

2024

Annual Report

GEELONG LAWN TENIS CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
12-20 SOMMERS STREET, GEELONG
7PM

Contents

NOTICE OF MEETING	1
OFFICE BEARERS	2
SUB-COMMITTEES	2
PRESIDENT'S REPORT	3
SECRETARY'S REPORT	4
TREASURER'S REPORT	5
MANAGER'S REPORT	6
SENIOR TENNIS REPORT	7
JUNIOR TENNIS REPORT	8
MID-WEEK LADIES TENNIS REPORT	8
SQUASH REPORT	9

NOTICE OF MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Geelong Lawn Tennis Club Inc will be held at the Clubhouse on Wednesday, 11th December 2024 at 7:00pm.

Ordinary Business

1. To confirm the Minutes of the preceding Annual General Meeting.
2. To receive from the General Committee the report of the Committee, and the Financial Statements as at 30 September 2024, together with the report of the auditors.
3. To appoint an Auditor in accordance with Rule 30.
4. To elect Members of the General Committee. Nominations received for election to the General Committee include:

Jason McGregor (retiring but seeking re-election),
Peter Kos (retiring but seeking re-election),
Andrew Alexander (retiring but seeking re-election).

As the number of nominations received is equal to the number of vacancies, the persons nominated are deemed to be elected.

Special Business

There is no special business.

Other Business

Graham Kinross-Smith Award for best club-person.

GEE LONG LAWN TENNIS CLUB INC
ABN: 62 847 443 461

OFFICE BEARERS

President

Mr Jason McGregor

Vice President

Mr Andrew Alexander

Secretary

Ms Sarah Van Newkirk

Treasurer

Mr Peter Bloink

Committee

Mr Brett Robinson

Mr Peter Kos

Manager

Mr John McConaghy

SUB-COMMITTEES

Senior Tennis

Mr Brett Robinson

Junior Tennis

Ms Jill Pavia

Mid-week Ladies Tennis

Ms Jacqui McGrath

Squash

Ms Kaye Witham

GEELONG LAWN TENNIS CLUB INC
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr Jason McGregor

I can report to members that the Committee has been engaged and has worked collaboratively with each other, and have worked hard to improve the working relationship with the Manager.

The highest priority was to complete due diligence on the redevelopment proposal started under the previous Committee. To re-cap, the proposal involved selling land for a residential redevelopment and using the proceeds to invest in a joint venture (JV) to be formed with the developer. The JV would involve refresh of the courts and construction of a Multi-purpose Facility which would include a member's area.

We completed our due diligence, identified several major risks including a material windfall gains tax liability that were unable to negotiate away. The club's initial equity position in the JV would have been much lower than originally anticipated and subsequently the cashflows would have been much lower.

A Special Meeting was called to seek permission from members to continue negotiations based on setting a floor price for selling land to the other party. Approval wasn't obtained and therefore we will not be spending the club's money on this proposal.

The Club continues to face some serious long-term issues that threaten its viability. Chief of these is that it has insufficient funds to re-invest in courts and facilities, and the membership base isn't large enough to organically generate the necessary funds. The facilities obviously need investment.

Tennis and squash are mature sports, and it must be a top priority to attract and retain new members. Membership numbers have been relatively stable, and sponsorships and family memberships have declined which is concerning. The demographic profile of the membership – heavily weighted to older members, means that if no action is taken the decline in membership will accelerate in the next few years.

The Club has reported a loss of approx. \$50,000 for the financial year. The Club will continue to incur losses as maintenance costs increase. This will make it very difficult to build up the reserves to significantly invest in courts and facilities.

The Club's ability to make profits is constrained by the Management Agreement (MA). The MA transfers the membership fees and the net profits from operating the facility in return for paying the Club a fixed 'lease rental'. The agreement doesn't provide a financial incentive for the Club to promote membership and incentivises the Manager to prioritise maximising net profits and minimising expenditure. It is in the interests of the Club that the MA is re-negotiated.

We had several tennis teams that played in Melbourne pennant including State Grade, Veterans Grade 1, Men's Grade 2 and Women's Grade 5. It was great for the club to have top-quality tennis played most weekends during the winter season. In 2025 we hope to build on this and have some more women's teams. A big thank-you to Brett Robinson as senior tennis co-ordinator.

Participation in the Tuesday night in-house tennis competition continued to grow. There were eight teams in both winter and spring seasons and several new players. I strongly encourage members to participate. The new LED lights that were installed last year have resulted in a significant improvement to the night-time playing experience. Thank-you to Charlie Reid for doing such an excellent job in organising.

GEELONG LAWN TENNIS CLUB INC
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The club had another strong year in junior tennis. We received the Tennis Geelong Club of the Year trophy which is awarded to the club with the best winning record in TG competitions. Congratulations to all the teams and players that contributed to this award and special thanks to our junior tennis co-ordinator, Jill Pavia who dedicated her time to ensure junior tennis runs smoothly. Thanks also to the parent team managers as well as to Alan Doherty and Karen Best for assisting with the running of the monthly Junior Development Series tournaments. Thank-you to Jacqui McGrath who continues to run Midweek Ladies tennis.

I would also like to recognise and thank Kaye Witham for co-ordinating squash. Kaye has done a fantastic job for many years. Squash pennant will be finishing in December and the new squash pennant season will start February 25th. Please see Kaye if you wish to play.

The member's survey was an initiative that we wanted to do after we met with Point Lonsdale Golf Club General Manager earlier this year. It is vital that we seek the input of members into how the Club is being run. We will run the survey until the end of November. Reach out to committee@geelonglawntc.com.au if you haven't received a link to the survey. The results will be shared with members in early December.

I would like to thank our sponsors for their continued support. I would also like to thank John and his team for their work in running the club. I particularly like to acknowledge the hard work by John and Rod in restoring the porous courts after the recent wind and flood events.

Lastly, I would like to thank my fellow committee members for their efforts during the year. My vision is for the Club to be the premier tennis and squash club in the region with the best tennis and squash programs, and the best facilities.

I look forward to next year.

SECRETARY'S REPORT
Ms Sarah VanNewkirk

Membership Report

As at 31/10/2024

	2024	2023	2022
Gold	110	88	108
Tennis – adult	145	129	122
Tennis – junior	165	163	120
Gym	37	65	58
Squash	105	104	98
Family	3	16	20
Life	10	9	9
Social	1	0	4
Sponsors	20	24	38
TOTAL	596	598	577

Note. Junior memberships for squash, gym and gold have been included in the relevant general category ie squash, gym or gold.

GEELONG LAWN TENNIS CLUB INC
ABN: 62 847 443 461

Committee Meetings

The prior committee held one committee meeting between 30 September 2023 and the AGM on 20 December 2023. The full committee of Bob Spurling, Andrew Alexander, Jason McGregor, Greg Rees, Kaye Witham, and Mark Carey attended.

There were nine committee meetings between 20 December 2023 and 13 November 2024. Attendance is noted below:

Jason McGregor (President)	9	Second Year of Term
Andrew Alexander (Vice President)	8	Second Year of Term
Peter Bloink (Treasurer)	9	First Year of Term
Sarah VanNewkirk (Secretary)	8	First Year of Term
Brett Robinson (Member)	7	First Year of Term
Peter Kos (Member)	6	Filled Vacant Position
John McConachy (Manager)	3	
Paul Fowler (Member)	1	Resigned
Mark Carey (Member)	1	Resigned

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr Peter Bloink

For the financial year-ended September 2024 the club has reported a net loss of \$53,114 (\$79,987 profit in the prior financial year).

The club holds cash at bank of \$97,468 (\$64,606 at September 2023) which increased from the prior year despite the substantial net loss because the largest expense, depreciation \$78,088, is a non-cash transaction representing the notional deterioration in the value Club's capital assets during the financial year.

The auditor has not raised any issues that indicate an intention to issue a qualified audit report.

Other items to note in the financial statements.

Non-recurring incomes that were received in the previous financial year but were not repeated in the 2024 financial year included the porous courts' lighting grant of \$150,545, an insurance claim for \$6,389 and social income of \$5,445 for the 140th anniversary dinner.

Consulting costs and legal costs of \$17,938 were spent on due diligence works on the Morphy Birrell development plan. The prospect of seeing similar transactions continue to steadily drain the Club's cash as we worked through matters of disagreement in that plan was the primary reason for calling

GEELONG LAWN TENNIS CLUB INC
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the Special General Meeting on October 2nd to gauge the membership's opinion on the cost/benefit of continuing to negotiate on the plan.

Depreciation increased slightly from 2023 due to the new lights incurring a full year of asset depreciation write-off.

Repairs and maintenance expenditure was higher than recent years due to a significant number of failures in aging capital assets including subterranean plumbing on grass courts, porous court upgrading for Melbourne Pennant and plumbing and gas fitting issues within the building facility.

While technically Membership and Sponsorship receipts are the revenue of the Club, these amounts do not appear in the financial statements as gross revenue because they are either forwarded to Nautilus Tennis Squash and Fitness in accordance with the terms under which it is remunerated for its management services to the Club under the terms of the management agreement, or are direct credited straight to Nautilus' bank account without passing through the Club's bank account.

I would like to thank the other committee members for their work during the financial year and for helping me settle into the job of Treasurer and I also thank the time and efforts of former Treasurer David Isaac with whom Jason McGregor, and I formed an unofficial finance sub-committee focusing on the Morphy Birrell project. I understand there are no new members nominating for positions on the committee and that those committee members required to re-nominate have elected to do so, so I look forward to working with them in the new financial year.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr John McConaghy

This report covers the financial year which concluded on the 30th of June 2024.

It was a terrific year in terms of a return to top level tennis as well as a significant pick up in the number of teams representing the club. When the YMCA managed the club, they determined that the GLTC would be a "social tennis" hub. As a result, pennant representation dropped to its lowest level, and it has taken a great deal of time to recover. With only 2 Melbourne pennant teams last year, we had 6 this year, including a State Grade men's team, the highest level of play, not seen at the club for over 50 years. It provides an excellent pathway for our younger players. Many thanks to Brett Robinson who did a wonderful job in managing our pennant players and teams.

As a result, we have a nice boost in membership numbers, to finish the year at 590, well up on last year's EOFY number.

The GLTC was again voted the Tennis Geelong club of the year, for the second year running. That stems from both our record number of junior teams, surpassing last year's record, as well as our superior winning record. Many thanks to our inspirational coaching team led by Floreant Lachaut.

Things ticked over as far as the actual facility is concerned. A heavy renovation of the grass courts was undertaken, which included a two directional scarifying program to reduce the thatch build-up. They are nicely prepped for the next few years.

While being shadowed by the grand strategic plan, no major initiatives were undertaken, lest the plan become a reality, in which case everything would have changed. The October 2nd SGM rejected

GEELONG LAWN TENNIS CLUB INC
ABN: 62 847 443 461

the plan, clearing the way for new initiatives to be undertaken. Foremost among them will be Pickleball. Court 28 will be re-painted and lined with Pickleballs courts, 4 in total. More details will follow, but the contractor will commence work in January, with play possible soon after. There is a massive interest in Pickleball at the moment.

Once again, my deepest appreciation goes to the whole team of staff and volunteers at the GLTC that make it all possible. In no particular order lead by Flo, Christine, Charlie, my wife Kim “inside” the clubhouse, all of the coaches, Tim Batty and our Physio partners at Grand Slam. I have saved the very best until last; Rod Leigh, capably assisted by Ray Sellars, Jill Pavia who is utterly irreplicable for both the GLTC and Tennis Geelong, Alan Doherty is always in the background. Mark Jennings is another wonderful contributor in respect of the grass court maintenance. Brett Robinson as already noted does a stellar job managing the pennant teams.

Finally, to my family. Kim is the best wife, best mother, best friend, best business partner I could ever wish for. My kids, who all help out now, Kirrily, (although in Canberra now at ADFA) Corinne and Stefan you guys are the best. I sincerely hope I have not missed anybody, and if I have, I am very sorry because I could very easily go on. So many people make wonderful contributions here.

Roll on 2025.

SENIOR TENNIS REPORT

Mr Brett Robinson

2024 has been a great year at the Club for tennis. We are slowly building up our pennant teams from 2 teams last summer to 5 teams this year. Our Melbourne Pennant has also been increasing with 6 teams this year compared to 2 last year.

A big thank you to John McConachy and his team for helping with Pennant and Jackie Falls for looking after social tennis.

The highlight of the year was getting our State Grade team in Melbourne Pennant for over 50 years. It was great to have a team of local players representing our club.

Anyone who went up to Royal South Yarra can attest that the Grand Final against Kooyong was hard fought, and we were very unlucky to lose. The 4 rubbers that we lost all went to Super Tie Breakers and the tennis that we watched was outstanding. I would like to thank Jacob Grills, Matthew Hicks, Jackson Varney, Adam Lasky, Taj Cayzer and Jarrod Joyce for representing our club in a way that made the Club proud.

Jacob Grills was also picked in the State Grade Team of the year which is an amazing result and probably should have won Pennant Player of the Year.

I am in the process of trying to convince these boys to play again next season but I'm not sure at this stage which way it will go.

So, Melbourne Pennant has finished for another year, and it was a huge success. Four of our six teams made finals.

Our ladies' team in Section 5 on Sundays made the semi-finals which was an amazing achievement and Section 2 and the Veterans Men's Team also made finals.

GEELONG LAWN TENNIS CLUB INC
ABN: 62 847 443 461

Summer Pennant is going well, and everyone seems to be having a good season. Our Club has been very pro-active in having the very first wheelchair athlete to play local senior pennant in Tennis Geelong Seniors. I hope Eddy has a great season and thank you for playing with us.

Social Tennis has been ticking along nicely and like everyone else can't wait for the Grass to open. Looking forward to another successful year in 2025.

JUNIOR TENNIS REPORT

Ms Jill Pavia

Junior tennis has been progressing well over the last 12 months, both in terms of Saturday morning Tennis Geelong (TG) junior pennant and Sunday monthly Junior Development Series tournaments.

March this year saw the completion of the TG Summer 2023/2024 junior pennant season in which Geelong Lawn TC had 24 teams competing, with 127 junior members making up two Premier teams, 12 boys/mixed teams, five girls' teams, three green ball teams, and two orange ball teams. All the teams did exceptionally well during the season with 14 teams making the finals. Eight teams made the grand finals, and three teams took out premierships.

The TG Winter 2024 junior season started at the end of April and Geelong Lawn TC had 23 teams competing in the competition, a huge number of teams for winter. In all, 117 junior members competed in two Premier teams, 11 boys/mixed teams, five girls' teams, three green ball teams, and two orange ball teams. Once again, all the teams had great seasons with 12 teams reaching the finals in August. Seven teams made it all the way to the grand final and three teams won their grand-final.

The TG Summer 2024/2025 junior season is now well underway starting in October. Once again, we have over 110 junior members making up 23 teams in the competition.

This year we have continued to provide monthly Junior Development Series events for local juniors as well as players as far away as Warrnambool, Macedon, and Melbourne. These round robin tournaments, played on both hardcourts and porous, are a good way for players (and parents) new to tournaments to learn about tournament play and to see what is required of players who want to become regular tournament players.

In closing, many thanks should go to Flo Lachaut for all his hard work and help this year with selecting junior teams and finding last-minute fill-ins, and to Alan Doherty and Karen Best for their help with the monthly tournaments. Thanks also to the GLTC staff, Christine, Charlie, and especially John for their assistance on Saturday mornings.

MID-WEEK LADIES TENNIS REPORT

Ms Jacqui McGrath

The Midweek Pennant Summer Season 2024 which ran from Jan 30th till May 28th, consisted of 54 teams from across the Surfcoast and Geelong. GLTC had one team in section 1 with the following players taking turn to represent our club: Georgina Parker (c), Karen Best, Ida Durran, Jacqui McGrath, Lynda Nixon, Sarah van Newkirk and Jill Pavia.

GEELONG LAWN TENNIS CLUB INC
ABN: 62 847 443 461

A new By-Law was introduced where a team with more than the required four qualified players, was permitted to play an additional one or two women. This suited our team well as we often enjoyed playing two sets each.

On 21 May, we played the semi-final at home but unfortunately Surfcoast Torquay was too strong on the day. The Grand Final was between two Surfcoast teams, with Bellbrae the eventual winner.

In the unfinished Winter Season 2024, GLTC's section 1 team (see above) played in the pennant that had 49 teams in 8 sections.

Several clubs in the competition had courts closed for maintenance but the affected teams managed to have their matches played at alternative venues to avoid forfeits.

At the time of writing, the Prelim Final and Grand Final are still to be played with only Surfcoast Bellbrae guaranteed a spot in the Final.

I would like to thank my team members for an enjoyable season and the Midweek Committee members for their efforts and dedication to keep this Midweek Pennant running.

SQUASH REPORT

Ms Kaye Witham

Squash membership is continuing to build at GLTC.

This year Squash players participated in 2 in house pennants with Summer/Autumn pennant running from February until July and Winter/Spring pennant from July until December.

Pennant consisted of Division 1, with 6 teams playing on a Tuesday night starting at 7pm and Division 2, with 9 teams playing on a Monday night starting at 6.30 pm. Pennant players socialise and enjoy supper after their matches. It was fantastic to have many new players this year enjoying the competitions.

There is a break over the Christmas /New Year period with the pennant recommencing in early February 2025. Teams for pennants in 2025 will be organised in late January so if players are interested, please contact the club before this time. Grading nights will be held prior to teams being finalised.

Social squash is held on a Thursday night commencing at 6pm and all members are welcome to come along for a game. We hope to increase squash player numbers at GLTC even further in the future so new players are most welcome.

Interested players please contact GLTC for information.