

Around the Courts

HKDTA Newsletter October 2021



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In case you missed our BIG announcement - HKDTA awarded \$1m dollar grant!

The news has been out for a few weeks now, but in case you haven't heard HKDTA has just been awarded our largest ever grant which will be used to upgrade tennis facilities at Berowra Tennis Centre and integrate renewable energy capabilities into its daily operations and infrastructure. The renewable energy capabilities will also provide power for an electric vehicle charging station available to the community – the northernmost location for a charging station in Sydney and only five minutes from the M1 freeway. They will also incorporate water capture and re-use and capture and storage of solar power for court lighting.

The tennis facilities' upgrade will include new accessible toilets, showers and changerooms and much needed LED court lighting and court resurfacing.

Eddy Watson, HKDTA President said, "This is a very innovative and exciting project for HKDTA, which will deliver a huge benefit to not only tennis players but to the wider Berowra community."

The following article appeared recently in The Bush Telegraph. Stay tuned for further updates on this major infrastructure project.

UPGRADE ON THE WAY FOR BEROWRA TENNIS CENTRE

The Berowra Tennis Courts will be transformed into a premier sporting facility with nearly one million dollars being invested in the centre.

The Tennis Centre is located in Boundary Street Berowra and has four synthetic courts.

Member for Hornsby **Matt Kean** has congratulated the **Hornsby Ku-ring-gai District Tennis Association (HKDTA)** who has been awarded the funding under the NSW Government's Greater Cities Sports Facility Fund along with the NSW ATP Cup Tennis Legacy Fund. HKDTA Treasurer **Jonathan Gray**, who drove the application process, said, "This project delivers on multiple levels for our community including modern tennis facilities that are fully accessible; innovative and incorporate many sustainable energy usage features. It is a wonderful example of the benefits of having Community-based Not-for-Profit organisations involved in delivering community services at the local level."

"This is wonderful news for HKDTA, everyone who likes to have a hit at the Berowra Tennis Centre and the broader Berowra community," Mr Kean said. "Not only will this be a premier sporting facility but they will be incorporating renewable energy additions including solar panels, batteries, a charging station and water capture. Making it a win for the community and a win for our environment," Mr Kean said.

Amenities and access will also be upgraded for those people living with a disability and female players.

UPGRADES TO BEROWRA TENNIS COURTS

Designs are being drawn up with HKDTA expecting work to begin towards the end of the year.

The upgrade will include the replacement of the toilets with a multifunctional disabled toilet/shower/changeroom and a unisex toilet/changeroom, along with an upgrade to the centre's lighting to LED meeting



Tennis Australia's Standards for State-level Competition-level play. The tiled roof will be replaced with colorbond and include water-capture guttering, linked to water retention tankage and plumbing into first flush utilisation for the refurbished toilets.

Along with the introduction of PV solar on the clubhouse rooftop with energy storage to provide power, **it will also provide an EV charging station!**

The total cost of the project will be \$948,880 with a total of \$908,880 received from the Greater Sydney Sports Facility Fund and \$11,788 from the NSW ATP Cup Tennis Legacy Fund towards the LED lighting upgrade component. HKDTA will provide up to \$40,000 to the project. The Greater Cities Sport Facility Fund provides grants from \$500,000 - \$1 million to councils, local sporting bodies, NSW State Sporting Organisations, State Sporting Organisations for People with Disability, National Sporting Organisations and private enterprises.

For the full list of recipients and further information on the Greater Cities Sport Facility Fund, visit: <https://www.sport.nsw.gov.au/clubs/grants>
Image above: Artist's impression of the new facilities at Berowra Tennis Centre.

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The power of tennis – one man’s story



Matthew as ‘The Terminator’

You may remember **Matthew Noone** from our recent video “The Terminator – Extreme COVID Protocols” <https://fb.watch/8iCBVvAjZ2/> but there’s a different side to Matthew. Read on to find out how tennis changed Matthew’s life for the better when things got tough.



8 year old Matthew

Like many Australian kids in the 1970s, on Saturday mornings my parents sent me to group tennis lessons and after school I would practice against the back wall of my house. Didn’t actually play any matches, remained terrible and gave it up. During my twenties I loved playing squash during its heyday of the 1980s, until the squash centres were demolished to build residential unit blocks. In my thirties I played badminton with friends at a local community centre. Pretty dull stuff so far, eh?

Then BANG! My first wife announced in 1998 that she had fallen in love with a co-worker from the hospital where they worked.

I was not able to save our 10 year marriage with two little kids and fell into a pit of depression for the first time in my life. Depression was a ghastly new experience for me and continued for months until one day a colleague at work invited me to join his friends to play tennis. Wow! It was so much fun! After a couple of hours on the court, for the first time in months I was freed from the black gloom of misery.

This was a clear turning point for me, as I reset my life in a new direction, embracing tennis as my preferred sport. Fast forward to 2009: I moved to Wahroonga with my third wife Fiona (yes, third!). With more time on weekends as my kids were getting older, I joined HKDTA with a plan to make new friends and focus more on tennis. In my first Monday night comp I lost every set for the entire season but improved a bit and had a little bit of fun. After coaching with Alan, Scott, Keith and Steve and playing social tennis every Saturday with the legendary HK Wong, I started to hit more balls back into play.

Tennis is now a huge and immensely enjoyable part of my life, having been on the HKDTA committee for several years, playing comp on Tuesday and Thursday nights and organising social tennis on Wednesday nights and Saturday afternoons. With a day job too, I’m not home much and Fiona seems to like it that way! Through tennis at HKDTA I have formed deep friendships which are very important to me.

Research has found that old men who play tennis live to an average of 90 years – I will test that out!



Lookin’ good at 90!

Say 'hello' to Riley



Riley on the job

Riley Makings has joined the staff at HKDTA to assist Tim, our Centre Manager, with maintenance - especially at our Berowra Tennis Centre. He is a great asset to our team, and we thought we'd get to know him a little better and share what we found out.

Riley, tell us a little bit about your background before HKDTA.

Before HKDTA, I was working in the hospitality industry as a hotel maintenance officer.

Due to COVID-19 not many people were travelling so working hours got heavily reduced. Saw the position for HKDTA and jumped at the opportunity.

Do you live locally and, if so, how long have you lived in the local area?

Yep, live locally. It's actually a 2 minute walk from Berowra Tennis Centre. Lived there for the last 2-3 years after I came back from overseas travel.

Give us the low down on your life outside HKDTA.

I've visited 10+ countries and lived in Canada for 3 years. I have skateboarded for the last 8+ years and have won multiple trophies. I once met Tom Felton (Draco Malfoy from Harry Potter) at a pub in Vancouver. I run a small leather supplies business.

And finally, what is it that you enjoy about your work at HKDTA?

I really enjoy the team here at HKDTA, everyone is super welcoming, and it makes it a fun atmosphere to work in and be a part of.

Stairway to heaven



By now you've probably noticed we have new steps up to courts 4 and 8 at Mills Park. And don't our members look excited! This new infrastructure was the brainchild of members with the aim of making the hazardous ascent to court 8 via the grassy hill safer and make court 4 accessible from the lower path.

The steps were largely funded by a \$11,000 grant from the NSW Community Building Partnership Program, allocated by local MP Matt Kean.

Proposed roadmap back to play

In line with proposed changes to the current public health orders, once NSW reaches the 70% fully vaccinated threshold, social tennis will restart for fully vaccinated people with a limit of 20 players per session.

When the 80% fully vaccinated threshold is reached competition tennis will be available for fully vaccinated people. We will establish comps to run for 5-6 weeks to all players who are fully vaccinated to ease you back into the groove of comp tennis.

By December 1st, we aim to be back to business as usual, with regular competitions restarting, irrespective of vaccination status.

