC), combined with Commonwealth support, has resulted in an accumulation of funds.

Two funding applications have been made under the recently established ATP Cup Legacy Fund (constituted jointly by Tennis NSW and the NSW Government) for funding support. Results should be known by the end of 2020.



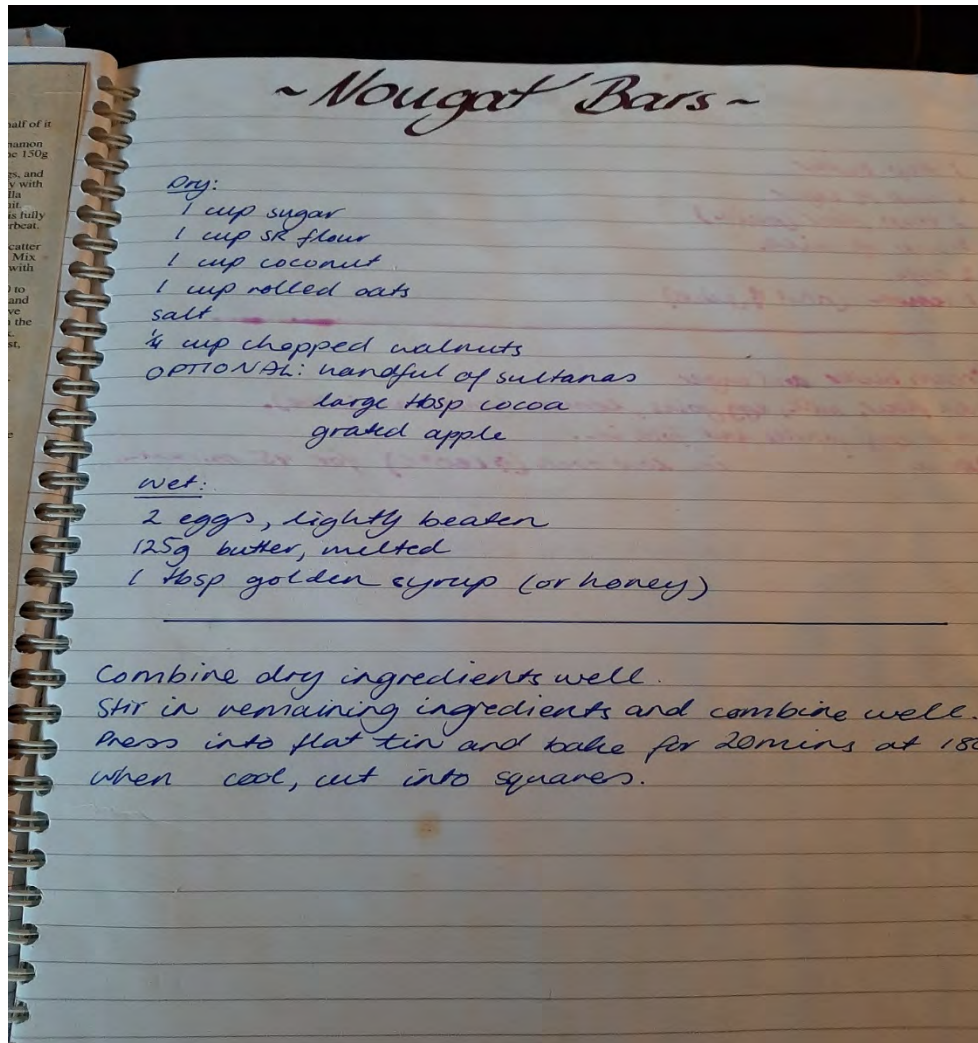
A site visit by your President and Treasurer was recently undertaken to the Berowra Tennis Centre (BTC) with our HSC Liaison Officer. As a result, HSC has committed to a number of repair measures including:

- replacement of the soft fall in the toddler play area;
- fencing repairs; and
- replacement of the bubblers.

Recipe for success!

If you've ever played in our Monday or Wednesday Ladies Competition, you'll know that their morning teas and Christmas lunches are legendary. With the festive season fast approaching, we thought we'd ask the ladies for a quick easy recipe that can be whipped up in a jiffy and tastes terrific. Our first recipe comes from Karen Walsh and apparently it was a repeat performer at playgroup.

Editor's note: try adding a handful of chopped white chocolate or substitute cranberries for the sultanas for a Christmas party



Answers to Seinfeld quiz: Newman, Bruline, Ethel Kennedy, Laura, Beautiful Lineswoman, ice cream sundae (PS: Jordan scored 4/6)