



Senior Tennis Times

The 50+ tennis experience

February
2019

STPC welcomes our October -December new members

STPC is happy you've decided to join in on the fun of playing tennis, making new friends and staying active. STPC welcomes these new members:

John Bantle	Katie Joseph	Eric Saugen
Glen Christianson	Kathy Manchester	Irene Suddard
Keith Dixon	Shari Moore	Susan Thoburn
Cathy Hedber	John Shanahan	Mark Tofte

Remember to use your reward card to attend drills or a social event at no cost. Attending a drill or a social event is a great way for us to meet you! Also, look for an email on "Pop-up Tennis," STPC's newest offering. Pop-up Tennis is an excellent opportunity for new members to meet other members. All members are invited by play level.

STPC is a volunteer organization. All membership fees are used to provide tennis-playing opportunities for our members and to support youth tennis programs with our annual contributions to three local non-profits serving kids.

Yes, we have a Help Desk!

Have questions about Senior Tennis Players Club (STPC)? Looking for playing opportunities or information about being a group-play captain or about STPC activities such as drills, social tennis events, team tennis, the Dow Round Robin, etc.?

Call the STPC Help Desk at:

(763) 310-1234

We will have the answer or we will find it for you.

Online? See "CONTACT" on our website (www.seniortennismn.org) for the help desk number and other ways to contact us.

That number is also listed at the top of the masthead (left side of page 2) on every issue of this Newsletter.

Suggestion: record that number on your phone, with name like "Senior Tennis Help Desk."



Prez Presents

By Jon Holmgren, STPC President

I'm happy to report the clubs finances are as good as I can remember. Despite that, we still are working to bring up membership with new adventures such as Pop Up Tennis, the Dow Round Robin coming up in the spring, and the Valentine Party. We keep finding tennis players that didn't **know about Senior Tennis!** Spread the word!

Winter is upon us, but with so many domes in and around the cities I hope you continue to play and enjoy this great game. For those among us who venture south please enjoy and come back early. I'm sure this will be a short season.

Upcoming Events

Valentine Tennis Party

February 15, 2019, 7:00-10:00

Fred Wells Tennis & Education Center

Info and Signup page 5

Sign up for the Dow! See page 5

Dow is May 6-9 this year. **Deadline** to sign up is April 29. Find a partner and play!

On the inside

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P. 4 Indoor drill schedule. And all about the continuing Fred Wells Friday evening drills.

P. 6 What Serena got wrong. You may remember the controversy at the US Open in September when Serena lost to Naomi Osaka. We've reprinted in full an excellent commentary by Martina Navratilova. There was insufficient space in the previous newsletter, so we publish it here.

P. 8 Is STPC membership a good investment for you? We sometimes hear from tennis players "what's in it for me? Why should I join?" Here are good answers you can use when talking to such skeptics.



Senior Tennis Players Club, Inc.

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

Help Desk: 763-310-1234

Senior Tennis Times

The Senior Tennis Times is published four or five times annually by and for the members of the Senior Tennis Players Club, Inc. Next newsletter: April, 2019.

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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 issue/additional issues):

Full page (7.5x10) \$165/135

Half page (7.5x4.9) 110/85

Half page on back cover 125/100

Quarter page (3.7x4.9) 70/50

Eighth page (3.7x2.4) 45/30

Business card special 30/20

Horizontal strip ads: \$55 first two inches; \$20

each additional inch.

Vertical: \$75 first two inches; \$25 each additional inch.

2-line ad (free for members only), Additional lines \$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 David Sommer at dsommer7@usiwireless.com.

February 2019, Vol. 32, #1

Membership total: 590

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In Memory...

Jean Murdock

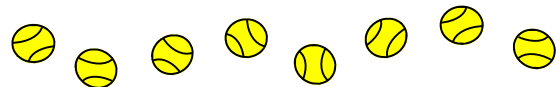
Jean, age 86 of Edina, MN passed away Wednesday, October 31. She was a member of Senior Tennis since 1993, including a term as President 2002-2003. She was also captain of tennis groups for many years.

Founder in 1971 of InCo Properties, an independent commercial real estate brokerage. InCo Properties was one of the first independent commercial/industrial real estate brokers in MN. She went on to other career opportunities, including going independent again with InCo Properties in 1993.

Jean was a strong woman who always spoke her mind and had boundless energy. We'll miss her.



Editor wants mail. He's lonely.



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.

As a non-profit organization, the Senior Tennis Players Club gratefully accepts donations, memorials and estate gifts. Please send to Senior Tennis Players Club, P.O. Box 5525, Hopkins, MN 55343.

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 15th of the month for publication the following month. All material submitted for publication is subject to editing. Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope if you want materials returned.

Send your submissions to:

David Sommer, 3657 17th Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55407

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.

Membership renewal time?

Is it time for you to renew your STPC membership? On the address label of this newsletter we have printed the expiration date of your membership. You may also see a message alerting you if your membership is expiring soon, or has already expired. Please renew if it is time to do so. You can renew via the website (seniortennismn.org) or use the form to the right. Some explanation:

Your email address is needed so we can remind you to renew and to send you the monthly E-Update.

Enter your home address if it has changed.

Membership options: Printed & mailed newsletters are **included** as part of your basic membership. The only option is to get a printed and mailed roster for \$4.

Send the form and your check to:

Sharon Gribble
1381 West County Road B2
Roseville, MN 55113



Want Ads

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

Personal Gardener. Garden help in Bloomington, Edina, S Mpls, & nearby. Lee Peterson 952-270-9472.



Over 25 Years of Conservative Shoulder Care
See us at: tcshoulder.com

Newsletter past issues

You can view past issues of the newsletter on our website. Just click on About Us, then on Tennis Times Archive. To find a particular story, it may be easiest instead to use our index: About Us, then Tennis Times Index. Use the usual Search capability on your PC to find what you need. The Index currently goes back through 2008, but will continue to grow.

Renewal Form

Name _____

Primary phone _____

Secondary phone _____

Email address _____

Skill level (1.0 to 4.5): _____

If your home address has changed, enter here:

Choose one of the following membership levels:

☐ Basic membership: \$30

☐ Basic membership + printed roster: \$34

NEW STPC Pop-Up Tennis

STPC Pop-Up Tennis is a new opportunity to play at your skill level when you want, meet new players and become more engaged in the Senior Tennis Players Club.

You will receive Pop-Up Tennis email notices 7 to 10 days prior to a Pop-Up event, which will be held at various dates, times and locations. Simply reply your intentions 1, 2 or 3 as explained in the email.

During the next few months of Pop-Up Tennis experience we will work to meet demand in frequency and location.

Watch for this invitational email and join us on the courts.

STPC Pop-Up Tennis  **Invitation to Play**
Questions? Call Jim Handy at (612) 743-3314

Players wanted

Lots of snowbirds this time of year, so captains are struggling to fill their courts. Great opportunity to sub or be a regular. **See** group play schedules on our website.

Captains: let the Editor know if you need a notice in this section. Also, see the "color codes" on the schedule. If you want your entry to use such a code, let me know: dsommer7@usiwireless.com.



Indoor Drill Season: September, 2018 through April, 2019

Location	Day	Time	Instructor	Fee*
InnerCity Tennis. Reservations required. Call 612-825-6844 * Fee is for STPC members.	Mon	10:30-noon 3.5+ players	Staff	\$15
		1:30-3:00 PM all levels	Dilcia Pederson	\$15
	Tue	9:00-10:00 AM: 2.5-3.25 players	Staff	\$10
		9:00-10:00 AM: 3.5+ players	Staff	\$10
	Wed	Noon-1:00 2.5-3.25 players	Staff	\$10
		1:30-3:00 PM all levels	Dilcia Pederson	\$15
	Thu	9:00-10:00 AM: 2.5-3.25 players	Staff	\$10
		9:00-10:00 AM: 3.5+ players	Staff	\$10
Fred Wells Reservations required. Call 612-252-8367, ext. 0	Fri	9:00-10:30 AM: 2.0-3.25 players	Roger Boyer	\$15
	Tue	2:00-3:30 PM	Staff	\$12
	2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th , Fri	6:30-8:00 PM	Staff	\$12

Club-sponsored Drills Continue at Fred Wells, January through April

Your Club will continue to host tennis drills on most Friday evenings at the Fred Wells Tennis and Education Center, Fort Snelling, from January through April 2019.

The drills will be held on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Fridays of each month from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. (On the first Friday of each month the tennis center is turned over to the juniors, so not available for our drill.)

We will have two adjoining courts with a Fred Wells instructor. The fee, as at present, will be \$12.

Players will continue to call the Fred Wells front desk

to reserve a spot, 612-252-8367, ext. 0. Upon arrival, find the STPC drill 'Clerk' at one of the round tables in the Lobby where you can sign-in and pay by cash or check. Non-members over age 50 are welcome to participate in this Club-sponsored drill.

Please do not be a no-show! By being a no-show, you deprive the Club of revenue and you may prevent another person on the wait-list from taking your place. If you have first reserved a spot and then find you cannot attend, please promptly call the front desk to cancel. This will allow the front desk to call those on the wait list, in order to secure a replacement.

Tennis with other seniors on a Friday evening is a great way to wrap up the week. Join us, starting on Friday, January 11th!

Minneapolis Community Clay Court

A new group has formed called the Minneapolis Community Clay Court (MCCC) and their mission is to make clay court tennis accessible to all people of Minneapolis. They have started a petition drive and are asking anybody that is interested in this project to sign it. If you are interested, go to <https://www.minneapolisclaycourt.org/signup> and fill in your name.

The idea is to build the court on the site of an existing Minneapolis Park Board tennis court that has fallen into disrepair. Petition signatures will be presented to the Park Board as evidence that the tennis community is interested in having access to public clay courts.

Clay courts are the least expensive type of court to build, but since maintenance must be constant, public parks are usually reluctant to build them. The MCCC hopes to overcome that objection by agreeing to take full responsibility for maintenance using volunteer members of the community.

To find out more, contact Charles Weed (charlesweed@gmail.com) or visit www.minneapolisclaycourt.org



Valentine Tennis Party!

For all you lovers of tennis



When: February 15, 7:00-10:00 PM

Where: Fred Wells Tennis & Education Center

What: Plenty of tennis with good food and good company!

Cost: just \$15

How: Write your check to STPC. Include your email address and tennis rating.

Mail it to:

Nancy Tarbox, 5128 Juanita Ave, Edina, MN 55424

After February 8, call to see if mixer is filled before mailing your check! Register early. Court space is limited!

Questions: 952-927-9368



Senior Tennis Players Club, Inc. 22nd Annual Jack Dow Tennis Round Robin May 6-9, 2019, 9am-1pm

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



Sign up for the Dow!

The Round Robin tournament is May 6-9, 9:00-1:00 daily at the Reed-Sweatt Family Tennis Center.

An opportunity for fun, exercise, and to meet new people. Play with others of your current rating (2.5 play 2.5, 3.0 play 3.0. etc.). Men and women can play in men's or women's doubles and/or mixed doubles.

Have fun and try for a medal! We'll even find you a partner if you don't have one.

Apply before Monday, April 29. Find a registration form and instructions at:

<https://seniortennismn.org/wp-content/uploads/JackDow2019Rules.pdf>

Mail your registration to Pam Campbell (Address at the bottom of the form). **For payment**, submit a check payable to STPC with your \$15 per person per event entry fee and the completed registration form. For more info: Jon Holmgren (612) 702-7509 or Pam Campbell (612) 822-0567. **Thank you!**

Holiday Mixer a great success!

40 Senior Tennis players and their guests joined us at Fred Wells (Fort Snelling Tennis Center) on December 14 for our holiday mixer. We kept the courts filled with good tennis and battled it out over the nets from 7-10 pm. Between matches, we shared delicious hors d'oeuvres provided by those attending and mingled with old friends and new. Our mixers are a good

way to introduce prospective members to our club, so consider attending and inviting a friend to join us.



What Serena got wrong

Just because the guys might be able to get away with it doesn't mean it's acceptable.

By Martina Navratilova (Ms. Navratilova is a broadcaster, former tennis champion and human rights activist.)

Editor's comment: *I included this long article because of the high interest in that US Open match, but more importantly, because of Navratilova's remark "What is the right way to behave to honor our sport and to respect our opponents?" For us, let's remember to not complain or retaliate even if we perceive questionable line calls.*

Serena Williams has part of it right. There is a huge double standard for women when it comes to how bad behavior is punished—and not just in tennis.

But in her protests against an umpire during the United States Open final on Saturday, she also got part of it wrong. I don't believe it's a good idea to apply a standard of "If men can get away with it, women should be able to, too." Rather, I think the question we have to ask ourselves is this: What is the right way to behave to honor our sport and to respect our opponents?

To recap: The trouble began when early in the second set, Ms. Williams was given a warning for coaching. This one is on her coach: Patrick Mouratoglou was using both hands to motion to Ms. Williams to move forward and got called on it. While it is true that illegal coaching is quite common and that most coaches do it, it's also true that despite what many commentators have said following Saturday's events, they are called on it quite frequently and that most of the time, players just shrug it off and know that going forward, they and their coaches now need to behave, because the next infraction will cost them a point. The player is responsible for his or her coach's conduct. And it is actually irrelevant whether the player saw or heard whatever instructions were given; either way, it is still an infraction.

Ms. Williams was not happy about this warning and let the umpire, Carlos Ramos, know it. So far, not so bad. (It is also common for the umpire to talk to the player first about the coaching—a sort of "soft warning" before the real warning so that the player has a chance to "muzzle" the coach. Had that been done, nothing at all might have followed—but we will never know.)

It was a few games later when matters really escalated. Williams lost her serve at 3-1 up and demolished her racket—an automatic code violation that, because it came on top of an earlier warning, resulted in the automatic loss of one point.



Ms. Williams opted to argue about this: She insisted that she didn't cheat, she wasn't coached, and therefore she shouldn't have been docked. But it doesn't matter whether *she* knew she was receiving coaching. She was being coached, as Mr. Mouratoglou admitted after the match, and whether she knew it or not is moot. So at this stage, she had been given a warning—one that couldn't be dismissed retroactively—and had smashed her racket, an automatic violation. Mr. Ramos, effectively, had no choice but to dock her a point.



It was here that Ms. Williams really started to lose the plot. She and Mr. Ramos were, in effect, talking past each other. She was insisting that she doesn't cheat—completely believable, but beside the point—while he was making a call over which he, at that point, had little discretion.

It's worth noting that Ms. Williams has some serious scar tissue when it comes to this particular tournament. In 2004, she was subjected to some notoriously awful line-calling and umpiring in a match against Jennifer Capriati. In 2009, she suffered a self-inflicted wound when, at match point in a semifinal against Kim Clijster,

(Serena-continued on page 7)

(Serena-continued from page 6)

ers, she lost her temper at a line judge, leading to a point penalty that resulted in her automatically losing the match. In 2011, in a final against Samantha Stosur, Ms. Williams lost a point for yelling, “Come on!” after hitting a forehand that appeared to help her regain her momentum in a game she’d been losing. She went on to berate the umpire, calling her “unattractive inside,” and was hit with another code violation.

All of this U.S. Open history, combined, perhaps, with always feeling like an outsider in the game of tennis—I know exactly how that feels—goes some way toward explaining why Ms. Williams reacted the way she did, and most of all, how she just couldn’t let go. But what is clear is she could very much not let go.

Much of the coverage has focused on what happened when Ms. Williams confronted Mr. Ramos a second time, demanding an apology and calling him a thief. Mr. Ramos handed Ms. Williams a third code violation—



Naomi Osaka lost her moment of triumph. Let’s not forget her match.

which cost her a whole game. After a long confrontation, play resumed. Naomi Osaka went on to win the match—her first major title, and the first major title for Japan as well—under an onslaught of booing and drama the likes of which, as far as I know, we have never seen in a final of a Grand Slam.

It’s difficult to know, and debatable, whether Ms. Williams could have gotten away with calling the umpire a thief if she were a male player. But to focus on that, I think, is missing the point. If, in fact, the guys are treated with a different measuring stick for the same transgressions, this needs to be thoroughly examined and must be fixed. But we cannot measure ourselves by what we think we should also be able to get away with. In fact, this is the sort of behavior that no one should be engaging in on the court. There have been many times when I was playing that I wanted to break my racket into a thousand pieces. Then I thought about the kids watching. And I grudgingly held on to that racket.

Ms. Williams was absolutely marvelous toward Ms. Osaka after the match. A true champion at her best. But during the match—well, enough said. The way Ms. Osaka carried herself both during and after the match was truly inspiring.

So is there a double standard in tennis?

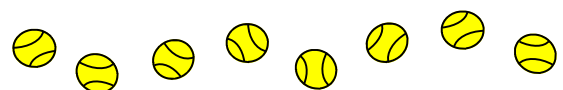
We do need to take a hard look at our sport, without any rose-colored glasses, and root out any inconsistencies and prejudices that might be there. Tennis is a very democratic sport, and we need to make sure it stays that way.

But it is also on individual players to conduct themselves with respect for the sport we love so dearly. Because we all look so forward to the next time Ms. Williams and Ms. Osaka play each other; hopefully the drama will come from their magnificent shots and their fierce competitiveness—two athletes showing us how it is done, inspiring us all in the process.

know that line calls are made “on your own side of the net.” Exactly the same is true of the double bounce situation. See “Making Calls” in [The Code](#), which you can find on our website: Play ... Captains Resources ... The Code.

Note that if the two Team B players don’t agree on the call, then it is a double bounce. Same as if Team B players didn’t agree on a line call.

Incidentally, an umpire would say “not up” rather than “double bounce.”



Double bounce? Whose call?

By David Sommer

Player from Team A hits soft return. Team B player races after it and returns it. But did she hit it before it bounced a second time? I’ve seen this situation many times, and often the Team B player believes she has hit it soon enough, while Team A insists it bounced a second time. What’s the rule?

Answer: if Team B believes it was hit before the second bounce, that is the case. And bad news for Team A: if they didn’t continue playing, they lose the point!

Why is there confusion about this? After all, we all

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Hopkins, MN 55343

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Is STPC membership a good investment for you?

Tennis players know that the health benefits of playing tennis are numerous, from burning calories to challenging our mind and body. The tactical aspect of the game keeps your mind occupied while your body gets a good workout.

An STPC membership remains a great value—the club provides drills, group play, summer tennis teams, tournaments and tennis social gatherings. According to a study published this past year in *Mayo Clinic Proceedings*, social interaction involved in partner and team sports may compound the plentiful benefits of physical activity, adding more years to your life than solo exercise.

STPC is a volunteer organization. **All membership fees** are used to provide tennis playing opportunities for our members and to support youth tennis programs with our annual contributions to three local non-profits serving kids. STPC couldn't do it without you!

Give yourself the gift of tennis! \$30 is the best investment you can make for your physical and mental health.

If your membership needs to be renewed (check the address label on this issue of Tennis Times for renewal date), either renew online or send your check payable to STPC to Sharon Gribble 1381 West County Rd B2 Ro-

seville, MN 55113.

Happy New Year! Best wishes for health and happiness in 2019! See you on the court!

Advertisers: reach 600 tennis players!

The Senior Tennis Times is published February, April, August & November. Mail delivery, plus web presence. Deadline 15th of month preceding publish date.

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