

## Manly Lawn Tennis Club

### Centenary 1885 – 1985



Scan 06.2015 Tennis courts in 1933

For one hundred years Lawn Tennis has been played in the very heart of Manly. Today the Club ranks as one of the most senior lawn tennis clubs in Australia.

Ivanhoe Park, now referred to as Manly Park, was vested in the Queen on 17-12-1883 and this was to become the venue for many sporting bodies of Manly. As early as May 1884, Violet Robey, the then Hon Secretary of the Manly Lawn Tennis Club, advised by advertisement that a ballot for the election of members would take place on the grounds on Saturday 7th June 1884, thus making this club one of the most senior tennis clubs in Australia.

The club first competed in the NSW Lawn Tennis Association's Badge Competition in 1926 when all teams reached at least the semi-finals. The women's first team went right through the season undefeated, establishing a splendid debut performance. Manly Lawn Tennis Club still enters men's and women's teams into the Badge competition and has had many good results in the years of competition.

The permission of the NSW Lawn Tennis Association was first granted to the Manly Lawn Tennis Club to conduct an open tournament in 1933. It was decided to call it the Seaside Tournament and it commenced on Boxing Day in December 1933 and concluded on the first Saturday in January 1934. This first tournament attracted 224 entries. The seventh annual Seaside tournament was held in December 1939.

During the 40's, 50's and 60's the club was fortunate in that Australia was to play the Davis Cup Challenge Round in either Victoria or Sydney over Boxing Day and the two following days. Many of the players were keen to play in our Seaside Tournament, as all overseas players were staying over for any State Championships which were on at the time followed by the Australian Championships. So the winners' lists are virtually a who's who of Australian tennis including such greats as: Ken Rosewall, Frank Sedgman, John Bromwich, Lew Hoad, Neal Fraser, Rod Laver, Fred Stolle, Mark Edmondson, Evonne Goolagong, Dianne Fromholtz and many other greats of the game. The tournament is still going strong and is an important part of the Australian satellite tennis circuit.

First played in 1922, the Club Championships have been held nearly every year since. As with the Seaside's winners list, the club championships contain the names of many great

players, and the annual event is still hotly contested in both the men's and women's singles and doubles events.

A local sports store owner, Frank Mudge, who played with the Manly Lawn Tennis Club and with the Manly District Tennis Association, decided to donate a cup for competition between teams from each group. The Mudge Cup was first played for in 1937 and is still keenly contested, both sides displaying the best sporting spirit.

During the 1970's, the Manly Lawn Tennis Club hosted an event called the Challenge Cup. This became a popular event and many greats of the game participated, including John Newcombe, Tony Roche, Stan Smith (USA), Kim Warwick, Chris Lewis (NZ), Tim Gullikson (USA), Arthur Ashe (USA), Fred Stolle and Ken Rosewall.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **1885**

One Saturday afternoon, during the year 1885, Mr Joseph German and his three brothers, having purchased four racquets, balls and a net in Sydney that morning, marked out a court just about where the tennis pavilion now stands, and commenced to play tennis for the first time in Manly. They had not been playing long before a cyclist ran into the net, as it appears that the net encroached slightly on part of the bicycle track, which, in those days, came out in that direction. After several more had run into the net, Mr. German was forced to use muscular persuasion before he convinced the cyclists that he was there to stay. Happily, the relations between the Bicycle Club and the Tennis Club are of the friendliest today.

The following Saturday, Mr. German and his brothers, accompanied by some friends, arrived on the scene, to find their position had been taken by a party that included Mr. "Oby" Rawson, Miss Rawson, Canon Smith, Mrs. Smith and a party of their friends. Nothing daunted, Mr. German marked out another court just near where the Croquet Club now has its ground and commenced to play there.

Shortly after this, Mr. German left the State for a few months and returned to find the Manly Lawn Tennis Club in full swing, with full permission from the Manly Council. Mr. William German was the first Hon. Secretary, while Messrs. Walter German and "Oby" Rawson were two of the Committee. The courts in those days numbered eight, extending from Sydney Road to Raglan Street. Later, the Croquet Club was given ground where it stands today, the tennis courts thus being reduced to six.

On June 25<sup>th</sup>, 1892 Mr. Skinner recorded helping to erect a tent for Lawn Tennis and a few days later had to attend the park because a complaint had been lodged that boys were making obscene language while the ladies were playing lawn tennis. The tennis enthusiasts used the tent but later erected a pavilion from their own funds. The present structure, although still inadequate, had been added to since then. Further additions are being contemplated, and when the necessaries are added, the club will be able to run open tournaments, thus attracting many people from the City, as the situation is ideal, being handy to boat and surf.

Among the earlier members of the Club were Messrs. Hunter Smith, Sep Dowling, Dr David Thomas, Justice Gordon, T Hughes, Justice Beavan, Frank and Stanley Ridge, G H Wyld, Smellie and the late Arthur Noble, who was one of the best players of that period.

### **1895 – 1905**

In 1903 courts were open on Saturday afternoons and Public Holidays excepting Christmas Day and Good Friday.

### **1905 – 1915**

Mr Crossman was made a Life Member in 1910, the first known Life Member of the Club.

### **1914 – 1918**

Many members enlisted and their names appear below.

### **ROLL OF HONOUR**

#### **WORLD WAR 1**

J. B. BARR	F. LASCELLES
C. T. BEASLEY	DR. R. B. MINNETT
A. W. COOPER	DR. C. L. S. MacINTOSH
F. W. DOUST	G. MILLS
DR. W. EVANS	H. A. MONTEFIORE
E. EVANS	M. PELLETTIER
E. GASTER	R. M. PIGOTT
SISTER L. HETHERINGTON	K. A. PIPER
REV. R. A. HARRIS	DR. C. N. SMITH
E. O. HARRIS	H. G. SMITH
J. Z. HUIE	HOWARD TOLLEY
H. INGRAM	R. WILLIAMS
S. IRWIN	J. WILKINS
G. LOWE	H. J. F. WATSON Killed in action
C. W. LAMB	M. WELLINGTON

The Club continued, despite the absence of a large proportion of their members that had enlisted during World War One.

Later in 1919 the return of some of these members naturally boosted the membership attendance at the Club, ending what was one of the most depressing years experienced by the Club. With the influx of returning members and some of their friends, the Club again began to function in a more forward manner and Mr J O Anderson was elected Club Captain during the year.

Of the present-day players, the most prominent have been J[jimmy] Anderson, Mrs Ford and Mrs Lascelles, both of whom held the Women's Singles Championship of N.S.W., and in 1921 together held the Women's Doubles Championship of the State, as well as representing the State on many occasions.

J O Anderson with team member Gerald Patterson won the first David Cup in 1919, the first to be played after World War One, playing for Australasia, which included New Zealand. It was Australasia's last win.

Australia alone did not win again until 1939. The 1919 Cup was played on the old Double Bay courts. Anderson had a street named after him in Double Bay and a bronze plaque was erected commemorating the event.

Playing in five Davis Cups, he gained personal satisfaction by running Big Bill Tilden to five sets in 1922 and defeating (Little Bill) Johnson in 1923, two great performances against unquestionably the world's finest players of that time.

J O hit his forehand with an extreme eastern grip, both forehand and backhand with the same racquet face. He was the last Colonial style player to win the New South Wales three times and the Australian Singles Championship three times - truly a great effort by a member of the Manly Lawn Tennis Club.

## **1925**

Mrs. Ellen Alexandria Lascelles (nee Halley) was made Captain. On the 9<sup>th</sup> August, 1926, Ellen Lascelles was presented by fellow members of the Manly Lawn Tennis club on the eve of her first Interstate match to be played in Brisbane.

## **1926 – Badges**

The Club's first team, competing in the N.S.W. Lawn Tennis Association's Badge Competition in 1926, Second Grade, Section 1 was defeated in the Semi-final; while the second team was defeated in the final of the Second Grade, Section 3. The women's first team, competed in the First Grade, Section 2. The women's section of the Badge Competitions went right through the season undefeated, establishing a splendid performance. The Club also maintained friendly relations with the Manly and District Tennis Association at this time, and does so to the present day.

The Club welcomes many visitors, from the country districts of the State each year.

Sunday tennis was first played on the courts in 1929. Subscriptions had not increased since 1919. The courts were previously cut by horse-drawn mower which was replaced by an electric mower in the year 1930.

Membership of the Club was 47. Depression years contributed to the low number of playing members. 1932 an attempt was made to persuade the Manly Council to turn the courts into hardcourts. This failed and the playing area remained grass.

In the same year the idea of conducting the Manly Seaside Championships in March 1932 was conceived. The first Seaside Championships were held in December 1933-34. The Clubhouse in 1932 was an all-timber structure and quite inadequate to cater for club members eager to make improvements to attract new members.

During 1934, Mr A Cornford was the first Councillor from the Manly Lawn Tennis Club elected to the NSW Lawn Tennis Association. (Mr. Cornford was Secretary of the Club during 1931.)

## **SEASIDE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The permission of the NSW Lawn Tennis Association was first granted to the Manly lawn Tennis Club to conduct an open tournament in 1933. It was decided to call it the Seaside Tournament, and the opening year was in December 1933, commencing on Boxing Day and concluding on the first Saturday in January, 1934. The tournament attracted 224 entries.

For some years, it was regarded as the "Cinderella" of the major grass tournaments in the metropolitan area and, mainly due to the poor standard of the courts, it was at first difficult to get all the best players of the State to participate. This prejudice was gradually broken down and the tournament built up until, now, it can be regarded as possibly the most popular tournament amongst tennis players of any conducted in the metropolitan area.

The natural advantages of Manly, with the lure of its beaches at the time of the year when the tournament is held (mid-Summer), has been an added advantage in bringing to our tournament players from all parts of the State and, in some cases, from other States.

Entries have varied from as low as 204 to the record figure of 620 in 1945-46, when it was necessary to cancel all handicap events in order to complete the tournament in the scheduled time.

## **FIRST 1933 – 34 TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE**

Messrs. A. W. Cornford, T. Cooper, F. Deer, A. Hall, G. K. Halley, F. J. Richards, R. A. Stewart, F. H. Kilminster, M. H. Kilminster, G. Pizey.

The N.S.W. Lawn Tennis Association had sanctioned the programme and is represented on the handicapping committee. Spaldings Lateceam balls were used throughout the tournament.

**1<sup>ST</sup> SEASIDE MANLY LAWN TENNIS TOURNAMENT KNOWN AS SEASIDE CHAMPIONSHIPS AT IVANHOE PARK MANLY, WERE HELD FROM DECEMBER, 1933 UNTIL JANUARY, 1934**

Winner of Men's Singles	D. Thompson	Entrance Fee 10/-
Winner Women's Singles	Miss J. Hartigan	Entrance Fee 10/-
Winner Men's Doubles	R. Dunlop & E. Henry	Entrance Fee 12/6 pair
Winner Women's Doubles	Mrs Henry & Mitchell	Entrance Fee 12/6 pair
Winner Junior Boys Singles (Under 21)	L. E. King	Entrance Fee 5/6
Winner of Ladies & Gentlemen All Comers	D Thompson & Miss A. Hattersley	Entrance Fee 12/6 pair
There were also Special Events, Handicap Events Special Junior Boys Singles Under 17 years		Entrance Fee 2/6 each

**1934-35**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Seaside attracted 334 entries being an increase on the previous year. This fact in itself proved the popularity of this tournament.

**Dr MONCRIEFF-BARRON**

During the 1935 year, it was placed on record the valued services of the President, Dr Moncrieff-Barron who for 15 consecutive years accepted this position. Executive only knows too well what his influence meant to the club, particularly during the previous few years when efforts had been made to deprive us of our courts.

During 1937 he had the civil honour of OBE bestowed upon him by the King. The Club expressed extreme pleasure at his return to good health at this time after his serious illness.

In 1935 it is recorded that Mr. A W Cornford was again appointed to the NSWLTA Council. It was hoped that this appointment was merely a stepping stone to higher honours for few had greater interest or worked harder in the interest of the Club and tennis generally than Mr. Cornford.

1937 saw the year when Manly Club had two representatives on the NSWLTA Council and ranked with Sydney Club in the Metropolitan area to achieve this honour. The representatives were Mr A W Cornford and Mr H C Seddon.

## **NEW CLUBHOUSE**

During 1935 the committee considered the advisability of making application to the local council for financial assistance to erect a new clubhouse. Plans and specifications were kindly submitted by one of our members, Mr R A Stewart, who was also deserving of great credit for his effort of forwarding to Manly Council the application for a loan of approximately £1,400 for a building to be of brick and two storeys.

[Architects Kaberry and Chard let a contract to J A Carter of Manly for the erection of the new tennis club pavilion in September 1936<sup>1</sup>.]

The new clubhouse became an established fact at the beginning of 1937 and now we have a clubhouse that members may well be proud of. The official opening was made by his Worship the Mayor, Alderman P L Nolan in the presence of a large and representative gathering of citizens and members. Our new acquisition, however, imposed an additional burden of £100 per annum.

This was the year that Mr H C Seddon became Secretary. In 1937 the Club recorded its appreciation for work well done to Mr S Gilbert who had been Hon Treasurer for the previous ten years.

In this year also special mention was made of Vice Presidents, T.J. Underwood, J.M. Reynolds and C. Crackenthorp. Mr C Crackenthorp, though not a playing member, was present at all committee meetings held during the year in which he was Acting Chairman. He always had before him the welfare of the Club.

In 1935 the Men's Badge team played Grade 1 Section 1 for the first time with A. Cornford (Cpt.), R. Stewart, M. Kilminster and H. Kilminster (brothers). Also three other Men's teams played but names are not available. One Ladies' team in Grade 1 Section 3 consisted of Mesdames Hodge, Colless, Hayward, Crackenthorp and Miss Adrian.

Miss Marjorie Adrian, incidentally, was the first woman elected to the management committee at the Annual General Meeting in the year 1936 and held her position up until 1953 (17 years). On retiring from the committee Miss Adrian still continued to assist the Club at social functions. Total membership at this time was 58.

During the thirties, Fees per annum were £5 Men and £4.10.0 for Women (weekends and holidays), and week-days Men £6 and Women £5. Junior Boys and Girls under 19 years £3.10.0. Visitors in Manly were always welcome for ordinary Club playing fees on Saturdays or Sundays were 2/6 per day, but week days only 1/6 per day. The Clubhouse was available for the use of the public for very moderate charges for functions, Saturday nights £1.5.0, week nights £1.0.0 week afternoons 10/-. The price included the use of gas and crockery.

No Women's team was entered in 1937 owing to insufficient entries; however, due to the large number of male applicants for Badge honours the committee was forced to nominate 5 teams, 4 senior and 1 junior. A special mention was made at this stage of junior Bobby Barnes, who was selected by the NSWLTA head body for its junior coaching class. That he justified their opinion of him is borne out by the coach Jim Willard who selected him as the second most promising player among juniors of the future. In the ensuing years he took his place on club committees and later was responsible for bringing the American Davis Cup Team to Manly for Exhibition Matches, which proved so popular with the people of Manly.

During 1938 four Men's teams and one Ladies' team competed in the Badges. The Ladies' team gave a great performance in winning 1<sup>st</sup> grade Section 3 with the loss of only one match. Members included Miss M. Adrian (Cpt.), Misses A. Robinson, D. Greenwood and J. Barnes. Dot Greenwood later became Mrs. D. Melville, the mother of well-known Australian representative Kerry Melville. There is no record of who played in the Men's Teams.

---

<sup>1</sup> *Sydney Morning Herald* 1 September 1936, p5.

Early in 1938, Hon. P.C. Spender KC, MHR gave a handsome Cup for a new event, the girls' Junior Singles. It was afterwards won by such well known players as Karen Krantzke, Lesley Turner, Evonne Goolagong, Sue Alexander and Kathy Walker.

In 1938 an outstanding feature of the year's activities was the Exhibition arranged in February when our Club was instrumental in bringing to Manly John Bromwich, then ranked the World's leading amateur. In addition to Bromwich were Jack Crawford, Viv McGrath, Neil Turvey, Miss Joan Hartigan and Miss Alison Hattersley. This event gave the people of Manly the opportunity of seeing the best players in Australia.

During 1939 Mrs H J Dight donated a Cup for the Women's Seaside Championship, as Alison Hattersley had won the previous cup outright. Her record of three consecutive wins and five wins in all still stands to this day.

During the year 1939 the Council, at the Club's request, made the necessary alterations to the clubhouse so that it could be registered as a public hall and advertised as such. It proved very popular and a considerable benefit to the club, relieving the burden to the club of over £100 per annum payable to the Council.

*Manly-Warringah News* for 15 September 1939 listed a page of tennis fixtures and results locally, and an advert from the Manly and District Lawn Tennis Association announcing that its new pavilion was now opened.

## **MUDGE CUP**

Frank Mudge, the owner of a sports store in Sydney Road, who played with the Manly Lawn Tennis Club and Manly District Tennis Association, decided to donate a cup for competition between two teams from the Lawn Club and two teams from the Manly District Tennis Association. The teams were to consist of four men and two women from each side.

It was first played in 1937 but not in the years during the war. 1946 saw the matches standing at three matches all. In alternate years, the match is played at either courts and is keenly contested by the two teams but played in the best sporting spirit. Frank was always there to present the Cup in the early years but he later moved to the country.

Some years later the Manly Lawn Club decided to have a committee Grudge match which the Hardcourt agreed to. Jim Bennett Senior and Peg Kelsick donated a cup which was called the Kelnett Cup, one team from each side to compete with the same rules as the Mudge Cup. The President from each side usually picked members from his committee or a good worker for tennis. The keenness in which this match is played creates the best of friendships ever seen in tennis.

## **1941-42**

The Seaside Exhibition Day was ushered in amidst an atmosphere of uncertainty that had never previously been experienced, following the attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese. It was three weeks before it was decided to carry on, with 50 per cent of proceeds going to the Red Cross Fund. This was the last big event to be arranged until 1944.

## **1944**

When a successful exhibition match consisting of Jack Crawford, V. McGrath, J. Bromwich, Dinny Pails, Misses Joan Hartigan and Joyce Fitch was held, as a result the Club was again able to forward a cheque for £42 to the local Red Cross Branch. This sum together with smaller

amounts from holding tournaments during the year made a total sum of £300 which the Club raised by its own efforts in the four years from 1940 to 1944.

## **SOCIAL**

The Annual Ball at the Hotel Manly attracted a good attendance reported in 1938.

After the war, in 1946 the Club's Annual Ball held at the Hotel Manly had an attendance of 450. Members of Parliament, the Mayor and his wife were official guests. Players Jack Crawford, Pat Jones, Mary Bevis and many of the top players from N.S.W. joined with Club members and their friends.

These events were usually held on the final night of Wimbledon, and well known identity Arthur Huxley would retire to his car on odd occasions to bring the up-to-date scores which were very much appreciated. Thelma, his wife, was very patient. We all enjoyed the news. Later we moved to the Hotel Pacific for this annual event. Then after a number of years Balls went out of fashion.

During the 1940's and 50's a coloured picture of the Manly ferry *South Steyne* (now retired from service) was a feature of the front page of the Seaside entry forms. This advertisement helped to pay for our Lawn Tennis Tournament. Entries in these particular years were 20 shillings for the Singles or 25 shillings for pairs.

In 1944-45 the Manly Special Wartime Lawn Tennis Seaside Tournament was held, and the Men's Open Singles were 10/- and doubles 12/6 pair. Ladies Singles were 7/6 and doubles 10/- pair. There were special events – Handicaps and Junior Singles under 19 and 17. Prizes for the open event were valued at £2.2.0 but all other events £1.11.6 and £1.1.0. A percentage of money raised went to the Manly Red Cross Appeal.

According to the Annual Report of 1941, the popularity of the Manly Lawn Tennis Seaside tournament was now a household word in tennis circles. Inquiries were received by the Secretary as early as September each year from various parts of the State. Results showed that, included in the winners of the main singles title were four Australian champions, Jack Crawford, Viv McGrath, Dinny Pails and John Bromwich. We also had the unique distinction of being the only Club in the State, and possibly Australia, that had the name of an American Davis Cup player in the list of winners of its Singles title. We achieved this distinction in 1946-47 when Tom Brown of the USA defeated Bobby Barnes in the final.

The Tournament was the only one in N.S.W. that had an event exclusively for Ex-Servicemen. This was inaugurated in 1947, when the Boyle-Breakspear Memorial Special Doubles was added to the programme. The Report said – "It has been estimated that over 2,000 different players have taken part in the event since its inception in 1933, despite that fact that no tournament was held for 4 years during the Second World War."

## **1945 Badge**

Two Men's teams and two Women's teams were entered. The 1<sup>st</sup> team of Men played Grade 1 Section 1 and lost the match by 3 games, 4 sets all. 2<sup>nd</sup> team 1-2 went through their grade undefeated. The Women's 1<sup>st</sup> team played the leading State teams and the 2<sup>nd</sup> team suffered only one defeat by the eventual winners.

---

## **ROLL OF HONOUR**

### **1939 – 1946**

#### **MEN**

ABBOTSMITH F  
BARNES R R  
\*BREAKSPEAR S  
BOYLE F R  
\*BOYLE P R  
\*BLICK C W  
BUSH P  
CAMPBELL E H  
CAVENDISH B  
CURTIS J R  
DALEY C D  
DIGHT R H  
DRISCOLL K  
DUNSHEA C  
FELAN E W R  
GOLDSTON J R  
GREENWOOD D  
HARRINGTON J A  
HARRISON W A  
HERRINGE K  
KILMINSTER F H  
\*LEAKE R D  
LEES J  
LESSING R

MCCARTHY B J  
MCCLELLAND C  
MARTIN K  
NEYLAN J  
PENFOLD M  
POGSON H L  
RAPHAEL M  
RANDALL M A  
SHELDON G C  
SHEPHERD W  
\*STEWARD H  
TOLHURST R  
TOVEY V  
TUTON J  
WOODHOUSE L

**WOMEN**

CROSS Miss Pat  
CROSS Miss Pam  
FOLL Miss B  
MORRIS Miss J  
ROBINSON Miss A  
RYAN Miss N  
WARD Miss D  
WILLIAMS Miss D

\*Killed

**1946 Badge**



1<sup>st</sup> team consisted of R. Felan (Cpt.), B. Barnes, F. Skillicom, F. Herring to enter Grade 1 Section 1. There had to be at least two seeded players of the NSWLTA to compete in this grade and our Club was fortunate enough to have four. Frank Herringe was Junior champion of N.S.W. during the 1945 Championships, Australian Junior Doubles winner with George Worthington and Mixed Doubles Junior with Norma Reid during 1946. All these four players won the Manly Club's Singles at various times. Roy Felan was Singles winner in England of the RAF Championships.

The 1946 Women's Badge Competition reverted to mid-week on Thursdays. The Club entered one team in Grade 1 Section 2. The team comprised of Mesdames I. Mason ( Cpt.), M. Brandon, S. Greatrex and R. Park. In view of the fact that the majority of the team were new to competition on grass, it was a great performance in playing right through and winning the final without one defeat.

During 1950-51 the New Zealand Cup team entered the Seaside Championships (including R. McKenzie, M. Otway, J. Robson). R. McKenzie and Thelma Long won the Mixed Doubles.

The day when the New Zealand Prime Minister paid a visit to the Club surrounded by Federal and Local Police was quite an honour for the club and officials. Mr. Holland stayed for afternoon tea.

The English Davis Cup teams played a number of times during our Seaside Tournament including Roger Taylor, Mark Cox and M. Sangster. These players had billets with our members and friends, had lots of fun during their stay in Manly and always looked forward to coming again.

This popular event began to attract other world-famous tennis players such as: Americans Jack Kramer, Ted Schroder, Tom Brown, Vic Seixus, Charlie Parsell, Straight Clark, Pancho Gonzales, Bobby Riggs, F Parker and Pancho Segura.

## **1959**

The Italians Petrangeli, Sirolo, and P Merlo played. Peppi Merlo won the Mixed Doubles with Mrs. Thelma Long.

All these players were invited to compete after the Davis Cup in the Seaside Tournament and Exhibitions. Many came back over and over because of the hospitality and friendliness extended to them and, of course, the excellent tennis to be had.

Women players of interest during the Seaside Tournament to our country were winners of Wimbledon and many countries. Christine Trueman, Angela Mortimer, and (Junior) Vivienne Cox came from England, and Louise Brough, Doris Hart, Shirley Fry and Althea Gibson from U.S.A. On winning the final of the Seaside, Althea who had a beautiful voice, after dinner gave those present a wonderful night singing. Betty Stove was another contestant from the Netherlands who competed a number of times.

Players from other countries included Manuel Orantes (Spain), H. Sahr (Sweden) and O. Ishiburd (Japan).

So much could be written about our Seaside competitors, including those representing Australia overseas, such as Davis Cup and Wimbledon winners, Jack Crawford, John Bromwich, Rod Laver, Viv McGrath, Dinny Pails, Merv Rose, Lew Hoad, Ken Rosewall, Frank Sedgman, Ken Fletcher, George Worthington, Don Candy, Jim Gilchrist, Neil Fraser, Don Rocavert, Ashley Cooper, John Alexander, Mal. Anderson, Roy Emerson, Bob Hewitt, Ken McGregor, Bill Bowrey, Bill Sidwell, Ray Ruffles, Warren Jacques.

Our own women have done very well over the years with overseas experience and winners of Wimbledon and Australian State Championships, including Margaret Smith, Mary Hawton, Jan O'Neill (nee Lehane), Judy Dalton (nee Tegar), Lesley Bowrey (nee Turner), Karen Krantzcke.

No wonder the Seaside Tournament was so popular, as it preceded the Australian Championships in January. The Seaside, being unique, should go on forever with so much interest centred around it.

### **SOCIAL EVENTS**

Marjorie Adrian was the great organiser of activities for the Club, arranging social days and nights, and was the first woman to be elected to management committee, where she held the position for many years. The day when the first Seaside Championship commenced she acted as Social Secretary.

Marj, as she was known, worked with a number of lady members in the kitchen catering during the length of the tournaments, and making sure the clubhouse was tidy after the long day. Never a cross word was heard from her. She always had a ready smile and a terrific sense of humour. One of her long standing helpers was Miss Lois Alley.

### **FRIENDS OF THE CLUB**

#### **MAYORS OF MANLY**

There were many Mayors over the years who had been a great help to the Manly Lawn Tennis Club, particularly Alderman William Fairbairn who as Mayor (1960-1962-3-4-5) was Patron of the Club and Vice Patron (1959-67-68-69-70), until his passing in 1971. He was a tremendous help when the Club changed tenancies from the Manly Council to the Lands Department in 1960 and when the extensions commenced on the Clubhouse. He also gained for us the extra footage when Sydney Road was widened and we arranged for extra footage from the Croquet Club and Manly Oval. Bill was well known for his interest in the Club and with his wife Norah, was always present at our Seaside Tournaments, Presentation dinner and Christmas Party. He was also present at our Annual Meetings.

Mr Jim Paton who succeeded Mr Fairbairn continued to assist the Club to achieve its objective.

Mr David Hay, another Mayor to represent the Council (1967-1971-72-73-1983-4) was appreciated for his attendance at the Club, especially during the Challenge Cups and Seaside Tournament, when he would present the winners' trophies. His wife Jean was there to assist him. Both Mayors had outstanding interests in the Club.

### **1950s**

During the fifties, after the finals of the Seaside Tournament, a lobster and prawn dinner was held in the Clubhouse and the presentation of prizes in the company of many dignitaries, representatives of Sports Companies, players, Club officials etc. attended.

Best of all character speakers was Warren Jacques, the most hilarious of all, who was always lost for words. He was about to take up a scholarship at an American University. When asked what he would be doing there, the remark was "to learn English". Well he did make good when he came back to Australia and he always asked after the Seaside as he had great memories of it. Around these years was the time when the Secretary had to borrow a keg from the Memorial Club nearby and Lew Hoad came out and helped carry it down the hill.

### **1955-1959**

#### **Ladies' Thursday Badge Team – Section 1 Grade 1**

One of the greatest efforts of the Ladies' Thursday Badge Series was when it was won 3 times out of 4 by Mesdames Betty Hogarth (Cpt.), Madge Moss, Mirrabel Franklin and Heather Thorley, playing against Interstate players. This has never been equalled since. The Club thought it fit to present each of these players with a trophy for their great achievements.

### **CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Betty Hogarth (nee James) won more events than any player in the Club, with Singles, Ladies Doubles and Mixed Doubles, the latter with different partners. To date, no one has come up to her record, which is remarkable, as her wins were during the years of the 40's and 50's.

Two other winners of records were Mrs Mirrabel Franklin winning 6 Singles during the 1950's and Adrienne Morgan (Avis) also winning 6 Singles in the 60's and 70's.

One of the outstanding winners of the Club Championships was Mr R O Stewart, nine times running from 1922 until Mr Sid Breakspear broke the long run. Frank Herringe came next with eight wins over a number of years and Ken Grey with seven wins.

There were many other great players but not with the record that these previous players had in the Singles.

### **NORTH OF THE HARBOUR v. SOUTH OF THE HARBOUR**

This annual match is contested by one team from North of the Harbour against one team from South of the Harbour, with four men from each side, chosen from the top players from Grade 1 Section 1 of the Badge teams. The first match was played about 1954 on the White City Centre Court. By 1958 Claude Mason of Manly Club, donated a Cup and it was left to the Men Delegates to name the trophy. The president of the Metropolitan Grass Court Clubs, Roy Phillis, put the naming of it to the vote. Apparently it became the Claude Mason Trophy. Every year it is played on alternate sides of the harbour and after the engraving of the winning side, the Cup is left at the Club at which it is played. This 1985 year the match will be played at Manly Lawn Club and will arrive on the day from White City Club where it was played for during 1984.

The first team to play for the Northside was Kevin Fox, Ron Freeman (Manly) and Bill Wallace, Dave Walkam (Killara).

### **SEASIDE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

During the 40's, 50's and early 60's the Club was fortunate that Australia was to play the Davis Cup Challenge Round either in Victoria or Sydney on Boxing Day and the two days following. Many of the players in the teams were anxious to play in our Seaside Tournament as all overseas players were staying over for any State Championships which were on at the time followed by the Australian Championships which was to be played during the last two weeks of January.

Many changes have taken place over the last few years with a change in the circuit, with the large sponsor prizes offering.

Manly Club has had its ups and downs but we were very lucky to carry on. After twenty years with Ampol, which was a long association and most appreciated by all Manly Lawn Officials and members, Kennax agreed to come along and carry on the sponsorship which lasted two years.

1961 saw the final year of the Boyle-Breakspear Ex-Servicemen's Trophy which was held during the Seaside Tournament and was won outright by G. Wheatley and T. Milligan.

In November, 1962 the Club committee decided to hold the presentation of prizes for various events completed throughout the year. Many players and dignitaries were present on the occasion. Included in the guest list was Miss Billie Jean Moffitt, now Mrs Billie Jean King.

Billie Jean did not know that the then Secretary Claude Mason had been informed by one of her American friends that Miss Moffitt would be 21 years of age on her birthday at twelve o'clock on that evening. Nothing was mentioned to her or the guests but it was arranged that on the stroke of midnight the orchestra would stop playing during the dancing and an announcement was made wishing her a happy 21<sup>st</sup> birthday and she was presented with a suitable gift plus a sheath of flowers.

When Billie Jean visits Australia she always remembers that night and how surprised she was at how we acquired the knowledge. The Secretary was dancing with her when the clock chimed.

### **1962**

Rod Laver played in Manly just as he was making a name for himself. He won the Singles and the runner-up was local boy Bob Hewitt who later won Wimbledon Doubles and was married in South Africa and has lived there ever since.

### **1963**

Martin Mulligan won the 1963 Seaside, with Mark Cox (G.B.) runner-up. Martin married in Italy and lived over there until he moved to America in later years.

Lesley Turner was the ladies' winner with Jan Lehane runner-up.

### **1964**

Fred Stolle won the 1964 Singles with John Newcombe runner-up. Jan Lehane won the ladies singles and Lesley Turner was runner-up, a reverse of the previous year.

There are many great winners of the Seaside, just a few of whom have been mentioned and have represented Australia in Davis Cup and Federation Cup for women.

### **1966**

A great year. The 1966 Seaside Championships were conducted between the 1<sup>st</sup> January and 9<sup>th</sup> January, and again sponsored by Ampol Australia Ltd. The event proved to be a meeting ground for many international and top line Australian players. International players represented the following Countries: P. Rodriguez (Chile), R. Taylor, I. Phillips (G.B.), Bergelin, Ginman, Zahr (Sweden), M. Develle (Belgium), R. Dowdeswell (Rhodesia), J. Gisbert (Spain), D. Hahams (Argentina), Sugiarto, G. Osenhaum (Indonesia), Miss M. Boule (France), Miss R. Giscafre (Argentina).

Among Australian players competing were Fred Stolle, W. Bowrey, R. Ruffles, J. Cotrill, W. Jacques, Misses J. Lehane, M. Schacht, J. Gibson, K. Krantzcke all of New South Wales and H. Goullay (Tasmania). K Fletcher (now of Hong Kong), O. Davidson, J. May (Vic.), R. Crealy, J. Mark (N.S.W.), M. Anderson (Q'ld.). This Seaside of 1966 was an Invitation Tournament and was won by F. Stolle, runner-up B. Bowrey. Ladies' singles winner was Miss J. Lehane.

Over many years, Dunlop, Slazenger, and Spalding were always great supporters in providing players for the Seasides.

In 1966 when the Club became a Limited Company, a book came out for members with the new Constitution.

## **INVITATION DAYS**

### **1965**

A professional exhibition was staged on Manly Courts on January 24<sup>th</sup> to coincide with the Manly Annual Festival of Pines. Players engaged were Lew Hoad, Ken Rosewell, Rod Laver, R. Gonzales, and E. Bucholz. Public present on the day witnessed some of the best tennis ever played in Manly.

On Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> December, 1965 an invitation was given by our Club to the visiting American Davis Cup team of Captain Mr. George McCall and his players – Arthur Ashe, Marty Reissen, Cliff Ritchie, J. McManus, H. Fitzgibbon to play on our courts. An invitation was also extended to Mrs. Carol Graebner and Miss Nancy Ritchie. All American players accepted and gave a fine display of tennis which in turn was greatly appreciated by the spectators.

## **SOCIAL**

As the Club expanded in later years, Social Secretary Miss Margaret Kelsick, better known as Peg, continued the good work.

When the war ended and the Seaside built up once more, the Prawn & Lobster Dinner was arranged for the final night when the presentations were made to the winners.

A well-remembered event from the 50's and 60's was a Hawaiian night, held during January. One of the members grew banana trees, so committee members would arrange to cut them down and pick them up and decorate the clubroom. Members and friends would dress to the theme of the night. We also arranged a Roaring Twenties night when six of the Club girls would dress up and dance.

We would be remiss if we did not mention our Treasurer Reg Hardacre who was the star turn on all our dress-up nights. He always put on a turn of fun and it was a place of laughter.

Christmas party night was something different each year. The one which surpassed all, was when the usual six girls of the Club (known as the Manly Lawn Club Ballet) surprised all by wearing short white dresses with red cuffs, bells at their wrists and ankles, also wonderful head-dresses all wired with bells. They acted as prancing horses and with reins held by Father Christmas in the form of Hermie Doerner, who was the star turn. Streamers and balloons were then thrown to the guests to add to the gaiety.

There were a number of fancy dress nights. Also the boys put on a mime show. It was so good they were asked to repeat it later.

### **1967**

The Annual Ball held in the new Clubhouse<sup>2</sup> was most successful. The Mayor, Ald. D. Hay and Mrs. Hay, Mr. and Mrs. Fairbairn, Mr. and Mrs. D. Darby, the local Member, (representing the Premier Mr. Askin and Mrs. Askin) all attended, also Mr. D. Neely, President of MDHCA and Mrs. Neely.

The Presentation Dinner was held later in the year with the above guests being present once again and welcomed by the President, Mr. Seddon and Mrs. Seddon.

During the year, after the new extensions, a new chain-wire fence between courts was erected which made a great improvement to the grounds.

---

<sup>2</sup> *Manly Daily* 23 October 1962, clubhouse builder A M Weston Pty Ltd, tender of £8741 accepted.

## **CLUB CAPTAIN AND VICE PRESIDENT**

### **Doctor John McCouat**

John, who joined the Club after the War years, studied Medicine and in his spare time played all the tennis available to him. During 1961 and 1962 John was Club Captain and experienced the same problems as we do now by getting members to fill in as court captain for one day. It seems times never change much. John was also Vice-President from 1962 until 1966. Though not playing the game these days, he is still a member of the Club, and retains his interest. John is Hon. Medical Superintendent and Deputy Chairman on the board of the Far West Children's Home which has expanded so much since the days of Dr. Barron, the home's founder and our first Club President. John married club member Audrey Muir who joined as a junior. They now have a married son John and daughter Ann.

### **1968**

After a number of years as Publicity Officer, Kevin Mason thanked the *Manly Daily* and *Pacific Times* for their invaluable help particularly during the Seaside Tournament, Club Championships, with printing the draw and results each week.

The new magazine "Sidelined" was most successful, coming out each month and letting the members know of coming events.

## **MOSMAN NORTHERN SUBURBS LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION**

This Association commenced during the late 1920's with only two events but over the years has grown to include Men's Singles (McCallum Cup), Men's Doubles (Warringah Cup), Women's Singles (Seddon Cup), Women's Doubles (Killara Shield), and Mixed Doubles (Roy Phillis Trophy). Janice Ryding (nee Thorley), had a stranglehold on this event with different partners. Representatives in all events played very well for Manly.

### **COMMINS SHIELD**

This event was played on Sunday by Men's teams under the same rules as Saturday Badge, and is for men who have missed out playing on Saturday, although all members are eligible as long as their standard is of 2-4 and under. This event has also been won a number of times by Manly. These events are only played on Lawn Clubs north of the Harbour. The Commins Shield is played on Sunday afternoons.

## **AMPOL'S SPONSORSHIP FOR THE SEASIDE**

This sponsorship was organised by Warwick Ritchie, President of the Club. He and his committee worked hard to make these events the success they were. These efforts were very much appreciated. With the extra seating of stands on Courts 3 and 4, we were able to accommodate the public to great viewing on the final days.

### **1970**

R. Carmichael won the Seaside Singles, Colin Dibley and Allan McDonald the Men's Doubles. Evonne Goolagong won the Open Ladies Singles and under 19 Junior Singles and the Doubles with Patricia Edwards.

### **1971**

After so many successful Seaside Tournaments sponsored by Ampol, this was one of the difficult years, with State tournaments running into each other and changed dates for the Australian Championships. Evonne Goolagong was selected to play in the Federation Women's World Cup in Fremantle.

Reigning Wimbledon Champion, John Newcombe played his confederate doubles partner, Tony Roche, in an excellent display of tennis at its best. This singles was won by John.

### **1972**

This was the year Club Fees rose once more: Men \$54.00, Women \$53.00. Junior Fees were \$42.00 and Associates \$26.00. Entrance Fees Men & Women \$20.00, Juniors & Associates \$15.00.

Publicity Officer of the Club, Ken Parsons brought out a monthly article registered for posting as a periodical during the early 70's called "Sidelined". It was most successful for a number of years. Members brought in most interesting articles. Kevin Mason carried on for a short time when Ken gave up the news. Peter Stephenson also gave a helping hand with "Sidelined".

### **BADGES**

During late 1972 the Club was able to secure a private grass court in Lauderdale Avenue, Fairlight for the purpose of entering another two Badge teams for 1973. For three years the members were delighted to have the extra court as the Club had grown considerably with more players wishing to enter Badges. Unfortunately, the house was sold later and we lost the court.

Subsequently, it was discovered that at the National Fitness Camp at Narrabeen there was an extensive area that had been a Bowling Club. The ground had been unused for ten years and knowing this Claude Mason who was secretary of the Club at the time, said it would make two great tennis courts – many said it could not be done. But with Claude's perseverance and personal supervision in co-operation with the Minister for Sport and Recreation and the Club committee, this was achieved.

During late 1976 it was the Committee's intention to maintain this responsibility for the benefit of the Club overall.

When the Badge season commenced in 1977 it enabled the Club to field an extra four teams. The National fitness courts were passed to the satisfaction of the NSWLTA as still part of Manly Club. It is known as our Narrabeen "Country Club" and has given so much pleasure to many during this time, especially on occasions when family groups play on Sundays.

### **1973**

Ken Rosewall played Alex Metrevalli in a match staged by the Club. This was a great opportunity of seeing two internationals play and was greatly enjoyed by the members and public.

### **1974**

Mark Edmondson was another Davis Cup player who made good after winning the Seaside against John Marks. Geoff Pollard was a doubles winner. He later became the youngest president of the NSWLTA and is doing a great job for the promotion of tennis. He is Vice President of the Australian Tennis Association and watches over NSW interests. Geoff was

also one of the first Junior Davis Cup members with Tony Roche to go overseas to play other juniors at the Orange Bowl in America.

### **1975**

The Section 1-1 Thursday Ladies' Badge team were B. Ritchie, P Hill, J. Ryding, A. Avis, M. Blazey. We had our first win for Manly in this Section since 1959.

During the year 1975, a great loss was suffered by the Club when Past President, Mr H. C. Seddon (Dick) died suddenly. This was a sad blow to his wife Heather and children Jill and Paul and to the Manly Lawn Tennis Club, Committee, Members and countless friends in the State of New South Wales. Dick was an outstanding administrator of sport during his life time. Over the latter years he had taken up bowls. He was Club Secretary for 13 years and President for 18 years.

### **LIFE MEMBERS**

1. Mr. G. Crossman was the first known player to become a Life Member of the Club during the year 1910.
2. Mr. T. Underwood became a Life Member in 1927 and was well known to members, holding the position of Vice-President. A great worker for the Seaside Championships in the early 1930's through to 1954, the year Mr. Underwood passed away. Mr. Underwood was a friend to many who knew him in those days.
3. In 1944 Mr. F. Illingworth became a Life Member. He was Assistant Secretary for sixteen years, and for the years during the war. When the groundsman was away, Fred had the task of controlling and allotting the letting of the Clubhouse, with a large increase in revenue and extra work placed on him. Fred was also a well known chemist on the Corso in Manly.
4. Mr. M. H. Kilminster, well known as Mac. His first interest when he joined the Club during 1930 was a Seaside Tournament which eventually did get off the ground in 1933/34. Mac held many positions in the Club including Captain, Selector, Vice-President in 1950, and was a Councillor of the N.S.W. Lawn Tennis Association for a number of years. When Australia played Davis Cup in 1954 in Sydney, he arranged all the seating accommodation for approximately 15,000 people, the most ever held at White City – a year to be remembered by all tennis enthusiasts. Mac was also there to help out with the Seaside Championship draw and seating accommodation for the Challenge Cup matches, until his illness which lasted for some time. His death was recorded during the Seaside Championships in 1983.
5. Mr. H. C. Seddon, much better known as Dick, joined the Club in 1937 becoming Secretary in 1938. He was an outstanding organiser and was most happy when the Seaside Championships (later called Tournaments) were in progress. He was a great worker for Club affairs. Dick became President on the retirement of Dr. Moncrieff-Barron in 1954, still keeping up the good work. Dick was a Councillor of the N.S.W. Lawn Tennis Association for a number of years, State Selector and was elected a Life Member of that Association - a high honour. The Manly Club saw fit to make Mr. Seddon a Life Member in 1955. Dick held the position of President over a period of 19 years having previously carried out the duties of Secretary for 14 years.

6. Mr. A. Walsh became Treasurer during the 40's and 50's when the Club was just starting to pick up after the War years and was given his Life Membership for his efforts, during the time the verandah of the Clubhouse was enclosed and during 1955 Poker Machines came into vogue, a small bar was included with committee members taking turns on roster until finally a bar manager was hired for weekends. If anyone enjoyed their tennis, it was Alf, who was awarded Life Membership in 1957. Later becoming Vice-President of the Club.
7. Miss M. Kelsick, better known as Peg, was granted Life Membership in 1958 of the Club for her efforts as Social Secretary, organising functions including many years on Seaside Committees. During the War years, Peg drove the Manly Ambulance and during the 50's ran Ladies midweek tournaments with the proceeds going to the local Ambulance Station, until taken over by the Government. Peg was also a Delegate to the N.S.W. Metropolitan Grass Courts Women's Tennis Association for a number of years.
8. Mr. R. Hardacre had held the positions of committeeman, Publicity Officer, Assistant Treasurer, Treasurer and Vice-President. Reg as Treasurer, was to follow another treasurer who was a great worker for the Club, which was expanding all the time with money being put aside for plans to expand the Clubhouse. Reg held this position for 8 years during which time the Club's finances improved considerably through his untiring efforts. He became a Life Member in 1963.
9. Life Membership was awarded to Claude Mason at the Annual Meeting 1966. Since joining the Club in 1946, his war service had not dimmed his dedication and downright ability. Claude, a versatile dynamo, created a Club record by serving as Honorary Secretary for 21 years. Whenever a gap appeared in the Club activity Claude filled it. Additionally, he served as Club Captain, Selector, Delegate to the Metropolitan Grass Court Clubs Association for many years. His spare time was spent as an active member at all Manly Seaside Tournaments from 1946 until his retirement in the year 1981.
10. Another Treasurer on the Life Membership list was Des Nicholl who had his time cut out with extra poker machine revenue to contend with. Later with the extension of Clubhouse which was a big event during his period of Treasurer. Life Membership was bestowed on him in 1970. Des, over the last two years has held the position of Treasurer to the N.S.W. Tennis Association, being a Councillor and now Director. A great effort by one of our Manly members.
11. Mrs. Claude (Iris) Mason is distinguished by an outstanding, if not unequalled record in tennis administration, not the least is her contribution as a member of the Manly Seaside Tournament committee for 34 years. Iris' current position of Honorary Secretary to the N.S.W. Women's Metropolitan Grass Court Clubs Association has been held for 18 years. Such a task is supplementary to her service as Manly Delegate for no less than 38 years. Now, and for 19 years, Iris is a Director of NSWTA. Unflagging service to tennis is complemented by Mrs. Mason's years of service on the N.S.W. Junior Development Committee. Iris is no slouch on the tennis court as witnessed by her success as Women's champion of the Manly-Warringah Tennis Association in 1940. She partnered the late Mary Hawton to win the Canberra Women's Open Doubles Tournament. Iris' dedication to tennis was rewarded with a Life Membership of the Club during the year 1974.<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> *Manly Daily* 16 March 1972, p44 has article on Claude and Iris Mason.

12. Life Membership was awarded to Mr. Warwick Ritchie during the year 1978. Warwick, former president for 9 years, and as Ampol's Advertising Manager, introduced Ampol Petroleum Ltd. to sponsor the first Ampol Seaside Tournament as well as the Challenge Cup, a massive boon to International tennis in Manly itself. The Annual Ampol Tournament produced considerable financial assistance to the Club with increased public notice of tennis as a sport. Under Warwick's guidance the Club Committee converted courts 3 and 4 to synthetic surfaces. The Manly Club progressed enormously as a result of Mr. Ritchie's presidency and pronounced organising ability.

### **MANLY LAWN TENNIS CLUB CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS**

The opening of the Manly Lawn Tennis Club's Centenary Celebrations 1885-1985 was held in the Clubhouse on Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February at a Cocktail Party with 170 in attendance of past and present members, which made a great reunion.

In the afternoon the finals of the Metropolitan Grass Courts Club Championship were played – Men's Singles and Doubles, Ladies' Doubles and Veterans' Men's Doubles. At 7.15 pm presentations were made to the winners by Mr. Michael Mackellar, M.P., Mr. David Hay, M.P., The Mayor, Ald. Judy Mellows and Mr. Colin Sheel, President of the Metropolitan Grass Court Clubs Assn.

Presidents of Manly-Warringah Tennis Association, and the Manly Cricket Club were in attendance. Also prominent were Mrs Joan Bathurst (nee Hartigan), winner of the First Seaside Tournament held at the courts during 1933/34 and Miss Alison Hattersley, five times winner of the Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles between 1934/35 through to 1941/42. Also present was previous Australian Champion during the 50's Mrs. Thelma Long, and many times winner of the Seaside Women's Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles.

*Author of above text from the club's centenary booklet is not known.*