

Richard Yallop, *Royal South Yarra Lawn Tennis Club, 100 Years in Australian Tennis*. Currey O'Neil, Victoria, 1984. Illust., pp.128. \$20.

It took until 1974 for the male members to finally relinquish their sole rights to the Courtyard bar. Despite this fact, the Royal South Yarra Lawn Tennis Club has managed to keep pace with the social changes which have occurred since its formation in 1884, Today there is a membership of over two thousand and a ten year waiting list. The Club may not be the force it was in the national and international tennis world during those glorious days of Brookes, O'Hara, Wood, Quist, and the Hopmans, but it is still one of the most prestigious clubs in Australia. Jack McComas, one of the Club's founding fathers stated that, 'it's a privilege, not a right, to be a member of South Yarra' (126).

Richard Yallop has produced a book which not only gives a comprehensive history of the Club, but also provides valuable insights into the development of tennis in Australia. The Club's most famous son, Norman Brookes, was the first Australian to win a singles title at Wimbledon. He also played a significant role in bringing the Davis Cup to Australasia for the first time in 1907. Brookes, who was knighted for his services to the game of tennis, was President of the Lawn Tennis Association of Australia from 1926 to 1955. Two other South Yarra men have also held that position; D.M. Ferguson from 1955-60 and Wayne Reid who steered the Association safely through the dramatic changes which took place when tennis went 'Open' in the late 1960s.

There are also glimpses into the days of the tennis legends such as Suzanne Lenglen and Bill Tilden, when tennis was the sport of the wealthy, and reminders of the tremendous influence Nell Hopman had on women's tennis in Australia, lifting it from a social get-together to world heights. South Yarra produced some of the leading women national players, including six-time Victorian and 1910 national champion, Lily Addison. These successes, however, were largely unnoticed by the press who seemed to think that the greatest achievement of South Yarra's ladies was the quality of their afternoon teas.

The book is lavishly illustrated but the lack of an index is a disappointment. This is partly compensated by the appendix which includes significant tennis achievements by players during their period of membership. It reads like a Who's Who of Australian tennis - Frank Sedgman, Don Candy, Neale Fraser, Margaret Court (nee Smith), Judy Dalton (nee Tegart), Paul McNamee and many others have played for this unique Club during its first one hundred years.

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