

# Senior Tennis Times

Newsletter of the Senior Tennis Players Club, Inc. March 2009

# Captains—your help please!

#### Spring-summer schedule

In the next issue of Senior Tennis Times we'll publish the preliminary schedule. Please let us know **now** of any changes. You can get the schedule on our website—click Schedules. Report changes:

- Minneapolis area to Rod Johnson at 763-588-2107 or E-mail him at r-john@umn.edu
- St. Paul area to Thue Rasmussen at 651-917-0075 or E-mail him at <a href="mailto:thueor32@comcast.net">thueor32@comcast.net</a>

## Check your players' membership

**A confession:** your editor checked whether all his Baseline players were STPC members for 2009. He was **shocked!** to discover that three were not. Friendly phone calls remedied those cases.

We need your help to do the same. For those who receive their Roster in March, you'll be getting it about the same time as this newsletter. Use it to check your players. Or you can always get a *current* list of our members on our website. Click Membership.

## **STPC Survey**

The Senior Tennis Players Club's board of directors is very pleased with the response to the survey that was sent along with the renewal mailing. The surveys have been very well received and the feedback is tremendous. If you intended to send in your survey but have been putting it off, we want to hear from you! The board is looking for interested persons from the general membership to serve on a small committee to assist with the organization and summarization of the results. If you would like to serve on the committee or have any questions, please contact Fred Jurewicz 952-496-1018 or <a href="mailto:fred@fifinancial.com">fred@fifinancial.com</a>.

## **Upcoming Events**

Jack Dow Tournament
May 4-7, 2009 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Rules and signup on page 5

Annual meeting & captain's luncheon May 16, 2009, Town & Country Club Details and signup on page 7

## **Tennis Events**

#### **By Bob Busch**

#### Australian Open

USA players put forth very strong performances, winning three titles: Serena Williams in women's singles, Bob and Mike Bryan in men's doubles and Serena and Venus Williams in Women's doubles.

Rafael Nadal defeated Roger Federer in five tough sets after 4 hours and 23 minutes. Tony Nadal, Rafael's uncle and coach was quoted as saying, "The key difference in the match was that in the final set Roger's level fell and Rafa was able to maintain his level." Previously, Nadal won the longest match in Australian Open history in the semifinals by defeating Fernando Verdasco in 5 hours and 14 minutes.

#### **Championship Results**

Men's Singles – Rafael Nadal (1) Spain, defeated Roger Feder (2) Switzerland 7-5, 3-6, 7-6(3), 3-6, 6-2.

Women's singles – Serena Williams (2) USA, defeated Dinara Safina (3), Russia 6-0, 6-3.

Men's doubles – Bob and Mike Bryan (2) USA, defeated Mahesh Bhupathi, India and Mark Knowles (3), Bahamas 2-6, 7-5, 6-0.

Women's doubles – Serena and Venus Williams (10), USA, defeated Daniela Hantuchova, Slovakia and Ali Sugiyama (9), Japan, 6-3, 6-3.

Mixed Doubles – Sania Mirza and Mahesh Bhupathi, India, defeated Nathalie Dechy, France, and Andy Ram, Israel, 6-3, 6-1.

#### **Jack Dow Tournament**

This annual STPC doubles tournament is scheduled for May 4 through 7. Mark your calendar and start your preparation with your doubles partner.

## **Gopher Tennis**

Gopher men's and women's tennis teams will be approximately half way through their spring schedules when you receive this newsletter. Get the schedule details at gophersports.com or see page 5 of the Jan-Feb 2009 STPC Newsletter.

Rosters! March delivery around in March 1-5. May around May 15-20.

#### 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.
Club Founder: Jack Dow

#### **Board of Directors**

President: Fred Jurewicz	952-496-1019
Vice President:	

Dottie Gardner..................612-827-4918

Renewing Members:

Ronnae Wagner......952-938-5785

**Events Directors:** 

Dorothy Rossing .......612-926-9199 Bev Sinniger ......651-578-1345

Minneapolis tennis schedules:

Rod Johnson ......763-588-2107

Tournaments director:

#### Other positions

Advisor: Mary Kaminski.....612-781-3271

St. Paul tennis schedules:

Thue Rasmussen......651-917-0075

Director of Training: Roger Boyer

Ass't Director: Percy Hughes ....612-866-1102
Percy's email: percychjr@msn.com

#### **Newsletter Editor and Webmaster**

David Sommer

3657 17th Avenue South Minneapolis, MN 55407-2805

Phone: 612-276-1313

David's email: <u>dsommer7@usiwireless.com</u>

#### **Advertising**

Send by email 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.

Strip ads: \$40 first two inches; \$12 each additional inch.

## Membership information changes, newsletter delivery problems, etc.,

can be made by writing Senior Tennis Players Club, P.O. Box 5525, Hopkins, MN 55343 or email to Ronnae Wagner: howard5326@aol.com

Membership total: 1332 March 2009, Volume 22, Number 2



Letters to the Editor are wanted! This is your space to express an opinion or relate an interesting experience.

# Think spring, the month of May!

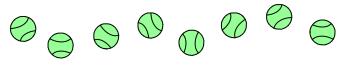
It is time for our annual meeting and luncheon celebration. We also welcome back all our *snowbirds*.

2008 has been an interesting year for your Board. Our financial position has declined a bit; but we continue to get new members. That is our objective, so spread the word! Senior Tennis is a non-profit organization that relies on volunteering by all members. We are a rarity in that we have never done a fund-raiser. We charge for

membership, events and tournaments to simply cover our costs. We also want to continue our financial support of youth tennis programs in Minneapolis and St. Paul.

We were founded, in 1982, by the generous contributions of Lifetime members, USTA and some businesses. Just a reminder that contributions and memorials are gratefully accepted. Anyone or any business can *offer* to underwrite any of our events. Let us all move forward to another exciting year of Senior Tennis, 2009—still only \$25.00 a year!

Dottie Gardner New Member Director



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: dsommer7@usiwireless.com.

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

## Percy's tennis rhythms

### **By Percy Hughes**

Greetings to all Tennis players, particularly we seniors who are members of our **Senior Tennis Players Club**. Springtime is fairly close now, so here I come, the broken record—yes, reminding all players to start checking all of your



equipment and to replace what doesn't seem to be in tip-top shape any more. Having the best equipment keeps you confident.

I'll be visiting all of our lessons, talking to our club members, making sure the students are members of our great club. We have to be aware that our senior club is not alone—we have competition now, something we didn't have for quite a long time. We're no longer the only club catering to senior players. Fortunately we have the right ingredients; we have the greatest teaching pros - they're all certified, and our Director of Training is the very best in the tennis teaching world: **Roger Boyer**—none better! The club's lesson program is listed in every Senior Tennis Times. Thank you, Newsletter editor and Webmaster, **David Sommer**. Meanwhile, **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.

Rent Jan-Feb, spacious Carefree, AZ townhouse 2BR, 2½BA, garage, furnished, spa, free tennis 651-631-1044.

**Handyman**: Get that To-Do list taken care of. Basic repairs and maintenance. Friendly, affordable and flexible. SW Metro area. Bob Thompson, 952-929-0844 /

rthompson123@gmail.com.

For Sale: Cornerstone Co-op 1 or 2 BR units for Seniors. Amenities, balconies, garages, in unit laundry, storage, cable TV. 3790 Lawndale Lane N, Plymouth, MN. 763-478-4661 for tour.

**2 Greek homes** 3BR 2.5BA near Nafplio. €585-€780/wk. MN owner Sally Howard 612-340-9706 details.

**Understanding Sergers** instruction & reference book. \$8.75. 612-276-1313; <u>dsommer7@usiwireless.com</u>

Edina community woodworking shop, new members wanted. Contact at <a href="mailto:schissel1088@comcast.net">schissel1088@comcast.net</a>

**Professional interior painting**—quality work at reasonable prices. Call Ron Leonetti at 763-593-9005.

**Need a vacation?** Go anywhere, reasonable rates. Ken Landro 763-544-9757

# In Memory...



#### **Chuck Beshears**

This past December our good friend Charles (Chuck) Beshears passed away on Christmas Eve. He and his wife Jan were living in Naples Florida and had recently returned from a cruise to the Caribbean. Chuck was 74 years old and both he and Jan were members of Senior Tennis. At one time Chuck was summer captain of a group in the western suburbs. Besides a lot of weekly tennis Chuck and Jan were quite active in boating, both here and in Naples. Chuck loved bird

hunting in northern Minnesota and in the Florida swamps, amongst the alligators and snakes. Jan introduced Chuck to line dancing in Naples and she said he was getting really good. And of course they were avid travelers driving all over the country and especially to the hinterlands of Montana. He had an active life, God bless him. All of us who knew him will miss him terribly. — David Chatfield

## Virginia Heinzen

Heinzen, Virginia E. age 82, of Minnetonka. Passed away peacefully at home surrounded by loved ones January 12, 2009. Preceded in death by husband, Matthew Heinzen. Vir-



ginia was a member of Senior Tennis 1987-2007.

#### 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	Mon	10:00-11:00 "Owies"	All	\$7.50	Dilcia Pederson	612-824-6099
4005 Nicollet Ave S Minneapolis	Tue	1:30-3:00 PM	All	\$5.00	Dilcia Pederson	612-824-6099
612-825-6844					Duncan Welty	952-933-8592
	Thu	8:30-10:00AM	All	\$5.00	Duncan Welty	952-933-8592
					Paul Stormo	952-944-6286
Fred Wells Tennis and Education Center. 100 Federal Drive, Minneapolis	Tue	11:00-12:30	All	\$5.00	Tony Rodriguez	651-246-0077
Williston Fitness & Sports 14509 Minnetonka Drive Minnetonka 952-939-8370	Wed	5:30-7:00PM	All	\$5.00	Duane Ryman	612-865-9517
PublicIndoorTennis.Com 7833 Highway 65 N.E. Spring Lake Park, MN 55432	Fri	1:00-2:30 PM	All	\$5.00	Tony Larson	303-808-7809

**Free or low-cost lessons\*** are offered as part of your STPC membership. New members are encouraged to take advantage of them.

## ● Private Club Drills Open to STPC Members ●●

Location	Day	Cost	Time	Phone
Reed-Sweatt Family Tennis Center 4005 Nicollet Ave S, Minneapolis	Tue Thu	\$8.00	9:00-10:00 AM	612-825-6844 Call for reservation.
Williston Center, 14509 Minnetonka Drive, Minnetonka, MN 55345	Thu	\$8.00 (\$7 members)	3:00-4:00 PM Band-aid bunch	952-939-8370 Pat Allar

## **Fred Wells helps STPC**

Fred Wells Tennis and Education Center (formerly Fort Snelling) recently made generous changes to their fee schedule for Senior Tennis Players Club members:

- No membership fee to play in STPC groups (was \$45/year)
- No group processing fee (was \$50)
- Court costs just \$5/hour/person (doubles)

These changes make Fred Wells costs for us comparable to Reed-Sweatt and Baseline. (Baseline court costs are less, but we have to pay for parking.) Fred Wells welcomes new groups—they have some

court time available for this year, and with changes to scheduling can accommodate more groups next year.

Fred Wells is a splendid organization, serving inner-city youth with their unique combination of tennis and supplemental education—see their website at <a href="https://www.tennisandlearning.org">www.tennisandlearning.org</a>.

Fred Wells has made a considerable financial sacrifice to help STPC players—it amounts to over \$45/year/player. Considering the good work they do in their youth programs, you can show your appreciation by a *generous donation*.

<sup>\*</sup> 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.

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

## May 4-7, 2009, 8am-4pm

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

## **Round Robin Rules**

- Fee: \$10 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 2008 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.
- 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 and time shown.
- Medal awards to the top two finishers per category
- More info: Ken Landro 763-544-9757, Jean Murdock 612-825-5826 or Mark Mudra 952-833-1469.

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

organizations! Recognition of your generosity will appear in the Senior Tennis Times newsletter.

#### **Donations needed!**

Entry fees do not cover the cost of this great event. We need donations from individuals and

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

## **Application**

Two players may use this form. Entries close April 20, 2009. 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 \$10 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	

# **Barack Obama as tennis player**

#### By Bill Cosgrove

You may have noticed that President-elect Barack Obama walks and carries himself like an athlete. Maybe even like a tennis player, and I want to make the case for why he should be one. He has that easy grace of movement by which he swings his arms freely and a little loosely like pendulums from his shoulders and kind of glides along the ground with little extraneous motion. He looks relaxed and effortless as he casually strolls along.

I have in mind here that bit of news film you probably saw showing Obama walking in a portico of the White House with President Bush after his election. Bush, in the film, walks with conspicuous, self-conscious effort, his chin thrust out and his arms and hands angling across his body ready to fight or defend himself. It's a gunslinger's swagger, a gunfighter's strut. He marches a little bit in front of Obama saying mutely "Here I come, look at me." Slightly behind him to his right comes Obama coolly strolling along saying "I don't have to say anything."

More recently, too, at his inauguration, he was suave, savvy, and cool personified whether skipping down the Capitol steps, correcting the Chief Justice's swearing-in miscues, walking down Pennsylvania Ave., or gliding around, not to mention boogieing down, the dance floors of the Tuesday night Balls. You can see his easy, relaxed control of himself, his audience, and the moment.

Obama looks like a hipster—easy, smooth, just-short-of-sauntering down the street. Bush is like the sheriff strutting on main street facing down the bad guys. Obama is a lithe, thin-bladed dagger or stiletto sheathed in black, Bush a broad hunting Bowie knife.

As an athlete, Obama is a team sport guy—a basketball player. In basketball teamwork is important, which fits well with Obama's political characteristics as a multitasker, multi-lateralist, coalition builder, team worker, coordinator, pragmatist who is composed, unflappable, and poised. And yet basketball, like tennis, also demands individual mastery of a host of essential skills besides the obvious ones of running, jumping, shooting, etc.: court vision, hand-eye coordination, body control, starting-stopping, lateral movement, balance, quickness, speed. And these skills match up unusually well in the two sports.

Tennis and basketball apply these shared qualities in

similar ways. Many movements in tennis are a lot like guarding your opponent in basketball—hands out ready to move quickly in response to the ball. You have to make rapid up-and-back and lateral movements in reaction to your opponent's moves, and you want to cut off the cross-court and base-line passing lanes. In both sports you direct a shot to a specific spot—in shooting a 3-pointer and in exchanging deep ground-strokes, a very specific spot; both require a delicate touch in executing the drop shot winner at the net or a soft finger-roll over the rim. And what is more like a leaping overhead smash at the net than a leaping show time dunk at the rim?

All these qualities and others come together in basketball in a neat little maneuver unlike anything in any other sport except perhaps tennis. It's called "Elevate and then decide," and I think it was first used to describe Michael Jordan. In this move, the best players can leap into the air at a crucial moment, hang there with the ball, and decide on and execute their next action while in the air looking over the field of play around them.

Multiple options are open to them if they have the ability to execute them. They can pass off to an open teammate, lead pass a player breaking to the basket, even hoist an alley-oop to the rim of the basket for a big leaper to stuff. And of course they could take the shot themselves, though pretty much only a jump shot, jump hook, or underhand scoop would be possible. The very best, though, can "double-clutch" in the last nanosecond while descending from their jump, put the ball back up after defenders have fallen away, and kiss the ball off the backboard for two. Try it sometime.

This maneuver demonstrates a kind of existential moment in basketball – self-defining, self-chosen, self-determining—that I can see Obama executing. And there are similar moments in tennis that Obama would excel at—moments of ultimate decision-making where you fashion your own destiny. It's part of what I call existential tennis—those times in tennis when you have to make a unique shot, a shot of your own with no planning or preparation.

In those existential moments you're on your own, at the height of your own metaphorical "elevate and then decide." It's your leap of faith into the void, where everything hangs on the lip of the present moment and not on any rules or commandments (10 or otherwise) or prescribed regulations or expectations. In tennis maybe it's that leaping overhead after you lost the ball

(Barack Obama as tennis player—continued on page 8)



## 26th STPC Annual Meeting

All Members Welcome

- Captain's Recognition Luncheon
- Jack Dow Trophy Award
- Annual Meeting

Saturday, May 16, 11:00 am - 2:30 pm Town & Country Club 300 Mississippi River Boulevard N. St. Paul, Minnesota

## Schedule of Events

## Schedule of Events

12:00 pm Luncheon

11:00 am Social Hour

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

1:45 pm Entertainment

## Luncheon Menu

Steak Diane—sautéed medallions of beef tenderloin with shallots

Salad of mixed greens, strawberries and brie cheese with poppyseed dressing

Dessert tray of mixed bars

Regular or Decaf Coffee, Hot or Iced Tea

### **Directions to Town & Country Club**

<u>From 94 East</u>: 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. <u>From 94 West</u>: 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 May 11 with check for \$19 payable to STPC to:

Sue Shull • 7098 Cedar Cove • Excelsior, MN 55331 • 952-831-5235

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

(Cancellations accepted up to 24 hours prior to event)

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 16, 11:00 am - 2:30 pm. Cost: \$19 per member or guest Name:

Name:

Phone:

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Senior Tennis Times P.O. Box 5525 Hopkins, MN 55343

March 2009

Nonprofit Organization US Postage PAID Minneapolis, MN Permit No. 3270

(Barack Obama as tennis player—continued from page 6)

in the lights or the wind, but you know it's up there somewhere and, well, you have to go up there for it. This is where you take individual responsibility for your own actions (no blaming anyone else) and shape your own individual destiny (no consolation of philosophy here). You elevate, you decide. Is this Obama's style, or what?

Think of left-handed tennis players you've known and loved that might provide models for Obama's style. You may or may not think immediately of Rafael Nadal, but what about Martina Navratilova and Monica Seles, or John McEnroe and Jimmy Connors in their primes? Maybe you even think of Goran Ivanisevic, the tall, erratic, wild Croatian winning Wimbledon in 2001 at age 29 as the only wildcard and lowest ranked player ever to do so. Or the Austrian Thomas Muster known as "The King of Clay" who won the French in 1995.

But those of us of a certain age also think of Guy Forget and Henri Leconte of France. As close as these two Frenchmen may come to the kind of finesse player Obama would be, there are two others who may come even closer. Do you remember the Czech Petr Korda who won the Australian in 1998 or Andres Gomez who won the French in 1990? Both were lanky with smooth

strokes who could beat the best players of their time when they were on their game. But maybe the closest of all would be Rod Laver, the great Aussie lefty, who won everything he played in and was the last and only lefty to win the "Grand Slam" twice by winning all four Grand Slam tournaments in 1962 as an amateur and again in 1969.

If Obama were as blessed and adept in tennis as he appears to be in politics, I could see him having some of the attributes of these lefties: the deft touch, sharp, incisive slice shots, and beautifully simple, clean style of John McEnroe, the smooth, seemingly effortless, fluid movement of Petr Korda, the tall, lanky ranginess of Andres Gomez, the toughness and resilience of Thomas Muster, and, I'd guess, the relatively anemic serve of Jimmy Connors. And maybe, thrice blessed, the quickness, the mobility, the graceful footwork, the court coverage, the faultless technique, and the soft touch on the volley of Rod Laver.

Now, Obama will never win even one Grand Slam tournament and certainly not *the* Grand Slam even once, never mind twice. But hasn't he already won perhaps the biggest of the Slams in politics—the U.S. Presidential Open? If he takes up tennis, maybe it can help him win any 2<sup>nd</sup> term tiebreak!