



Senior Tennis Times

Newsletter of the Senior Tennis Players Club, Inc. March 2011

Tennis events

By Bob Busch

STPC indoors

Great to hear about the large number of STPC players hitting the ball weekly at Twin City indoor courts during the winter season. The 48° temperature on February 14 is a sign that spring and outdoor tennis are not far away. It's also great to see so many Minnesota senior players hitting the ball and enjoying the comfortable temps in Florida. Keep swinging and get your doubles partner signed up for the **Dow Tournament** to be held at Reed-Sweat May 2-5.

Australian Open

Women's tennis was more dramatic, exciting and competitive than men's play during the 2011 Aussie Open. Kim Clijsters defeated Li Na, the first Chinese woman to reach a Grand Slam singles final, 3-6, 6-3, 6-3. Clijsters won her fourth Grand Slam Championship. Francesca Schiavone and Svetlana Kuznetsova played the longest women's Grand Slam singles match in history: four hours and 44 minutes of very good tennis. In men's singles, Novak Djokovic defeated Andy Murray in three sets for the championship. The USA doubles team of Bob & Mike Bryan defeated Leander Paes/Mahesh Bhupathi from India in straight sets. The Bryans successfully defended their title and recorded their 10th Grand Slam Championship. They have held the #1 doubles ranking for the past 8 years.

Australian Open scores

Singles: Kim Clijsters defeated Li Na 3-6, 6-3, 6-3; Novak Djokovic defeated Andy Murray 6-4, 6-2, 6-3.

Doubles: Bob Bryan/Mike Bryan defeated Leander Paes/Mahesh Bhupathi 6-3, 6-4; Gisela Dulko/Flavia Pennetta defeated Victoria Azarenka/Maria Kirilenko 2-6, 7-5, 6-1. Mixed doubles: Katarina Srebotnik/Daniel Nestor defeated Yung-Jan Chan/Paul Hanley 6-3, 3-6, 10-7.

Fed Cup results

A strong Belgium team defeated the USA Women in early February 4-1 to move to the semi-finals. Kim Clijsters and Yanina Wickmayer won all four singles matches over Rochester native Bethanie Mattek-Sands and Melani Oudin. The USA doubles team, Vania King and Liezel Huber, recorded the only point in doubles against Kirsten Flipkens and An-Sophie Mestach. Clijsters, #2 ranked in the world, is the reigning Australian Open and US Open Champion. Mattek-Sands took Clijsters to the third set but lost 6-7(10), 6-2, 6-1. Mary Jo Fernandez is Captain of the USA team.

Gopher tennis

Gopher Men moved up to #27 in national ranking by winning five of six 2011 team matches through mid-February. Their only loss was to #6 ranked UCLA in January. The Gophers won matches with Marquette, Fresno State, Virginia Tech, Boise State and Wisconsin. In Minnesota's 5-2 win over rival Wisconsin they won five of six singles matches on February 13 at Madison. Singles wins were by Sebastian Gallego, Tobias Wernet, Phillip Arndt, Brendan Ruddock and Julian Dehn.

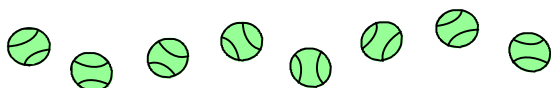
Gopher women, ranked #73, won 3 and lost 3 matches in 2011. They defeated Oregon 5-2 at home on February 13. Four of the five points came from singles

(Tennis events—continued on page 6)

Summer captains: HELP!

The preliminary spring/summer schedule will be printed in the April newsletter. We'd like to get it as correct as possible. If you know of changes, please communicate as follows:

- 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 thueor32@comcast.net



Upcoming Events

Saturday, March 19, 6:00-9:00 PM
Tennis Mixer at Fred Wells Tennis and Education Center. Signup on page 7

Dow Tournament
May 2-3: men's and women's doubles
May 4-5: mixed doubles. Signup on page 11

Saturday, May 14, 11:00 - 2:30 PM
Annual meeting & captains luncheon
Town & Country Club. Signup page 9

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 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.**

Ad rates (first month/additional months):

Full page (7.5x10)\$165/135

Half page (7.5x4.9)110/85

Half page on back cover125/100

Quarter page (3.7x4.9)70/50

Eighth page (3.7x2.4)45/30

Business card special30/20

Horizontal strip ads: \$55 first two inches; \$20 each additional inch. Vertical: \$75 first two inches; \$25 each add'l inch.

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 email to Ronnae Wagner: howard5326@aol.com

Membership total: 1273

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Volume 24, Number 2

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Letters to the editor

Sportsmanship

Editor's note: In last newsletter's Letters, Felix Perry asserted that it wasn't good sportsmanship to "direct 80% of shots at the weaker player...." I asked several questions about this. Here's a reply.



When a group has a wide range of abilities, determine if you are playing social or competitive tennis. If social, then everyone gets to hit the ball, run around, laugh, have fun and make friends: it's a good thing. But if you are playing competitive tennis, then anything within the rules and the code goes. Going at a weaker player is part of the game—hitting at a player is often the best shot, like a cross court volley at his/her feet. Drilling someone off a sitter is to me border line: let's not hurt anyone out there; we're not out for blood (I hope). If I get drilled off a sitter, I'm not going to whine about it, and the other player had better watch out. Karma, you know.

Winning a match is fun. You keep score—did you go on court to lose? You learn a lot playing under pressure at five-all in a tiebreaker. It's winning time, so see what you've got. The good part about playing as hard as you can is that you respect your opponents: if they beat you, they earned it; they can feel good about their victory. **Tanking a match cheats them.**

(Letters—continued on page 3)

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 S, Minneapolis, MN 55407-2805.

Email: dsommer7@usiwireless.com.

Opinions expressed in articles, letters or advertisements are those of the author, and do not necessarily represent views of the newsletter editor or the Board or officers of STPC.

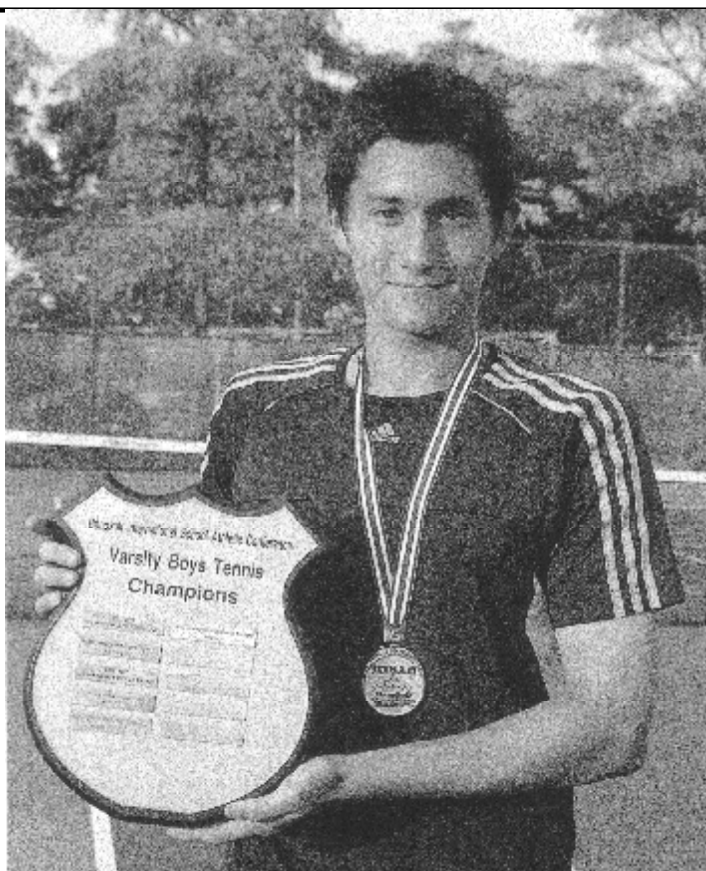
Family tennis tree

By Vern Jensen

We had a family tennis day at Baseline Courts in late December. Three generations!

- Grandpa Vern Jensen (88)
 - Vern's son Donald (54)
 - Donald's son Dillon (15) is on the St. Anthony Village High School tennis team.
 - Vern's daughter Maythee Kantar (53) and her children:
 - Danny (28) is a USPTA Level 1 tennis pro at Life Time Fitness, St. Louis Park.
 - Mikey (26) is a former captain of the Gopher tennis team and currently volunteer assistant men's tennis coach at the U.
 - Ellie (18) is a freshman on the Gopher Women's tennis team.

It all started 75 years ago when Vern's uncle, Martin Bloomquist, a leader in senior tennis in Sarasota, FL, gave Vern (then 13) a used tennis racquet. Uncle Martin played until he was 95.



Winning the championship!

Matthew Christensen, grandson of Jo Anne Christensen, lives in Bangkok, Thailand. He is in his senior year at NIST (New International School of Thailand). As captain of the varsity tennis team, he and his teammates won the SE Asian Tennis Championship for the second year. Nine schools in SE Asia competed in this conference. This January, the competition was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

When Matthew was younger, he competed two years in our STPC Grandparent/Grandchild tournament.

Thank you to donors

During 2010, the following people have made unsolicited donations to Senior Tennis Players Club, Inc., a non-profit organization whose primary purpose 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:

- Jim Holden \$5
- Christine Salmen \$25
- Chuck Thimsen \$5
- Harry Rippe \$10
- Sharron Steinfeldt \$25
- Judy Lewis \$25

Thank you! The Club appreciates and values your generosity.

(Letters—continued from page 2)

Playing tennis **primarily for exercise** is a waste of time. Go to the gym—you'll get more results.

Final thought: more fun for everyone if players are honest about their abilities and play at the correct level. Don't waste other players' time and money and force them into noncompetitive matches. Work on your game, then try out, show you can play at that level, and you'll be welcomed.

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.

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

Time for winter/spring project? Kitchen, bath, paint, lighting/electrical, plumbing, tile. High quality attention to detail. Home Improvement Specialist 612-710-7055 ericostergaard@yahoo.com



●● 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, Email
Reed-Sweatt Family Tennis Center 4005 Nicollet Ave S Minneapolis 612-825-6844	Mon	1:30-3:00 PM Start Sept. 13	All	\$7.00	Dilcia Pederson 612-824-6099 dilcia.pederson@innercitytennis.org
					Duncan Welty 952-933-8592 idwelty@q.com
	Thu	8:30-10:00AM	All	\$7.00	Duncan Welty 952-933-8592
					Paul Stormo 952-944-6286 pjstormo@aol.com
Fred Wells Tennis and Education Center. 100 Federal Drive, Minneapolis	Tue	12:30-2:00 Start Sept. 14	All	\$7.00	Brandon Heath 612-252-8367 ext 2 brandon@fwtec.org
Williston Fitness & Sports 14509 Minnetonka Drive Minnetonka 952-939-8370	Wed	5:30-7:00PM	All	\$7.00	Duane Ryman 612-865-9517 dhrtennis40@hotmail.com
PublicIndoorTennis.Com 7833 Highway 65 N.E. Spring Lake Park, MN 55432	Fri	1:00-2:30 PM	All	\$7.00	Tony Larson 303-808-7809 tonyl@publicindoortennis.com

Free or low-cost lessons are offered as part of your STPC membership. New members are encouraged to take advantage of them. Lessons are free during outdoor season; they cost \$7 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	Information
Reed-Sweatt Family Tennis Center 4005 Nicollet Ave S, Minneapolis	Tue Thu	\$9.00	9:00-10:00 AM	612-825-6844 Call for reservation.
Williston Center, 14509 Minnetonka Drive, Minnetonka, MN 55345. Call 952-939-8370 to reserve. Members may call 1 week in advance; non-members 4 days in advance. All classes are \$8 members; \$10 non-members.	Mon	\$8/\$10	3:00-4:00 PM	Senior Clinic 2.0-2.5
	Wed	\$8/\$10	8:00-9:00 AM	Senior Clinic 3.0-3.5
	Fri	\$8/\$10	8:00-9:00 AM	Senior "Focused Play & Critique" 3.0-3.5

Drills for March

Note: each month all our instructors will focus their lessons on one subject. For March:

- Shoulder tilt.
- Point with left (non-dominant) hand to contact point.
- No spin on toss.

The serve

- Grip continental.
- Toss 1 foot in front of you
- Toss high so that you extend racquet to meet ball at top of arc.

In Memory...



Ruth Hanold

Ruth E. Hanold died December 31, 2010. She was born at home in Omaha, Nebraska August 10, 1914. Ruth was a member of Senior Tennis for several years, and served as Board Secretary 1987-89.



Ruth enrolled at the University of Minnesota in 1932, and graduated in 1936 with a Bachelor of Science degree from the Department of Medicine where she completed the course of study for Medical Technologist. She was employed by Dr. Cecil J. Watson as a research assistant and continued in that position until 1939, when she married Terry Hanold (also a club member).

O. Donald Smith

O. Donald Smith, a Twin Cities civil rights leader who participated in the historic March on Washington in 1963, was well known among his generation in the black community.



The trailblazer was an active member of the local NAACP chapter for decades and is credited with having compiled photos and other documents chronicling the civil rights era in the Twin Cities.

Smith died on January 30 at an assisted living center in Golden Valley, where he succumbed to cancer and renal failure, according to his daughter, Stephanie Smith. He was 89.

Smith was instrumental in helping organize the group of about 40 people from Minnesota who participated in the March on Washington. The large political rally is where the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech advocating for racial equality.

A St. Paul native, Smith served in the Navy from 1942 to 1946 and fought in the Philippines during World War II. Smith was a member of Senior Tennis 1988-2001.

Shirley Pratt remembers O. Donald: "My husband, Dick Pratt, and I met him about 1988. O. Donald always came to drills at Reed-Sweatt (Nicollet Tennis Center as it was called then). He was active and played

in other locations too, such as Golden Valley and Wiliston. He had a good sense of humor and encouraged young people to play tennis.

John Ellsworth Stecklein

Professor Emeritus University of Minnesota Born November 6, 1923 in Denver, CO. Died 12/20/10. Survived by wife Helen, children, grandchildren and a brother. He joined the faculty of the University of Minnesota in 1952 after receiving his Ph.D. from the University of



Wisconsin and retired in 1989. During that time John was listed among the 32 top persons in higher education in the country. His work in higher education was widely acclaimed. He was a pioneer in the field of institutional research and was instrumental in establishing the Association for Institutional Research, which has grown to international recognition. He traveled extensively for the University and Ford foundation as an advisor for over 11 countries to develop programs of higher education. Since high school he had been an avid tennis player with a wicked curving serve. Until he lost his sight in 1995, one of his greatest joys was playing tennis with the Senior Tennis Players Club. He was a member 1988-2005 and served as President of the club 1994-96.

Some of the things that happened under his leadership include revision of the By Laws and subsequent changes in Club procedures. He appointed a Committee on Organization chaired by Dot Guenther that developed a handbook of procedures and policies.

He served as STPC representative at annual meetings of the Northwest Tennis Association. He nominated STPC as Northwest Sectional Club of the Year, and indeed STPC was selected as Club of the Year. He developed demographic data on STPC players and maps of Twin Cities tennis sites and area codes of residence, and inventoried members by occupation, all of which was published in the Tennis Times.

He expedited acquisition of early-morning playing time at The Flagship and White Bear Racquet Club.

He coordinated contracts, assignments and salaries of our tennis pros.

He developed the concept of Summer Team Tennis, directed tournaments for the first two years, captained a team one year and served as consultant to Director John Connelly.

(Tennis events—continued from page 1)

play with wins from Natallia Pintusava, Alessandra Ferrazzi, Magdalena Wiecha and Alexa Palen. See the remaining schedule at right and be sure to mark your calendar to see the best tennis in town at no charge at the U of M's Baseline Tennis Center.



Here are the remaining **home matches** for Gopher men and women. All are at Baseline Tennis Center. Map showing parking, etc. is on our website—click Tennis Schedules.

Gopher Men's Tennis	
Fri, Feb 25, 6:30 PM	Drake
Sun, Feb 27, noon	SMU
Fri, Mar 25, 6:30 PM	Northwestern
Fri, Apr 08, 3:00 PM	Indiana
Sun, Apr 10, noon	Purdue
Fri, Apr 15, 3:00 PM	Penn State
Sun, Apr 17, noon	Ohio State

Gopher Women's Tennis	
Fri, Feb 18, 6:00 PM	Brigham Young
Sun, Feb 20, noon	North Carolina
Sun, Feb 20, 4:30 PM	Carleton
Fri, Mar 04, 6:00 PM	Wisconsin
Sun, Mar 06, 11:00 AM	Nebraska
Sat, Apr 02, 11:00 AM	Michigan
Sun, Apr 03, 11:00 AM	Michigan State
Fri, Apr 22, 6:00 PM	Illinois
Sun, Apr 24, noon	Iowa

Blood on the sand: USTA tennis in the desert

By Bill Cosgrove

Editor's note: we received this article a few years ago, but had insufficient space in the newsletter at that time. With the Indian Wells Open coming up in early March, it's fitting to use it now. Bill Cosgrove is both an fine tennis player (genuine USTA 3.5), a university professor of English, and a Mark Twain impersonator. Read and enjoy his colorful prose.

If you were to go to Palm Springs or Indian Wells, California regularly (or your rich friends go and tell you about them), you'd know all about the blistering sun, suffocating heat, and dry desert air pervading everything in every direction. You'd see the sand, cacti, tumbleweeds, human-made canals looking like arroyos, and the backdrop of brown mountains looking like naked hills suddenly pushed up from hell without an invitation from anybody. And barely any respectable claim to mountainous beauty.

A cynic might say those dirty foothills of the Santa Rosa Mountains are to real mountains what the Foshay Tower is to the Eiffel Tower. Each is certainly formidable on its own, but others of its kind are so much more, ... well, ... striking. These hills from hell—lifeless, barren looking—stand in stark contrast to the lush greenery of the nearby resorts—artificial, imposed, imported, trucked in—surrounding the spot-lit date palm trees. All the resorts together look like an up-scale, less-garish Las Vegas strip without neon lights or go-go girls—a picturesque, adobe-like haven that you might see on the back lot of a major movie studio, maybe for making a new Griswold family vacation movie—“Palm Springs Vacation.”

But suppose you went there for a National championship tennis tournament for USTA Senior 3.5

league play representing the “Northern Section” along with winners from the other USTA Sections around the country. In other words, as a recognition and reward for accomplishing something or other. In that case, Indian Wells would be a mecca of tennis talent and a fount of wisdom, achievement, and success like no other, ever. A wonderful place for meeting the tennis elite and hobnobbing with one's fellow wizards. It would be, in such a case, one of the finest tennis facilities in the country and a once-in-a-lifetime experience promising a rare, life-affirming endorsement of one's otherwise mundane life. It might even prompt Seniors to say, “Now I can die happy having made my mark and left my blood on the unforgiving sands of Palm Desert.”

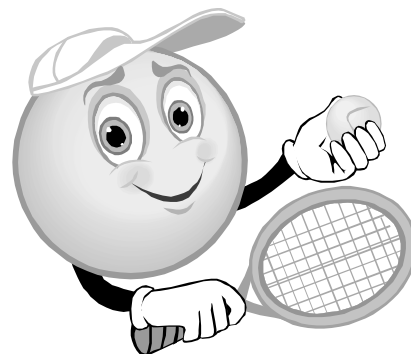
Each such desert town melts into the next one unobtrusively and suddenly from any given intersection to another. You start out in Indian Wells but then you are suddenly in Palm Desert...or Ranch Mirage... or La Quinta. And they melt because there are virtually no noticeable differences between one and another. At the same time, it's all a kind of repetitive illusion because it seems as though you are always going someplace else that is exactly like where you've just been. And so is everyone else. The main streets are smooth flowing arteries of autos and acceleration ripping along on their way to the next place. This maze of highways imposed on the desert floor of sand is today's version of the ancestral trails beaten for millennia into the silty clay of the underlying ancient China Lake of the Pleistocene Age.

And yet our team's arrival on this unforgiving, ancient sand seems oddly serendipitous in that we have exactly enough players—Jim Winter, Dan Whalen, Eric Narvaez, Kevin Mulcahy, Tim Lee, Rick Kadue, Bruce

(Blood on the sand—continued on page 10)

Fred Wells March Mixer

Saturday, March 19, 2011, 6:00-9:00 PM
Fred Wells Tennis and Education Center
100 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, 55111.



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

Only the first 40 players to enter will play!!

Cost: \$13 for tennis and food; \$3 food only

Light snack food and beverages. Bring your own water bottle.

Play will be 1½ hours at a time. You will be called as to when you will play. Questions?

Call Mary Ann McGuire 612-929-2038.

Please detach and mail in this registration form.

Name _____ Rating _____ Phone (____) _____

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

Name _____ Rating _____ Phone (____) _____

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 contractors 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 \$13 per person payable to STPC before March 11 to:
Mary Ann McGuire, 5017 Sheridan Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55410

February 12 mixer

By Mary Ann McGuire

Like all our mixers this year, this one at Public Indoor Tennis in Spring Lake Park was fully subscribed. Carol Brant's health crisis and hospitalization occurred shortly before the party. Carol had been involved to plan the party and was unable to continue any participation.

A special **thank you** to two wonderful women.

Learning of Carol's absence and severe illness, they immediately called, asking "How can I help you?" "I'll be there with bells on to assist." Kudos to **Ardelle Hansen** and **Jane Glime** who stepped up to the plate to give of their time and talents for this party.

This is another example of our great tennis club and two generous members.

And our caring thoughts are with **Carol Brant**.

Where did my \$25 go?

By Marv Schneider, STPC Treasurer

With about 1400 dues-paying members in the Senior Tennis Players Club (STPC), we sometimes hear the question “What does STPC do with the \$25 annual membership fee it receives from each of its members?” After reviewing the Treasurer’s books (and a little arithmetic), here is what it boils down to.

\$10.89 of the \$25 went into publishing the newsletter, 10 issues per year. This includes salary of the editor (whose duties include maintaining the members database and our website www.seniortennismn.com), printing, and postage. The newsletter and website not only gives you club news, but also schedules, information on club events, and other information.

\$6.02 of the \$25 paid for our pro instructors to give free lessons and drills to our members. The lessons are free all year round, but during the winter months (September through April), people taking the lessons pay court costs (\$7 in 2010-11) for use of the indoor courts.

\$3.14 of the \$25 was used for membership expenses, including postage and printing of forms for renewals and new members, as well as printing and postage of rosters which list all of our members.

\$3.26 of the \$25 was used for contributions to tennis-related charities. These included Inner City Tennis, Fred Wells Tennis and Education Center (at Fort

Snelling), and the St. Paul Urban Tennis program.

\$1.76 of the \$25 went into expenses for the Annual Meeting and Captains Luncheon. STPC provides a free meal to each of the captains who are so important to making STPC function properly, providing members with physical and mental exercise, social benefits, and fun.

\$0.75 of the \$25 went into administrative expense, which includes office supplies, postage, website, insurance, and other miscellaneous expenses.

The tournaments (Jack Dow and Grandparent-Grandchild), the Boyer-Hughes Clinic, and the tennis parties (including the summer picnic) are planned on a breakeven basis (expenses equal income) and they generally come out close to that. In reality, this year, for a change, we actually came out ahead about 16 cents per member.

When we add up all of these expenses, we should end up with \$25. Right? **Whoops!** We have \$25.66. How can that be? We actually have some other income besides the \$25 dues, including some interest from Certificates of Deposits (CDs) and money market accounts, plus some miscellaneous income, including donations and T-shirt sales. Over all, we had a small gain for the year, the first profit in the last 3 years.

I hope this has given you more answers than questions. I will also discuss it at our Annual Meeting and Captains Luncheon in Spring, but if you have questions relating to this, you can call me at 952-975-1895.

****Crazy old guys play**
****on New Year’s Eve!**
**
** Ken Landro (lower right) provided
** this story and picture. Upper right is
** Stan Murray (also an STPC member).
** The two young guys aren’t yet in
** their second childhood, but they
** were also part of the Grantsburg, WI
** match. This is the fifth year playing
** on December 31.
**
** We don’t know if they had to clear
** snow off the court, or if Grantsburg
** is populated with other deranged
** winter tennis players.
**
** The dog is reputed to be the World’s
** Worst Tennis Playing Dog, according
** to the Guinness Book of Records.
**





STPC Annual Spring Luncheon

- Captains' Recognition
- Jack Dow Trophy

Saturday, May 14, 11:00 am - 2:30 pm

Town & Country Club • 300 Mississippi River Boulevard N. • St. Paul, Minnesota

Schedule of Events

11:00 am Social Hour

12:00 pm Luncheon

1:00 pm Annual Meeting: thank retiring Board members, introduction of new Board members, and Jack Dow Trophy award.

1:45 pm Entertainment—TBA

Luncheon Menu

Marinated flank steak w/chasseur sauce, cheesy hash browns & grilled asparagus

OR vegetarian: *angel hair pasta tossed in pesto & pine nuts, artichoke heart wrapped in a crepe, grilled asparagus*

House salad, French or ranch dressing

Lemon sorbet and shortbread cookie

Regular or Decaf Coffee, Hot or Iced Tea

Directions to Town & Country Club

From I94: Take the Cretin Avenue/Vandalia Street exit (exit 237) and turn south onto Cretin Avenue. Turn right onto Marshall Avenue. Turn right onto Otis Ave, then left into parking.

From south suburbs: I494 east to Hwy 5. East across river and exit to Edgumbe. Follow Edgumbe to left on St. Paul Ave, which becomes Cleveland by Ford Parkway. Cleveland to Marshall. Turn left onto Marshall. Turn right on Otis Ave. Clubhouse parking is first driveway on left.

From Minneapolis: Take Lake Street east across river. It becomes Marshall. Take left on Otis Ave (one short block from river). Clubhouse parking is first driveway on left.

Send reservation form by Monday May 9 with check for \$25 payable to STPC to:

Ronnae Wagner • 5326 Rogers Dr • Minnetonka, MN 55343 • 952-938-5785

Please call to cancel if unable to attend.

(Cancellations accepted up to **Tuesday, May 10**)

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 14, 11:00 am - 2:30 pm. Cost: \$25 per member or guest

Name: _____ ☐ Check for vegetarian

Name: _____ ☐ Check for vegetarian

Phone: _____

Important: *vegetarian* is the angel hair pasta, etc.

(Blood on the sand—continued from page 6)

Hashimoto, Paul Dalton, and Bill Cosgrove—so each can play two matches out of three in different combinations in the two days. A few win both their matches—Jim, Kevin, and one other fortunate enough to partner with both of them—and all are affected by the terrible beauty of relentlessly perfect weather and an unrelenting sun. One swears that an opponent said this is the best 3.5 Senior men's team from Minnesota in five years—Mirage? Sunstroke? Satan? Tennis in Paradise must still give the Devil his due.

The location of the matches—the Indian Wells Tennis Garden—is the largest covey of tennis courts you've ever seen. Something like 20 courts surround on two sides a center court looking very much like a miniature soccer stadium masquerading as a stylized bullring. Many are arranged in a multi-level series of byways and courtyards that give the impression of semi-privacy. But all are open to the blinding sun pasted in the limitless sky like a red wafer.

The entire complex of resorts, towns, and tennis center is like being inside a vast bumper car game, or a movie like "The Matrix," "Blade Runner," "Batman Begins," or Disney's "Tron," or an expanded computer circuit board. It's like a labyrinthine pinball game containing flippers, levers, and bumpers manipulated by some Pinball Wizard who bounces you from one group of gated communities and fenced enclaves to another. You get the feeling that if you ever leave the confines of this artificial watering hole you'll end up wandering in the real desert for 40 days and nights and then wind up back where you started. You are on a gigantic Mobius strip in the Twilight Zone.

Within that autonomic tennis world, you are guaranteed a minimum of three team matches in your four-team division and the chance to advance to the semi-finals and finals. A snowball's chance, really, since you'll be playing teams that play outdoors year round and that seem to be frolicking in their own backyard while you've been putting a couple thousand miles on your frequent flyer card.

But say you win your first team match at 9:30 a.m. against an equally disadvantaged opponent from Rhode Island, 2-1, in a third-set tiebreak. But you are still left at a disadvantage when your beaten foes give you mementos from their state and you have nothing from Minnesota for them in return. And then that afternoon you lose the next match 1-2 to the eventual national champions, Atlanta, GA from the Southern Section, and the next morning lose to Northern California 1-2 in another third-set tiebreak. These are good losses, if

there is such a thing, and a bottle of wine from Northern California is little solace. In some ways, the best part of this tennis day is playing mixed doubles with the Northern Section Women's 3.5 Senior team in the late Saturday afternoon sun a few miles down the road in Palm Desert

Within this "Oasis of desert resorts," as the eight cities in the Coachella Valley bill themselves, there are enough impressive attractions and adult playground activities to make a Senior USTA League player's aging body quiver and mouth water. And then there's the pleasant evoking of old, famous, and mostly dead people in the street names—Bob Hope Drive, Dinah Shore Drive, Gene Autry Trail, Frank Sinatra Drive. If you are not properly impressed and hopelessly jealous, not to mention unappeasably covetous, you'll have to answer to them.

You might be forgiven for wishing you had a nickel for every lob you lost in the depthless blue sky. But, actually, the 95° heat is less overwhelming than some summer days I've spent on courts in Minnesota and North Dakota missing overhead lobbs. The special profit absorbent shirts you buy in the Indian Wells Tennis Garden pro shop ("Special Sale ½ Price!") are a lesson in preventive overkill. They really aren't as necessary as advertised. A simple Minnesota Nice cotton one will do just fine, thank you. And then there's the \$15 special cooling towel that's guaranteed to stay cold against your neck for as long as you can stand up on court against your opponent. It actually feels uncannily like a chamois collar, and looks like an ascot in some overdressed athlete's nightmare.

Here, then, like it or not, is the backdrop for the ideal golden years of your life, the fatted, golden calf made modern and acceptable. Indian Wells is the Biblical promised land of milk-and-honey, the "city on a hill," Shangri-La, Eldorado, the New Eden, Atlantis, the New Jerusalem, the New Ark—your just desserts in a reclaimed desert for a life well-spent. Take home your t-shirt, towel, and your special souvenir cap for test-driving a Chrysler Sebring convertible with a state-of-the-art GPS system and a titanium top that folds back invisibly into the trunk. Count your blessings, not to mention the exclusive fenced enclaves, members-only resorts, walled-off residential neighborhoods, and gated communities straddling four- and six-lane highways. Claim your just reward. You only go around once, remember. But you knew that.





Senior Tennis Players Club

17th Annual Jack Dow Tennis Event

May 2-5, 2011



Registration ends: Postmark by Monday, April 18, 2011 or division is full.

Play Location: Reed-Sweatt Family Tennis Center, 4005 Nicollet Ave. S., Minneapolis.

Time: 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM. Check-in starts at 7:45 AM each day. **Note:** Men Doubles and Women Doubles will take place **May 2-3**; Mixed Doubles **May 4-5**.

Costs: \$10 per event per person. Single Elimination (Consolation for 1st match lost).

Draws Published: Thursday, April 28, 2011 on the STPC website and posted at Reed-Sweatt. **Reed-Sweatt staff is not responsible for incorrect times given over the phone.**

Event Director: Gary Rother, Phone: 612-724-5515, E-mail: garyrot@aol.com

Donations Needed!! Individuals or organizations.

Please sign release form upon 1st check in at the Event Desk.

Rules:

1. Only STPC members can participate.
2. No partner substitution after the 1st match begins.
3. 2nd event must be Mixed Doubles.
4. 2010 1st place winners must move up one level for the 2011 Event.
5. Participants must play at or above their STPC ranking as in the March 2011 Roster.
6. Minimum of 3 teams to have an event. If 3 teams, only 1 team gets trophies
7. Maximum number of teams in a division is 16 (e.g., Men Doubles 5.0 is limited to 16 teams)
8. Teams are not fully registered until both players' fees are received.
9. **No refunds after Monday, April 25, 2011**

Find a partner on the STPC website www.seniortennismn.com. Click Events. Still need help? 2.5-3.0 players, contact Bill Kruckeberg 952-926-3397, corvette76@earthlink.net or Linda Wright 952.895.1142, indaleonwright@q.com. 3.5+ players contact Jean Murdock 952-941-5362, jeanmurdock@aol.com.

Jack Dow Entry Form (Please print clearly)

Your Name: _____ * STPC Rating: _____

Phone: (____) _____ E-Mail: _____

(Example: Men 3.5 player with a Men 4.0 player = Combined STPC Men Doubles 7.5)

Combined STPC Men Doubles 5.0____ 5.5____ 6.0____ 6.5____ 7.0____ 7.5____ 8.0____

Combined STPC Women Doubles 5.0____ 5.5____ 6.0____ 6.5____ 7.0____ 7.5____ 8.0____

Combined STPC Mixed Doubles 5.0____ 5.5____ 6.0____ 6.5____ 7.0____ 7.5____ 8.0____

Doubles Partner's Name: _____ * STPC Rating: _____

Phone: (____) _____ E-mail: _____

Mixed Partner's Name: _____ * STPC Rating: _____

Phone: (____) _____ E-mail: _____

*** See Rules 4 and 5.**

____ Need STPC Partner (list of players looking for partners will be e-mailed to you).

Send check payable to STPC and entry form to —>

Helpful hint: Cut out this name and address and attach with tape or glue to an envelope as a label. This will assure timely delivery, which may not happen with a hand-written address.

Gary Rother
Jack Dow Tennis Event
5208 16th Avenue South
Minneapolis MN 55417-1814

Tennis in Wisconsin

By Mary Fabry

It's good to remember summer tennis in these winter days. For the last ten years, Dean Laurance has invited groups of Senior Tennis players to his lake home in Stone Lake, Wisconsin, to enjoy a long weekend of tennis on Dean's tennis court.

Besides tennis, Dean's other passion is singing with the Gilbert and Sullivan Very

Light Opera Company. They have been performing for 31 years at the Plymouth Congregational Church, 19th and Nicollet, Minneapolis. This year, they are presenting Pirates of Penzance for four weekends in March and April. Interested in comic opera? Contact Dean at 952-941-2975 or dlaurance@aol.com for further information.



Seated: Ann Barten, Dennie Scroggins, Ginny Morse, Al Simcoe. **Back row:** Sally Finnegan, Bob Scroggins, Mary Fabry, Dean Laurance, Herman Swanson, Jack Kravik, Jerry Simcoe.