

## MINUTES of the 27th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MEETING OPENED Collegians Club, Wollongong on the 18th April 2006 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT As per attendance sheets

APOLOGIES P Anthony K Ruzzene W Cardillo M McGrath

PREVIOUS MINUTES 21st April 2005 were accepted as true and correct

REPORTS & BALANCE SHEET There were no questions of the reports  
The Financial Report was presented unaudited

### NOTICES OF MOTION

The following motions were carried with the required majority.

1. Honorariums as laid down at the AGM of the 21<sup>st</sup> April 2005, are paid to outgoing Directors. Administrator to receive \$3000.00 President, Finance, Coaching, Junior, Publicity, Referees & Information Technology & Assets, to receive \$300.00 each.  
The role of Grounds was not completed to satisfaction and will not receive an honorarium
2. Honorariums for the incoming Directors are set at \$3000 for Administrator. President, Finance, Coaching, Publicity, Referees, Grounds, Canteen, Juniors and IT & Assets to receive \$300.00 each

### ELECTION OF DIRECTORS & GENERAL COMMITTEE

President	Barry Jackson	
Administrator	Gary Brickell	(continuing)
Finance	Kerry Kyriacou	(continuing)
Coaching	Allyson (Ali) Day	continuing)
Juniors		
Referees	Michael McGrath	(continuing)
Grounds		
Publicity	Natalie Rixon	
Canteen	Diane Kiely	
Information Technology & Assets	Paul Anthony	(continuing)

General Committee	Ben Bresolin
	Graeme Corby
	Tony Rixon
	Lee Zaremski

### GENERAL BUSINESS

Annual Awards were presented to the following  
Association Member of the year – Diane Kiely  
Player of the year - Paul Dallas  
Junior male player of the year - Bart Hill  
Junior female player of the year - Cara Zaremski

MEETING CLOSED at 7.30pm

## Presidents Report

Terry Sylvester

As per usual with the great efforts of our Administrator, Gary Brickell both our winter and summer domestic competitions run smoothly and successfully. Through his knowledge of teams and their make-ups, close results were the norm rather than the exception. This was most evident in the number of single try and drop-off results in the both semi and grand final games.

A good competition is only as good as it's referees and although getting older produced the goods. Our referees not only performed in our domestic competition but at representative level, regional, country, junior state and nationals and in good numbers. Many receiving upgrades from hard work on their games, with special congratulations to Bob Pascoe for his upgrade to NSW State ranking. Thanks to Referee co-ordinator Mick McGrath. The duty referee system is important for our competitions success, most teams fulfil those commitments but some teams still fail consistently. Rules are being adjusted to deal with those teams.

This years Junior State Cup (JSC) with a record 275 teams was especially successful for our representative teams and moderately successful on the bottom line. It was the most smoothly run of all past events. The mix is close to right. Fixed costs need to be brought down where possible. Through the hard work of Gary Brickell it's great to see that Wollongong City Council are actually starting to realise how beneficial this event is for the Illawarra and South Coast areas. It is just a pity our Tourism and Business communities don't appreciate the importance of the JSC. WTA's good performances are a direct result of a well run Junior competition , so thanks to Karen Ruzzene, Allyson Fisher and Jill McGuiness. Special thanks to the regular faces whom continue to show up when hard work is required, the families Anthony, Brickell, Cardillo ,Jackson, Ruzzene and many more individuals to numerous to mention. In my area of car parking during the JSC, I would like to thank Brad Lloyd (of the Collies team), Graeme Corby and Dean Cardillo for their assistance.

Thanks to Barry Jackson and Diane Kiely for continually manning the canteen and keeping time on game nights. This greatly adds to a smooth running competition. Thanks also to the manning of the canteen on special event days (eg school events), especially Lee Zaremski.

I'm stepping down from the roll of President of WTA. I'm finding that with a young family, I just can give the position the time and effort it deserves. It's has been a privilege to be part of this small but hard working committee at WTA. Special thanks again to Gary Brickell for the massive amount of work, much of which is unseen and for the time he puts to make Wollongong Touch the successful Association that it is.

## Administrators Report

Gary Brickell

Wollongong Touch appears to be going through a period of stagnation. "Burn out" is occurring in a number of areas, especially with our senior members which is noted with the decline of volunteers, through committees and general assistance at all levels.

The Junior State Cup which has been hosted by us in Wollongong for the last six years, should have been a major money earner for the association, but due to lack of volunteers we have had to seek assistance from other groups, at a cost of \$2000 - \$3000, money that could have been put to use in the development of our own facility.

The junior competition continues to grow, but has become very fragmented with a high number of children wanting to play, but lack of senior coaches to assist in their development has seen too many going to the senior competition. We need to develop the juniors as a stand-alone competition both in winter & summer months, preferably prior to the senior competition, so that parents can be involved without taking an extra night out of the family life.

The depth of the girls coming through as noted with the results in the Junior State Championships, indicates to me that the time is right for change.

Unfortunately, Karen Ruzzene is not seeking re-election as the junior director so the change may have to be deferred for another year, unless we can find a willing volunteer to take on the challenge.

Breach notices continued during winter, with a total of 22 first breach notices served on teams for failing to abide with the competition rules they entered under. Three teams were suspended from the competition for two weeks after receiving their second breach. These breaches were for failing to do duty or forfeits. No action was taken against teams not completing team sheets.

Congratulations to those teams who accepted their responsibilities and refereed when they were required, some doing more than requested. To those of you that say duty refereeing is too demanding give it a go or find referees outside of the competition to do it for you.

The high quantity of minor injuries (145 reported) is a major concern to us, with the poor playing surface, brought on by the drought conditions being the main factor. Discussions are continuing with council with regard to installing a full ground watering system, which should be in place within 12 months. Players arrive minutes before game time, or just after and enter the field without any preparation, example stretching, is still a major problem

# Juniors Report

Karen Ruzzene

In 2005 we saw the running of our eighth season of Junior competition with 440 nominations across 4 age divisions.

This year we changed the running of the Junior Competition to 10 weeks in Term 4 of 2005. This was done to allow time for all involved in Junior State Cup, whether as a player, coach or as part of the WTA Organising Committee, to concentrate on their chosen role. Also, in past competitions we have a large absentee rate in the second half of the comp after Christmas as registrations begin for Winter sports.

Although moving the High School aged kids (16 teams – 12 sponsored) to a Tuesday night before the Senior Mixed games, to be able to use more Senior referees and let these kids see adults playing, (as this is where they will hopefully progress to) was our main aim, unfortunately with a starting time of 5 pm most referees were unable to get to the games. This left us with our usual problem of not having enough referees to cover games but with the willing support of parents who also play, we managed to cover this shortage most weeks. I would like to thank Joe Spiteri, Peter Farrugia and Gary Brickell who did help out when work permitted.

On Wednesday afternoon we ran our Under 8's to Under 12's, with 26 teams, 16 sponsored by local businesses, so we can reduce the cost of playing for the children.

Jill McGuinness organised our older Junior players who have now progressed to the Senior comp, to coach a team of Under 8's for two weeks so they would be better equipped to handle the game situation. Emphasis was placed on skills needed to play the game as well as basic rules. Its great to see these children giving something back in their own time to help bring our younger touch players on. All our young coaches started as a Junior when the first comp was played in 1999, most going on to higher representative honours at Regional, State and Australian levels, but all get a lot of enjoyment out of the experience.

This season saw 11 (Year 7 or older) children complete the Level 1 Referees course enabling them to use their knowledge on Wednesday afternoons with the younger children, as most played on Tuesdays! The children also received support in the way of coaching from Ross Freestone (Regional Director of Referees) and this provided them with positive tips to keep them on track. These children did a great job, most refereeing two games per afternoon each week. Its great to have children committed to the role of referee and to helping the comp run smoothly.

Gala Trophies supplied end of season trophies for each child that participated and we thank Barry and Lisa for their support.

The Junior comp and any associated costs are met from within our framework so we don't need financial support from the Senior part of the club.

Adel Sportswear again looked after the playing shirts worn by all the children during the comp, as well as commemorative shirts for all involved in Junior State Cup. Only given a short time frame, we thank Adel for the streamlined way they are able to support our Junior Comp each year.

Congratulations must go to our Under 14's and Under 18's girls for winning their respective State titles at Junior State Cup this year, but I think the highlight of the weekend was receiving their medals from Benji Marshall! Our other 8 teams all performed credibly with the Under 10's and Under 18's boys winning the Plate Final in their division. From this weekend, 13 Wollongong players were selected to represent at a Regional level for Southern Suns in Under 14's and Under 16's boys and girls, with the Under 16's girls winning their division in Nelson Bay. From these championships we had 4 girls selected in the inaugural NSWTA State Merit teams: Rebecca Mounsey (Under 14's) and Bianca Mounsey, Kobi Ruzzene and Sophie Broadhead (Under 16's). Ali Day must again be congratulated on bringing all the children together under the guidance of the coaching staff.

As this is my final report as Director of Juniors for WTA, I would like to thank all the people who have helped run the comp over the past 4 seasons as they have helped make my job easier! Its time for someone else to inject some new blood into the role and I wish my predecessor all the best as they take on a new challenge!! We have a very strong junior base that is continually growing in strength and numbers that needs to be nurtured and expanded. I will not be nominating for the role again.

# Coaching Report

Ali (Allyson) Day

2005/2006 has been a great year for WTA representatives.  
Many players have been selected in School, Country, State and Australian teams.

## TEAMS:

### **Under 23 Women:**

**Country Champs Dubbo: Winners**  
**Vawdon Cup – Sydney (Open Div 2): 5th**  
**Regional Championships: Winners (opens)**  
**State Cup: Winners (23's)**

Over 35 Women:

Regional Championships: Winners

Over 35 Men:

Regional Championships:

Open Men:

Country Champs Dubbo:  
Vawdon Cup:  
Regional Championships:  
State Cup:

Mixed:

Country Champs Dubbo:  
Vawdon Cup:  
Regional Championships  
State Cup:

Over 40 Men:

Country Champs Dubbo: Runner Up  
Vawdon Cup: Winners Div 2  
Regional Championships: Runner Up  
Cup: Runner Up

Over 45/50 Mens:

Country Champs Dubbo: lost semi  
Vawdon Cup:  
Regional Championships: winners State  
State Cup: Runner Up

Congratulations to coaches, managers, referees and players on a fantastic year and to those that represented from these tournaments

## Junior State Cup:

Winners: Under 14 girls, Under 18 girls

Plate Winners: Under 10 boys, Under 18 boys

Wollongong finished equal first on championship points.

Congratulations to coaches, managers, referees and players on a fantastic year and to those that represented from these tournaments

## Uniforms:

**Please make sure all uniforms are returned after each tournament. There are still some outstanding uniforms and if you have one at home please hand into the canteen. If WTA keep "losing" uniforms then we will be forced to put up the entry fees to carnivals.**

Personally, I would like to thank all those people involved in the entire representative scene but we still need improvement from everyone in being more efficient with the paperwork and payments. It makes my job a lot easier and also gets the Administrator off my back!

Thank you also to WTA committee for helping me throughout the year and for the support shown.

To all the park players, please do not feel that you are not good enough or that there is not enough room in a team. Please keep an eye on the notice board or the website for information regarding all representative news or email on [coaching@wollongongtouch.asn.au](mailto:coaching@wollongongtouch.asn.au)