“When I get a fair sight of the ball, I hit it – and I hit it damned hard!”
SYDNEY REAL TENNIS CLUB
SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

AN INVITATION TO
SUPPORT A UNIQUE NEW SPORTS CLUB

A brief history
Why take up real tennis?
Why build a tennis court in Sydney?
Proposals for a club at Moore Park
Expected demand for real tennis in Sydney
Architectural plans
Expressions of interest and applications for membership

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Front cover, top: 17th century crest of the guild of the Maître-Paumiers, protected by French Royal patent from unauthorised vendors of tennis balls and racquets.

Front cover, middle: Tom Pettitt, from the Boston Tennis and Racquet Club, who took the World Championship title at Hampton Court Palace in 1885, then successfully defended it at Dublin’s Iveagh court in 1890. Where others played the classic floor game of cut-and-pace, Pettitt would force mercilessly for the openings at every opportunity – and chase down every ball.
An invitation to support a unique new sports club

The Sydney Real Tennis Club is a new club with a difference. It marks the return to Sydney of the world’s most challenging and fascinating racket-and-ball game.

To make this possible, a group of enthusiasts has decided to create a special place for the pursuit of some things we value: athletic skills, good sportsmanship and social congeniality.

…and an ancient game

The game is tennis. No, not lawn tennis, that vigorous young upstart now played worldwide, for that was only invented just over a century ago. We mean the real thing, the ancient and original game. Our game is called real tennis in Britain and Australia, jeu de paume in France, and court tennis in the United States. To the swelling ranks of its devotees it is, simply, tennis.

This booklet tells you about “real tennis”, its history, its rules and its recent resurgence. Most importantly you’ll see our plans for a world-class real tennis club in the most fantastic of locations: a stone’s throw from the Sydney Cricket Ground and right in the heart of metropolitan Sydney. The location really is a match made in heaven. Our plan is to nestle the new Club alongside the Old Toll House at Moore Park, which dates back to 1860 and has been forlornly looking for a new purpose in life for more than half a century. We happen to think that real tennis will be the perfect fit – a heritage game for a heritage building!

Supporters of our endeavour will not only enjoy this intriguing game; they will also be making a little history. We invite you to become a contributor or a member of the Club, using the form at the end of this booklet. For further information, please contact David Pinsent, Chris Cooper or any other Committee member listed in the front of this booklet.

A tennis quiz … answers inside back cover

Q1. Where was Henry VIII when Anne Boleyn was beheaded?
A Brief History

Nobody invented tennis. It evolved, over nine centuries, although the game’s main features - the court itself, the racquets, balls, scoring system and other rules - have been standardised since around 1600. The oldest indoor court in existence today, at Hampton Court Palace in England, was built by Charles I in 1625 (on the site of Henry VIII’s earlier court) and is still widely used for championship play. An outdoor court at Falkland Palace in Scotland will celebrate its 475th year of play next year.

Tennis started as a form of handball (“Jeu de Paume” = “game of the hand”), played by monks in the cloisters of French and Italian monasteries in the 11th century. The design of today’s court, with its sloping penthouse roof, galleries and other openings, clearly derives from the architecture of cloisters and courtyards. The original balls were, as now, made of bound cloth or hair covered with stitched felt.

With the development of gloves, and later wood and string racquets, came heavier balls and standardised court dimensions and scoring. By the 13th century, tennis was the preferred sport of leisureed French clerics - so much so that it was, at times, prohibited by the church authorities.

In the 14th century the game began to be played more by kings and nobles than by the clergy. From France, which gave tennis much of its vocabulary (including the name, derived from “tenez”, the server’s warning that the ball was on its way), the game spread to England and Scotland and had its many royal devotees. Henry VIII was perhaps the best known, but others were just as keen. By the 16th and 17th centuries, tennis was clearly the most popular ball game in Europe - and not just with aristocrats. Paris alone is thought to have had around 250 tennis courts in the mid-1500s. No wonder various monarchs tried to prohibit commoners from playing tennis rather than attending to their military and religious duties. By contrast, the 18th century was a period of sharp decline in the game’s fortunes. European royalty lost interest; widespread dishonest betting gave tennis an unsavoury reputation; and many courts were demolished or converted to other uses (particularly theatres). Finally, the French Revolution dealt a savage blow to the game in France, from which it has hardly recovered, although three courts are still in active use in the country.

The second half of the 19th century marked a major revival of the game in Britain. Tennis courts were built not just at the country houses of wealthy families, but at new urban clubs established to cater for the burgeoning growth of competitive sports in Victorian Britain.

Q2. Who are the current world champions?
The Court

Elements of the monastic courtyards and cloisters where tennis originated can still be seen in modern indoor courts. Today they are usually built 110 feet long, 40 feet wide and 30 feet high - but courts often have their own unique variations. As in lawn tennis there is a net across the centre of the court, 5 feet high at the sides but falling to 3 feet high in the middle. Around three sides of the court runs the penthouse, a lean-to with a sloping roof in a style descended from monks' cloisters. Netted openings or galleries under the penthouse provide viewing for spectators, but are also targets for winning strokes. “Chase” lines, for scoring, mark the floor and lower walls. Wood panels and a buttress in the main side wall are other individual features of the court.

Playing Tennis in A Time Warp

The court isn’t symmetrical.

Asymmetry never did much for the simplicity of a game, and real tennis is no exception. The ball can be played not only off the floors but also off the walls, the tambour and the penthouse. The rackets, with their odd-shaped heads, are designed for scooping balls off the floor and reaching into corners.

“Chase” lines, for scoring, mark the floor and lower walls. Wood panels and a buttress in the main side wall are other individual features of the court.

Q3. What do a giraffe, a boomerang, and a railroad have in common?
The Racquet

The game was originally played with a bare hand, then a gloved hand and then a short bat, before racquets were introduced around 1500. Modern racquets are still made (in Britain) from ash wood, but for the strings sheep gut has now been replaced by nylon. The characteristic lop-sided racquet head helps the player both hit the ball with low, cutting strokes and retrieve it from the corners of the court.


Why take up real tennis?

This is still a fair question to ask, of an ancient European game which was, and still is, played by relatively few people.

The game’s devotees will give you many different answers:

- It’s the combination of lawn tennis, squash and chess
- something different happens every time I play
- it’s so tough, but the handicapping system can always make for a close game
- It’s because of the people who play it, and their attitude
- I like a game where sportsmanship, etiquette and good fellowship are still the norm
- It’s because I am 74 and can sometimes beat these young whipper-snappers half my age
- It’s because I can arrive unannounced at a club in London, Melbourne or Paris and be welcomed like an old friend...

These are all good reasons for playing real tennis, but a few myths need to be dispelled.

First, you do not have to be wealthy - or at least no wealthier than a member of a private lawn tennis club.

Second, you do not have to be a man.

Women real tennis players have been recognised at least since the 15th century in France, where Margot of Henault, the ‘Joan of Arc of tennis’, was described in 1487 as “playing tennis very powerfully, maliciously and skilfully like a man. And there were few men she could not beat’ Nowadays women players are active and successful on both sides of the Atlantic and in Australia. In the US, ladies’ singles and doubles championships are contested annually, as well as mixed doubles and handicap tournaments. Because of the handicapping system women can and do play with and against men, and some tournaments and team matches are open to both sexes. The qualities of sportsmanship and fellowship which characterise tennis are particularly appreciated by the growing company of women players.

Q4. Which Shakespearean character described himself, after being shipwrecked in the Mediterranean, as “A man whom both the waters and the wind, in that vast tennis court, have made the ball for them to play upon”? 

The Ball

The ball is slightly smaller than a lawn tennis ball, but heavier and harder. It is hand made from cloth and string. Half-inch ribbons of cloth are wound to make the core, and hammered to shape in a wooden cup. A string binding protects the core, and a final covering of two strips of felt is hand-stitched tightly in place. The core can last up to fifty years with frequent re-covering.

The Royal Game

Real tennis is the finest racquet sport of all - as fast as squash, more subtle than lawn tennis, more athletic than Racquets and more everything than America’s racquetball.

Real tennis remains the most varied of games, with dozens of different serves, volleyed returns and sliced half-volleys.

The Economist

Third you do not have to be young.

There are top-class players in their early 20s, but even they admit to the need for a slow apprenticeship, learning more and more as the game’s complexities come to light. Real tennis champions will train for hours daily and be as fit as the leading athletes in any sport. And yet one of the beauties of the game is its versatility, with players in their 70s and even 80s who derive enormous pleasure - as much cerebral as physical - from tennis. Not for them are the hard-hitting rallies (or “restes” in real tennis) of thirty strokes, played rushing from one side of the court to the other. Their delight comes from the canny exploitation of the court’s spaces and angles, and the judicious use of spin and lob.

The truth is that real tennis is enjoyed by men and women of all ages and standards. Their common denominator is a love of the game.

Finally, one of the most attractive characteristics of the game is the welcome which players enjoy when visiting other clubs at home and abroad. The Sydney Real Tennis Club looks forward to reciprocating this welcome to real tennis players visiting its home.

The New Yorker

The game as it is played today differs little from the game that was described by Antonio Scaino in his “Treatise on Tennis”, in 1555. Both real tennis and lawn tennis use the same nomenclature in tallying points - “deuce”, “advantage”, and so-on, but in real tennis they are earned in far more inventive ways.

They can be awarded outright if the ball is hit into the dedans or the other winning openings. They can be won through opponents’ racquet errors, which plague even the best players when a ball can be smashed off walls and still travel at more than a hundred miles an hour. Or they can be won on chases, which begin with shots that the serving player doesn’t return, either because he can’t reach them or because he chooses to let them go because they are too difficult to play.

Q5. When was real tennis first played in Sydney?
Q6. Which monarch's passion for tennis contributed to his premature death?

**The Scoring System**

Real tennis has a scoring system similar to, but more complex than its offshoot, lawn tennis. In both, games are scored by points of 15, 30, 40, and Game (sometimes including deuce and advantage); and by sets won by the first player to reach six games - although in real tennis sets can be won at 6–5. In both games two serves are allowed, and points are lost through double faults or by hitting the ball into the net or out of court.

It is in how some points are won that tennis is different. To begin with there are three "winning openings" in the court which make good targets, since a ball hit into any of them is an outright winner. Then there is the chase – a concept unique to tennis. A chase is effectively a suspended point. With some exceptions, when a ball either bounces twice or enters one of the non-winning openings, the point is not decided: instead a chase is "laid", defined as either where the ball bounced for the second time (e.g. so many yards from the back wall) or in the opening (gallery) which it entered. The opposing player then has the chance, after changing ends, to beat the chase and thereby win the point. That requires making the ball either bounce twice (or enter a gallery) closer to the back wall of the court than where the chase was earlier laid.

There are other minor differences. For example, players change ends not at the end of every second game, as in lawn tennis, but only to "play off" a chase. It is theoretically possible (if no chases are laid) for players to stay at their respective ends throughout a match. The way the scoring is called also differs: in tennis the score of the player winning the most recent point is always called first.

**Why build a real tennis court in Sydney?**

Our largest city is a natural place for new real tennis courts. Sydney has it all: a fast-growing metropolitan area with a rebounding economy; an affluent, sophisticated population, including a substantial interstate and international population, and frequent overseas visitors.

Despite not currently having a Sydney court, the Club still boasts 150 enthusiastic members who are keen as mustard for a new home and can't wait to play again. The nearest existing courts are 700km away in Melbourne - too far for some members to commute! The Club still fields teams for interclub matches against Melbourne Hobart and Ballarat, and in April this year held club championships in Romsey and Ballarat which attracted 35 players.

A real tennis court will be a unique and valuable asset to Sydney – courts are rare, but they exist in some of the most distinguished locations, such as Hampton Court Palace, Oxford and Cambridge Universities, Lord’s Cricket Ground, The Queen’s Club in London, the Racquet & Tennis Club on Park Avenue, New York and the Société Sportive du Jeu de Paume et de Racquets in the centre of Paris. Tennis players from around the world eagerly await an excuse to visit Sydney and play at Moore Park.

Interest in real tennis is expected from local schools and universities. The Club will look to attract young players by offering coaching and training programs to the relevant sports departments.

The Sydney Real Tennis Club will host major events in a national and international tournament rotation, allowing Moore Park to showcase the highest quality real tennis matches.

Australia currently has five real tennis courts: two in Melbourne (one of the busiest clubs in the world), one in Hobart (built in 1875), one in Ballarat and a private court in Romsey (country Victoria). There is significant interstate support for the establishment of a real tennis club in Sydney, and regular interclub matches will be part of the annual fixture list.

Melbourne is a particularly successful club, with over 600 members; its two courts are amongst the busiest in the world. It enjoys a court usage of over 13 hours per day per court every day of the year, i.e. 9,677 hours of real tennis annually.
Location, location, location!

Centennial Parklands and the adjoining Moore Park are amongst the world's great public parklands. The park is the largest single-venue community sports destination in New South Wales, with more than 550,000 sports users, 120 fields and venues and more than 30 different sports played.

The park is ideally located a few kilometres south of the Sydney CBD, and the site of the Old Toll House, on the corner of Anzac Parade and Cleveland Street, is adjacent to lawn tennis courts, an 18-hole golf course and driving range.

At the time of writing this brochure, the Centennial Parklands Trust, which owns and manages the park, is preparing a request for proposals for the adaptive reuse of the Old Toll House and its surrounding precinct. The Sydney Real Tennis Club has had preliminary discussions with the management team and is fully prepared to respond, based on the extensive preparation that the Club has so far undertaken, including both design and planning considerations.

The project

The plans show how the building could be constructed adjacent to the Old Toll House. The area is well treed and picturesque, and the design is sympathetic to the surroundings, maintaining a lower height profile so as to sit comfortably next to the original structure, while also undulating with the surrounding landscape as the terrain rises up to the level of the golf clubhouse and driving range behind.

The construction detail is yet to be determined, but the Club has already been in touch with people involved in the construction of recent courts in the UK and the USA, and it is our intention to emulate the highly playable standard of the best contemporary courts in the world.

The courts will have world class viewing facilities for major matches. Above the dedans will be a “Royal Dedans” – the name given to a viewing area - which through a glass wall covering the full width of the court above the penthouse, will give a commanding view of the show court.

Beside the dedans will be the club lounge, bar and catering kitchens. The lounge will also serve as the informal day-to-day gathering place for members and guests before and after play, and for visitors to the Club. Behind these facilities will be the professional’s room where racquets will be string, balls made, bookings taken and tournaments organised. This will bring our professionals into the centre of activity in a congenial setting.

Depending on our success in the fund raising, building construction will be undertaken in one or two phases.

Real tennis museum

Integral to the plan to build a real tennis club is the planned refurbishment and adaptive reuse of the Old Toll House. The building is the perfect location to house a real tennis museum, capitalising on the history of the game, and preliminary discussions have been held with Tennis Heritage Australia.

Q7. Where are the oldest & newest courts in regular use?

The Game of Kings

“To see good Tennis, what diviner joy can fill our leisure or our minds employ.
Let other people play at other things; the King of Games is still the Game of Kings”
Expected demand for real tennis in Sydney

The Sydney Real Tennis Club will seek to attract a good cross section of males and females, young and old (from the ages of 10 to 100!). We will have a friendly and inclusive club atmosphere, providing coaching and development programs that will build skills, character and talent within the Club.

The Club expects to start with 200 members, growing to at least 500 by 2019. The Melbourne Club has a membership base of over 600, which is not an unrealistic longer term target for a well-situated club in Sydney. Clubs like Melbourne or Hobart have their courts used for 90 hours per week, with competitions held most weekends and an active pennant competition during the week.

The current membership includes players who started playing at the ill-fated club at Macquarie University, and players who have relocated to Sydney more recently. The Club started from a zero base in 1997 and grew to a membership of around 200 in 2004, before the University re-allocated the court for other purposes. 140 members were playing at least once per month. The demand was already strong but would have been even higher if the Club had been located more centrally or where the majority of the playing members lived – i.e. the Eastern Suburbs or the North Shore. For these reasons, it is expected there will be ample demand for two courts at a well-located located site. Furthermore, two court clubs work more efficiently and grow stronger more quickly by comparison to single court clubs.

Real tennis in the 21st Century: Hamish Oates delivers a "railroad" serve in the semi finals of the 2013 SRTC club championships in Ballarat, while Josh Cooper prepares to hit a service return off the back wall at Romsey, in the round robin stage of the tournament.

Plans to grow the membership

We expect to recruit the majority of the old members plus interstate or overseas players now living in Sydney. Our key market for new recruits would be from University students, local school children, and friends or associates of current members. Lateral recruits to real tennis have traditionally come from lawn tennis, cricket and/or squash backgrounds.

The camaraderie created within a real tennis club is one of the hidden gems of the game. This is enhanced by the history and tradition of the game, reinforced by the eccentricity that adds intrigue to the mix.

Q8. In which years was real tennis included in the Olympics?
Architectural plans

Heritage architects, Tanner Kibble Denton have prepared plans for the creation of a spectacular real tennis club in a central yet leafy location in the heart of Sydney.

Visitors will enjoy viewing facilities on two levels equal to the best in the world and the club lounge, bar and catering kitchens will spill out onto a picture-perfect courtyard at the rear of the sandstone toll house. The Old Toll House will be restored to its former glory and adapted for use as further club rooms and a tennis museum.

Q9. How many tennis courts are there in the world?
First floor viewing gallery (above); Ground floor (below)
In order to turn our vision into reality we need financial support

$2.5 million is the estimated cost of construction of the real tennis Club, and a further $300,000 is required to cover start-up costs and ongoing working capital requirements. The fundraising plan is predicated on a number of potential sources of funds, including grants and fundraising events.

We are also calling for expressions of interest from our membership base and other supporters for financial contributions, as follows:

1. **Donations and corporate sponsorships**

Donations will be eligible for a tax deduction and the following benefits:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number available</th>
<th>Minimum amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Platinum</strong>: Major naming rights for the building and each of the courts</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Negotiable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gold</strong>: Naming rights for club rooms, dedans etc.</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Negotiable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Silver</strong>: Name recognised on a permanent honour board</td>
<td>Unlimited</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bronze</strong>: Recognised as a SRTC Angel (renewal annually)</td>
<td>Unlimited</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. **Non-recourse debentures** (repayments conditional on actual financial results)

Based on experience of other real tennis clubs (and in particular, the publicly available accounts of the RMTC), the Sydney Real Tennis Club is expected to have the capacity to generate sufficient operating surplus to allow interest and principal to be paid to investors, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number available</th>
<th>Minimum amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Platinum investors</strong> – 7% interest</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gold investors</strong> – 5% interest</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Silver investors</strong> – 4% interest</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bronze investors</strong> – 3% interest</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Expressions of interest – donors and investors**

In order to assess the level of support, the Club is now actively seeking expressions of interest from donors and investors. If you intend to support the project please complete and return to the Club Treasurer, Peter Estcourt at peter@classleadingsolutions.com

Name: ______________________ Email: ______________________ Mobile phone ______________________

Intended level of support:  
Donor___________(tick) Donor level_____________________________

Investor___________(tick) Investor Level___________________________
Foundation Memberships

Members are the lifeblood of the Club, and our ongoing success depends on our ability to continue to attract and retain a strong membership base. At the time of writing this document, our membership base stands at about 150 which is a great start (and an amazing statistic considering the Club has no court!). However we need more people to get involved.

We are very grateful to our existing members for their support to date and we appeal to everyone involved with the Club to help us to achieve the vision of new courts in Sydney in any or all of the following ways:

- Sign up as a Foundation Member of the Club, in whichever category you feel appropriate, per the list below. We will need funds to get the building works started, so all Founder Members will be asked to contribute funds to the Club in advance, and take up their benefits once the Club is built.
- Be an ambassador for the Club and introduce others who you think would be suitable to be a member of our Club and would enjoy the game
- Continue to attend club events and share your thoughts and ideas on how to achieve the Club’s objectives
- Get involved in the Club Committee, particularly if you have skills that are relevant to our needs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Benefits</th>
<th>Minimum amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patron</td>
<td>Lifetime full playing membership, club racquet, club tie, club shirt, 5 free lessons and one free court per month for the first 5 years</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Founder Member</td>
<td>5 year full playing membership, club racquet, club tie, club shirt, 3 free lessons and one free court per month for the first year</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Interstate: $2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inaugural Member</td>
<td>1 year full playing membership, club tie, club shirt, 1 free lesson and one free court per month for the first 6 months</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Interstate: $300</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Student: $300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inaugural Social Member</td>
<td>1 year social membership, club tie, club shirt, 1 free lesson (to see if you like the game!)</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expressions of interest – Foundation Memberships

In order to assess the level of support, the Club is now actively seeking expressions of interest from Founder Members. If you intend to Foundation Member of the club, please complete and return this form to the Club Treasurer, Peter Estcourt at peter@classleadingsolutions.com

Name: __________________________ Email: __________________________ Mobile phone __________________________

Intended level of membership: ____________________________________________________________
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>On the tennis court at Hampton Court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Rob Fahey (Australia) and Claire Vigrass (England). Rob and Claire recently announced their engagement to be married</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>They are all types of tennis serve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Pericles, Prince of Tyre (Act II Scene I line 63)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>In the early 1800s – There are references to a tennis court which existed at the rear of the Cat and Bagpiper pub in York Street. In 1836 the wall of the court collapsed, killing a boy, and the publican, Lawrence Delaney, appeared in front of the magistrate to answer charges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>James I of Scotland, who was murdered in 1437, was trapped by his assassins at the Blackfriers monastery in Perth. The only possible escape route, via a sewer, had been blocked by the monarch himself just days earlier as the sewer also ran by the tennis court and the balls had too often been lost in “that fowle hole”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Falkland Palace, Scotland (1539) and the Racquet Club of Chicago (reopened in 2012)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Tennis (jeu de paume) was an event contested at the 1908 Olympics. This was the only Summer Olympic Games to contain this sport as a medal event, although an outdoor version called longue paume was a demonstration sport at the 1900 Games in Paris and real tennis was an exhibition event at the 1924 Olympics (also in Paris). The competition venue was The Queen’s Club in West Kensington, London and the gold medal was won by Jay Gould II of the USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>44: 26 in the UK, 10 in the USA, 3 in France and 5 in Australia. Sydney will make numbers 45 &amp; 46. (Courts are planned in Bordeaux, Dublin, Amsterdam, the USA and a second club in Melbourne.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Evelyn Yee and Michael Fitzgerald on the court at Ballarat, before doing battle in the final of the 2013 Sydney Real Tennis Club Championships:

Michael won a thrilling match to claim the title, with Evelyn the gallant runner-up. This capped off an extraordinary weekend of tennis for Michael, who was competing in his maiden real tennis tournament.
Acknowledgements

The Sydney Real Tennis Club gratefully acknowledges the contribution of Haven Pell from The International Tennis Club of Washington for his support and encouragement over the past few years, and to Catherine and Francis Hamilton on the layout and elements of the background editorial content of this document. Catherine and Francis were members of the original committee that created the International Tennis Club of Washington (Prince’s Court) but now live in Melrose, Scotland.

We are also grateful for the contribution of Mike Garnett to the section dealing with the history of the game and in particular sharing his knowledge and research of the early pioneers of real tennis in Sydney in the 1820s.

The Club is also fortunate to have ongoing advice and input on our business plan from former World Champion, and now pre-eminent club professional, Chris Ronaldson. Chris has a reputation for starting up, turning around, fine tuning and managing real tennis clubs around the world, and has recently been the driving force behind the spectacular success of the newly established court at Radley College in the UK.

Important notice

This is not a prospectus or offering document.

Responding to the request for expressions of interest does not place any obligation on the respondent.