

Jim Hill (James Adam Hill) of 1 Allambee Crescent, Yallourn.
This is a brief background of his family and Tennis playing days.

Jim's parents immigrated to Australia from Scotland in 1912. And lived in Erskineville, Sydney. His father worked as a locomotive fireman at the Eveleigh Locomotive Depot. Jim was the 2nd eldest of 5 children, born in 1915. Jim was a good all round sportsman, playing cricket, football, golf and tennis as a teenager. Jim attended the 'Junior Technical School' at Ashfield, then the 'Central Technical School' at Ultimo.

Jim started work at the N.S.W. Railways, completing his 'Fitter and Turner' certificate from 1932 to 1937. During this time, he did further studies at the N.S.W. Railway and Tramway Institute, completing certificates in 'Diesel Engines' subjects. This enabled him to play tennis for the N.S.W. Railway team in the "Blanch Cup" (Patrons: The N.S.W. Railway Commissions president, Mr. Robert Blanch) which was played between the Interstate Railway teams of N.S.W. Qld and Vic. Jim was eligible to join the 'Davis Cup Squad' in the 30's, but his family could not support him as you had to pay your own way in those days.

Jim also played tennis for the 'Halcyon Tennis Club' in the 'Sydenham Bankstown Association'. They were successful in winning five consecutive "A" grade competition finals from 1935 to 1940. Team members during this period were; Jim Hill, Herb Palmer, Clive Grant, Fred Bennett, Bill Sidwell, Ethel Chrystal, Violet Palmer, Snow Williams. In the late 50's fire destroyed the "Halcyon" clubhouse and all records. A new clubhouse was built and renamed the 'CBTA'(Canterbury Bankstown Tennis Association).

In 1937 'Jim' joined the 'Merchant Navy' with the aim of obtaining his 'Mechanical Engineer Degree'. He worked for the 'Adelaide Steamship Company'. In between ship postings, he played tennis.

In 1941, his ship the 'Mareeba' was delivering supplies from Sydney via Freemantle to Singapore, when the German Raider, the 'Kormoran' sunk his ship. This led to him becoming a P.O.W. at the 'MARLAG UND MILAG NORD' (Merchant Navy Section) Northern Germany, until the end of the war in 1945.

On returning home, he resumed his duties in the Merchant Navy and received his 'Engineer Degree'.

Jim and Gwenda (ne, Wright from Leeton.N.S.W) moved to Yallourn in 1949, where Jim worked as a 'Shift Engineer' at the Yallourn Briquette Factory.

Jim had a successful playing history with the Yallourn Tennis club and assisted with the running of club championships.

Each Monday night over many years, Jim ran a free Kid's Tennis Coaching Class. This proved very successful in introducing them into the Tennis world.

In 1950, the LVTA (Latrobe Valley Tennis Association) won its first 'A' Grade Men's Country Week title. The Team consisted of: Jim Hill, Captain (Yallourn), Bob Dinsdale (Yallourn), Bob Crookston (Yallourn) and K Lawton.

LVTA. Men's Open Singles Champion. 1949 to 1952 Mr J Hill (Yallourn)

LVTA. Life Member – Mr Jim Hill and LVTA President from 1959 to 1969.

Jim took early retirement in 1976 when 'Operations Superintendent of the Morwell Briquette and Power Station' and moved to Kiama N.S.W. where Jim continued running free tennis classes at the local Tennis Courts until his passing in 1979.

Written by: Peter J Hill 31/03/2020