

THE AUSTRALIAN DAVIS CUP TENNIS FOUNDATION

Minutes of the 44th Annual General Meeting of Members held at the Royal South Yarra Lawn Tennis Club on Monday 30th November, 2015, at 8.00pm

PRESENT: Messrs NA Fraser (Chairman); TJ Dohnt (Vice President); CH Mason (Vice President); AJ Cobb (Hon Secretary); RM Jamieson (Hon Treasurer); Directors - JW Sweeney; RT Hinton; Ms LJ Breadmore; and an additional 45 Members and Guests signed the attendance register.

APOLOGIES: The Hon Secretary indicated that:

Mrs SM Newland (Director); Mr GK Cumbrae-Stewart (Director) and Mr JB Fitzgerald (Director) had each formally apologised for their inability to attend the Meeting.

A further 18 members advised the Administration of their inability to attend the meeting and the Hon Secretary informed the meeting of apologies from another 8 members have been recorded on the lists provided at the entrance to the meeting room. No further apology was tendered from the floor.

The Chairman advised that Mr Brian Tobin, former President of Tennis Australia and a strong supporter of the Foundation was an apology due to ill health.

NOTICE OF MEETING: At the request of the Chairman, The Hon. Secretary read the Notice convening the 44th Annual General Meeting of Members of The Australian Davis Cup Tennis Foundation.

QUORUM & REGISTERS: On the advice of the Hon. Secretary, the Chairman declared a Quorum to be present and indicated to members that the Register of Members and the Register of Directors were now tabled and would remain open for inspection for a short period immediately following the closure of the Meeting.

OPENING & WELCOME: The Chairman declared the Meeting to be open and extended a warm welcome to all present and particularly to those who had journeyed from country regions or from interstate and to others who, for the first time, were attending an Annual General Meeting of the Foundation.

The Chairman welcomed Ms Hazel Masters representing the Auditor Mr R Andrew Lane who is an apology.

OBITUARIES: The Chairman invited members to observe a brief period of silence in remembrance of all members who had passed away during the year under review.

PROXIES: The Hon Secretary informed the Meeting that no member had expressed an intention to appoint a proxy and none had been received.

MINUTES: The minutes of the previous meeting have been distributed to all Members with the Notice and Agenda for this Meeting. The Hon. Secretary Mr AJ Cobb seconded by Mr IM Johnson proposed that the Minutes of the 43rd Annual General Meeting of Members be and be hereby **RECEIVED, TAKEN AS READ** and this was **RESOLVED** in the affirmative.

RECEIPT OF ANNUAL REPORT: **RESOLVED** that the Annual Report of the Foundation including the Formal Notice of Meeting, the Financial Statements and the Auditors Report for the year ended 30th June, 2015, is **RECEIVED** on the motion of the Hon. Secretary Mr AJ Cobb seconded by Mr. J Bryan. **CARRIED**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

The President Mr. Neale Fraser presented his report.

It is with pleasure I welcome members to the forty-fourth Annual General meeting of The Australian Davis Cup Tennis Foundation and in doing so I present to you for consideration and adoption the Annual Report of the Foundation incorporating the audited financial statements as at 30 June 2015.

Nick Kyrgios, Thanasi Kokkinakis and Sam Groth continued their introduction into Davis Cup competition; joining Lleyton Hewitt, Bernard Tomic and Chris Guccione and these young players hopefully form the basis of our next generation of Davis Cup players

In September we played Uzbekistan in Cottesloe, Perth, in a World Group Play-Off and were victorious 5/0. In March our Davis Cup team travelled to the Czech Republic for a World Group 1st Round matches and won the tie 3/2. This win resulted in Australia gaining a place in a World Group Quarter Final home tie against Kazakhstan played in Darwin in July 2015.

For both Perth and the Czech Republic a number of members took advantage of travel, accommodation and ticketing arranged through the Foundation in conjunction with Bentleigh Travel Centre. It is pleasing to see the support of the ties by a dedicated group, in their gold t-shirts who enjoy the security of this type of group travel.

I take this opportunity to congratulate Switzerland led by Roger Federer who defeated France 3/1 to become Davis Cup champions in 2014. Roger kindly donated some of his tennis clothing and a racquet for our Davis Cup Luncheon Silent Auction. We thank Roger for his generosity.

On Friday 30 January, 2015 the Foundation conducted the annual Members' AO Luncheon in the Members Dining Room at the Melbourne Cricket Ground and we continued to focus on a theme of celebration of significant Davis Cup victories. A gathering of **327** members and guests celebrated the 56th anniversary of the 1959 Davis Cup victory, played at the West Side Tennis Club, New York when Australia defeated the United States 3/2. We thank the Herald Sun for compiling the informative booklet on the event which has become a collector's item.

Fred Stolle, 1965 French open singles and 1966 US open singles champion and now a noted Media personality was the MC and the special guests were the surviving team members in that tie. Fred was supported on the microphone by Leon Weigard.

Roy Emerson, Rod Laver and I joined Fred Stolle on stage and entertained the guests with commentary on the tie, especially the interesting journey through 6 Davis Cup ties in 3 countries over 7 weeks to win the Davis Cup back for Australia.

Also in attendance at the luncheon was the legendary Frank Sedgman, Ken Rosewall, Ashley Cooper, Tony Roche, Rex Hartwig, recently appointed Davis Cup Captain Wally Masur and Grand Slam champion Lleyton Hewitt along with a significant number of former Davis Cup players including Pat Cash, Dick Crealy, Allan Stone, Ray Ruffels, John Alexander, Mark Woodforde, Geoff Masters, and Jason Stoltenberg.

A guided tour of Melbourne Park was conducted for members and guest during November, when we were able to view the recently renovated Margaret Court Arena, the Davis Cup Room and the player's facilities.

In May in accordance with the Constitution Cedric Mason was elected Vice President to replace Graeme Williams who retired from the Board. Our Director and former Honorary Secretary Graeme Cumbrae-Stewart was recognised by Tennis Victoria for his significant contribution to tennis as a former Vice President of Tennis Victoria and was duly elected a Life Member. Alan Cobb continued as

Company Secretary and Robert Jamieson as Honorary Treasurer and it is expected the staff and all fellow Directors will benefit from their knowledge and experience. I thank them both for the efficient discharge of their roles and responsibilities.

During the course of the year we continued discussions and negotiations with Tennis Australia on a new three year agreement. I thank Vice President Trevor Dohnt for his involvement in these negotiations and acknowledge our strong relationship with Tennis Australia

Access to priority tennis ticketing for the Australian Open, the Davis Cup and the Australian Open Series events in Brisbane and Sydney continues to be important benefits to our members. We thank Rod May for his continuing interest in the event ticketing affairs of the Foundation.

We are indeed fortunate to have a dedicated administration supporting our objectives and they continued their good work with Judy Pullyblank, supported by Robert Parker contributing to the efficient service given to members. The Board also is appreciative of the support Judy receives from her husband Alan. Robert is supported in his role by the Treasurer Robert Jamieson and together this team has brought expertise to the Foundation in financial, marketing and events and IT, and jointly has improved communications to our members through our web site, eNews and regular Newsletter, resulting in considerable cost benefits.

Other person deserving special mention is Ian Jane from Bentleigh Travel Centre for his support in facilitating local and international travel tours for those members who wish to follow the fortunes of our Davis Cup team

Finally, I acknowledge the continuing support of all the Directors and I thank them for their on-going contribution and look forward to the continuing support of the various endeavours we undertake and the implementation of future plans complimentary to the objectives of the Foundation, as we move forward into what can perhaps be seen as a period of consolidation and a little change.

The Chairman then invited the Hon. Secretary to formally propose the adoption.

**ADOPTION OF
DIRECTORS' REPORT
AND FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS:**

Before doing so Mr Cobb, on behalf of all members, thanked the President for his continuing leadership and untiring effort and In particular was his dedicated commitment to the role including the on-going negotiations with Tennis Australia to maintain the rights and privileges of members, the support given to Davis Cup players over the years and the maintenance of the Foundation status in the tennis community. Mr. Cobb's remarks were endorsed with acclamation.

The Hon. Secretary then formally proposed the adoption of the Annual Report incorporating the Financial Statements for the year ended 30th June 2015 and called upon the Hon. Treasurer to support the motion.

Drawing attention to the Financial Statements incorporated within the Annual Report Mr. Jamieson reflected upon the financial position of the Foundation as set out in the Financial Statements in the Annual Report, with a net profit of \$5,160. He indicated that despite our efforts membership dwindled, down to 1716 members from 1816 in 2014 and subscription income was again down on the previous year. Mr. Jamieson highlighted details of investments of \$400,000 in Term Deposits and Floating Notes, the success of the AO Luncheon which delivered a \$16,000 surplus, the on-going Affiliation with Tennis Victoria which provided Insurance cover, the value of the web site and the associated cost benefits and savings. Concluding his remarks, the Hon Treasurer expressed his gratitude to the Company's Auditor, Mr Andrew Lane for his professional advice and guidance in the preparation of the Company's financial reports. He also expressed his appreciation to Mrs Judy Pullyblank, whose many tasks in the Secretariat include the function of Book-keeper; a task that she continues to perform with skilful attention to detail.

Mr Jamieson then formally supported the motion of the Hon. Secretary.

RESOLVED on the motion of the Hon. Secretary AJ Cobb seconded by the Hon. Treasurer Mr RM Jamieson that the 44th Annual Report of the Foundation including the Directors' Statutory Report; the Statement of Financial Position; the Statement of Financial Performance; the Statement of Cash Flows and the Auditor's Report thereon, each of which related to the year ended 30th June 2015, be and be hereby **ADOPTED**.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS:

The Chairman advised that with effect from the close of the meeting four (4) Directors retired by rotation in accordance with the Constitution. Each of these persons – Messrs. John Fitzgerald, Trevor Dohnt, Jonathan Sweeney and Mrs. Susan Newland are eligible for re-election as a Director for the coming year.

The Hon. Secretary announced that the number of nominations did not exceed vacancies and no ballot was required, consequently Messrs. John Fitzgerald, Trevor Dohnt, Jonathan Sweeney and Mrs. Susan Newland were duly elected as Directors for the ensuing year.

With effect from the close of the meeting the Directors of the Foundation are Messrs. Neale Fraser, Trevor Dohnt, Alan Cobb, Robert Jamieson, Graeme Cumbrae-Stewart, John Fitzgerald, Robert Hinton, Cedric Mason, Jonathan Sweeney and Mesdames Sue Newland and Lauren Breadmore. In accordance with the Constitution the Directors will convene a meeting to elect the Office Bearers for the coming year.

COMPANY AUDITOR:

It was noted that Mr R Andrew Lane, a partner of the firm Danby Bland Provan has indicated his willingness to continue in his role as the Company Auditor and that his remuneration shall be set by the Board.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

The Chairman reported the contractual arrangements with Tennis Australia are not completed and are currently operating under an interim arrangement. Consequently Mr IM Johnson queried the status of the Australian Open Booth and was advised by the Chairman that Tennis Australia had placed a value on our benefit of \$50,000 which made it impractical to continue. Mr TJ Dohnt advised that no contract had been signed and resolved to discuss with Tennis Australia, with whom we maintain a good relationship

The Chairman expressed the appreciation of members to our special guest Mr Ray Ruffels, former Davis Cup player, President of Spirit of Tennis Awards, and recognised for his leadership, passion and major contribution to tennis over 50 years, who will address the members at the conclusion of the formal meeting.

The Chairman advised that no advice had been received of any other business.

CLOSE:

The Chairman thanked all the members present for their attendance and formally declared the 44th Annual General meeting of members of The Australian Davis Cup Tennis Foundation to be closed at 9.00pm.

SIGNED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD

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Chairman
30/11/2015

