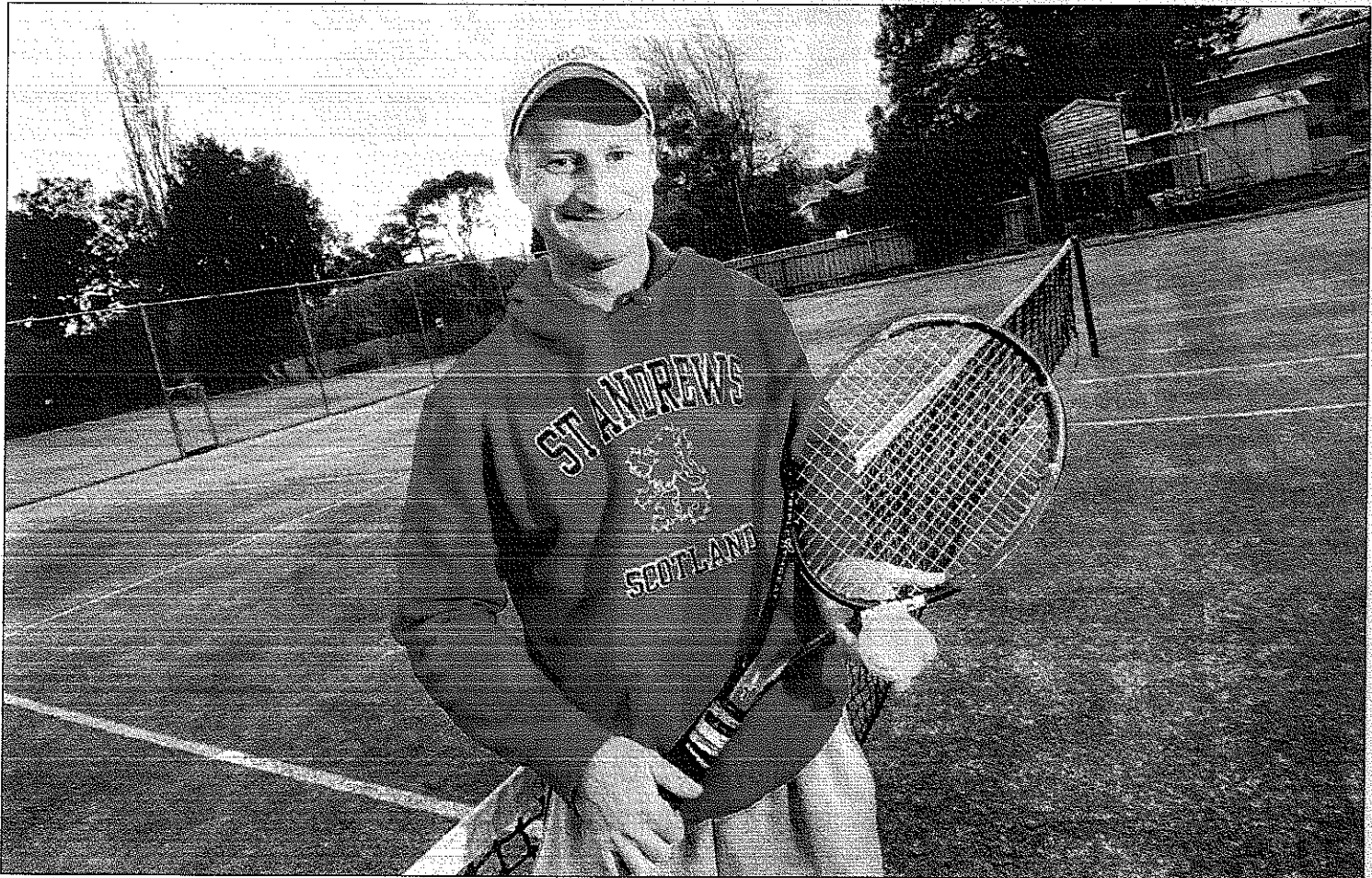


## MAYLANDS



COURTING SUCCESS: Tennis champion Guy Murray who notched up three titles in a month.

Picture: Keryn Stevens H0387018

# String of titles for superstitious Guy

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MAYLANDS' Guy Murray has pulled off a rare tennis hat-trick, winning three premierships in a month.

The 38-year-old, who has not missed a tennis season since he was five, won the Southern Districts division one grand final, playing for Hope Ward on Saturday, March 31.

He then took out a midweek competition in Nuriootpa on Wednesday, April 4, before claiming the Morning Lawn division one title with Tranmere on Saturday, April 21.

## Guy Murray

- **Born:** Berri, April 17, 1974
- **First match:** Aged five for Port Augusta Tennis Club
- **Plays:** Right-handed
- **Career highlight:** Winning the National Veterans Championships for SA in Perth in January
- **Umpiring:** Has been a line judge at Wimbledon, the US Open and the Sydney Olympics

"I had an odd season in the fact that I played in three different competitions and got to win all three premierships," Murray says. "It was unbelievable.

"Making a grand final is a very hard achievement but winning a premiership is even harder."

Murray played up to 11 sets of tennis each week to win the three competitions.

He says experience and fitness, as well as his superstition of never using the same ball for a first and second serve, got him over the line.

"It is always challenging to perform every time," he says.

"When you start a competition, you hope to win a premiership but I would have been happy with just one title. It was a really impressive task to win all three."

Murray, who has also been a line judge at Wimbledon, the US Open and the Sydney Olympics, played for SA at the National Veterans Championships in Perth in January.

He says winning the event was a career highlight.

"I hope to be able to continue playing in these fields," he says.

"There are a lot of guys at the Tranmere Tennis Club who are in their 60s and are still playing at top levels.

"They are an inspiration."