

# TENNIS at Pretoria Country Club

## Club Championship

The PCC Tennis Club Championship 2023 was a smashing hit! From May to June, our tennis enthusiasts battled it out in the singles, men's doubles, ladies' doubles, and mixed doubles categories. This created a whirlwind of friendly, yet fierce, competition.

In the singles division, Jacques Basch claimed the men's title through sheer determination, while Alet Vorster showcased her prowess, emerging as the ladies' champion. We congratulate Lloyd Birrell and Kerneels Louw on being the winning men's pair and Donne Rocha and Henelia Massyn on being the winning ladies' pair. Pieter Marais and Alet Vorster emerged as mixed doubles champions.

Beyond the matches, the championship resonated with the heartwarming spirit of our tennis community and the prize-giving was followed by the (now legendary) pizza experience presented by master chef Nicolas Duneas.



Alet Vorster and Jacques Basch

## Diplomatic tennis tournament



Diplomatic tennis tournament

In collaboration with the Chilean Embassy, the Tennis Section proudly hosted a diplomatic tennis tournament on 10 June 2023.

A total of 32 doubles teams, comprising players from 24 embassies, World Bank representatives, Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) officials, and PCC members participated in the tournament.

The final was contested between Team DIRCO (represented by Kenneth Groenewald and Vinayak Sia) and Team PCC (featuring the dynamic duo of Louis Marais and Johan Le Roux). In the end, DIRCO emerged victorious to claim the tournament. Congratulations to the plate winners – the combined team from Chili and Italy, Ambassadors Julio Fiol and Tommaso Pusole.

The festivities didn't end on the courts. The event concluded with an exciting prize-giving ceremony, followed by a traditional South African braai. The South African Police Service (SAPS) turned the evening into an unforgettable party, with everyone grooving to the beat. A big thank you to all the tournament sponsors, including Nedbank, CAT, VIP Protection, OUTsurance, BMW, AGS Worldwide Movers, Embassy Direct and Chas Everitt.



A fun day was had by all



Ambassador Julio Fiol and Karen Marais

## Wimbledon

On 1 July 2023, we transported the tennis enthusiasts of the PCC Tennis Section straight to the heart of Wimbledon with our annual Wimbledon Day celebration. The sun was shining and the atmosphere was buzzing with excitement.

Twelve doubles teams took to the courts for a thrilling round-robin competition that kept spectators on the edge of their seats. The competition was fierce, the rallies were epic, and the sportsmanship was at its finest.

Congratulations to Kobus Tereblanche and Elsje Groenewald for being the winners for the day and to Henelia Massyn and Karel Bredenkamp for being the best dressed. It was a fun-filled day of tennis with many glasses of champagne complemented by strawberries and cream.

Wimbledon Day served as a reminder that tennis is not just a sport: it's a celebration of life, friendship and the simple pleasures that make our Club so special.



Enjoying the Wimbledon spirit

## The Whitelaw Cup

The Whitelaw Cup is the oldest Tennis Section competition – its beautiful trophy was presented to the Tennis Section in 1935 by Mr VM Whitelaw. The 89th Whitelaw Cup took place on 12 August 2023 and was a thrilling round-robin doubles tournament, with an extra dash of excitement created by drawing partners on the day. The day was filled with tennis and camaraderie. Congratulations to Lloyd Birrell and Piet Joubert for showcasing their exceptional teamwork and tennis prowess to win the cup.

Following the tournament, we gathered for a lively prize-giving ceremony, with family and friends joining in the celebration. A sizzling *bring en braai* added a flavourful touch to the day, complemented by winter-warming cocktails that kept our spirits high. It was indeed a fun-filled day!



Lloyd Birrell and Piet Joubert

## Veterans Tennis Championship

The Veterans Champions event, held from 30 September 2023 to 21 October 2023, delivered a fantastic month of tennis that left our members absolutely delighted.

With categories including ladies' doubles, men's doubles and mixed doubles, it was a celebration of experience and skill. To participate, gentlemen had to be 50 years or older, while our ladies had to be 45 years or older, ensuring a level playing field that showcased the enduring love for the game.

As always, this event was a resounding success! Congratulations to Lloyd Birrell and Kerneels Louw on being the men's champions, to Henelia Massyn and Donne Rocha on being the ladies' champions, and to Donne Rocha and Lloyd Birrell on being the mixed doubles champions.



Lloyd Birrell and Kerneels Louw



Henelia Massyn and Donne Rocha



Donne Rocha and Lloyd Birrell

## Tennis ladder system

The Tennis Section is abuzz with excitement about our implementation of a ladder system. The ladder challenge runs in cycles – each lasting three months. At the end of each cycle, the top-ranked players will be rewarded with prizes and will thereafter shift to positions 11-14 to encourage competition amongst the players.

The current rankings are determined by player participation in previous Club championships, with those who excelled securing the top positions. Players who did not compete in the championships find themselves at the bottom of the ladder and have the opportunity to climb it by challenging higher-ranked players.

**If you would like to join this exciting challenge, please contact Karel Bredenkamp on 082 416 5952.**