



## **Bendigo Tennis Club 2025 AGM - President's Report**

Good evening, everyone,

Another great year for the Bendigo Tennis Club — ongoing sustainable growth and exciting new beginnings.

First and foremost, I'd like to extend a heartfelt welcome to our friends from the Eaglehawk Tennis Club. The merger between our two clubs will mean more tennis, more often and with more people in our local community. It brings together two clubs with relatively short histories to form under the Bendigo Tennis Club Banner creating broader opportunities for all our members. Our members coming across from the ETC will receive a complimentary 12-month membership and BTC club shirt but that is only the beginning. We look forward to entering teams into both the BTA and ETA competitions and perhaps creating our own midweek competitions in the future.

We're thrilled to have you with us and look forward to working together to make our merger a success. Special call out to Lara Edwards for her guidance in bringing our clubs together and Jayden Kiel for agreeing to come onto the BTC board. And thank you both for being here tonight.

### **Membership & Participation**

We now boast over 140 paid-up and passionate BTC members—a testament to our club's continued sustainable growth. Our participation rates continue to be high across both mid-week and Saturday Pennant competitions.

Our Women's Social Hit numbers continue to climb, and our junior participation is building. One of the highlights this year was the Dynamic Doubles Competition, where juniors and seniors teamed up in a spirited display of skill, mentorship, and fun. It's initiatives like these that bring our club members together and create a great club feel for all members. Special thanks to Breezer and Sharon Heym for their work on this event.

### **On-Court Success**

While we don't necessarily focus on our on-court success, I think it is important to take a moment to celebrate some great club results from this year. In the 2024/25 season, we claimed Saturday Pennant titles at both A and B Grade levels, back-to-back at A Grade which is a phenomenal achievement. We were also runners up in the B Grade division. At the TV's 2025 Country Week Championships we took out the Section 3 title at Country Week 2025. These victories are a credit to the dedication and talent of our players and the support behind them.

### **Club Championships**

In our Club Championships we saw a record 38 participants in our BTC Singles event. We have over 150 matches played across 7 weeks, lighting up courts all over Bendigo. Our singles club champs and its unique format continue to be popular with our members, waking them up from winter and getting them ready for the pennant season ahead. Thanks to all that have contributed to making it a success including Eaglehawk TC for the use of their

facilities. We look forward to seeing you out here over the coming two weekends for the finals.

#### Acknowledgments:

None of what I have mentioned occurs without the fantastic work of our Activity Coordinators.

Please join me in thanking:

- Saturday Pennant Coordinator – Sean Penno
- Thursday Night Teams Coordinator – Paul Henshall (assisted by Jimmy Long)
- Social Engagement Coordinator: newly appointed Maxus Rule
- Membership and Merchandise Coordinator: Aaron Stewart
- Club Championships – Kevin Bott & Damien Saunder
- Junior Development Coordinator – Bree Smith & Sharon Heyme

Your work coordinating the important day to day functions of our club allows the committee to focus broader issues to grow the club and improve the experience of our members.

Thank you also to Dale Broad and Bree Smith for volunteering at association level to the BTA Senior & Junior Match Committee's respectively. Representing the club at this level is important to advocate for change that our members can enjoy.

#### Sponsors & Supporters

We're delighted to welcome our new main sponsor for the next three years—Favourite Flavours, thanks to Sammy and Krissy Cook. If you haven't already, drop in and enjoy their beautiful food, coffee, and ice creams.

We also thank our long-term sponsors:

- Grant Rule Men's & Ladies Fashion
- Dynamic Health & Sports Osteo
- Maher Real Estate

And a warm welcome to our newest sponsors:

- Creative Edge Building Design
- Fortem Business Solutions
- Evolution Pools and Spas
- Complete Skin and Beauty Bendigo

Thank you sponsors for supporting the Bendigo Tennis Club. Special shout out to Annie Henshall for her work in this area over the last 3 months. I know how busy you were but still made time to identify new sponsors for the club and get them signed up. Great work.

#### Committee Appreciation:

To our committee—Barry Ward (VP), Simon Flood (Secretary), Brad Harris (Treasurer), Bree Smith, Sharon Heyme, Michael Smyth, Damien Saunder, and Annie Henshall—thank you for your leadership, your time, and commitment to our club's success.

### Looking Ahead

As we look to the next 12 months, our focus is clear:

- Bed down the merger with Eaglehawk TC
- Continue to grow and support opportunities for our members to connect – on and off the court
- Continue to grow and support our junior & female participation rates

Thank you all for being part of this journey. Here's to another fantastic year ahead.

See you on the court!

Chris Lloyd  
President