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16 April 2000

Stan Pedersen
Chairman Player Development Board

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Dear Sir,

Letter of Resignation

I wish to resign from the position of Assistant Women's State Coach, effective immediately.

The reasons behind my decision to resign are:

1. Primarily, the disgraceful victimisation I am receiving from the State Coach, his family and close associates,
2. The lack of meaningful support being given to me by Tennis NSW, in overcoming this issue, in the face of overwhelming evidence in support of the matters of fact.

Background

I was appointed to this position in late 1998. The role reports to the State Coach of NSW. The role was an exciting new development for Tennis NSW to address the specific needs of rising female talent and I remain supportive of this initiative.

The role relies implicitly on the development of a close working relationship between the State Coach and the position.

As well as being a State and National Selector, I am also a member of the Board of the Tennis Coaches of NSW Association. In my capacity as a member of the Board and being the only female Board member, I was approached by a female player whom had allegedly suffered sexual harrasment from the current State Coach at a time when he was the Assistant State Coach under Craig Miller.

The allegations were significant enough for me to confer on the matter with my long-time friend and fellow Women's Selector Ms Dawn Fogarty. Ms Fogarty believed the matter ought to be brought to the attention of the President of Tennis NSW. An investigation into the matter in 1999 initiated by Tennis NSW and conducted by Maria Shand from Rigby Cooke Lawyers in a letter of 1 Oct 1999 reported to me that "the Board (of Tennis NSW) resolved to take no further action at this time regarding the allegations against Noel."

However, the damage had been done. The State Coach, from that point, together with his wife, waged an aggressive and open program of constant and pervasive vilification of my reputation amongst his numerous associates in the industry – an industry which

I also have to earn a living in. This matter is still the subject of advice on a possible defamation action, but is not directed at Tennis NSW.

I do not regret taking the action that I did in initiating enquiries into the allegations, as any truly responsible and effective Board member assumes such a duty when he/she takes on such a role.

I could have been satisfied that I had exercised my duties and ensured that the allegations were afforded 'due process' by the administration of Tennis NSW. The investigation had been conducted and a course of action had been resolved. At this point the State Coach should have stopped his program of vilification, but it didn't. It appears the actions of the State Coach took on an even more insidious turn as people from other States of Australia began to refer these accounts of the State Coaches attacks on my character back to me. The attacks continue to this day.

Closing comments

I have always felt I owed a debt to the Association. From my junior years, Tennis NSW and Tennis Australia, has afforded me opportunities that allowed me to compete in Australian representative sides and earn a living on the international professional circuit for over 13 years.

I've always been a strong supporter of the notion of having an effective tennis administration to develop the talent for tomorrow's champions. This is evident in my numerous contributions over the past 8 years. However this latest issue is threatening my long-standing reputation, my career, my health and my family.

I believe Tennis NSW recognise the issue, but have not been able to implement the necessary action in time to mitigate further losses on my behalf.

I will always be a strong advocate for the system but will never tolerate unprofessional and immature action bordering on the obsessive that has become personal rather than remaining on a professional level.

There are numerous instances of the unprofessional behaviour of the State Coach that I am willing to provide you with, if so required, but I will not write them in this letter. I would be prepared to discuss these with you in person, if you wish.

Yours Sincerely,

Amanda Tobin

Assistant State Women's Coach (former)

cc John Whittaker

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