

THE AUSTRALIAN DAVIS CUP TENNIS FOUNDATION

Minutes of the 49th Annual General Meeting of Members
held via video conferencing on the Zoom platform from
Royal South Yarra Lawn Tennis Club
on Monday, 16th November, 2020, at 7.00pm (AEDT).

- PRESENT ON SITE AND ON-LINE.:** Messrs TA Woodbridge (Chairman), TJ Dohnt (Vice President), CH Mason (Vice President); AJ Cobb (Hon Secretary); RM Jamieson (Hon Treasurer) and RW Parker (Minute Secretary).
- A total of 37 members registered their presence on-line.
- APOLOGIES:** The Hon Secretary indicated the apologies received from ten (10) members who advised the Administration of their inability to attend the meeting and the Hon Secretary informed the meeting no further apologies were recorded.
- NOTICE OF MEETING:** At the request of the Chairman, the Hon Secretary read the Notice convening the 49th 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 on-line 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 members present online and particularly to those from country regions or from interstate who previously did not have the opportunity to attend and to others who, for the first time were participating in an Annual General Meeting of the Foundation.
- OBITUARIES:** The Chairman invited members to observe a brief period of silence in remembrance of members who had passed during the year under review In particular he acknowledged the passing of former Davis Cup players Peter McNamara and Ashley Cooper.
- 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 AJ Cobb seconded by the Hon Treasurer RM Jamieson proposed that the Minutes of the 48th Annual General Meeting of Members be and be hereby **RECEIVED and 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, 2020, be **RECEIVED** on the motion of the Hon Secretary AJ Cobb seconded by the Hon Treasurer RM Jamieson. **CARRIED**
- PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** The President Mr. Todd Woodbridge stated...
It is with great pleasure that I welcome members to the forty-ninth Annual General meeting of The Australian Davis Cup Tennis Foundation and in doing so present to you for consideration and adoption the Annual Report of the Foundation incorporating the audited financial statements as at 30 June 2020.
- It is fair to say there was mixed success in Davis Cup tennis. In November 2019 we qualified for the Davis Cup World Group Finals, under the new format, an 18 team round robin event played in La Caja Magica, Madrid Spain. Australia was placed with Belgium and Columbia in Group D Quarter Finals with the hope of progressing into the finals.
- Australia progressed to the Quarter Finals winning the group with victories in 5 of the 6 rubbers played. In the Quarter Finals we were beaten by Canada 2-1, the eventual runners-up to Spain. The team players were John Millman, Alex de Minaur and Nick Kyrgios in singles and John Peers and Jordan Thompson in the doubles.

We returned to the Qualifiers First Round tie in Adelaide in March 2020 with the objective to secure a place in the World Group finals. We played Brazil at Memorial Drive and won 3-1, retaining our place in the World Group. John Millman produced a gritty come from behind win on consecutive days to consolidate the victory. The Davis Cup finals series for November 2020 was postponed to November 2021 due to the world-wide Covid-19 pandemic.

During the past year a number of members took advantage of travel, accommodation, merchandising and ticketing arranged through the Foundation in conjunction with Bentleigh Travel Centre. We continue to have the support of a loyal group of members who enjoy the security of our group travel arrangements and they contribute to the on-court atmosphere. This included travel arrangements and ticketing to both the Laver Cup and the ATP Cup.

On Friday 31st January 2020 during the Australian Open tennis the Foundation conducted the annual Members AO Luncheon in the Members Dining Room at the Melbourne Cricket Club in East Melbourne where we continued the theme of celebrating significant Davis Cup achievements. This occasion was filmed by Tennis Australia. Around 380 members and guests celebrated the vast contribution to Davis Cup tennis: **“Fifty years six Captains” with Neale Fraser, John Newcombe, John Fitzgerald, Pat Rafter and Lleyton Hewitt** our special guests. Board member Rob Hinton was the Master of Ceremonies, and I conducted the interviews of the six Captains. A significant number of other former Davis Cup players including Frank Sedgman, Rod Laver, Tony Roche, Ken Rosewall, Pat Cash, Jason Stoltenberg. Geoff Masters and Richard Fromberg attended, Of special interest to all guests was the hand-out of a commemorative booklet of newspaper cuttings, reports and reflection on the six Captains, compiled and printed by the Herald Sun staff.

We were grateful for the continued support of Tennis Australia who again arranged the attendance at the Luncheon of past players and some notable International tennis dignitaries.

The luncheon was considered a huge success and again contributed over \$15,000 to our fund-raising efforts for the year. Instrumental in the financial result was the support of donors including the generosity of Ian and Dale Johnson, Treasury Wines Estates and Gray Nicholls Sport.

A framed collage depicting and autographed by the Captain's compiled by Anna White drew significant interest amongst the auction items.

In the period under review the mid-year raffle was arranged by Anna White and Robert Parker with the generous support of Ian Jane of Bentleigh Travel Centre, who donated the 1st prize travel and accommodation package to Perth. It is hoped that this raffle will continue to develop into a significant annual fund-raising event culminating in the draw at a Wimbledon function each July for members and guests. This year a High Tea was arranged on Sunday 14th July 2019 at Kooyong Tennis Club with the legendary Frank Sedgman our special guest.

The Board continued to support the membership within the scope of the **‘Memorandum of Understanding’** with Tennis_Australia. Complimentary Ground passes and priority pre-sale ticketing to the Australian Open for members was particularly popular and reflected the spirit of conduct and co-operation which exists between the Foundation and Tennis Australia. Access to priority tennis ticketing for the Australian Open, the Davis Cup and the ATP Cup events in Perth, Brisbane and Sydney have been some of the important benefits provided to our members over the past year.

We continue to have a small, dedicated administration supporting our objectives and the Board is grateful of their management of the affairs of the Foundation with Judy Pullyblank, the Administrator for the past 17 years reliably supported by Robert Parker, both contributing to the efficient service given to members. An experienced tennis administrator and event manager Robert is supported in his consultancy role by the Honorary Treasurer Robert Jamieson and together our team continues to bring expertise to the Foundation in financial, marketing, corporate compliance, events and

IT, bringing about improved communications to our members, primarily through our web site, managed by Mary Klestadt, the regular eNews and Newsletters on-line, resulting in considerable cost benefits.

The Foundation recorded a loss of **\$17,636** for the financial year, after a distribution of \$60,000 to Tennis Australia. Throughout the year we continued to support our Principal Activity and Objectives as set down in this Annual Report. The Board mission statement continues to be relevant, reflecting our stated objectives - **“To celebrate the past, support the present and promote the future of Australian Davis Cup tennis”**.

I seek the continued support of all Foundation members as we face a difficult time, embrace the changing world and accepting the inevitable changes necessary to tennis schedules and travel due to Covid-19. As result we propose to undertake further discussions on the implementation of a business plan complimentary to the objectives of the Foundation and introduce some further initiatives necessary to improve the role of the Foundation, whilst retaining relativity, improved spectator experience and additional member benefits.

Finally, I acknowledge the continuing support of all the Directors, and I thank them for their on-going contribution to the Board of Directors and look forward to their on-going involvement in the various endeavors we undertake during the coming year.

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

Before moving to the adoption of the Director's Report and Financial Statements the Hon Secretary AJ Cobb on behalf of all members, thanked the recently elected Patron and former Chairman Neale Fraser for his leadership over the past 23 years, his untiring effort and In particular his dedicated commitment to the role including the on-going negotiations with Tennis Australia to maintain the status of the Foundation in the tennis community the rights and privileges of members, the support given to Davis Cup players over the years as a player, coach and Ambassador. These comments were endorsed by the members with acclamation.

The Hon Secretary then formally proposed the adoption of the Annual Report incorporating the Financial Statements for the year ended 30th June 2020 and called upon the Hon Treasurer to support the motion.

Drawing attention to the Financial 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 loss of \$17,636 following payment of \$60,000 to Tennis Australia. In the year under review Subscription income was again down slightly on the previous year. Mr Jamieson advised of Accumulated Funds of \$456,000 and highlighted details of investments of \$410,000 in Term Deposits and Floating Notes with interest down slightly, the success of the AO Luncheon which delivered a \$15,000 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 Bookkeeper; a task that she continues to perform with skilful attention to detail.

The Hon Treasurer RM 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 RM Jamieson that the 49th 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 2020, be and be hereby **ADOPTED. CARRIED**

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS:

The Chairman advised that with effect from the close of the meeting four (4) Directors namely Messrs Alan Cobb, Cedric Mason, Trevor Dohnt and Jonathan Sweeney retired by rotation in accordance with the Constitution. Each of these persons is eligible-election and each has nominated for the coming year.

The Hon Secretary announced that the number of nominations did not exceed vacancies and no ballot was required, consequently Alan Cobb, Cedric Mason, Trevor Dohnt and Jonathan Sweeney 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, Ian Jane, Robert Hinton, Cedric Mason, Jonathan Sweeney, Todd Woodbridge, Mrs Sue Newland, Mrs Mary Klestadt and Ms 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 Accru Melbourne (Audit) Pty Ltd has indicated his willingness to continue in his role as the Company Auditor and that his remuneration shall be set by the Board.

It was moved Mr RM Jamieson seconded Mr AJ Cobb that Mr Andrew Lane be re-appointed as the continuing Auditor for the coming year. CARRIED.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

The Chairman reported the contractual arrangements – a Memorandum of Understanding was initially exchanged with Tennis Australia in June 2016 for the period to 31 December 2019 and as a result further negotiation was instigated during 2019-2020 with the existing MOU remaining in the interim. This document serves to preserve member benefits and status. The Foundation maintains a good relationship with Tennis Australia.

The Chairman outlined the situation regarding the Australian Open due to the Covid-19 pandemic and to date arrangements have not been set in stone. There will be no ground passes for members in the circumstance, but we will be granted a ticket pre-sale opportunity for Rod Laver Arena and Margaret Court, with links to be provided to members. Further advice is expected regarding the 2021 Davis Cup along with ATP Cup.

In relation to the Fed Cup 2021 to be played in April in Budapest Hungary on clay. And details of Wimbledon are yet to be advised.

The Chairman expressed the appreciation of members to our special guest former Davis Cup player Sandon Stolle and Tennis Australia Player Development Officer Rohan Fisher, who will address the members at the conclusion of the formal meeting.

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

CLOSE:

The Chairman thanked all the members present and on-line for their attendance and formally declared the 49th Annual General meeting of members of The Australian Davis Cup Tennis Foundation to be closed at 7.40pm.

CONFIRMED AND SIGNED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD

Chairman
15/11/2021

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUEST

A video highlights package prepared by Lleyton Hewitt was introduced by the Chairman.