



# Senior Tennis Times

Newsletter of the Senior Tennis Players Club, Inc.

March  
2008

## New World TeamTennis league for Seniors

By Bob Williams

A new tennis program for seniors is coming to town! This summer, senior tennis players in the Twin Cities have the chance to play in a new, fun and competitive tennis league. World TeamTennis (WTT) is starting a league just for seniors (50 and over). The league will have 3.0, 3.5, and 4.0 levels, with matches played outdoors on weekday mornings from June to August.

World TeamTennis is a national organization that was started in 1974 by Billie Jean King, who still plays an active role in its program. Today, tennis players of all levels compete in recreational, corporate, collegiate, and professional WTT leagues all over the country.



**Bob Williams and Billie Jean King**

I have been the Twin Cities WTT league director since it began here in 2005. For our first three seasons, we offered a league only for corporate teams. By our second year, our league had become the largest in the country. Last summer we had 19 teams and nearly 200 enthusiastic tennis players! We think the senior league will grow rapidly too. Now is your chance to play in our first senior season!

The WTT format is a little different from standard tennis. Substitutions, coaching, and cheering are allowed and encouraged. There is no-ad scoring, playing of service lets, and tie-breakers that are played

*(Senior WTT—continued on page 7)*

## 2008 Rosters coming!

Those who asked for Roster delivery in March will see it soon after March 1. May deliveries will be after May 15. **Captains!** Check your regular and sub lists against the 2008 Roster. All players must be paid. Renewal forms available on [www.seniortennismn.com](http://www.seniortennismn.com), or from Ronnae Wagner, 952-938-5785. Captains can always check the updated membership list on our website.

## Tennis events

By Bob Busch

### Where have all the courts gone?

National statistics indicate that tennis has grown more than any other major sport in recent years. Roger Boyer, Executive Director of the InnerCity Tennis programs, indicates that participation has never been higher. However, public funding for maintaining public tennis courts is being reduced.

The city of Minneapolis is planning to convert approximately 30% of its 139 outdoor tennis courts to other uses. Bloomington is deciding what to do with its 50 outdoor courts. During the outdoor season the STPC uses five of six courts at Dred Scott Park every weekday morning as well as numerous courts at other

*(Tennis events—continued on page 7)*

## The Loons

By Julia French and Tom Waki

We would like to start a pilot group called The Loons. This group will consist of STPC members who wish to play tennis not more than one hour. The group will play on Thursdays at 12:30 pm at Reed-Sweatt Family Tennis Center starting April 3rd through April 24th. The cost will be \$28 to \$42 depending on the number of players participating. We need 4 to 6 players.

If you are interested call Julia French, 612-872-4807, or Tom Waki, 612-388-7879.

## Upcoming Events

### Annual Meeting

May 3, 2008

Information and signup on page 8

### Jack Dow Round Robin

May 5-8, 2008

Mens, Womens, Mixed doubles, 2.5-4.0

Information and signup on page 6

### Bolger Clinic

June 2, 2008

Mark your calendar!

## Senior Tennis Players Club, Inc.

A nonprofit corporation, P.O. Box 5525  
Hopkins, MN 55343  
On the web: [www.seniortennismn.com](http://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.

### Board of Directors

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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](mailto:currentmembers@seniortennismn.com)

Membership total: 1318

March 2008, Volume 21, Number 2



### Letters to the Editor are wanted!

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

To the Editor:

I was perplexed by the letter in the Jan-Feb issue asserting that players who don't always return the 3rd ball to the server's partner are control freaks. I fear Miss Manners may be calling for her smelling salts! There is no such rule in the USTA Code. (To view the Code, go to our website [www.seniortennismn.com](http://www.seniortennismn.com), and click on Links. Then click on "The Code.") Senior Tennis is the only place I have played where people seem to think there is a "rule" requiring the return of the 3rd ball.

The Code says, "SERVING 23. Server's request for third ball. When a server requests three balls, the receiver shall comply when the third

ball is readily available. **Distant balls shall be retrieved at the end of a game**" (emphasis added). I have never seen anyone at senior tennis refuse when asked.

Most people I have played prefer to minimize delay by not chasing or forwarding balls once the server is ready. I find it frustrating when I am ready to serve but must wait for someone to run down the unneeded third ball and forward it to my partner. For me, a ball in an opponent's pocket, at the base of the net or even behind the server is just as accessible.

There is not even a rule in the code requiring 3 balls. The main reason we use three is that balls come 3 in a can. I prefer to bring a 4 ball can when it is up to me and 2 cans when just hitting because it permits less time lost picking up balls. 4 players

*(Letters—continued on page 5)*

*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](mailto:editor@seniortennismn.com).

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

# Percy's tennis rhythms



## By Percy Hughes

Had enough of our Minnesota winter? Not a real tough one, but our lakes and our farmers need lots of snow before springtime. At a meeting recently, I've been made aware of quite a few new indoor courts, plus many new outdoor

courts. Makes us feel pretty good, huh. David, our editor, will be sharing the locations of these new facilities shortly. Fortunately these new clubs are located in mostly north, west and south of the Twin Cities.

## Dow round robin coming!

March comes in like a lion, or if you prefer, the Ides of March! However, April does bring May showers and that means the **Dow Round Robin! May 5-8.**



Get your taxes done, think about planning your garden, playing outside (which is free), warm temperatures and mosquitoes; but this is **indoor** tennis and lots of fun. Come on new members, enjoy some fun competitive tennis. Register now—entry forms are in this newsletter. Let us enjoy the completion of our winter indoor tennis season. If you don't want to play we can always use volunteers! Where can you have so much fun for only \$8.00—best bargain of the year.

## Players wanted

Regulars and subs for **men's 3.0-3.5 group** at the new Match Point Tennis Center in Lakeville, 9913 214th Street West, Lakeville. Tuesdays 8:30-10:00 A.M. Call Bruce Abrahamson 952-461-2617.

**Women, men 3.5-4.0.** Looking ahead to **summer** in the southwest Minneapolis/Edina/Eden Prairie areas, Monday thru Friday, 7am-9am/7:30am-9:30am/8am-10am. Based on number of responses for each of the areas, days of the week, and times, I will choose the most in each category. Contact Marty Plitnick at [martyplitnick@comcast.net](mailto:martyplitnick@comcast.net), 612-247-7412.

**Subs needed**, both men and women at the 3.0 and 3.5 levels to sub, **free of charge**, through April, Wednesdays & Fridays 7:00-9:00 AM at the Saint Paul Indoor Tennis Club. If interested, please contact Krueg at 651-917-3551.

I've been asked by some of our members at what age should they discontinue playing this great game. I tell them two things: 1) "Know thyself", 2) "Ask your doctor." This is **very important**. A visit to your doctor is imperative. We have some members who are in their nineties, and are still hitting the ball with authority—just wonderful! Not trying to be funny, but your best buddy should be your doctor, and I believe that.

I'll be talking about the **Jack Dow Round Robin**, just a few days after the **Annual Club Luncheon** (May 3<sup>rd</sup>) (Hope we'll have the **Battle of the Sexes** again.)

Meantime, **no foot faults!**

Perc

## 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.*

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

**For sale: WWII in pictures & descriptive narration.** 3 vol. collector books (750p) \$50. 952-935-6656.

**Racquet exchange?** Did you get mine? Mine has white grip; yours black. Same Head cover. 612-823-0046.

**2 Greek homes** 3 BR 2.5 BA near Nafplio, €780/wk. MN owned. Details Sally Howard 612-340-9706.

**For sale: SAAB 900SE**, 42,000 miles, new tires, perfect condition. \$5,000. 952-927-7430.

**For sale: ladies golfset**, Calloway, 2 woods, 9 irons, with bag. \$200. 952-927-7430.

**Lake Superior condo for rent.** Three bedroom, on the lake, at Two Harbors. Ron Schmidt 952-831-0880.

**Wanted: good used portable ball machine.** Call Phil 612-819-6188, email [genrlphilx@isp.com](mailto:genrlphilx@isp.com).

**"Economic Democracy: Ending the Corporate Domination of Our Lives,"** by Scott Raskiewicz. \$14.95. 651-695-1535.

**Timeshare for rent**, 1 week, 2BR, 2BA, kitchen, 5 star, Sleeps 6, \$1000; Use US or international. 763-544-9757.

**●● 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
<b>Reed-Sweatt Family Tennis Center</b> 4005 Nicollet Ave S Minneapolis 612-825-6844	Mon	1:30-3:00 PM	All	\$5.00	Dilcia Pederson	612-824-6099
					Duncan Welty	952-933-8592
	Mon	10:00-11:00 "Owies"	All	\$7.50	Dilcia Pederson	612-824-6099
	Thu	8:30-10:00AM	All	\$5.00	Percy Hughes	612-866-1102
				Paul Stormo	952-944-6286	
<b>Fred Wells Tennis and Education Center.</b> 100 Federal Drive, Minneapolis	Tue	11:00-12:30	All	\$5.00	Tom Bauman	651-738-6726
<b>Williston Fitness &amp; Sports</b> 14509 Minnetonka Drive Minnetonka 952-939-8370	Tue	5:30-7:00PM	All	\$5.00	Duncan Welty	952-933-8592

**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
<b>Reed-Sweatt Family Tennis Center*</b> 4005 Nicollet Ave S, Minneapolis	Tue Thu	\$8.00	9:00-10:00 AM	612-825-6844 Call for reservation.

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

## Valentine social

We used a new format for the Valentine party, and it was a great success, with several new members of STPC coming out to meet fellow members and enjoy tennis and brunch. The party was Saturday, February 16, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. There were two play sessions, each 1½ hours, king of the hill format. The two sessions were for people of like skills, so no one felt overwhelmed or bored.

Plentiful food: juices, yogurt, fruit, sweet rolls, bagels, crackers & cheese, cookies, coffee....

Door prizes won by Terry Prince (T-shirt), Bill Sturm

(tennis balls), Bob Stuhl (tennis balls), and Bonnie Mackey (T-shirt).

Several members took the opportunity to buy the official STPC T-shirt at just \$5. We'll continue to offer these at future events like the Annual Meeting, Bolger Clinic, Grandparent/grandchild, etc.

A big thanks to the volunteers who made this possible:

- Marv Schneider—tennis organizer
- Dorothy Rossing—food
- Ronnae Wagner—desk and tennis
- Joanne Schwartz—decorations

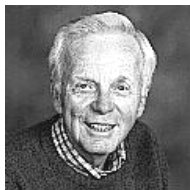


## In Memory...



### John Bjoin

Bjoin, John Robert. Age 78 of Bloomington. Survived by loving wife, Jackie; son, Jay R. (Connie) Bjoin; and daughter, Julie R. (Jack) Schaefer; grandchildren, sister, Betty Shimp; nieces, nephew, and cousins. John was a member of Senior Tennis from 1993.



### Mary Byron

Byron, Mary Lawler. Our dear wonderful Mary died on February 1, 2008 in Edina, surrounded by her loving family. Mary was born July 30, 1932 in Rochester, MN. She graduated from Lourdes High School and earned a BA in Education at the University of Minnesota. She taught at the Academy of the Holy Angels and Bloomington High School. Mary married John Byron December 1957. She is survived by her devoted husband, John; and six children. Mary was a member of Senior Tennis from 1998.



*(Letters—continued from page 2)*

can retrieve 4 balls about as fast as one player can retrieve one ball. That efficiency is lost if someone must pick up every ball every time.

Other interesting rules in the code:

#### “MAKING CALLS

“6. Opponent gets benefit of doubt... a player is guided by the unwritten law that any doubt must be resolved in favor of the opponent...”

“8. Ball that cannot be called out is good.” (i.e. promptly and loudly!)

“13. Player calls own shots out. With the exception of the first serve, a player should call against himself or herself any ball the player clearly sees out regardless of whether requested to do so by the opponent...”

“14. Partners’ disagreement on calls. If doubles partners disagree about whether their opponents ball was out, they shall call it good...” (A discussion between partners about whether an opponents shot was out usually means it should be called good. Some pairs seem to use it to agree to call it out. If there is no doubt, why the discussion? Not all partners take a correction over a line call kindly but it is clearly our duty to speak up if we disagree. Everybody makes mistakes but even if seeing it good was the mistake, the opponent should get the point.)

From the code: “...It is more important to give your opponents the benefit of the doubt than to avoid possibly hurting your partner’s feelings by not overruling. The tactful way to achieve the desired result is to tell your partner quietly of the mistake and then let your partner concede the point.”

“16. Opponent’s calls questioned. When a player genuinely doubts an opponent’s call, the player may ask:

‘Are you sure of your call?’ If the opponent reaffirms that the ball was out, the call shall be accepted. If the opponent acknowledges uncertainty, the opponent loses the point. There shall be no further delay or discussion.”

Most of the people I have played in senior tennis seem to honor these rules most of the time. By our age most of us have learned that winning is overrated but honor isn’t. All but a few are aware that we play for fun—this is not Wimbledon. And even there they say, “If you can meet with victory and defeat, and treat those two imposters just the same...”

— Steve Keefe

## STPC Endowment

### By Fred Jurewicz, President of STPC

The Senior Tennis Players Club is considering the idea of establishing an endowment fund to award one or two scholarships to graduating senior high school students. We would use some of the money that is being carried over from year to year in the treasury as seed money to establish the fund. STPC’s interest is in promoting tennis as a lifelong recreational activity and reaching out in a supportive way to youth. Essentially we say to them that we believe, from experience, that they can enrich their lives through continuing engagement in tennis activity; and here’s a nudge to learn and to go forth toward their vocational/scholastic goals as an active healthy person via tennis. We’re looking for members to be on the committee to plan and implement the endowment program. The goal is to have the program in place for students of the class of 2009. If you’d like to serve on the committee, contact Fred Jurewicz at (952) 496-1019 or (612) 250-3185; e-mail: [fred@fjfinancial.com](mailto:fred@fjfinancial.com).

# Senior Tennis Players Club, Inc. Jack Dow Annual Senior Tennis Round Robin

## May 5-8, 2008, 8am-4pm

Reed-Sweatt Family Tennis Center  
4005 Nicollet Ave. S. • Minneapolis, MN 55409 • 612-825-6844

### Round Robin Rules

- **Fee:** \$8 per event, per person
- Round-robin format—you will play *at least* three regular sets, or two 8-game pro sets.
- Divisions 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, and 4.0 Men's, Women's and Mixed Doubles.
- No partner substitution after first set.
- No participant may play in more than 2 events. If in 2 events, one must be Mixed Doubles.
- A first place winner in an event in 2007 automatically jumps to the next rating or *must* change partners.
- Those unable to find a partner *must* state that on the application.
- All entrants *must* be members of STPC.
- **All entrants must be rated** by an STPC professional or have a current USTA rating. Those rated in 2007 need not be rated again in 2008. **Rating questions**—call Percy Hughes at 612-866-1102.
- **Rating Sessions at Reed-Sweatt:** Mondays 1:30: March 24, 31 and April 7; Thursdays 8:30: March 13, 20, 27 and April 3, 10.
- **Please check in for your match at least 15 minutes early.**

- **Cancel after close date—lose entire fee.**
- **Schedule:** This table gives the schedule for each division. Number in bold (4, 8, or 16) is the *maximum* number of teams permitted in that division. You **must** appear on the first date shown.
- **More info:** Percy Hughes 612-866-1102 or Ronnae Wagner 952-938-5785.

	Men's	Women's	Mixed
2.5	<b>4</b> Tue 11:30-2:30	<b>4</b> Tue 11:30-2:30	<b>4</b> Thu 11:30-2:30
3.0	<b>8</b> Wed 8:30-11:30 Thu 8:30-11:30	<b>8</b> Mon 11:30-2:30 Thu 8:30-11:30	<b>16</b> Tue 8:30-11:30 Thu 11:30-2:30
3.5	<b>16</b> Mon 8:30-11:30 Thu 8:30-11:30	<b>8</b> Mon 11:30-2:30 Thu 8:30-11:30	<b>16</b> Wed 11:30-2:30 Thu 11:30-2:30
4.0	<b>8</b> Wed 8:30-11:30 Thu 11:30-2:30	<b>4</b> Thu 11:30-2:30	<b>4</b> Tue 11:30-2:30

**IMPORTANT! Keep upper part; send only Application!**

### Application

Two players may use this form. Entries close April 21, 2008. All players must **sign below**.

Event	Name (print)	Rating	Amount enclosed	Phone with area code
Men's Doubles	1.			
	2.			
Women's Doubles	1.			
	2.			
Mixed Doubles	1.			
	2.			

**Partner needed?     yes, at     rating**

Send Application and Check payable to STPC for \$8 per event, per person to:  
Ronnae Wagner • 5326 Rogers Drive • Minnetonka, MN 55343 • 952-938-5785

**NOTE: you will be asked to sign a release form upon check-in at the tournament.**

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# See US Open and New York

By Marty Plitnick

Interested in going to the U.S. Open this year during the last week of August?

My wife Pat and I are thinking of forming a group of 8 to 12 to attend for 3 to 4 days during the first week. We went last year and truly enjoyed the event, Broadway, and restaurants in NYC.

Some people feel that getting around NYC is challenging. I am a former native New Yorker and would be happy to escort the group back and forth between the Open, restaurants, theatres and our hotel, as well as bargain for as reasonable as possible Manhattan accommodations.

The tickets go on sale to USTA members in mid-April before they go on sale to the general public. I would get them at face value. To get this going, I need to know what the level of interest is. Please contact me at [martyplitnick@comcast.net](mailto:martyplitnick@comcast.net) or 612-247-7412 before April 10.

**Editor's note:** *Marty is doing this out of the goodness of his heart. He has a big heart, and would like to share a great experience with some of us.*

*(Senior WTT—continued from page 1)*

at five-all. The wacky rules often have players scratching their heads, or meeting at the net to figure out what to do next, but there is broad agreement that WTT is a great tennis format.

Teams are made up of at least two men and two women, and usually more, to allow for vacation time, substitution during matches, and to cheer on fellow team members. Matches have six sets: one set each of men's and women's doubles, men's and women's singles, and two sets of mixed doubles. Every single game counts because it's the cumulative total number of games won from all sets that determines the winner for each match.

Professional WTT matches are sometimes shown on television. I have seen Venus Williams (who couldn't help but smile during the entire match), Steffi Graf (who forgot the rules twice), Pete Sampras (who had spent too much time playing golf), John McEnroe (who was great at needling the officials), and many other big names. First and foremost, they all enjoyed being part of World Team Tennis!

We have a Web site with lots of information about WTT in the Twin Cities, and how you can join us, at [www.wtttwincities.com](http://www.wtttwincities.com). For more information, call me

*(Tennis events—continued from page 1)*

Bloomington park locations. Even in the private sector, Lifetime Fitness continues to reduce the number of tennis courts available to members.

It's time for action! Please call your elected city representatives and park management. Let them know of your concern about the potential reduction in community tennis facilities and that tennis ranks very high in connection with senior recreational needs. Your tennis court needs will not be heard unless you communicate.

Ellen Doll, a tennis supporter in Minneapolis, conducted a fundraising campaign to save public courts in her Kenwood neighborhood. She also founded "Support the Courts," a volunteer group to raise funding to resurface courts in needy city neighborhoods. The group reportedly raised \$500,000 to replace 14 courts at Webber, Powderhorn and Pershing parks in Minneapolis.

## **New Faces Win Aussie**

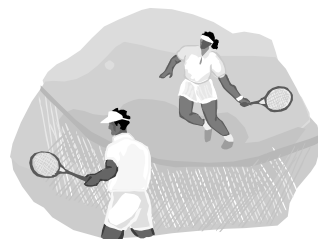
The Australian Open in Melbourne featured none of the men and women finalists that have dominated tennis in recent years. Top seeded players Federer and Nadal, as well as Serena and Venus Williams and Justine Henin were absent. New champions were crowned.

In the women's final featuring two 20 year olds, Maria Sharapova, Russia, defeated Ana Ivanovic, Serbia, 7-5, 6-3. This was the third Grand Slam title for the Nick Bollettieri-trained Sharapova. She did not lose a set in seven matches and seemed more determined after winning only three games in the 2007 final against Serena Williams.

Novak Djokovic, Serbia, won his first major title with a 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 7-6(2) win over Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France. Djokovic reached the semifinals of the last four Grand Slams. He seems to be one of the few players who is not intimidated by Federer.

The 26-year-old Federer maintained his record streak of 209 consecutive weeks with a No. 1 ranking by reaching his 15th major semifinal in a row.

at 763-488-9986, or email [bobfwilliams@playwtt.com](mailto:bobfwilliams@playwtt.com).



# 25<sup>th</sup> STPC Annual Meeting

All Members Welcome

Includes Captain's Recognition Luncheon and

Jack Dow Trophy Award

**Door Prizes! Entertainment!**

Saturday, May 3, 2008, 11:00am-2:30pm

Town & Country Club

300 Mississippi River Boulevard

St. Paul, Minnesota



## Schedule of Events

11:00 am Social Hour

12:00 pm Luncheon

12:15 pm The Percy Hughes Trio

1:15 pm Annual Meeting, Introduction  
of new Board members, and  
Jack Dow Trophy award.

2:20 pm Door prizes

## Luncheon Menu

*Maui Chicken Salad – Grilled Chicken with  
Fresh Pineapple, Strawberries, and Toasted Coco-  
nut on Crisp Romaine with Island Citrus Vinaig-  
rette*

*Sherbet with Butter Cookie*

*Regular or Decaf Coffee, and Hot or Iced Tea  
Available Upon Request*

### Directions to Town & Country Club

From 94 East: Take the Cretin Avenue/Vandalia Street exit (exit 237) and turn left (south) onto Cretin Avenue. Turn right onto Marshall Avenue. Turn right onto Otis Ave, then left into parking.

From 94 West: Take the Cretin Avenue/Vandalia Street exit (exit 237) and turn right (south) onto Cretin Avenue. Turn right onto Marshall Avenue. Turn right onto Otis Ave, then left into parking.

**Send reservation form by Monday April 28 with check for \$18 payable to STPC to:**

Mary Kaminski • 3300 East Gate Road • St. Anthony, MN 55418 • 612-781-3271

Reservation cancellations accepted up to 24 hours prior to event.

**Please call to cancel if unable to attend.**

**Captains:** you will receive a mailed invitation—do not use this reservation form!

**STPC Luncheon Reservation form for Non-Captains and guests only  
Saturday, May 3, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm. Cost: \$18 per member or guest**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

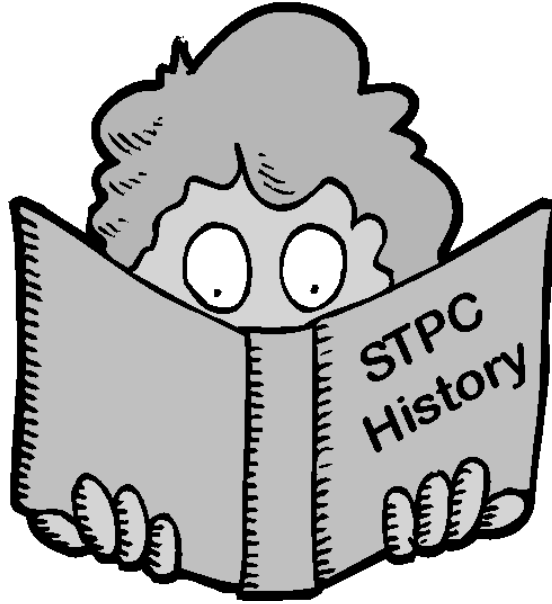


# History of the Senior Tennis Players Club

**By Carol Hall**

The organization came about in 1982 when Twin Cities businessman Jack Dow brought a small group of senior tennis enthusiasts together to form a club exclusively for their age group. These 60-and 70-somethings incorporated under the name of Senior Tennis Players Club, and proceeded to organize doubles matches for themselves at the old Parade Stadium courts near downtown Minneapolis. Their numbers quickly swelled. Today, the STPC membership exceeds 1500 members, aged 50 to 80-plus, who participate regularly in organized leagues, playing year-round at outdoor courts during the summer and racquet clubs in the winter. Their playing venues are scattered throughout the greater Twin Cities area.

Jack Dow is credited not only with founding the STPC, but also with its long-term success. An entrepreneur and go-getter who thrived on tennis, Dow, of Edina, was inducted into the Minnesota Tennis Hall of Fame, served as president of the Northwest Tennis Association, and, at his peak, was ranked No. 6 in Minnesota. He initially got the club off the ground by snagging members from among his tennis-playing friends, even giving out some free memberships to increase the numbers. Somewhere along the way, Dow decided that novices should be admitted to this group of



seasoned players and hired senior tennis pros, including Percy Hughes, Virginia Morgan and the late Ernie Greene, to provide them with beginner lessons.

Through the years Dow expanded club activities. Senior tennis camps, parties, drills, clinics and trips were added to the established leagues. Some of these trips saw Dow leading groups to Wimbledon, French Open, and U. S. Open, others to a Florida tennis resort where they played tennis daily.

Jack Dow died in 1996. The club thereafter initiated a tournament in his name, which is held annually. The programs and lessons that Dow began are going strong still today. A program for members to teach tennis to inner city youngsters was added to the list, as was a yearly grandparent-grandchild competition.

Each year the Jack Dow traveling trophy is presented to a member whose attitude, character, sportsmanship, enthusiasm and service best typify the organization. Long-time member Mary Kaminski of Saint Anthony, who serves on the STPC Board of Directors, was the 1998 trophy winner. Kaminski says of the STPC: "It does much more for seniors than offer tennis. The club creates the opportunity for new friendships; I've made so many good friends through Senior Tennis. Why, many members who've met on

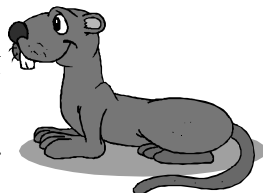
the courts have even found romance, and we've had a number of marriages."

Promoting the sport he so loved for the enjoyment and social opportunities it offers seniors was important to Dow, but more important was its benefit of improved physical health, of which he was keenly aware. Jack Dow played tennis five to seven times a week, continuing well into his eighties, and he lived to be 89.

Because the Senior Tennis Players Club is a nonprofit organization, members volunteer to handle all of its activities. They also serve as team captains for leagues. The STPC Board of Directors elects board members for three-year terms; board officers serve one-year terms. Members are encouraged to volunteer for activities and board positions, and to captain league teams.

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Gopher Men at Baseline		Gopher Women at Baseline	
Date, time	Opponent	Date, time	Opponent
Mar 09, noon	Ohio State	Mar 02, noon	Iowa
Mar 22, noon	Indiana	Mar 29, 11:00	Penn State
Apr 04, 3:00	Michigan State	Mar 30, TBA	Michigan
Apr 18, 3:00	Illinois	Apr 12, 11:00	Wisconsin
Apr 20, noon	Purdue	Apr 13, 11:00	Northwestern
		Apr 13, 2:00	Carleton

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# The Sweat Equation

By Bill Cosgrove

You've heard of the Peter Principle (in a hierarchy every employee rises to the level of his incompetence), Parkinson's Law (work expands to fill the time available), and, of course, Murphy's Law (anything that can go wrong will go wrong) which have provided those of us of a certain age with rules to live by. A lesser known one is the Pooh Perplex hypothesized by, among others, the deservedly unknown and appropriately named Murphy A. Sweat. Sweat and a new Law to live by for tennis players are my subjects here.

But first, these long-established guidelines for living have been supplemented by a law designed specifically for major league baseball which you may have missed what with the recent steroids expose, doping scandals, and dubious shattering of long-time records. One Ron Berler, a Medill School of Journalism professor at Northwestern University, developed a while back what he called the Ex-Cub Factor. This principle contends that in major league baseball games, especially the World Series, the winner will be determined by how many ex-Chicago Cubs are on the teams' rosters. The cruel conclusion is that a team with three or more ex-Cubs can never win the World Series.

Let's take a cue from all these insights into the human condition, especially the Ex-Cub Factor, and try to design one that will help us make judgments about the things that really matter in life—the winner of the next big sports event.

Take tennis, for instance. You may have seen recently the U.S. beat Russia in Davis Cup with the likes of Roddick, Blake, and the Bryan twins. The hard-to-find TV coverage of this Davis Cup final on a channel called "Versus" a few months ago gave us a chance to see U.S. tennis at its best. And like all such world-class play, it allowed us to see in detail the one thing we weekend hackers have in common with these world class athletes—sweat.

For a non-contact sport, tennis has a high degree of what you might call sweatsmanship. Could common sweat exist in what originated as one of the most elite and upper class activities engaged in only by the most elegant gentlemen and ladies? Baseball may well be sport's version of the ancient myth of green, pastoral fields under the archetypal sun of long, endless summer afternoons, football may be the ancient Roman gladiators transposed to the gridiron, and horseracing may be the sport of kings. But only tennis is the sport

of gentlemen and ladies. (Consider that tennis is the only sport in which your opponent calls your shots in or out, "good" or "fault." Where would baseball be if the players called their own balls and strikes, their runners out or safe, their pharmaceuticals legal or illegal.)

Now, such kings as Henry VIII and the other gentlemanly folk who allegedly invented tennis surely never sweated when they played back in 16<sup>th</sup> century England and France. After all, they had servants to do that for them -- that's where the word "service" supposedly came from. But the kings of modern tennis certainly do sweat.

Sweat. I don't mean here how much a player sweats. Or how little. Or the quality of the sweat, for that matter, if it's possible, or permissible, to judge that in a gentleman or lady. I'm saying that it's how they sweat that counts. Watch how sweat affects athletes, especially tennis players – what they do with it, what it does to them, and how they look while doing it. My Sweatsmanship Equation says that the better a player handles his sweat and the better he looks while doing it, the better his chances of winning.

So, to illustrate and prove this theory of sweatsmanship based on my just completed painstaking research, consider for a moment our own kings of the open era of tennis in terms of their sweatsmanship. Here's a biased list of the top ten sweaters in world-class tennis starting with the first generation of the open era.

10. Ilie Nastase. Remember him? The worst of the best. "Nasty" Nastase sweated in ways, and seemingly in places, most of us can only imagine. He appeared to have sweat glands in his hair. He couldn't grease his hair any better than his sweat did. Maybe that's why he used to be so belligerent on court – sweat oozing from the tips of your hair could make one a tad testy. Nastase's hair was not strands of protein like the rest of us, but beads of grease strung together on strands of greasy kids stuff. You occasionally see him these days in the stands at major tournaments and everything is older except the hair—sweat apparently is ageless. Nastase was the Sultan of Bad Sweat who handed down his sweatsmanship and his sportsmanship to his heirs apparent, Jimmy Connors and John McEnroe.

9. Jimmy Connors. Jimmy apparently learned his early on-court manners from Nastase as well as how to sweat. Although his straight, sticky-looking hair never quite matched the sheer griminess of Nastase's, Connors never sweated as artfully as he played. He

*(Sweat equation—continued on page 11)*

*(Sweat equation—continued from page 10)*

always was the workingman's tennis player, just as he is now the coach of today's working man's player, Andy Roddick (whose own hair quotient, I'd guess, is very like his coach's). Like Roddick, Jimmy was the blue collar competitor who worked like a galley slave, grunted like a, well, a grunt, sometimes swore like a stevedore, and sweated unceremoniously like all three. And his mop-top hairdo quickly degenerated on the court into simply a wet mop of stranded strings. But remember that his non-stop, hustling, grind-it-out style got him to the semis of the U. S. Open in 1991 at age 39 and allowed him to play world-class tournament tennis into his early 40s.

8. Yannick Noah. Noah completes this trio of players whose sweat was their own worst enemy. This Frenchman's elaborate and distinctive braided hair was striking to see on court, a work of art in motion, like his own occasionally brilliant but erratic play. But as he sweated, Noah's dreadlocks became not so much artful as, well, dreadful. They looked like dark strands of the devil's own DNA whipping and snapping about his head like the snakes of Medusa. Both the man and his acrobatic tennis play were sometimes stunning to see — handsome, lithe, athletic, graceful, classical—but sweat, the great leveler, brought him, and apparently his game, down to the level of mere mortals.

7. Mats Wilander. The stoical Swede made it to the #1 ranking in 1988, but he may have lost it because of his sweat quotient. His sweat pattern changed after that. Like John McEnroe, he had this curly hair that seemed to absorb any unsightly sweat. But unlike McEnroe, he gave no vent to his emotions on court in words (in English, anyway) or deeds (in unprintable hand gestures). But about 1989 at Wimbledon he began to sweat noticeably. On the basis of the Sweat Equation, it seemed like a foregone conclusion that Wilander would lose in the quarterfinals at Wimbledon in 1989 to a player with superior resources for dealing with sweat — John McEnroe.

6. John McEnroe. Mac the Brat had and still has one of the best sweat quotients around. His sweat never seems to affect negatively his looks or his game. This may be because he managed to provide other outlets for his energies, namely his actions, gestures, and language. When he was younger he used to wear an absorbent headband, but later it may have been that his ample, wild, curly hair simply absorbed the sweat, tightening against his scalp and causing multiple facial tics, grimaces, and mumblings. McEnroe's face did indeed seem to take on the contortions and perversions suffered by other players' hair. Like a 1980s Dr. Jekyll

and Mr. Hyde, his face reflected the personality changes caused by the magic elixir of sweat. Unlike Jekyll and Hyde, however, McEnroe's transformation into a monster during matches in his heyday was probably good for his game; the bitter, magic sweat potion made him play better, and the days of the headband were better left behind. Sweat was like mother's milk to the combative McEnroe.

5. Ivan Lendl. For much of this early open era, Ivan Lendl was the world's best player. He looked so good, played so smoothly, moved so effortlessly, and hit so powerfully off both sides—until he sweated. His sweat quotient did dreadful things to him and he knew it. Consider what he did to offset this sweat menace. He wore the widest wristbands in tennis, the widest wristbands in the civilized world, the widest wristbands known to human kind. Actually, they weren't wristbands so much as arm warmers cleverly disguised as a couple over-the-calf sweat socks with the feet cut out.

Lendl used to put some kind of secret powder from his pocket on his racket handle to combat slipperiness. It was widely believed to be sawdust but it really was some kind of anti-sweat elixir. And he habitually plucked hairs from his eyelashes and eyebrows during play, apparently in a vain attempt to snatch out the pesky little sweat follicles. But what his sweat did to his hair was a crime against humanity. His good Czechoslovakian head of respectable hair turned into the hairdo that ate New York at the many U.S. Opens he won. His sensible brown hair separated, plastered down, and darkened from the hairline upward until a slightly lighter tuft of hair was left at the top of his head like a Lilliputian pillbox. His sweatsmanship was a scorched earth disaster. Though he may deserve a higher ranking here on the basis of his level of play alone, there is little question that of the top five players in the world during this time, Lendl had the worst sweat quotient of them all.

**Editor's note:** *We're out of space, so you'll have to wait for the April issue for the conclusion of this article. A preview—the top four sweaters of the modern era:*

4. Boris Becker
3. Andre Agassi
2. Bjorn Borg
1. Stefan Edberg—Mr. Cool!



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## Where did my \$25 go?

**By Marv Schneider, STPC Treasurer**

With nearly 1500 members in the Senior Tennis Players Club (STPC), I am sometimes asked “How does STPC spend \$25 annual membership fee from each of its members?” Here’s how it works out.

\$8.08 of the \$25 goes into publishing the newsletter, 10 issues per year. This includes salary of the editor, printing of the newsletter, and postage (delivery). The newsletter and website not only give you club news, but also schedules and information on club events.

\$7.15 of the \$25 pays for our pro instructors to give the free lessons to all members. The lessons are free all year round, but during the winter months, people taking the lessons pay court costs (usually \$5).

\$4.45 of the \$25 has gone in contributions to tennis related charities in the Twin Cities. These include Inner City Tennis, St. Paul Urban Tennis Program, Fred Wells (Fort Snelling) Tennis and Learning Center, and a defibrillator to Reed-Sweatt.

\$3.97 of the \$25 was used for memberships, including printing and postage of forms for renewals and new members, as well as printing and postage of rosters

which list all of our members.

\$2.74 of the \$25 went into administrative expenses, which includes office supplies, insurance, taxes, postage, website, and other miscellaneous expenses.

\$2.45 of the \$25 went into expenses above the income for the Annual Meeting and Captains Luncheon as well as a small part of it for the summer picnic. This Luncheon provides a free meal to the captains who are so important in making STPC work.

The tournaments (Jack Dow and Grandparent-Grandchild), the Bolger Clinic, and the tennis parties (Halloween and Valentines) are planned on a breakeven basis, and they generally come close to that.

When we add up all of these expenses, we should end up with \$25. Right? **Whoops!** We have more than \$25 worth—how can that be? We actually have more income than the annual dues: some income from advertising in the newsletter, interest from Certificates of Deposit (CDs) and money market accounts.

With income and expenses of about \$40,000 per year, we are a non-profit business and we approximately break even each year. I hope this has created more answers than questions for you. If you have questions relating to this, you can call me at 952-975-1895.