

# For the love of the game

Alex Murdoch

Email: [murdocha@gnp.newstld.com.au](mailto:murdocha@gnp.newstld.com.au)



# Smylie face spurned

## Dumped after decade of achievement

AFTER 10 years as tournament director of the Australian Women's Hardcourts titles on the Gold Coast, Liz Smylie is at a career crossroads.

Next year the event, which was voted tournament of the year for Tiers three, four and five by the players in 2003, will be moved from its current home at Royal Pines to a new, custom-built state-of-the-art facility at Tennyson in Brisbane.

But Smylie will not be moving with it.

"They (Tennis Australia) haven't asked me to," she admitted.

"It doesn't seem that (TA chief executive) Steve Wood's vision includes me."

Smylie said her future was unclear. "I haven't quite decided (what I'm going to do next), but obviously this tournament has been very personal for me," she said.

"And I think that's one of the reasons why it has been as successful as it has been — a tournament has to have integrity."

Asked how she felt about Tennis Australia and the move to Tennyson, Smylie turned coy.

"That's part of a bigger story that needs to be written — but not now. It could fill a book," she said.

"What we can say is that it's important to treat people right because the tennis world in Australia is very small."

In an earlier press conference Smylie said the tournament's continued success would depend on who they chose to run it, and whether that person could win the players' trust.

"I just want to concentrate on this week's tournament for now — I don't want to talk about 2009," she said.

"But I can name many players who have said to me: 'It's because you're tournament director that we are here'."

"It's not surprising — I know it's a good event and I know I do a good job and you can't just cultivate



BLEAK outlook... Liz Smylie's future is unclear despite the success of her Gold Coast tournament.  
Picture: Adam Head

relationships like that overnight." Smylie said it was the basics that made a tournament great and kept the players coming back for more.

These included: being able to stay on site, providing great food, great facilities for practice and matches and on-site massage and medical facilities.

Smylie said tennis was a small world built largely around trust, good relationships and good business.

"What people, including Tennis Australia, have to realise is it's not always about the bottom line running events," Smylie said.

"Sport is entertainment and it's all involved in tourism, so you have to keep an eye on the bigger picture."

Smylie said she had put her heart and soul into the tournament, which

was why it had become a force on the WTA tour.

"I'm proud of what this tournament has achieved," she said.

"It won Tournament of the Year a few years ago and I think that probably tells you something about what it delivers to the players."

"And I think the fact that I was a player has probably helped me to prioritise the important things that the players need and want — so those needs have obviously been met."

As a player, Smylie won four Grand Slam women's doubles titles — including Wimbledon in 1985 with American Kathy Jordan.

In mixed doubles, she teamed with John Fitzgerald to win the 1983 US Open and 1991 Wimbledon titles. They

were finalists on five other occasions. Smylie also won the 1990 US Open with Todd Woodbridge.

Through the years, her record of attracting some of the world's best players spoke for itself, she said.

These drawcards have included Martina Hingis, Martina Navratilova, Venus Williams, Anna Kournikova and more recently Amelie Mauresmo and Nicole Pietrangola.

Smylie said no matter how good the new facilities were at Tennyson, the players would still miss the atmosphere and convenience of Royal Pines.

Gold Coast mayor Ron Clarke obviously agrees, vowing to attract another high-tier event to the city, suggesting he can not understand why Tennis Australia moved to abandon

the city in the first place.

But Smylie does not know if the Gold Coast will be able to attract another tournament of the calibre of the women's hardcourts.

"I think the people of the Gold Coast will miss this event — it won't be easily replaced on the calendar," she said.

Smylie had a few parting words of advice for Tennis Australia on the changing direction and mentality of young female players.

She said the talent of the future must already be thinking about making the jump to the pros from the juniors by the time they reached the age of 14, and not about making a career out of the junior league.

"The first focus of junior tennis is they must be improving," she said.

'Sport is entertainment and it's all involved in tourism, so you have to keep an eye on the bigger picture'

## Sports details

### TENNIS

#### Australian Women's Hardcourt Championships - Royal Pines Resort

Semi-Finals: N Li (Chi) 6-4 P Schreyer (Aust) 3-6 6-3 7-5.

#### ATP Tour - Adelaide International

Quarter Finals: M Llodra (Fra) 6-3 Becker (Ger) 7-6 (7-5) 6-4, J Spinaer (Aus) 7-2 P Mathias (Fra) 3-6 6-1 7-6 (6-6), G Tonga (Fra) 6-1, Hewitt 6-4 6-2.

#### WTA Tour - Auckland Classic

Semi-Finals: L Davenport (US) 6-2 6-1 Paszek (Aust) 6-4 6-3, A Nazea (Fra) 6-2 M Erakovic (NZ) 6-3 7-5.

#### ATP Tour - Chennai Open

2nd Rd: S-H Neead (Esp) 6-1 Flam (US) 6-2 6-1, M Cilic (Cro) 6-5 N Marat (Fra) 6-2 6-4, G Garcia-Lopez (Esp) 6-7 W Escobar (Aust) 6-6 7-6 7-6 (7-6), H Haste (NED) 6-1 Zvonkovic (Cro) 6-1 7-5.

#### ATP Tour - Qatar Open

Quarter Finals: 4-1 Ljubicic (Cro) 6-1 P Kontichewer (Cze) 6-0 6-7 (4-7) 6-5, S-A Murray (GB) 6-2 T Johansson (Swe) 7-6 (7-4) 6-5, S Wawrinka (Sui) 6-4 C Galati (Arg) 6-0 6-2, 1-6 Derydenko (Rus) 6-3 D Tursunov (RUS) 7-6 6-4.

### GOLF

#### US PGA Tour - Mercedes Championship in Kapalua, Hawaii (US unless noted)

1st Rd: 6-9 N Watney, 6-9 D Chopra (Ind), 7-0 J Byrd, 7-1 Calderon (Arg), A Bredemeyer (Aust), 7-1 M West (Can), B Greiderer, 7-2 S Ames (Can), S Petch, R Sabatini (Fra), 7-2 J Leonard, S Stricker, M

Mahan, W Austin, S Venkatesh, 7-4 G McNeill, J Funk, M Wilson, C Howell, 7-5 Singh (FI), 7-5 C Campbell, J Ogilvie, M Calcavecchia, F Funk, C Hoffman, 7-6 B Betsman, Z Johnson, H Stenson (Swe), 7-6 KJ Choi (Kor), 8-2 B Wieckley, 8-1 P Goyette.

#### ORLEY: Open Muddy Sigs State: Div 1: P

Ball (3) 39 out J McLeffan (13) 38, Div 2: B McLeffan (17) 40, RVLP: P Cooper (20) 39 out, NTP: B B Mazon, 9 M Rourke, 5RD: 55.

#### ORLEY: Open Muddy Sigs State: Div 1: P

Ball (3) 39 out J McLeffan (13) 38, Div 2: B McLeffan (17) 40, RVLP: P Cooper (20) 39 out, NTP: B B Mazon, 9 M Rourke, 5RD: 55.

#### ORLEY: Open Muddy Sigs State: Div 1: P

Ball (3) 39 out J McLeffan (13) 38, Div 2: B McLeffan (17) 40, RVLP: P Cooper (20) 39 out, NTP: B B Mazon, 9 M Rourke, 5RD: 55.

#### ORLEY: Open Muddy Sigs State: Div 1: P

Ball (3) 39 out J McLeffan (13) 38, Div 2: B McLeffan (17) 40, RVLP: P Cooper (20) 39 out, NTP: B B Mazon, 9 M Rourke, 5RD: 55.

#### ORLEY: Open Muddy Sigs State: Div 1: P

Ball (3) 39 out J McLeffan (13) 38, Div 2: B McLeffan (17) 40, RVLP: P Cooper (20) 39 out, NTP: B B Mazon, 9 M Rourke, 5RD: 55.

#### ORLEY: Open Muddy Sigs State: Div 1: P

Ball (3) 39 out J McLeffan (13) 38, Div 2: B McLeffan (17) 40, RVLP: P Cooper (20) 39 out, NTP: B B Mazon, 9 M Rourke, 5RD: 55.

#### ORLEY: Open Muddy Sigs State: Div 1: P

Ball (3) 39 out J McLeffan (13) 38, Div 2: B McLeffan (17) 40, RVLP: P Cooper (20) 39 out, NTP: B B Mazon, 9 M Rourke, 5RD: 55.

#### ORLEY: Open Muddy Sigs State: Div 1: P

Ball (3) 39 out J McLeffan (13) 38, Div 2: B McLeffan (17) 40, RVLP: P Cooper (20) 39 out, NTP: B B Mazon, 9 M Rourke, 5RD: 55.

#### ORLEY: Open Muddy Sigs State: Div 1: P

Ball (3) 39 out J McLeffan (13) 38, Div 2: B McLeffan (17) 40, RVLP: P Cooper (20) 39 out, NTP: B B Mazon, 9 M Rourke, 5RD: 55.

#### ORLEY: Open Muddy Sigs State: Div 1: P

Ball (3) 39 out J McLeffan (13) 38, Div 2: B McLeffan (17) 40, RVLP: P Cooper (20) 39 out, NTP: B B Mazon, 9 M Rourke, 5RD: 55.

#### ORLEY: Open Muddy Sigs State: Div 1: P

Ball (3) 39 out J McLeffan (13) 38, Div 2: B McLeffan (17) 40, RVLP: P Cooper (20) 39 out, NTP: B B Mazon, 9 M Rourke, 5RD: 55.

#### ORLEY: Open Muddy Sigs State: Div 1: P

Ball (3) 39 out J McLeffan (13) 38, Div 2: B McLeffan (17) 40, RVLP: P Cooper (20) 39 out, NTP: B B Mazon, 9 M Rourke, 5RD: 55.

9-1-11-1, P Harris 19-5-33-0.

#### Overs: 52

#### South Africa 1st innings

G SMITH c Ramdin b Taylor 28

N MCKENZIE c Gayle b Taylor 23

H ABLA lbw b Bravo 32

J KALLIS c Ramdin b Bravo 36

A PRINCE not out 90

A DE VILLIERS c Ramdin b Bravo 29

M BOUCHER b Bravo 74

M BELL not out 74

S FLEMING c Rabbin b Islam 14

P FULLON c Rabbin b Islam 14

M SINCLAIR lbw b Morrison 25

J ORAM not out 17

Sundries (4b, 3lb, 3w) 18

FOUR WICKETS FOR 196

Fall: 5, 31, 55, 121.

Bowling: S Hossain 10-0-50-1, S Islam 11-2-42-2 (1rb, 2w), M Morkazi 11-2-35-1, E Nazea 8-1-20-0, M Ashraf 1-0-5-0.

#### Overs: 41

#### New Zealand 1st innings

C CUMMING lbw b Islam 1

M BELL not out 74

S FLEMING c Rabbin b Islam 14

M SINCLAIR lbw b Morrison 25

Fall: 5, 43, 47, 82, 96, 100, 125, 129, 133, 157.

#### Bowling: C Martin 13-1-64-4, K Mills 7-1-1-20-2, J Oram 13-4-23-3 (1rb, 2w), I O'Brien 7-0-10-0 (1rb, 1w), D Vettori 6-3-8-1 (1rb).

#### Overs: 46.1

#### New Zealand 2nd innings

C CUMMING lbw b Islam 1

M BELL not out 74

S FLEMING c Rabbin b Islam 14

M SINCLAIR lbw b Morrison 25

J ORAM not out 17

Sundries (4b, 2w, 1rb) 7

FOUR WICKETS FOR 196

Fall: 5, 31, 55, 121.

Bowling: S Hossain 10-0-50-1, S Islam 11-2-42-2 (1rb, 2w), M Morkazi 11-2-35-1, E Nazea 8-1-20-0, M Ashraf 1-0-5-0.

#### Overs: 41

#### Twenty20 KFC Big Bash

#### Tasmania vs NSW (at Belconnen Oval)

#### NSW Innings

D SMITH b Hiffenhaus 20

S HADDIN c Anderson b Doherty 49

S KATICH c Dighten b Hiffenhaus 6

D THORNELEY lbw b Hiffenhaus 0

M HENRIQUES c Birt b Divilin 28

A O'BRIEN run out 10

D WARNER c Delahay b Geeves 31

M NICHOLSON c Divilin b Geeves 12

N HALRITZ not out 1

D WARNER c Delahay b Geeves 31

Sundries (1b) 1

EIGHT WICKETS FOR 157

Fall: 27, 43, 43, 96, 106, 125, 157, 157.

## More results at [www.couriermail.com.au](http://www.couriermail.com.au)

### Bowling: B Geeves 4-0-28-2, B

Hiffenhaus 4-0-28-3, B Dowe 3-0-26-0, X Doherty 4-0-36-1, M Divilin 4-0-26-1, D Marsh 1-0-11-0.

### Overs: 20

#### Tasmania Innings

M DIGHTON c Madden b Bolinger 29

R LOCKYEAR c Kitch b Bracken 1

D ANDERSON c Kitch b Hauritz 22

T BIRT b Bolinger 21

G BAILEY c Smith b Henriques 54

D MARSH not out 24

M DORN not out 2

FIVE WICKETS FOR 161

Fall: 12, 48, 60, 114, 140.

Bowling: M Hinchston 3-0-38-0 (1w), N Bracken 3-5-29-1, M Henriques 4-0-31-1, D Bolinger 3-0-25-2 (1w), N Hauritz 3-0-14-1, A O'Brien 3-0-25-0.

### Overs: 19.5

#### Tasmania won by five wickets.

Man of the Match: G Bailey (Tas).

### SURFING

#### ASP World Junior Championships - North Barrabaes (Round 2)

Jur Men - 18-1, A De Souza (Bra) 14.00 d

Y Gurnares (Bra) 7.50, H 2: T McComb (Pyl) 11.33 d R Santos (Bra) 8.50, H 3: W Dantas (Bra) 13.50 c C Green (Fra) 11.34, H 4: A R Painschew (Fra) 10.84 d G Zanardi (Bra) 9.03, H 5: J Hedman (Aus) 10.21 d P Tahara (Pyl) 7.86, H 6: N Pozza (US) 12.34 d A Laccaro (Mex) 7.50, H 7: B Atchison (Aus) 11.23 d J Bewellson (Ecu) 9.00, H 8: N Von Rupp (Deu) 12.83 d T Meister (Haw) 12.46, H 9: S Hoghans (Jpn) 11.90 d J

Florence (Haw) 9.03, H 10: G Brown (Haw) 9.16 d K Takahashi (Jpn) 8.00, H 11: J Sharp (Aus) 11.36 c C Acampora 7.84, H 12: C Brown (Bra) 11.43 d H Joske (Aus) 8.17, H 13: T Fukagawa (Jpn) 13.56 d K Shuckan (Fra) 6.70, H 14: C Milano (Haw) 7.90 d B Shearer (Rus) 3.54, H 15: A Wicklowe (US) 9.84 c B Roberts (Rus) 6.73, H 16: K Jarney (Haw) d K Matsuda (Jpn).

### ICE HOCKEY

NHL: Boston 2 Washington 0, NY Islanders 3 Florida 4 (OT), Montreal 1 Tampa Bay 3, Pittsburgh 6 Toronto 2, Minnesota 6 Dallas 5, Nashville 5 Edmonton 2, Phoenix 4 Chicago 2, Vancouver 3 NY Rangers 0, Los Angeles 3 Columbus 4, San Jose 1 Calgary 3 (OT).

### BASKETBALL

NBL: WOLLONGONG 114 (K Franklin 25, C Ripley 23, G Travers 23) c MELB ZEAL AND BREAKERS 101 (K Penney 30, P Jones 15, T Rowlandson 12) at WN Entertainment Centre, Crowd: 3,963.

NBA: Chicago 103 Portland 115 (COT), Denver 82 San Antonio 77, Phoenix 104 Seattle 96.

### BOWLS

WIELAND: Summer Carnival. Men Prg: M Waite 6-34, N Wood 10/3/5=6-23, D Smith 6-7, D Monev 6-20, R Meyers 6-33, R Evans 4-5, D Jones 6-11.