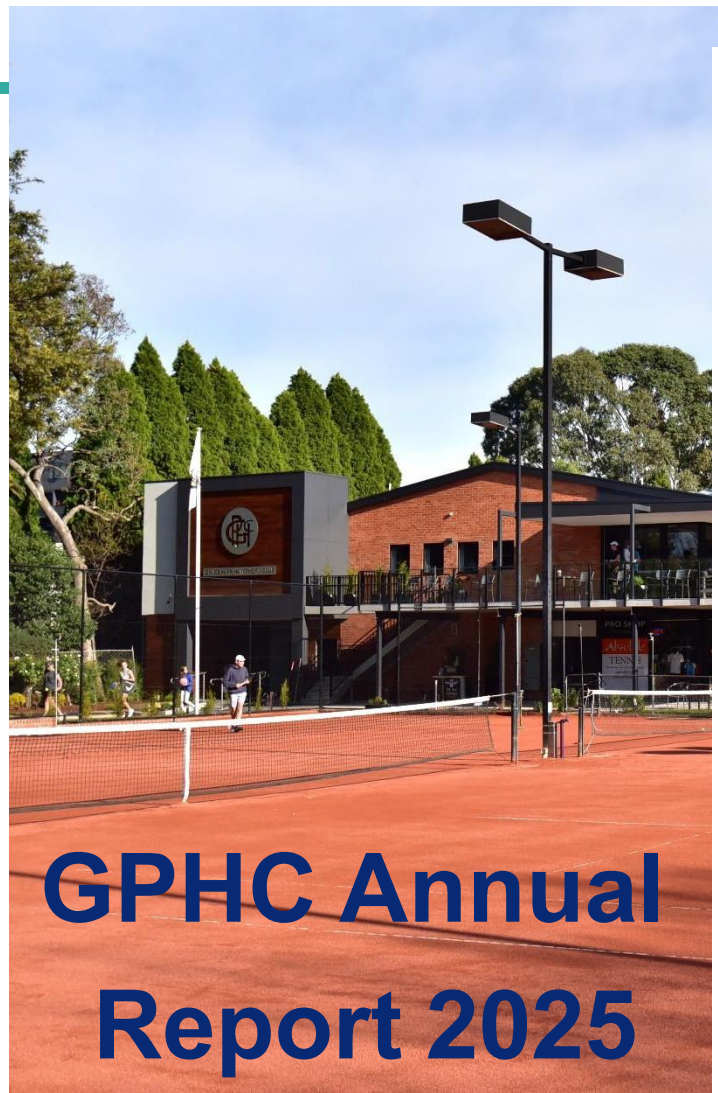




NOVEMBER 25

Grace Park Hawthorn Club

Notice of the 11th Annual General Meeting

The 11th Annual General Meeting of the Grace Park Hawthorn Club (GPHC) will be held on Monday 1st December 2025 at 6.30pm in the Sharman Room at 2 Hilda Crescent Hawthorn.

The Annual General Meeting will receive and consider the 11th Annual Report, Accounts and Balance Sheet of Grace Park Hawthorn Club for the year ended 31 July 2025 and confirm Club office bearers for the next two years.

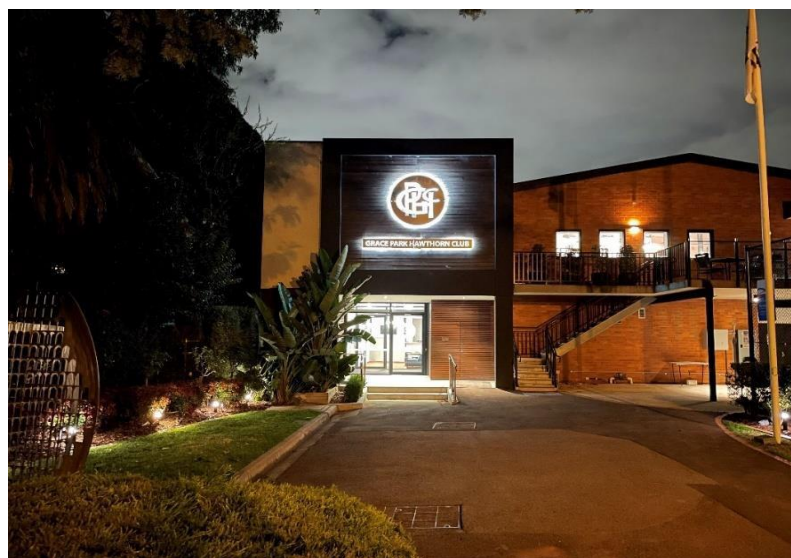
At the conclusion of the meeting light refreshments will be served.

Declaration of Election of Office Bearers

Under the rules of GPHC, the following Committee positions became available. Nominations have been received for these positions, and no election is required. Therefore, at the Annual General Meeting the following office bearers will be elected.

- President – Angus Henderson
- Secretary – Jimmy Boyle
- Treasurer – Gaurav Gupta
- General Committee – Geoff Sanders and Luke Wrigley

Jimmy Boyle
GPHC Committee Secretary



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*GPHC aims to be recognized as a premiership level club;
competitively and as a leader in membership engagement.*
(GPHC Strategy Plan 2021-26)

President's Report 2025

Dear Members,

Before you read the 2024/25 report, I would like to reflect on the past seven years. This period has brought many challenges internally and external —across financial, social, and operational areas. Throughout, I have been supported by so many people, especially David Barrie, Terry and Sandra Stone, Bill Hunt, all my Committee Members over the years, and our professional Operations Team, who implement Club strategies and manage the day-to-day running of the Club and its member needs.

It has been a memorable time, building enduring relationships within the Club and across Tennis and Squash Victoria. There have been testing moments, yet the Club is stronger for having overcome them. A legacy I am proud of is that, together, we have consolidated and implemented the courageous decision to amalgamate Grace Park Tennis Club and The Hawthorn Club. GPHC has exceeded all expectations—bringing together two distinct clubs and thriving by every measure.

Early Years

In 2017, I noted that without female Committee Members government funding would be difficult to secure. I was invited to join the Committee until someone else came on board.

After only two meetings in 2018, both the President and Vice President resigned and nominated me to take on the Presidency—thank you, David and Antony, for that memorable surprise.

In my 2018/19 report, I wrote:

“We are not in the same league as Royal South Yarra or Kooyong, yet we are not your local tennis, squash, snooker, or gym club. We proudly compete across all sports and do so successfully. We hold events for up to 130 people, have strong business units, and are recognised leaders in coaching and personal fitness.”

When John Dellar left in 2019, we created two new roles—Operations Manager (Mick Liszukiewicz) and Administrator (Elizabeth Way)—with Bernadette O’Shannassy managing finances. Membership grew, and we built relationships with the Glenferrie Traders, Swinburne University, Boroondara City Council, and local schools. Then came COVID-19.

COVID-19 Years

In 2020, we experienced repeated shutdowns, with doors locked from March 25 to November 17. Our flexible and dedicated team adapted remarkably, maintaining staff, managing financial challenges, and ensuring ongoing maintenance. We became experts in Job Keeper applications, funding opportunities, and compliance with constantly changing regulations.

Special thanks go to Bec Xuereb and Tim O’Loughlin for managing government processes, and to Steven Cuff for his hands-on attention to maintenance. Committee meetings moved online and were held fortnightly to manage the evolving situation.

Even during lockdowns, we completed enduring projects such as installing LED lights on courts 1–3. Funded by a Federal Government grant supported by the Hon. Josh Frydenberg and Club contributions, the lights have delivered exceptional results—saving around \$6,000 annually in power and removing the need for members to pay for lighting fees.

Recognising the need for a structural review, we engaged member Andrew Bond to conduct a three-month operational review. His recommendations led to the recruitment of a Club Manager to oversee policy, governance, finance, and marketing. Bec Xuereb led the recruitment with support from Paul De Iseo, for Club Manager. Angus Henderson took on the role of developing Club policy and contractual guidelines. On the 11 January 2021 we appointed and welcomed Julian O'Donnell. COVID restrictions hit again on the 13th of February and continued on and off until 28th of October, all up a record 270 days in isolation. COVID reinforced the importance of community belonging, and our membership remained stable.

In 2021, we were deeply saddened by the death of our long-serving and generous bookkeeper, Bernadette O'Shannassy. Her financial expertise and support during the Job Keeper era were invaluable. We were able to bid farewell to her with warmth and appreciation before she became too ill; Berni treasured the celebration. That same year, the Committee and Julian developed the 2021–2026 Strategic Plan, setting clear priorities for the next five years.

In November 2021, GPHC and its players received multiple Tennis Victoria Awards, including the Community Engagement Award for Best Community Atmosphere. Players Miranda Poile and Alex Crouch were named Pennant Players of the Year, and Women's Premier League player Zuzana Zlochova received the prestigious Tennis Victoria Ace Award after remaining undefeated.

Consolidation and Growth

By 2022/23, GPHC was proudly recognised as a premier Tennis and Squash Club, known for its friendly atmosphere and competitive strength. Membership continued to grow, and we successfully rebuilt courts 6 and 7—a major financial commitment. Thanks to Bec Xuereb's negotiation with Vic Track, we received substantial compensation, along with generous in-kind contributions from architect Daniel Xuereb, who designed the upgrade plans.

In August 2023, Julian resigned as Club Manager, at the 2023 AGM, we thanked him for his service. With changes to bar management, Vice President Steven Cuff took on responsibility for Bar, Functions, and Maintenance on 12month contract.

On the 9th of Dec 2023 we held a wonderful celebration to congratulate Terry and Sandra Stones 40 years of dedication to Grace Park Tennis Club and then GPHC. Jean and Frank Sedgmen attended and after many had spoken of the Stone's contribution, I invited first Frank to say some words which he did with great respect and love for Terry and Sandra and then wonderful comments about the Club.

I then took the liberty of inviting Jean up and she took the microphone and spoke with warmth and candor about their relationship and the part our tennis club paid in bringing them together. Jean who I was told would not speak carried on enrapturing the guests with her stories for a good 10 minutes, what memories, a significant Sedgman history, a great occasion.

By 2024, Angus Henderson and Bec Xuereb had finalised Club policies and contracts, streamlining processes and improving access to management information. It was with sadness that I accepted Bec's resignation in May, her substantial contribution as my Vice President in such a short time would be hard to replicate.

It took a while to fill Bec's shoes and how fortunate we are that Cherie Leatham accepted my tap on the shoulder to take on the role of Vice President. Cherie has already shared her legal expertise and her insights into Club activities to the great benefit of GPHC.

Our 2021–2026 Strategy continues to serve us well, focusing on Membership, Club Sustainability, Facilities, and Club Services (including Governance, House and Grounds, Food & Beverage, and Marketing). We've seen

substantial progress across all objectives except sustainable energy—an area we remain committed to pursuing despite funding challenges.

In September 2023, Terry and Sandra announced their retirement after 40 years of coaching. Angus Henderson led the tender process, supported by a panel of members, sincere thanks also go to Colin Davis, Chris Chetwin, Guyver Huang and Paul De Iseo. **Hubble Tennis** were appointed in January 2024. Their reputation continues to grow, building proudly on the Stones' legacy.

Special thanks to all who have supported me throughout my tenure—Committee Members, Operations staff, Business Partners, and members who have contributed their time and expertise.

As I step down, I am proud to affirm:

"GPHC is a member-focused club whose mission is to offer a premium sporting, fitness, and function facility in a boutique, inclusive, and friendly environment. Boasting first-class facilities, GPHC offers access to tennis, squash, and snooker competitions across all levels, and fosters genuine social connection among members and guests."

Thank you all for your support, friendship, and shared passion for this remarkable Club.

Jane Laidley Nathan AM

2024/25 President's Report

It is with gratitude, sadness, and a sense of relief that I present my final President's Report.

The 2024/25 year has concluded on a positive note, and GPHC is in a strong position—financially, competitively, socially, and operationally.

We had a wonderful celebration and farewell for Terry and Sandra in which the T&S Stone Bar was opened, to formally recognise their amazing contribution to GPHC over 40 years.

The appointment of new cleaners has made a great difference, benefited our Club and demonstrated a noticeable change and massive improvement to the Club's amenity, now all we have to do is to get tennis players to remember to knock the *en tout cas* from their shoes when entering the Club!

The Committee continues to invest in the club including the purchase of new function chairs, updated some of the gym equipment and repainted the Squash courts as they were rapidly deteriorating. Member contributions to the squash court contributed nearly \$7k, or about half the cost of the paints which helped alleviate the burden on the club finances.

Kirsty created a wonderful relationship with the Bendigo Bank who sponsored the construction of the Pickle Ball Court which was opened on November 24th. The court is booked out almost constantly by members and the public and we are often asked if we could open another court. We are grateful for Bendigo Bank's ongoing support too and are looking forward to future opportunities to work together.

An ongoing water problem since 2022 has led to extensive discussions with Boroondara City Council who are trying to solve the problem but to date has cost the club an additional \$18k as we have to use clean water and pay for it, for a club like ours that is a huge impost.

Successful social events including The Club Championship and Presentation Dinner in Sept, along with Grand final Cup Day, Oaks Day, finishing the year with the delightful Father Christmas for the young at heart and then the Christmas Party Christmas party, combined with many local, social and business functions adds a vitality to our reputation. The major social event of the year was the Trivia night held in August and was an outstanding success. Thanks to all those who donated, bid on and purchased prizes. The night raised nearly \$11k for the Club.

The ON event was held in January promoting Federer's company's tennis outfits. All the participants received a package including shoes, shorts, a top and a jacket and to top of a memorable day Iga Swiatek called in and had a hit with the members.

In January the first, Oceania Para Standing Tournament at GPHC was a wonderful success with all the member, volunteers and spectators agog with the capabilities of the participants. Adam Hills was effusive on TV during the Australian Open about our facility and the volunteer support given; they will be back from the 21st of January for 4 days and if you ever want to be inspired bring family and friends to come and learn from and support the athletic genius of the participants.

Steven Cuff chose not to renew his contract in late Feb, but offered to help out if ever we had a need. Our operations team, Kirsty Walsh, Club Engagement Officer, Di O'Shaughnessy, Finance and Membership Officer, and Brendon Clennett Maintenance Officer are working as a team along with amazing support from Deb Welsh, Adam Hubble and Michelle Peric. This structure has allowed for consolidation and planning backed up by the implementation of engaging activities, experiences and successful sponsorship agreements.

The relationship with Rossbourne School over 14 years continues to warm the hearts of those involved. Carla Smarrelli has taken on the role of Tennis convenor and with the support of Luke Wrigley and the members of the Tennis Sub Committee are investigating more ways to create opportunities for member engagement. Organising tournaments from entry to activity takes a great deal of time and our sub-committee are professional and diligent, making sure that everyone has a memorable experience.

Geoff Sanders has handed over squash convening to Adam Gough, under his leadership and with the subcommittee, the involvement of Squash players increased including successful in-house competition from beginners to elite players.

Tania Scida has developed from a handful of racquetball players a keen group of up to 20 players who play regularly on Sundays if you are looking for something to join, visit the club and watch the fun and the competitive skills on show.

Both sub committees carry an enormous responsibility in organising all our tennis and squash both competitive and social and as Committee members have the responsibility of reporting to the Committee every month. Adam and Miranda continue to play an important role as they continue to help organise teams.

Deb Welsh is seen by many as the face of GPHC. Deb's Absolute Tennis is recognised across the tennis and squash community as the go-to for any equipment, especially for her expertise in restringing racquets. Deb is always on hand to lend a hand, she continuously in a voluntary capacity to make sure that the Club's presentation and cleanliness is always up to scratch and that the members are well looked after and fills administrative gaps if they occur, Deb does this in her own time and for this we applaud her.

We thank Michelle Peric from Absolutely Delicious, for her contributions to event management and assistance with Bar and Functions and both Michelle and Kirsty's attention to detail and for their nurturing and training the casuals, giving them leadership opportunities. Phoebe, Millie, Tom, Charley and Alannah are all wonderful faces

and contributors to our excellent Bar and food services. As our functions cross subsidise our Membership fees, keeping them at a reasonable level we all need to look at ways to build on our Functions reputation. Those who have used our Club have written wonderful thank you notes so it is in spreading the word that the Club needs your support.

In my last report I wrote that being a volunteer is a wonderful way to learn new skills, meet people, develop strong relationships and has been shown to be very good for your personal health, there are now numerous research reports stating what we would say at GPHC is the obvious!

There are many members who are always ready to respond to my calls for their expertise in guiding the club, it is what membership is all about and I am grateful for all contributions made. This year Peter Robinson took time from setting up his own business to paint the doors to the cellar and did an outstanding job and then if that wasn't enough went through GPHC 2021/26 strategy and made some significant suggestions.

Thanks also to Adam Gough who has given many hours to our technology upgrades and Alan Cowling and David Barrie for their ongoing help with grounds and maintenance.

My sincere thanks to The Committee, Vice President Cherie Leatham, Secretary Jimmy Boyle, Treasurer Gaurav Gupta, committee members, Adam Hubble, Carla Smarelli, Geoff Sanders, Tania Scida and James Canty, all who have contributed with their professional expertise, advice and connections to contribute to enhancing opportunities to take the club into the future.

During the year Angus Henderson stepped down as Secretary, he continued to contribute in a very meaningful way with helping with the transition of Jimmy taking on the role of Secretary and I congratulate him on his election to being the President of GPHC and know with the team he will give strong and considered leadership.

Our business partners are integral in giving diverse involvement and add to the vibrancy of GPHC, we look forward to helping to grow their thriving business' and broadening the reach of participants at GPHC:

The Pro Shop – Deb Welsh, Absolute Tennis & Leisure

Absolutely Delicious -Michelle Peric

The Gym - Steve and Emma Pouniotis of Fitness Complete

Squash – Selena and Mike of F8 Training

Perfect Pilates - Jen Slater

Hubble Tennis - Adam Hubble and Miranda Poile

Our subcommittees remain strong:

Tennis: Led by Carla Smarrelli and supported by Luke Wrigley.

Squash: Now led by Adam Gough, following Geoff Sanders' excellent stewardship.

Racquetball: Tania Scida has grown participation to a regular group of around 20.

In Closing

My sincere thanks to Vice President **Cherie Leatham**, Secretary **Jimmy Boyle**, Treasurer **Gaurav Gupta**, and Committee Members **Adam Hubble**, **Carla Smarrelli**, **Geoff Sanders**, **Tania Scida**, and **James Canty** for their commitment, expertise, and leadership.

To **Angus Henderson**, thank you for your continued support beyond your official term, and congratulations on your election as the next President. I am confident the Club will thrive under your leadership.

Wishing you a wonderful Christmas and a happy, healthy 2026.

Jane Laidley Nathan AM, President GPHC



Treasurer's Report 2025

For FY25, **total revenue remained stable at just over \$1 million**, with diversified income streams across memberships, bar and food operations, functions, and tennis and squash participation. Membership continues to provide a reliable base, contributing roughly one-third of total revenue. Bar and function revenue was broadly flat year-on-year, reflecting continued utilisation of the Club as a social hub.

While revenue held steady, **the Club closed FY25 with an accounting deficit of \$72k**, driven primarily by softer revenue across several categories compared with the prior year.

Expenses were also broadly flat, with key cost drivers being employee costs, operational expenses, and cost of sales. Because depreciation is a non-cash accounting charge, the deficit does not reflect our underlying cash performance.

We delivered **positive operating cashflow of \$66k** and increased our cash balance to **\$360k** by year-end. The Club remains financially secure with **net assets of \$4.47 million**, and — importantly — **no debt**, with the Tennis Australia loan now fully repaid.

In summary: revenue remained stable, cashflow is positive, and the Club is in a strong financial position heading into the year ahead.

Thank you.

Gaurav Gupta – Treasurer- Grace Park Hawthorn Club

	2025	2024	%	\$	2023	2022
Functions Sales - Drink & Food	203,169	238,723	-15%	(35,554)	132,863	103,830
Bar Sales	175,493	170,740	3%	4,753	185,988	126,201
Bar Food Sales	64,727	69,099	-6%	(4,372)	36,758	15,649
Total Bar & Function Sales	443,389	478,562	-7%	(35,173)	355,609	245,680
Membership Subscriptions	334,134	361,172	-7%	(27,038)	347,653	255,624
Tennis & Squash	86,251	86,741	-1%	(490)	85,285	60,111
Hire of Facilities	38,194	38,545	-1%	(351)	22,673	23,515
Visitor Fees	14,463	15,988	-10%	(1,525)	9,315	686
Tournament Fees	11,200	9,300	20%	1,900	13,215	6,747
Gym Hire	11,195	10,909	3%	286	10,301	7,283
Premier League / Pro AM	8,182	16,500	-50%	(8,318)	-	-
Revenue from Op Activities	503,619	539,155	-7%	(35,536)	488,442	353,966
Revenue from Non-Op Activities	65,000	43,664	49%	21,336	89,713	155,462
Total Revenue	1,012,008	1,061,381	-5%	(49,373)	933,764	755,108
Operating Expenses	345,468	325,824	6%	19,644	331,467	240,938
Cost of Sales	305,027	308,724	-1%	(3,697)	255,838	162,675
Employment Expenses	302,943	349,456	-13%	(46,513)	360,455	219,803
Depreciation	124,022	118,389	5%	5,633	108,534	105,528
Finance Costs	6,289	14,297	-56%	(8,008)	9,956	8,161
Total Expenses	1,083,749	1,116,690	-3%	(32,941)	1,066,250	737,105
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(71,741)	(55,309)	30%	(16,432)	(132,486)	18,003
Tennis Australia Loan	-	10,374	-100%	(10,374)	20,679	31,272
Cash (Operating Funds)	360,686	339,916	6%	20,770	247,358	392,320

General Committee and Sub-Committees

Office Bearers 2024/2025

President:	Jane Nathan AM
Vice President:	Cherie Leatham
Secretary:	Jimmy Boyle
Treasurer:	Gaurav Gupta
General Committee:	Adam Hubble, James Canty, Geoff Sanders, Carla Smarelli, Tania Scida

Grace Park Hawthorn Club Committee Attendance 2024/25

	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
J. Nathan	n/a	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A
C. Leatham	n/a	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	A
J. Boyle	Joined Committee Dec. '25				P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P
G. Gupta	n/a	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
J. Canty	n/a	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	A	P	P	P
A. Henderson	n/a	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
A. Hubble	n/a	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
G. Sanders	n/a	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
C. Smarrelli	n/a	P	P	A	P	A	P	P	A	P	A	P
T. Scider	n/a	P	P	P	A	A	P	P	P	P	P	P
G. Sanders	n/a	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
R. DeLuca	n/a	A	P	A	Resigned from Committee							
A. Campbell	n/a	P	A	Resigned from Committee								

P - Present
A - Absent

Sub-Committees

Tennis Sub-Committee

- *Carla Smarrelli (Chair)*
- *Luke Wrigley (In House)*
- *Manie Meyer*
- *Roland Shepherd (Social)*
- *Cooper Millett*
- *James Boyle (Night Comp)*
- *Adam Hubble*

Squash Sub-Committee

- *Geoff Sanders (Chair)*
 - *Angus Henderson*
 - *Lakshmi Wijeyewickrema*
 - *Ben Behar*
 - *Nick Pollard*
 - *Adam Gough*
 - *Tania Scida*
 - *Duncan Dalgety*
-

Squash & Racquetball Report 2025

2025 saw a steady stream of new members added to a dedicated band of existing players, which enriched our pennant teams and the overall Squash and Racquetball community. In particular a growing group of members are playing Racquetball, both enjoying the game and socialising afterwards. We've found the Social Racquetball and Squash sessions to be very popular, and a way to introduce potential new members to the club.

In pennant we fielded teams in Club Circuit as well as teams in Masters, Racquetball and Southern Squash League, and won some flags while ensuring a everyone had an opportunity to improve.

Druvinka Perera overcame James Kavourakis to repeat as the Open Club Champion, while Selena Shaikh continued her dominance in the Women's event, defeating Helen Garrott. Mike Wilkinson won the Racquetball Club Championship, and partnered with Sethu Venna to win the doubles event as well.

At the Champions dinner we congratulated Tim Rogers on the Player of the Year award. It was well deserved for someone who barely lost a pennant match all year!

We would like to thank our Head Coach, Selena, enormously for all she has contributed to GPHC. The club will miss her warm presence and patience, as well as her invaluable coaching. We miss her already but are thankful that we continue to have F8 providing coaching services.

Thanks also go to all those that contributed to the special fund to repair and repaint the front walls of the Squash courts. We appreciate your generosity. Thanks also to Angus for managing the whole process.

Further thanks go to Adam Gough, for both adding the Court bookings screen and organising pennant teams, amongst the many other ways he's supported the club. He's a fine example of a member (one of many) that give their time and energy to make the club what it is.

The Squash & Racquetball Sub Committee

Geoff Sanders
Squash
Convenor

Tennis Report 2025

The 2025 season has been another outstanding year for Grace Park Hawthorn Club, both on and off the court.

The year began with a memorable moment as the club hosted an event in partnership with ON Running, featuring current world No. 2 Iga Świątek stepping onto the courts at GPHC, playing fun games with our members and top club players — a memory no member will forget. GPHC also proudly hosted the 2025 Oceania Para-standing Tennis Championships once again, held in alignment with the Australian Open — an event that was a great success, showcasing incredible talent and reinforcing the club's reputation for hosting world-class tennis. We were also delighted by national tennis news when Australians Olivia Gadecki and John Peers captured the Mixed Doubles title at the 2025 Australian Open at Melbourne Park.

Participation across all programs has remained strong, with consistent growth in junior, senior, and social tennis. Our members have continued to demonstrate enthusiasm, teamwork, and club spirit, contributing to a positive and inclusive environment.

Looking ahead, our goal is to maintain high participation rates and continue to strike a balance between social and performance tennis. We aim to ensure that every member — whether playing competitively or socially — feels supported, engaged, and proud to be part of the club. With this balanced focus, the future of tennis at Grace Park Hawthorn remains exceptionally bright.

Competition at GPHC

The In-House Competition continued its strong success, with over 50 registered players participating in the February, October and November seasons. The competition remains a highly valued fixture within the club, offering UTR (Universal Tennis Rating) matches catering to all levels of play. It continues to attract participants ranging from beginners to State-Grade Pennant players and contributes significantly to the vibrant atmosphere at the club each Saturday afternoon.

The Club Championships were once again a major success, drawing more than 100 entrants across 27 adult and junior events. In response to the club's growing community and depth of talent across all age groups, additional graded and social events were introduced. It was particularly pleasing to note an increase in participation across all standards, as well as the successful transition of junior players into adult grades, reflecting the strength and progression within our playing community.

The club also had a strong presence in the Night Competition across both the Autumn and Spring 2025 seasons, with a total of 10 teams participating.

In the Autumn season, our teams achieved outstanding results. Overall, Autumn concluded with two teams crowned champions, one runner-up, and three semi-finalists, showcasing the club's depth of talent and commitment across all levels of competition. For the Spring season, the competition remains ongoing, with a promising outlook — it is anticipated that four teams will progress to the Semi-Finals across the three nights of play.

The Junior Competition also delivered excellent results throughout the year. In the Autumn season, 8 out of 12 teams reached the finals, with two teams advancing to the grand final and both narrowly missing victory in tightly contested matches. For the Spring season, the club has 11 junior teams competing, with four teams well-positioned to qualify for the semi-finals. This continued success highlights the strength of our junior program and the enthusiasm of our young players.

The Tennis Victoria Pennant Season (Winter 2025) was another outstanding campaign for the club, featuring two out of three women's teams and six out of eight men's teams making finals. The standout achievement came from the Men's Grade 2 team, who claimed the 2025 Pennant Championship, securing victory in a thrilling final that was decided by a 10–8 match tiebreaker. The team demonstrated exceptional consistency and resilience throughout the season, with standout individual performances including an individual recorded an impressive 8–1 singles record.

The Tennis Victoria Premier League (2025) season was equally noteworthy. Grace Park Hawthorn Club finished as runners-up in the Men's Premier League, narrowly missing out on the title after a close final against Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club, who they had just beaten in the Paul Arber Cup not too long before. These achievements reflect the high calibre of talent representing Grace Park at both state and elite levels and reinforce the club's reputation as one of Victoria's leading tennis clubs.

Key Positives for 2025

- Participation and membership numbers continued to grow across all areas of tennis, including juniors, seniors, social, and competitive players.
- The Women's State Grade Pennant team returned this year, with strong performances and ongoing development as we aim to include a Men's State Grade team in the future.
- Premier League tennis was well represented by both male and female teams. The Men's team achieved runners-up status, narrowly losing the final against Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club.
- The Paul Arber Cup was successfully contested this year, with the club's team winning against Kooyong, continuing Paul Arber's legacy.
- Club Championship entries were high, reflecting the depth of participation and talent, and we aim to increase entries further in 2026.
- Teams and individual players achieved strong results across all competitions, demonstrating the club's competitive strength.
- The addition of the Pickleball court, expanding opportunities for members and diversifying our offerings.
- Due to the ongoing success of the In-House Competition, we will continue to host these competitions for many years to come.
- The Wednesday Night Social Tennis continues to thrive, regularly reaching full numbers each week and fostering engagement across all levels of play.

Congratulations to all players, captains, and coaches for their dedication, sportsmanship, and outstanding representation of the Grace Park Hawthorn Club throughout 2025.

Carla Smarrelli
Tennis
Convenor

Pro Shop Report 2025

2025 at GPHC has been a generally seamless year all in all.

Beginning with the Para-Standing tennis event returning to the Club again. Opening Absolute Tennis especially for their competitors was an honour. How blessed we are to have such inspirational athletes in our midst.

The Australian Open tennis tournament followed closely to fire everyone up for the sporting year ahead.

Absolute Tennis continued trading from Wednesday to Saturday this year. Members have been able to leave their racquets for restring outside of hours at reception or the bar, which is a great help.

All the Club Championships, In-house & District Comps have been well supported & played in great spirit, which is a credit to all.

As Absolute Tennis has always offered a prompt restring service to members & the greater community, we're very happy that Pickleball paddles require no strings...my poor fingers are grateful for that!!! 🙏

I'd like to thank the Club committee & Operations team for all their ongoing efforts throughout the year.

Our Club President, Jane Nathan AM, has been actively involved in all aspects of GPHC for around a decade. Her leadership has been exemplary, supported by many & varied committee members throughout her reign. There is such a mountain of work involved in keeping our Club afloat each year, which is easy to overlook unless you're at the coalface (the Covid era as an example, would've been extremely challenging to navigate). I would like to personally thank Jane for her encouragement & support of myself & Absolute Tennis throughout her presidency. I now look forward to many more interactions regarding both our Club's, being GPHC and the mighty Demons!

As Christmas is around the corner & the weather is improving, hopefully the Club & Pro Shop will have a busy end to the year.

Thank you once again all our members who continue to support Absolute Tennis. I truly appreciate your patronage, care & kindness to me.

Deb Welsh

Absolute Tennis and Leisure



Squash Coaching Report 2025

A Busy and Positive Year

2025 has been an active and productive year for F8 Squash at Grace Park Hawthorn Club. Participation across one-on-one coaching, squads, and junior sessions remained strong, with players consistently on court and enjoying the game. F8's involvement has continued to support the club's focus on member engagement and community through squash.

Building the Coaching Team

This year saw the addition of three new coaches to the GPHC group. Sarah Cardwell, a top 100 world-ranked player, joined the F8 coaching group alongside young professional Andre Lynn. Ketan Porwal also graduated from promising junior to budding coach and recently received coaching qualifications. He will be raring to go in 2026. The inclusion of these three, broadened the range of coaching styles available and allowed greater flexibility in scheduling for members. With eight skilled coaches now supporting the club, coaching coverage and member access to sessions are better than ever. The variety in coaching backgrounds ensures players of all levels can find the right fit for their goals.

Coaching Activity and Member Involvement

Individual coaching sessions continued to see steady growth, offering members consistent opportunities to improve through tailored instruction. Adult squads remained popular, combining training and connection in a relaxed and constructive setting. Junior participation reached record numbers in 2025, with structured programs that balance development and fun. The club's juniors continued to represent GPHC proudly at state and national levels. Jay and Ketan both had strong seasons, while emerging players Will and Bowen gained valuable tournament experience.

Supporting Club Events

F8 Squash again supported the club in running the 2025 Club Championships, setting up draws and managing the match schedule. Several F8 team members took part as players and together won six events.

Day-to-day, our coaches are in regular contact with members, offering informal support for pennant teams and club hits. F8 coaches often join in club sessions and, where needed, have even stepped aside from court bookings to ensure club events can proceed, despite this meaning F8 cannot always run coaching during those times. While this arrangement has its challenges for F8, our focus remains on supporting club participation and member experience.

Farewell and Transition

After eight years leading the squash program at GPHC, Head Coach Selena concluded her role in October to take up a new position at Kooyong. Selena was the foundation coach when GPHC was formed, and she has played a central role in building the culture and momentum squash now enjoys at the club. While she will be missed, her legacy is clear in the strong, capable team she leaves behind. With eight coaches now in place, F8 Squash is well-positioned to continue delivering a high standard of support and development for all members. The transition has been smooth, and coaching services to GPHC proceed with no interruption.

Looking Ahead

F8 Squash looks forward to continuing its close partnership with Grace Park Hawthorn Club in 2026. With strong participation, an expanded coaching team, and an active player base, the squash program is in a very healthy position and well set for another successful year.

Mike

F8 Squash



Tennis Coaching Report 2025

This year marks our second year of Hubble Tennis, where we continue to live our values of coaching excellence, professionalism, and player development. Our goal remains to deliver high-quality tennis coaching to our members and the wider community.

It has been an amazing year, and seeing everyone continue to improve their game has been incredibly rewarding. Highlights include the success of players representing the club across various competitions. Congratulations to Coach Louis for being part of the winning Grade 2 Pennant team, and to Coach Marcus for reaching the Grand Final in the Victorian Premier League.

Hubble Tennis programs run Monday to Saturday, offering Hot Shots programs (Blue Stage, Red Ball, Orange Ball, Green Ball), Adult Group Class, Cardio Tennis, Elite Squads, and Private Lessons to meet all your tennis needs.

A big thank you to our coaching team Rob Ensor, Clive Wilson, Peter Wilson, Miranda Poile, Jordan Lemke, Marcus Nield, Charlotte McIntosh, Harry McCorkell, Tom Zaleski, Harriet Stewart, Louis Taylor, Jiheon Son, Joe Komemoto, Jack Calleri, Luca Bond, and Wes Neylon. All of whom work tirelessly to help players reach their full potential.

Thank you to the committee, operations team, club members, business partners, and volunteers for your hard work and contributions throughout 2025 in making GPHC one of Melbourne's premier sporting clubs.

At the start of 2025, we were thrilled to take a group of our Red Ball players to play on John Cain Arena during the Australian Open, an unforgettable experience for our youngest stars. We hope to make this a yearly tradition and look forward to giving more players the chance to enjoy this special opportunity this summer.

We are now preparing for a smashing Aussie Summer of Tennis and wish everyone a joyful holiday season. Thank you for being part of Hubble Tennis — we look forward to another fantastic year coaching tennis at GPHC!

Adam Hubble
Head Coach

HUBBLE TENNIS

Catering and Functions Report 2025

Overview

Our catering partnership with Grace Park Hawthorn Club continues to deliver quality service, warmth, and community engagement. We remain focused on providing a welcoming atmosphere for both members and guests, ensuring that every event reflects the Club's values of hospitality, inclusivity, and connection.

Member & Community Service

A key priority has been maintaining a strong sense of community and belonging within the Club. Our catering team takes pride in providing personalised service, remembering familiar faces, accommodating special requests, and adding thoughtful touches that make guests feel valued.

Many members and local community groups have become loyal, returning clients, reflecting the trust and satisfaction built over time. We've supported a wide range of functions including member celebrations, club presentations, fundraisers, and private events, all with the same goal, to deliver memorable experiences that encourage continued patronage and positive word-of-mouth within the local area.

Creating a Welcoming Atmosphere

We strive to make every member and guest feel at home at Grace Park. From our "can-do" approach and flexible menu planning to our attentive staff and event management support, we aim to remove stress for clients and create seamless, enjoyable experiences. Feedback consistently highlights our friendly service, professionalism, and the relaxed yet polished atmosphere we help foster across all events, large or small.

Business Performance

While overall event bookings are down by approximately 10% compared with the previous year, this trend aligns with broader market conditions and reflects current financial pressures on both individuals and organisations.

Despite this decline, we continue to maintain a steady revenue stream through:

- Proactive client engagement and follow-up with past customers
- Offering tailored packages to suit varying budgets
- Diversifying services to include smaller, more casual gatherings and community-based events
- Strengthening relationships with local groups and corporate clients

Our focus remains on adaptability, value, and maintaining quality, ensuring that every event, regardless of scale, delivers the same high standards our clients expect.

Outlook

We are committed to building on our strong foundation at Grace Park Hawthorn Club. By continuing to nurture relationships, enhance our offerings, and remain flexible in a changing environment, we're confident in our ability to sustain business levels and support the Club's community-focused mission.

Our goal moving forward is to keep Grace Park a place where members and guests feel genuinely welcomed, well cared for, and proud to celebrate their special moments.

Michelle Peric

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