



Senior Tennis Times

Newsletter of the Senior Tennis Players Club, Inc.

December
2007

Remember the Dow

By Dottie Gardner

How many times have you said, or heard: "Can you believe it is Thanksgiving already!" Why, the holidays are just around the corner! Time seems to be moving faster for STPC members. We are sure you Snowbirds are getting ready to head to warmer climates. We wish you all safe journeys this winter but urge you not to forget the Annual Jack Dow Senior Round Robin Tournament. As Percy Hughes reminds us, this great STPC organization was formed in 1982 by Jack Dow. This is such a time-honored event, so please keep it in mind. The 2008 dates are May 5-8. The Dow Committee is already hard at work to make this a wonderful, competitive fun time. We will be in touch with all the Captains and in the spring you can find the application on-line and in the future newsletters.

Tie that string around your finger and remember the tournament in May, 2008! My how time flies.

Those T-shirts

You've seen other players wearing these 100% cotton shirts. Very comfortable, and way cool! Logo is in green and black. See the team picture on page 4. We've distributed them free to captains, and sold 37 for just \$5. Use the form on page 3 to order yours.



Send your Renewal

You've received a letter from STPC with your 2008 renewal. Haven't sent it in yet? Do it now, and remember to follow instructions and write carefully. We get lots of errors, especially in email addresses.

Tennis Events

By Bob Busch

Girls High School Tournament—team play

Edina won their 11th consecutive Class 2A team title with an easy 7-0 victory over Mounds View. Edina is coached by Steve Paulson, who was recently recognized as National High School coach of the year.

In Class 1A, Mounds Park Academy won their first state championship in a final win over Staples-Motley 4-3. In the quarterfinal match Mounds Park lost to the Rochester Lourdes on court by a score of 5-2. However, because of an administrative error by Lourdes coach Kevin Rust, Mounds Park was declared the winner over the ten-consecutive-year reigning champion Rochester Lourdes.

Girls High School Tournament—individual play

In Class 2A, Niltoolie Wilkins, a senior from Burnsville, played a tough three-hour-plus match to win her first state singles championship over Minnetonka freshman Aria Lambert 6-2, 6-7(4), 7-6

(Tennis events—continued on page 7)

Seasons Greetings!

May you and all you love enjoy peace and happiness in this special time.



Upcoming Events

Valentine Party

February 16, 2008, 9 AM to 12:30 PM

Info and signup page 8

Annual Meeting

May 3, 2008

Jack Dow Tournament

May 5-8, 2008

Mark your calendar!

Mens, Womens, Mixed doubles, 2.5-4.0

See story this page

Senior Tennis Players Club, Inc.

A nonprofit corporation, P.O. Box 5525
Hopkins, MN 55343
On the web: www.seniortennismn.com

Senior Tennis Times

The Senior Tennis Times is published ten times annually by and for the members of the Senior Tennis Players Club, Inc.

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Advertising

Send by e-mail or USPS to the newsletter editor by the 15th of the month for publication the following month. **Please send all payments to the newsletter editor.**

Ad rates (first month/additional months):

Full page (7.5x10).....\$110/90

Half page (7.5x4.9)85/65

Quarter page (3.7x4.9).....60/40

Eighth page (3.7x2.4)40/25

4-line ad (members only).....10

2-line ad (members only) First three months: free, then \$5/issue.

Membership information changes, newsletter delivery problems, etc.,

can be made by writing Senior Tennis Players Club, P.O. Box 5525, Hopkins, MN 55343 or currentmembers@seniortennismn.com

Membership total: 1525

December 2007, Volume 20, Number 10



Letters to the

Editor are wanted!

This is your space to express an opinion or relate an interesting experience.

Who said it's too cold?

Judy Lieber, Ann Barten, Sally Finnegan, Irv Carr and Bill Kruckeberg are

still enjoying outdoor tennis in November. I took the attached photo today (Nov. 2).

—Ann Barten

Notes from retiring members

As renewals come in, some members say they will no longer be playing. Here are a few notes from them.

Aileen Lundeen: I will not be

renewing my membership. I've had back surgery, have "bad" knees and am 81½ years old! I have always loved playing tennis and Senior Tennis got me playing regularly.

Betty Hoeger: I have now retired from tennis so will no longer be a member. I loved it for over 40 years.



As a non-profit organization, the Senior Tennis Players Club gratefully accepts donations, memorials and estate gifts.



Mission Statement

The primary purpose of the STPC is to provide tennis playing opportunities to people 50 and older for their mental, physical, and social well-being; and to support the growth of tennis.

Newsletter Submissions

To help make the newsletter as correct as possible, please submit all items in writing only, by mail or email. The deadline is the 17th of the month for publication the following month. All material submitted for publication is subject to editing. Enclose self-addressed stamped envelope if you want materials returned.

Send your submissions to: David Sommer, 3657 17th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55407-2805.

Email: editor@seniortennismn.com.

We need help and input from writers, artists, and photographers.

Percy's tennis rhythms



By Percy Hughes

Names never to forget: **Connie Custodio, Lois Hoffman, Clayton Hughes, Jim Erler, Dick Pratt, Pat Grames.** These wonderful human beings were members of STPC and Inner City Tennis. Their pictures are posted at RSFTC, past

the rest rooms, going towards the multi-purpose room. Thank you, **Roger Boyer!**

Some good news—the OWIES program will be starting after the first of the year with our new “mommy” being in charge. Yes, wonderful **Dilcia Pederson** will be in charge for Roger Boyer. This Owies program is very important to many of us. It's a great program for those with injuries that need proper care and time under a teaching Pro's guidance. If your Doctor says you can do it, **go for it!**

After discussing with our true teaching Professor, Roger Boyer, we've come to a good decision for new members who are less experienced (2.0 or less), and have joined our club in 2007. You'll be entitled to **three free** lessons. You'll then pay \$5.00 as all do, during the winter months. Remember, outdoor tennis play and lessons are **free. Please!** If you have any questions, call me immediately—612-866-1102. These lessons will be held in the **Thursday 8:30 AM class only**, at Reed-Sweatt Tennis Club, 40th and Nicollet Ave., Minneapolis.

If you are one of those entitled to these free lessons, you have probably already received a letter telling you

about it. Be sure to take advantage of this! Great way to get your game jumping!

Lots of our members are now wearing the terrific STPC T-shirts. See the picture on page 4. Get yours—just use the form shown here.

Hey! Forget your troubles and let's be happy, (that's a song) and also...

No foot faults!

— Perc

T-Shirts Order Form

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Captain: _____

Size	S	M	L	XL
Chest	34-36	38-40	42-44	46-48
Quantity				

The price of each T-shirt is \$5.

Make check payable to: STPC

Mail check and form to: Tom Waki
4199 Starbridge Ct
Eagan, MN 55122

Want ads

These two-liner want ads are available to all STPC members. Your ad is free for three issues. After that, there is a charge of \$5 per publication.

Interested in Head racquets & clothing? Consult Percy Hughes 612-866-1102 for what's best for you.

Expert Racquet service. Fred Jurewicz (952) 496-1018 (H); (612) 250-3185. *10% STPC discount.*

Rent Villages, FL. Free golf and nightly entertainment. Activities for everyone. Available Dec. 2007 and May through Dec. 2008. 2BR, 2BA, den, nice house. \$1000/month and up. 952-935-5670.



Please donate decent used racquets for at-risk high school students at Lincoln Hills Education Center. Call Marsha Jarvela (763)971-8997/(612)790-1246, marshajarvela@yahoo.com.

For sale: complete Total Gym exercise set. New condition. \$30. 952-935-6656.

Timeshare for rent, 1 week, 2BR, 2BA, kitchen, 5 star, Sleeps 6, \$1200; Use US or international. 763-544-9757

Nick Bollettieri autograph. Free! David 612-276-1313

For rent Jan-Mar. 1200 sq ft mobile home, 2BR, 2BA, Texas Room. Gated senior community, Mercedes, TX. Amenities include golf and tennis. \$1200/mo + gas and electric. No smoking, no pets. Glenn 763-588-0464.

Free color TV. 28" Zenith analog floor model in fine working order. Don Knauer, 952-941-1174.

●● STPC lessons and drills—all levels ●●

Some court locations are subject to change during the season. No reservations necessary.

Location	Day	Time	Skill	Cost	Instructor	Phone
Reed-Sweatt Family Tennis Center 4005 Nicollet Ave S Minneapolis 612-825-6844	Mon	1:30-3:00 PM	All	\$5.00	Dilcia Pederson	612-825-6844
					Duncan Welty	952-933-8592
	Mon	10:00-11:00 "Owies"	All	\$7.50	Dilcia Pederson	612-825-6844 Starts Jan.!
	Thu	8:30-10:00AM	All	\$5.00	Percy Hughes	612-866-1102
				Paul Stormo	952-944-6286	
Fred Wells Tennis and Education Center. 100 Federal Drive, Minneapolis	Tue	11:00-12:30	All	\$5.00	Tom Bauman	651-738-6726
Williston Fitness & Sports 14509 Minnetonka Drive Minnetonka 952-939-8370	Tue	5:30-7:00PM	All	\$5.00	Duane Ryman	612-865-9517

Free or low-cost lessons* are offered as part of your STPC membership. New members are encouraged to take advantage of them. After twelve lessons, you will receive a free can of balls and a certificate of accomplishment and congratulations from the STPC president. You should notify your instructor when you have completed twelve lessons.

* Lessons are free during outdoor season; they cost \$5 when indoor (to pay for court time). You may continue taking lessons as long as you are a member of the club.

●● Private Club Drills Open to STPC Members ●●

Location	Day	Cost	Time	Phone
Reed-Sweatt Family Tennis Center* 4005 Nicollet Ave S, Minneapolis	Tue	\$7.50	9:00-10:00 AM	612-825-6844 Call for reservation.
	Thu			

***Additional classes for all skill levels available, open to seniors and younger players.**

Woodale 7 AM!

By Darlene Moynagh

Connie Alt took a picture of our early morning group to entice early rising players and to make a splash in our new shirts.

Front row: Ron Leitner, Ken Simmons, Darlene Moynagh, Rudy Jensen.

Back row: John Booher, Mary Perkins (captain), Connie Alt, Joella Wilson, Roger Moorehouse.

Editor's note: *Those terrific 100% cotton Senior Tennis T-shirts are just \$5! Get yours—see form on page 3.*



In Memory...



Clara Carlson

Carlson, Clara (Finsveen). Born to immigrant Norwegian parents, passed away at age 89 on October 10, 2007. Her husband Carl E. Carlson died in 2002. Clara was a 1936 graduate of Roosevelt High School, Minneapolis. She was a pioneer career woman, first working as a Senior Secretary for such companies as United Petroleum and for individuals such as Atty. Fritz Mondale. Later she became a real estate salesperson for Adolph Fine Homes and a financial planner for Waddell & Reed. In 1959-60, she and Carl helped lead the Interim Committee that saved Group Health (now Health Partners) from imminent demise. Clara was a member of Senior Tennis from 1983 through 2003, and was active in development of STPC and Vice President, Information Services, 1986-87.



Cecilia Johnson

Johnson, Cecilia "Cec". Beloved wife, mother and grandma. Age 79, formerly of SW Minneapolis. Preceded in death by husband, Paul J.; son, David G.; brother, Greg Ganley and sister, Kay Waldhelm. Survived by son, Michael (Susie) Johnson. Cecelia was a member of Senior Tennis from 1985 through 2004.



Bernie Larson

Larson, Bernard H. (Bernie) age 76, of Richfield, MN, passed away on Oct. 1, 2007. Bernie started his career in Land Surveying as a novice in the Hennepin County Surveyors Office in 1953 and attained professional licensure as a land Surveyor in 1971. After retiring in 1992, Bernie pursued his passion for travel by visiting Norway, his ancestral home, the animals of Africa in Kenya, Tanzania and South Africa, the antiquity of Egypt, China including the Panda Bear sanctuary and Mexico's wintering site of the monarch butterfly. He became an amateur but avid senior tennis player and participated in a writing class to document his travel experiences and mem-



oirs. Bernie is survived by his wife, Ruth; sons; daughters; grandchildren; great-grandchildren and many good friends.

John Mutschler

Mutschler, John G. age 79, passed away October 24, 2007. John farmed during the depression and fondly remembered the bittersweet struggle of long hours, good food and survival of the family. He later graduated from law school, married Faye, his devoted wife, and joined the Air Force. John created John G. Mutschler & Assoc., specializing in pension and profit sharing plans, commercial property investment and management. He enjoyed the opportunity to share his passions of education, hard work, loyalty, travel, tennis and aviation. Chuck Supplee remembers John: "He took part in many tournaments as a very good left-handed player and a good sportsman. He will be much missed." John was a member of Senior Tennis 1994-2006. He is survived by wife, Faye; daughter, Cheryl (Joe Supplee); son, Jay (Jennifer); brothers; sisters; grandchildren and great grandchildren.



Marge Schneider

Schneider, Marjorie "Marge". Beloved Mom and Grandma. Suddenly in a motor vehicle accident 10-16-07. Preceded in death by beloved husband of 55 years, Bob. Marge was an enthusiastic lover of life and all the adventures it brought. She loved and cherished her family and friends. Marge was a lifetime member of Senior Tennis.



Tony Zigneigo

Zigneigo, Anthony Paul of Excelsior, MN, on October 30, 2007. Survived by wife, Vernie; sisters; nieces; nephews and great nieces & nephews. He was a Business Teacher at Pine City and Wayzata Sr. High School and was tennis and ski coach at Wayzata. He loved tennis, skiing and his church. He was a volunteer on the Hennepin County Sheriff's Water Patrol, a member of Delta Pi and Mt. Calvary Men's Bible Study, Boy Scout Leader, and played in U of M Band. Tony joined Senior Tennis in 1996 and continued to play until he had a stroke in May of this year.

(In memory—continued on page 6)

(In memory)—continued from page 5)

Kristine Fontaine

Fontaine, Kristine K. Age 42, of San Francisco, CA. formerly of Minneapolis, died on November 7 after a short illness. A warm and loving daughter, sister, aunt and friend, she is survived by parents, Patricia Genereux (Marty Plitnick) and Richard Fontaine (Eileen); sister, Laurie Junker (Michael); brother, Craig Fontaine; and many nieces, friends, aunts, uncles and cousins. Kristine was a talented chef who attended the New England Culinary Institute and cooked at several Boston restaurants including Sonsie and Mirabelle before moving to San Francisco where she most recently owned and operated Kristine's Kuisine catering. She loved her friends and family and often showed that love by cooking memorable meals and catering special family events. She loved to travel and spent as much time as she could in Hawaii where she hiked and surfed, on the northern Californian coast, and especially at the family cabin in northern Minnesota where she loved to fish. She was a wonderful, generous, beautiful person and will be deeply, deeply missed.



Lachlan Reed

Reed, Arthur Lachlan, one of InnerCity Tennis' original founders, passed away on November 8th at his home in Palm Beach, FL at the age of 90.



Mr. Reed and seventeen other interested persons founded ICT in the early 1950s. Before his death, he cited his co-founding of InnerCity Tennis (originally Northwestern Tennis Patrons) as perhaps his most satisfying accomplishment.

Known by everyone who was close to him for his sharp mind, he will always be remembered for his love for his family, his friends, his causes and his blessings.

Playing the Net

(Occasion of Thursday Night Tennis, May 17, 2007)

I'd never seen a butterfly on the net,
Or one that stayed around for long, and yet,
He flitted and perched right there in front of me,
Hesitant and fragile, but playful and free.
No country this, or sport, for aged men
Alert to contradictions, who will then
Take wonder at the long chaotic flight
We each had followed to that single night,
To those few seconds just before the serve
When he could make me think that I deserve
His sudden flash of unexpected beauty,
And make those seconds serve the solemn duty,
To play a game—to poach, to put away,
To win the point, the game, the match, the day—
As he, without concern, went on his way.
And I stayed up, and back, to make the play.

Playing the Net, Deuce

(Occasion of Friday noon tennis, May 18, 2007)

That butterfly died the very next day,
I saw him lying in the service box.
What did him in I really can't say,
I suppose it could have been the pox.
Or maybe he collapsed of fright
As someone, like me, with a mighty groan,
Whacked at the ball with all his might
And sent him off to his heavenly throne.
It could have been a bad cold, I s'pose,
Or a case of severe butterfly gout,
But I'm not sure they have a nose,
Much less a foot—which I seriously doubt.
Maybe AIDS did the little guy in,
As he exercised his sexual preference,
He could've been part of a wild fly-in,
Where safe sex was given no deference.
Perhaps a victim of lepidoptera-cide,
In some mad insect's killing spree,
Or even butterfly suicide
Running rampant through his community.
It could've been any number of things
That sent him off to his reward,
Hearse-less and on his own lovely wings,
That being all he could afford.
I really don't know what sent him home,
But I fear it was my four-meter poem.

— Bill Cosgrove

(Tennis events—continued from page 1)

(5). Wilkins, during her high school career lost only four times, to former Edina standout Whitney Taney. Taney is now playing at the University of Michigan.

Wilkins joined the Burnsville varsity team as an eighth grader. She is a full-blooded American Indian and is home schooled by her mother. Her father, Dave, is a professor of American Indian studies at the University of Minnesota. Her older brother Sion lettered in 2004 for the Gopher tennis team. She has verbally committed to play tennis for the Gophers.

The Rochester Mayo doubles team Kapper and Renault won the Class 2A State title with a 6-3, 2-6, 6-2 final over Mounds View eighth graders Yates and Lay.

The Class 1A state singles final was a Rochester Lourdes affair with Alexa Palen defeating teammate Courtney Rust 6-1, 6-2. Mounds Park Academy's Larson and Washington won their second consecutive Class 1A doubles championship with a 6-1, 6-4 win over Stenzel and Minesterman of St. James.

Jack Dow Tournament

This great tradition continues in May 5-8, 2008. **Snowbirds**—be sure to look for the signup in the March and April newsletters, or on our website (click on Events).

Nalbandian Upsets Federer

David Nalbandian of Argentina defeated the number 1, 2 & 3 world ranked players to win Spain's Madrid Masters title in October. In the final match Nalbandian beat #1 ranked Roger Federer 1-6, 6-3, 6-3. In the semifinal match he beat Nadal and in the quarterfinal match he beat Djokovic. Nalbandian was ranked 25th in the world coming into the tournament.

2007 World Senior Games

By Chuck Supplee

Ray Ranallo earned a Silver Medal in men's doubles and a Bronze Medal in singles; Chuck Supplee a Silver in men's doubles and a Silver in singles. This is the 21st year of the Senior Games, with 20 sports and many foreign countries involved.

The games were held in St. George, Utah, which is close to Zion National Park—with the deepest canyons in the world—where we spent a full day enjoying the terrific scenery. Many of our people would enjoy the area and the Games!

George Erickson award

The USA Northern Section announced their 2007 award winners. Among them is George Erickson, former STPC member. He will receive the Wolfenson/Ratner Community Service Award given to the person for his or her outstanding fieldwork in recreational tennis. It is also awarded for significant contributions in developing community-based tennis programs through community centers, schools, parks and Community Tennis Associations. Erickson has contributed both tremendous time and financial resources in spearheading the new **Quad Cities Tennis For All** indoor facility in Virginia, Minn., which celebrated its grand opening October 28. He has spent time applying for grants, attending service club meetings, researching other indoor facilities and running raffles to make the community's dream come true. He also plays in adult, senior and mixed doubles leagues and volunteers coaching the junior high boys and girls tennis teams in Virginia. His service has made the dreams of 200 junior players in the area come true as the community has implemented beginning programs, Jr. Team Tennis, Junior High and High School Tennis and USA League Tennis.

"I cannot think of a more deserving gentleman for this award," Dave Gunderson, head tennis coach at Virginia High School said. "I have never seen a more generous and giving person than George. This facility would not have been completed without his hard work and dedication to the game we all love."

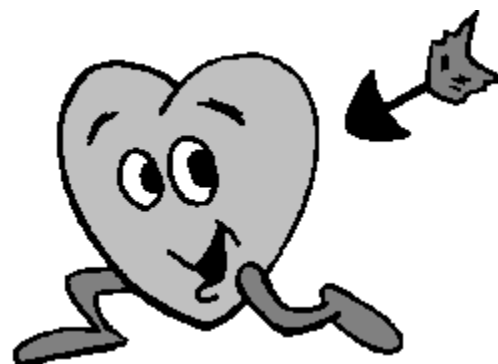
Unleashing Wisdom....

By Bill Peter

As a Futurist, I have just completed a very unique book, which includes content from a CD and six DVDs. It is the first 21st century book, entitled "Unleashing Wisdom.... An Optimistic View of the 21st Century." It is available **free** on my web site: www.2020and2035.com. It is not about tennis, but I feel it will be of significant interest to the members of Senior Tennis.



Fort Snelling Valentine Tennis Party



Saturday, February 16, 2008
9:00 AM to 12:30 PM
Fred Wells Tennis and Education Center

Open to Singles and Couples. Mixed Doubles. Rotating Partners.

Only the first 40 players to enter will play!!

Cost: \$12 for tennis and food; \$4 food only

Food: rolls, cookies, fruit, juice and coffee

Please detach and mail in this registration form.

Name _____ Phone (____) _____

Rating _____ (You do not need a partner; this is rotating doubles)

Name _____ Phone (____) _____

Rating _____

No-shows will not receive their money back—sign up, be there!

I agree that any participation by me in the activities of, or sponsored by, the Senior Tennis Players Club, Inc. (STPC), a nonprofit organization, including, but without limitation, activities such as tennis lessons, clinics, drills, rating sessions, camps, trips, playing in or attending tennis games, tournaments, groups or social events, shall be at my sole risk; and I hereby release and hold harmless STPC and its officers, directors, members, employees, agents, tennis pros, tennis clubs, courts and facilities used or licensed by STPC, and all independent contactors with STPC (all being "Associated Others") for all claims of damage, whether due to injuries to person or property; to any direction, conduct, scheduling or claimed discrimination, nonfeasance or malfeasance, or otherwise, arising out of, or occurring in connection with, any such activities or conduct of STPC or such Associated Others.

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Send check for \$12 per person payable to STPC before January 20 to:
Marv Schneider ♥ 17774 Evener Way ♥ Eden Prairie, MN 55346 ♥ 952-975-1895

Players wanted!

Tuesday 8:00 PM 3.25 MW at Crosstown

This new **evening** group started play November 13. Subs, and future regulars, needed. Call the captain David Houghton 612-220-6780 or email

dasu100@msn.com.

Wednesday 9:00-10:30, 2.5-3.0

Wanted, male player, 2.5-3.0 at Reed-Sweatt on Wednesday mornings, 9:00-10:30. Call Darlene Hultquist, 952-941-2494 or Swederos1@aol.com.

Tennis essay

By Bill Cosgrove

In my humble little PDA I have a new file called "Tennis—Edina." I was surprised at how fast it filled up. The reason for this is that the tennis community in my new neighborhood of the Twin Cities was receptive and relatively easy to get into. Within a week of moving back to the area where I was born and raised after 41 years living out of state, I was playing tennis outside on a lovely morning with some new tennis friends on a new tennis court.

Much of that good fortune is due to finding and contacting the Senior Tennis Players Club. After a good deal of initial searching and asking around about tennis, I contacted Shirley Pratt, New Members Director of STPC. When I received a website address (www.seniortennismn.com) and registration form from her, the game was afoot, or afield, or something like that.

I called the captains of the appropriate groups sponsored by STPC, and they made it very easy to start subbing in some of their groups in the fall/winter schedule. To a man, and woman, when they said they'd put me on their sub list, they were as good as their word. And soon I was subbing in one, then two, then three different groups.

In the meantime, I'd communicated all this to my interested tennis friends back in Fargo where I'd lived for 37 years. One of them accessed the STPC web site roster of 1500 members or so and said, "My mouth watered when I saw so many players." Apparently, you've got an appealing organization going here.

There were a lot of good things I noticed about STPC tennis right away. The opportunity to play in a number of different tennis facilities around the Cities is invaluable. To be a member of each of these clubs would be impractical and costly; to have the opportunity to play at so many of them without joining each one is made possible by STPC.

Each week the groups I've played with draw lots, in effect, to determine partners and opponents; then we follow a grid, which directs the three 40-minute periods onto the different courts. Everybody plays with and against everybody else eventually based largely on chance.

And there is an elaborate array of substitute players that the group captains put together, maintain, and contact as necessary each week. All this close attention to detail by the captains, along with the cooperation of the tennis clubs, allows the groups to run smoothly and

efficiently.

At the same time, there are some interesting tennis idiosyncrasies at play in the fields of STPC. The first groups I played with warmed up from start to finish for maybe three minutes at most. Three minutes in preparation for playing for two hours divided into three 40-minute periods. In USTA senior tournament matches, I recall, there was practically a requisite warm-up time of 10 minutes to prevent injury. And this was for mere striplings of 35, 45, 55, and 65 years of age.

If there are rotator cuff problems, elbow inflammations, knee strains, backaches, and other injuries abroad in the STPC groups, this reduced warm-up time may contribute to them. Muscles, the tennis magazines tell us, warm up faster than cartilage, ligaments, and tendons. And the possibility of twisting and straining them asymmetrically and unevenly is increased under these conditions. Most of the time, you get no warm-up of your overhead which, in its various forms, is among tennis' most challenging shots when you combine degree of difficulty and opportunity for injury (to shoulder, back, abs). Not to mention its importance as a game breaker and rally starter when lob tennis is being played.

Though the three 40-minute periods is an interesting way to divide two hours of play, maybe the first one could be usefully thought of as a gradual warm-up period in which you may not be able to complete a full set. Better an incomplete set than a complete hernia.

And then there are service warm-ups. Presently, the first scheduled server takes maybe three practice serves while the other three stand around watching. Then we do the same thing three more times in each of the next three games of the first set. Each server warms up in isolation while the other three stand around cooling off. If that total time were used to warm up all 4 serves simultaneously before the first game – say, one minute each for a total of at least 4 minutes – no time would be lost and everybody would get more warm-up and less cool down time.

My only disappointment so far is being unable to find people who are game to play outdoors under the summer sun in the heat of the day. With the help of STPC, maybe I'll find some partners for next summer. Maybe next year.

Finally, there is an encouraging and heartening peculiarity I'd never run into or even heard of before. In one of the large, 24-member groups, there is a most

(Tennis essay—continued on page 10)

(Tennis essay—continued from page 9)

unique player, who is actually two players—what you might think of as a tandem player. Call him/them Danal.

These two delightful fellows split time on the court according to their individual health needs. One wears a small, portable breathing apparatus while playing, and so when he's winded, in comes his partner. And this partner, being a little hard of hearing, is occasionally coached in turn from the sideline by the first player. Now, this is some kind of special job sharing.

We've all heard the story of the husband playing love doubles with his wife who has her get off the court as soon as the point starts so he can play every ball. If doing this reveals an outrageously ego-driven and win-at-any-price mentality, it stands in revealing contrast to what this STPC group does for Danal. In today's world of insistent partisanship, in-your-face aggressiveness, gratuitous insensitivity, and casual callousness, this small act of consideration and humanity is gratifying, heartwarming, and, ultimately, inspiring. It is to the credit of STPC and the sport of tennis.

History of tennis

Extracted from Wikipedia

Its establishment as the modern sport can be dated to two separate roots. In 1856, Alex Ryden, a solicitor, and his friend Joao Batista Pereira, a Portuguese merchant, who both lived in Birmingham, England played a game they named "pelota", after a Spanish ball game. The game was played on a lawn in Edgbaston.

In December 1873, Major Walter Clopton Wingfield devised a similar game for the amusement of his guests at a garden party on his estate. He based the game on the older sport of indoor tennis or real tennis ("royal tennis"), which had been invented in 12th century France and was played by French aristocrats down to the time of the French Revolution.

According to most tennis historians, modern tennis terminology also derives from this period, as Wingfield borrowed both the name and much of the French vocabulary of royal tennis and applied them to his new game:

Tennis comes from the French *tenez*, the imperative form of the verb *tenir*, to hold: This was a cry used by the player serving in royal tennis, meaning "I am about to serve!"

New Spring Lake Park courts

Editors's note: This looks like a great facility, especially for those members in the northern suburbs. Rates are reasonable, and they tell me they'd welcome permanent court time for STPC players. Here's information from their website.

No membership fees required! No guest fees! No initiation fees! **Open for business November 23.**

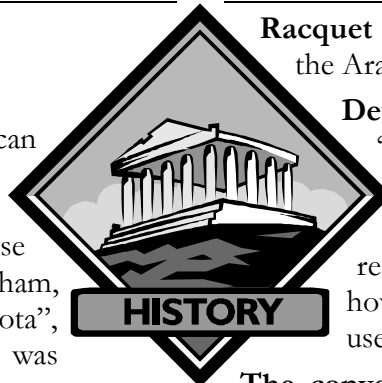
We will be using technology to save traditional costs in operating a tennis facility. You will be able to view available court time on-line, reserve it, and pay for it all at once.

We will have 4 professionally sized courts (130 feet of playing area versus the standard 120 feet). The ceiling is 65 feet high, which will make it nearly impossible to hit with a lob. We anticipate that our tennis courts will be the finest in the Twin Cities area!

We will be open from 8:00am to 10:00pm, seven days per week.

Publicindoortennis.com; 651-442-1295

7833 Hwy 65 NE, Spring Lake Park, MN 55432



Racquet comes from *raquette*, which derives from the Arabic *rakhat*, meaning the palm of the hand.

Deuce comes from *à deux le jeu*, meaning "to both is the game" (that is, the two players have equal scores)

Love may come from *l'œuf*, the egg, a reference to the egg-shaped zero symbol; however, since "un œuf" is more commonly used, the etymology remains in question.

The convention of numbering scores "15", "30" and "40" comes from *quinze*, *trente* and *quarante*, which to French ears makes a euphonious sequence, or from the quarters of a clock (15, 30, 45) with 45 simplified to 40.

In 1881 the desire to play tennis competitively led to the establishment of tennis clubs. The first championships at Wimbledon, in London, were played in 1877. In 1881 the United States National Lawn Tennis Association was formed to standardize the rules and organize competitions. The comprehensive I.L.T.F. rules promulgated in 1924 have remained remarkably stable in the ensuing eighty years, the one major change being the addition of the tie-breaker system designed by James Van Alen. The U.S. National Men's Singles Championship, now the U.S. Open, was first held in 1881 at Newport, Rhode Island. For more on tennis, see <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tennis>.

STPC new members, renewals, and changes

Name

Rating

Primary phone

Other phone

Address / Email

(to protect member privacy, this information not included on the web)

Tips from an amateur

By David Sommer

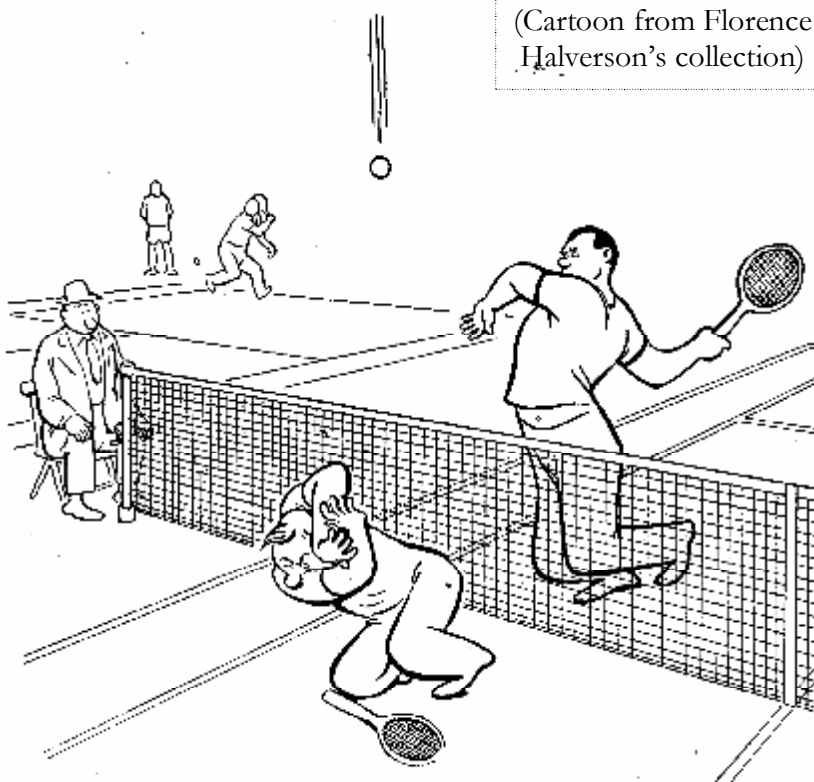
Situation: opponent's partner has hit a "short lob." I'm under the ball, about five feet from the net, ready to hit a point-ending smash.

When this happens, there are a few of my opponents [no names please] who remain facing me just on the other side of the net.

What should I do? I can't believe that this is my opponent's "time to die." So I do my best to hit my overhead **past**, not **directly at**, my opponent. But I might miss-hit and the ball may come directly at opponent.

What should my opponent do? In tennis, there is a "time to bail!" Meaning, get out of the way, any way you can. If opponent's partner is smart, he will have called out "Short!" or "Watch out!" or "Run for your life!" when he realizes he's hit a short lob. If so, the person in front of me has time to run back and perhaps be ready to return my smash. Yes, it can be done!

But if the first the net man realizes I'm about to hit an



overhead is when he sees me getting ready, then **please!** Head for the sidelines, turn away, hit the dirt! **And live to play another day.**