

The 50+ Tennis Experience
Senior Tennis Times
September 2020 Newsletter

Serving up news & event updates to keep STPC's members informed, connected, and enthusiastic about playing tennis!



SENIOR TENNIS PLAYERS CLUB
www.seniortennismn.org



STPC's teaching pros pictured left to right: Roger Boyer, Dilcia Pederson Stromberg, and Denny Wagner.

Thank You STPC Pros

Many are grateful for the way STPC's pros have taken on the challenge of conducting drills during the pandemic.

Summer 2020 made the STPC board members and players take a new look and creative approach to how we gather and play the sport we all love.

When the courts and clubs closed, the MN Governor and USTA governance proclaimed "No social contact," we all succumbed to the Covid-19 restrictions. No Tennis!

As the summer progressed, COVID-19 protocols and guidelines were defined, outdoor courts became more available,

and the tennis teaching professionals agreed to provide drills. Tennis came alive again.

Beginning in June, teaching professionals Roger Boyer and Dilcia Pederson Stromberg started drills in Edina and Richfield with a limited number in attendance, social distancing practiced, and individual protective precautions taken.

By the 2nd week in June, Breck School opened their tennis courts and teaching professional Denny Wagner led drills in

Story continued on page 6

Announcements

Summer Drills Extended

Outdoor summer drills have been extended through September in Edina, Golden Valley, and Richfield. See page 7 for details.

Socials Update

STPC is following recommendations to maintain social distancing and small groups. This makes it impossible to have our "Socials" we enjoy with tennis and food while socializing between games. Very sad! As soon as it's safe to resume, we will again offer our "Socials."

Indoor Tennis

STPC defers to the tennis venues and your judgment to determine if it is safe for you to play indoors, but wearing a mask in all common areas, making sure you have no COVID-19 symptoms, keeping your social distance, avoiding touching your face, and using hand-sanitizers provide a safety baseline.

Letter from the President



This has definitely been a summer of new adventures in every aspect of our lives. I would be remiss if I didn't recognize all Board members for their good work this summer. We have met virtually since March and often twice a month as Governor Walz announced new orders. My sincere thanks to Jim Handy, Sheila Bjore, Steve Bruell, Tom Campbell, Mike Dalton, Jon Holmgren, Bonnie Niles, Katie

Grove, Brian Kretsch, David Sommer, Nancy Tarbox and Mike Woolsey for their time, expertise and input. Check out our virtual photo!

STPC summer tennis continued, but there were challenges. Summer Team Tennis couldn't happen and drills were suspended in May with the early COVID-19 guidelines. In place of Summer Team Tennis, STPC offered a summer singles and doubles league that allowed us to follow the state and local COVID-19 protocols. Check out pages

8-9 for details. Drills were able to start up in June and Katie Grove, with the help of Jim Handy, launched Ticketbud for drill registration. This has had its challenges, but allowed STPC to adhere to the different guidelines defined by Richfield, Edina, and Golden Valley. Each drill location had slightly different guidelines – primarily on how many participants could register. STPC is excited to announce that drills are continuing through September! Fingers crossed for a beautiful fall. Check out the drill schedule as there is a start time

Senior Tennis Players Club, Inc. (STPC) is a nonprofit corporation, P.O. Box 5525, Hopkins, MN 55343.

Web: seniortennismn.org | **Help Desk:** 763-310-1234

Mission: 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.

Senior Tennis Times: The Newsletter is published four or five times annually for the members of the Senior Tennis Players Club.

Board of Directors

President, Marilyn Kelley	952-922-3675
Vice-President, Jim Handy	612-743-3314
Secretary, Sheila Bjore (Help Desk)	763-310-1234
Treasurer, Steve Bruell (Webmaster)	952-807-9941
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Katie Grove (Drills)	812-219-7008
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Bonnie Niles (Group Play)	952-474-6442
Nancy Tarbox (Socials)	952-927-9368
David Sommer	612-276-1313
Mike Woolsey (Summer Team Tennis)	952-937-2546

All Board members serve as volunteers without compensation.

Non-Board Volunteers

Pam Campbell (Socials)	612-822-0587
Sharon Gribble (Membership)	651-283-1069
Jon Holmgren (Drills)	612-702-7509
Dennis Hykes (Advisor)	952-929-7595
Dick Peik (Google Groups)	612-655-6569

Donations: 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.

Advertising: Send by email or USPS to the newsletter editor for publication in the next available issue. 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 ad	\$55 first two inches
.....	\$20 each additional inch
Vertical strip ad	\$75 first two inches
.....	\$25 each additional inch
2-line text ad	free for members only
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Newsletter Submissions: Submit all items in writing only, by mail or email. Deadline: 15th of the month for publication the following month. All material submitted is subject to editing. Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope if you want materials returned. Send submissions to: Brady Schmidt, 2324 36th St E, Minneapolis, MN 55406 or bschmidt26@gmail.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 of Directors of STPC.

Contact Information Changes: Membership information changes, newsletter delivery problems, etc., can be made in writing to Senior Tennis Players Club, P.O. Box 5525, Hopkins, MN 55343 or email to Sharon Gribble at monchka@comcast.net.

Membership Total: 525

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change for the drills in Richfield and Golden Valley (page 7). Remember that summer drills are not “drop-in.” You must register through Ticketbud and will receive a confirmation email. The number of participants cannot exceed what Edina, Richfield, and Golden Valley have defined.

The Winter Group Schedule is on pages 4-5. Although captains have been contacting members, if you are interested in playing, call the captain or number listed. No “drop-ins” this winter for the group play season. Every venue has defined COVID-19 protocols and guidelines for indoor play. Check out their individual websites for details.

The following is a repeat from STPC’s August eUpdate but bears repeating - **STPC defers to the tennis venues and your judgment to determine if it is safe for you to play indoors, but wearing a mask in all common areas, making sure you have no COVID-19 symptoms, keeping your social distance,**

avoiding touching your face, and using hand-sanitizers, taken together, provide the baseline for your safety.

What’s not happening is the Jack Dow round robin and tennis socials. These are the biggest

Woulfe, Rick Van Doeren, Bill Kruckeberg, Gloria Kumagai, Donna Schmidt, Ann Barten, Libby Hargrove, Steve Nelson, Warren Porter, Dee Neeley, Joan Kruse, Joy Montgomery, Ann Listug, and Seymour Mansfield. Your efforts are appreciated!



The STPC Board is pictured above working virtually this summer. Pictured L-R, top to bottom: Jon Holmgren , Marilyn Kelley, Bonnie Niles, Mike Woolsey, Tom Campbell, Katie Grove, David Sommer, Shelia Bjore, Nancy Tarbox, Mike Dalton, Brian Kretsch, Steve Bruell, and Jim Handy.

causalities for STPC’s program as a result of COVID-19!

Thank you to our summer captains who worked to determine what was best for summer play. STPC could not have a more dedicated group of captains and extend our gratitude to Clyde Carpenter, Wes Barnes, David Sommer, Marilyn Woolley, Ken Mathews, Larry Mahoney, Denis

Please consider renewing your membership - look at the back page of this newsletter and below your name & address in a red box is your renewal date. You can renew via STPC’s website or by mail. See page 10 for details.

Stay healthy and safe!

-Marilyn

Marilyn Kelley, Board President



Winter Group Play 20-21

Get Playing with a Group in Two Easy Steps

1. Locate groups that meet at a convenient time, location, and at your skill level.
2. Contact the captain and let them know you are interested in playing.

If you're looking for a group of friends to play with regularly, you're in the right place!

DID YOU KNOW? Group Doubles Play occurs at six locations across the Twin Cities at different times and skill levels. Senior Tennis negotiates deals with tennis clubs so in most cases you do not have to be a member of the club.

GROUP PLAY is made up of Men's, Women's, and Mixed Doubles. Winter tennis groups have set players who agree to play at an appointed time and location, because court time costs money for indoor play.

- "Regulars" agree to play every week or on a regular basis. "Substitutes" get called when a regular can't make it to a scheduled group play session. Subs may say yes or no to each request, depending on their availability.
- After finding a group you are interested in joining, contact the captain (contact information is located below). If you want to be a regular, ask if spots are available. Don't be discouraged if no regular spots are open. As a sub, you will likely get called often and can move into a regular spot when one opens up and you can sub for multiple groups.
- Be sure to show up. Once you've got your tennis group play date set, make sure you come. The whole group is counting on you!

ST. PAUL AREA DOUBLES GROUP PLAY 20-21 SCHEDULE (SEPT-APRIL)



Regulars & Subs Wanted

Subs Wanted

Undecided Start Date*

Location	Day	Time	Cts	Skill	Captains	Phone
St. Paul Indoor Tennis Club 600 Desoto, St. Paul, Facility Coordinator: Annette Adam, 651-455-9319.	Mon	2:30-4:00 PM	3	2.5-3.5 MW	Lois Brink	612-251-5650
	Wed	7:00-9:00 AM	3	3.0-3.5 MW	Annette Adam	651-455-9319
	Thu	9:00-10:30 AM	2	3.0-3.5 M	Call Help Line	763-310-1234
	Fri	7:00-9:00 AM	3	3.0-3.5 MW	Annette Adam	651-455-9319

MINNEAPOLIS AREA

DOUBLES GROUP PLAY 20-21 SCHEDULE (SEPT-APRIL)



Regulars & Subs Wanted

Subs Wanted

Undecided Start Date*

Location	Day	Time	Cts	Skill	Captains	Phone
Baseline Club 1815 4th St SE, Minneapolis, 612-625-1433, Facility Coordinator: Thue Rasmussen 651-917-0075.	Wed	11:00-12:30*	2*	3.0 MW*	Louise Halverson*	612-722-7132*
	Thu	10:00-11:00 AM*	1*	2.5 W*	Louise Anderson*	612-354-0927*
	Fri	9:30-11:00 AM*	2*	3.0-3.5 MW*	David Minke*	612-757-6248*
Fred Wells Tennis and Education Center 100 Federal Drive, Ft. Snelling, 612-252-8367, Facility Coordinator: George Burbie 651-688-2338 or 651-442-6704.	Mon	8:30-10:00 AM	2	3.0+ MW	Call Help Line	763-310-1234
		9:30-11:00 AM	1	3.0-3.5 W	Sandra Loewenstein	651-454-3699
		9:30-11:00 AM	1	3.5-4.0 W	Irene Suddard	651-210-7322
	Wed	9:30-11:00 AM	2	3.0+ MW	Call Help Line	763-310-1234
	Thu	9:30-11:00 AM	1	3.0-3.5 W	Sandra Loewenstein	651-454-3699
	Fri	9:00-10:30 AM	2	3.0-3.5 MW	Shar Kiecker	952-890-1470
		10:30-12:30 PM	2	3.0-3.5 MW	Janet Mullen	952-212-5096
PublicIndoorTennis.com 7833 Highway 65 N.E., Spring Lake Park, 763-231-3109 Facility Coordinator needed.	Mon	12:30-2:30 PM	4	3.5-4.0 MW	Gary Melby	763-755-7252
	Thu	8:30-10:30 AM	3	3.0-3.5 MW	Gary Melby	763-755-7252
		10:30-Noon*	3*	2.5-3.0 MW*	Kathy Giese*	763-221-3379*
InnerCity Tennis 4005 Nicollet Avenue South, Minneapolis, 612-825-6844, Facility Coordinator needed. NOTE: InnerCity Tennis has many open courts. If you need permanent court time for your group, call the tennis desk at 612-825-6844.	Mon	7:00-8:30 AM	3	3.0 MW	Bruce Bester	612-240-6712
		8:30-10:00 AM	1	2.5-3.0 W	Diane Hurley	612-866-0301
		8:30-10:00 AM*	3*	3.5-4.0 MW*	Rick Van Doeren*	952-897-3888*
		10:30-Noon*	3*	3.5 MW*	David Sommer*	612-276-1313*
		11:30-1:30 PM	3	3.5-4.0 MW	Brian Kretsch	651-645-6399
	Tue	7:00-8:30 AM	2	3.0-3.5 MW	Ann Barten	612-724-0712
		9:30-11:00 AM*	1*	3.5 MW*	Fred Sewell*	612-285-3216*
		9:30-11:00 AM*	1*	3.0-3.5 MW*	Ken Rich*	612-377-4682*
		10:30-Noon*	3*	2.5-3.0 MW*	Dennis Moody*	651-488-8124*
	Wed	9:30-11:00 AM	3	3.0-3.5 W	Bonnie Bolton	612-922-9290
		11:00-1:00 PM	5	3.5-4.0 MW	Bill Warner	612-275-7813
		1:00-3:00 PM	4	3.5-4.0 M	Dick Mills	952-925-5851
	Thu	8:30-10:30 AM*	2*	3.5 MW*	David Sommer*	612-276-1313*
		7:00-8:30 AM*	4*	3.0-3.5 MW*	Jean Robbins*	952-738-1704*
					Charlie Robbins*	952-807-7258*
		8:30-10:00 AM*	2*	2.5-3.0 MW*	Bill Kruckeberg*	952-926-3397*
	Fri	9:00-10:30 AM	2	3.5 MW	Linda Burich No play this fall.	612-229-7220
		10:30-12:30 PM	3	3.0-3.5 M	Jim Handy	612-743-3314
		12:30-2:30 PM	6	3.5-4.0 MW	John Dickinson	763-533-9300
Williston Fitness and Sports 14509 Minnetonka Drive, Minnetonka, Facility Coordinator needed.	Mon	7:00-8:30 AM	2	3.0-3.5 W	Sharon Engel	763-383-0575
		8:30-10:00 AM	1	3.0 MW	Arnie Nelson	763-473-2089
	Tue	8:00-9:30 AM	2	3.0-3.5 MW	Doug Reeder	952-934-8921
	Thu	7:30-9:30 AM	2	3.0-4.0 MW	Call Help Line	763-310-1234
	Fri	2:00-3:30 PM	1	3.0 MW	Arnie Nelson	763-473-2089

Fall Indoor Drills Begin September 8

Fall Schedule Available, Spring Schedule Not Yet Available

We want you to enjoy tennis, and improving your game is one way to do that. One of the great benefits of STPC membership is low-cost tennis drills led by USPTA pros. **Pre-registration is required.** Call InnerCity Tennis at 612-825-6844 or Fred Wells at 612.252.8367 to register.

INDOOR DRILL SCHEDULE

Call InnerCity Tennis (612.825.6844) or Fred Wells (612.252.8367) to register



Location	Day	Time	Level	Instructor	Fee
INNERCITY TENNIS 4005 Nicollet Avenue South, Minneapolis. Note – As a courtesy, ICT has agreed to honor the STPC New Member Rewards card in place of payment for drills. The card provides for participation in up to three drills. Simply present the card to the ICT desk attendant for initialing, instead of paying.	Monday	10:30-Noon	3.5+	Staff	\$18
		1:30-3:00	All Levels	Staff	\$18
	Tuesday	9:00-10:00 AM	3.0-3.25	Staff	\$13
		9:00-10:00 AM	3.5+	Staff	\$13
	Wednesday	10:30-11:30	2.5-3.0	Staff	\$13
		1:30-3:00 PM	All Levels	Staff	\$18
	Thursday	9:00-10:00 AM	3.0-3.25	Staff	\$13
		9:00-10:00 AM	3.5+	Staff	\$13
	Friday	9:00-10:30 AM	2.0-3.5	Staff	\$18
FRED WELLS TENNIS & EDUCATION CENTER 100 Federal Drive, St. Paul.	Tuesday	2:00-3:30 PM	All Levels	Staff	\$15

Thank You STPC Pros *(continued from page 1)*

Golden Valley. Every venue defined COVID-19 protocols and guidelines that STPC has agreed to follow.

The STPC Board is so grateful for the willingness and professional way these teaching pros have taken the challenge to manage and conduct safe drills, instruct and encourage new and returning

players, and provide opportunities for STPC members to be active on the courts again.

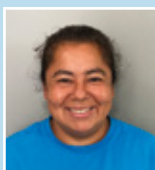
We appreciate Roger, Dil, and Denny's efforts in making a difference this summer in a time of uncertainty and challenges. STPC is thrilled to extend drills through September – we are aiming to enjoy as much outdoor tennis as possible!

Outdoor Drill Season Extended

Drills Continue through September at Three Locations

OUTDOOR DRILL SCHEDULE

Register Online Through Ticketbud (see below) **NO DROP-INS ALLOWED!**



RICHFIELD
Augsburg Park
Mondays/Wednesdays
5:30-7:00pm
\$6/class

612-388-3218
Dilcia.Pederson@innercitytennis.org



GOLDEN VALLEY
Lions Park
Wednesdays
5:30-7:00pm
\$6/class

612-578-8477
Dennis8477@gmail.com



EDINA
Countryside Park
Tuesdays/Thursdays
9:00-10:30am
\$9/class

612-802-5719
rogerboyer2@gmail.com

TICKETBUD ONLINE REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

Register Online Through Ticketbud (see instructions below)

1. Each Wednesday morning you will receive an invitation through Ticketbud to sign-up for the following week's tennis drills.
2. If you are interested click on the GET TICKETS! button.
3. Choose a drill you want to attend and pick the number of tickets for that drill.
 - a. Please buy a ticket for one drill at a time. For example, if you want to attend drills on both Monday and Thursday complete your Monday purchase then go back in and purchase for Thursday. We know that requires extra steps but it will make things much easier in the end for us if we have to refund you money for a ticket for some reason.
4. Click on BUY TICKET
5. Complete the page with your information including credit card.
 - a. If you are signing up for more than one drill you will have to go through the above process again (see 3a)
6. You will receive an email through Ticketbud verifying your purchase. You do not need to bring this to drills.

WAIT LIST: Drill(s) sold out? To be on the wait list in case of cancellations, email your name, phone, and the drill(s) of interest to you to kagrove@indiana.edu.

QUESTIONS? OR TO REMOVE YOUR NAME from the drills invitation list, Contact Katie Grove at kagrove@indiana.edu or (812) 219-7008.

Five New Summer Leagues

Team Tennis Replaced with Men's & Women's Singles & Doubles & Mixed Doubles

Last May, due both to a Gubernatorial Order to limit public gatherings to 10 people, and the fact that summer Team Tennis normally requires a gathering of 16 players on adjacent courts, it was incumbent on the STPC Board to cancel summer Team Tennis for 2020.

In its place, the Board floated the idea of a different league format, one that would require no more than 4 players on a single court, and at a place and time of their choosing. Two surveys of the membership were done to gauge interest, and the response was just strong enough that the Board was able to establish rosters and weekly schedules for 5 new outdoor leagues: Men's and Women's Singles and Doubles, and Mixed Doubles, 40 players in all. Each player was required to sign a medical liability waiver.

It was agreed that the leagues would be competitive, like Team Tennis, with match results and

team standings reported each week by league coordinators. Given the uncertainty surrounding the pandemic, expectation was low that both league rosters and schedules would remain stable throughout the summer, and it was made clear to everyone that there would be no ill-feelings if any player chose to skip a match or two, or drop out of the league at any time.

Happily, that hardly ever happened, and the rosters and schedules remained generally stable. It was reported earlier (in an eUpdate) that two players found it necessary to quarantine themselves for 10 days due to contact with someone who had tested positive for COVID-19, but that report was partially in error. In one case, the player began a quarantine, but due to the timing of the contact, the quarantine was later judged to be unnecessary by the Minnesota Department of Health. In the other case, the player did not recall the exact number of days of her quarantine, but had skipped

	MEN'S DOUBLES	MEN'S SINGLES	MIXED DOUBLES
Champions	 <p>Reggie Durham, Jim Hoialmen</p>	 <p>Ken Hoffman</p>	 <p>Reggie & Theresa Durham</p>
Runner-Ups	 <p>Scott Kamilar, Ken Hoffman</p>	 <p>Mike Dalton</p>	 <p>Kevin Veenstra & Karen Date</p>
			 <p>Mike Dalton & Carol Rothe</p>

her next two weekly matches following the contact. In any event, both players later resumed play without further incident.

(Just to be clear, when coming in contact with someone who has tested positive for the virus, the CDC-recommended quarantine is 14 days rather than 10).

Another potential problem was that, due to the low number of participants, it would be necessary to schedule some matches between players of widely different ability levels (e.g., some 3.0 players against 4.0 players), and that happened, both in singles and doubles schedules.



But again, we were pleasantly surprised. Almost no one complained. There were, indeed, several lop-sided matches, but generally the players seemed to appreciate the exigencies of the situation, were pleased to play outdoors, and against players new to them. Out of 154 scheduled matches, there were only 8 that were not played. In

sum, thanks to the players for their cooperation. It was fun, and a learning experience. Some of the players have expressed interest in continuing these leagues in both the near and distant future.

LEAGUE CHAMPS & RUNNER-UPS

	1ST PLACE	2ND PLACE
Men's Singles	Ken Hoffman (7-0)	Mike Dalton (5-1)
Men's Doubles	Reggie Durham & Jim Hoialmen (7-1)	Scott Kamilar & Ken Hoffman (5-3)
Mixed Doubles	Reggie & Theresa Durham (10-0)	Kevin Veenstra & Karen Date (7-3) / Mike Dalton & Carol Rothe (7-3)
Women's Singles	Becky Beck (6-0)	Ann Hawkins (5-1)
Women's Doubles (Upper)	Bonnie Niles & Lori Heinrich (7-1)	Ann Hawkins & Marilyn Kelley (7-1)
Women's Doubles (Lower)	Tisha Kehn & Mira Srdanov (5-3)	Judy Lewis & Louise Halverson (3-5)

Coordinators: Sheila Bjore (Women's Singles), Nancy Tarbox (Women's Doubles), Mike Dalton (Men's Singles), Mike Woolsey (Men's Doubles & Mixed Doubles)

	WOMEN'S DOUBLES LOWER DIVISION	WOMEN'S DOUBLES UPPER DIVISION	WOMEN'S SINGLES
Champions	 <p>Tisha Kehn & Mira Srdanov</p>	 <p>Bonnie Niles & Lori Heinrich</p>	 <p>Becky Beck</p>
Runner-Ups	 <p>Judy Lewis & Louise Halverson</p>	 <p>Ann Hawkins & Marilyn Kelley</p>	 <p>Ann Hawkins</p>

STPC Giving Back to the Community

Annual and Non-Recurring Donations are Important Part of STPC's Mission



STPC's Jon Holmgren volunteers at ICT's Super Saturday program.

STPC Annual, Recurring Donations

It is part of STPC's mission to use our membership fees to not only provide playing opportunities for our members, but also to support youth tennis programs with our annual contributions to local nonprofits that serve kids.

Fred Wells (The Fort), Saint Paul Urban Tennis (SPUT), and InnerCity Tennis (ICT) all sponsor year-round programs to teach tennis to young people, and along the way, impart lessons on teamwork, perseverance, discipline, good behavior, and sportsmanship. STPC, in keeping with its mission, donates \$1,000 each year to The Fort and to SPUT and \$4,000 to ICT to assist with programs.

Many of our members are volunteers at The Fort, SPUT, and ICT. Our love of tennis goes beyond the courts as we pass on to kids the message that tennis provides more than good physical exercise.

STPC Non-Recurring Donations

In addition to annual, recurring donations, the STPC Board established a non-recurring or one-time donation budget to fund requests for projects both outside of and within STPC.

- Last fall Minneapolis Community Clay Courts (MCCC) presented to the STPC Board their

plan to make clay court tennis accessible in the Minneapolis area. The Board discussed and approved a \$1,000 donation to MCCC (see page 11 for details).

- The Fort contacted STPC about supporting their Capital Campaign in 2019, and the Board discussed and approved a \$1,000 donation to The Fort.
- In June of 2020, the Board approved a \$1,000 donation to ICT's Community Outreach Fund that was used to purchase food, books, and supplies to help disadvantaged families after the death of George Floyd and the ensuing riots. Many of the children who participate in ICT's summer programs and their families benefited from this donation.

Membership Renewal Form

On the address label of this newsletter we have printed the renewal date of your membership. You can renew via the website (www.seniortennismn.org) or use this form. Forms and checks can be sent to: Sharon Gribble, 1381 West County Road B2, Roseville, MN 55113.

Name _____

Primary phone _____

Secondary phone _____

Email address _____

Skill level (1.0 to 4.5) _____

If your home address has changed, enter here:

Choose one membership level:

☐ Basic \$30 ☐ Basic + printed roster: \$34

First Public Clay Courts in Minnesota

Project Receives USTA Funding, Hopes to Break Ground this Fall



The Minneapolis Community Clay Courts (MCCC) was awarded \$25,000 from USTA National to help fund the first public clay tennis court in Minnesota. The two courts will be

built in Waveland Triangle Park, a Minneapolis Park in Linden Hills. MCCC has raised \$127,000 of the \$200,000 needed and is optimistic that they will finish raising the money in time to break ground later this fall. For more information on how to get involved, go to www.letsplayclay.org.

Hello, New Members!

STPC welcomes our new members! Alton Accola, John Denis, Paul Eidsness, Brett Jebens, Rick Johnson, Dale Kingsbury, Heidi Lemke, Anne List, Stephen MacLennan, Laura Maki, Lisa McConnell, Philip Moos, Cathy Richlovsky, Susan Ross, Lynn Saddoris, Joel Schaubert, Jennifer Shaltz, Mira Srdanov, Wendy Stone, Mike Tieleman, Rachel Veenstra, and Julie Weaver!

We are happy you decided to join in on the fun of playing tennis, making new friends and staying active. Please look in this edition of the Senior Tennis Times for group playing opportunities beginning this September and going through April.

Remember to use your reward card you received with your membership for three drills or pop-ups and one free social event or Dow Round

Robin. You may attend a drill, when they are offered, at no cost. Once it is safe again, you could choose to use your card to attend a social event at no charge. Also look for emails on “Pop-up Tennis.” This is an excellent opportunity for you as 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 local nonprofits serving kids. Call our Help Desk at (763) 310-1234 to learn how you can volunteer!

Questions? If you have any questions regarding your new STPC tennis membership, call Brian Kretsch at 651-363-2283.

Pop-Up Tennis 2020-2021 Season

COVID environment permitting, Pop-Ups will begin in November. A great way to drop in and play tennis with different members, STPC Pop-Up Tennis is an opportunity to play at your skill level, when you want, without a season-long commitment. If you are a new member, Pop-Ups are a great opportunity to engage and meet other members, which can lead to group play.

How it works: As an STPC member, you will

receive Ticketbud email invitations to each STPC Pop-Up which will be set up at different dates, times, and facilities with a 7 to 10 day notice. If you want to play, simply reply to the email and pay online to reserve your spot (first-come, first-served basis)!

Questions? Contact Jim or Jon.

Jim Handy: jimlhandy@gmail.com (612) 743-3314
Jon H. e_ jon_holmgren@yahoo.com (612) 702-7509



Senior Tennis Players Club
4005 Nicollet Avenue South
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Tennis Tips: Tie-breaks Explained

By David Sommer

We are so used to tie-breaks that the history is lost for many of us, but it is fascinating, so here goes!

We owe it all to Jimmy Van Alen. He was born to a rich family in Newport, Rhode Island. As such, he was relieved of the need to earn a living. But his contributions to our beautiful game surely gave his life meaning.

He felt that the game's scoring should be simplified, and deuce done away with. He lobbied for the adoption of his creation, the Van Alen Streamlined Scoring System (VASSS). He proposed single-point scoring (no more 15-30-40...) with a match being first to 21 or 31 (like table tennis); or no-ad scoring for games (1, 2, 3, 4 – first to 4 wins the game). But his most famous proposal was the tie-breaker. His version was first to 5 – sudden death. This was

accepted by the USTA and used in U.S. championships from 1970 through 1974.

But after 1974, the USTA embraced instead the ITF system: first to 7 but must win by 2. Van Alen contemptuously called this “lingering death.” Nevertheless, this is the system we use today.

Van Alen's innovations haven't been lost entirely, though. For the last several years ATP and WTA doubles matches have used no-ad scoring. And even the five-point sudden death tie-breaker is used in some club tournaments. If you'd like to try the five-point sudden death, here are the rules: (1) Serving order continues as established. (2) Each server serves twice – first from deuce court, then from ad court. (3) EXCEPT if the score becomes 4-2, 2-4, or 3-3, the last server serves 3 times, from deuce,

ad, and if score is then tied 4-4 the final serve is to the receiving sides choice. (4) Change ends after the first 4 points.

Louise Halverson pointed out that many in STPC don't really understand the standard 7-point tie-breaker. Here it is: (1) Serving order continues as established. (2) first server serves once, from the deuce side. (3) Thereafter, each server serves twice, first from the ad side, then from the deuce side. (4) First side to 7 wins, but must win by 2 (lingering death). (5) Change ends after each 6 points, meaning after 6, 12, 18, etc.

A variant is the 10-point tie-breaker. This is used in ATP, WTA & USTA doubles matches in lieu of a third set, and for some other purposes as specified by the tournament. It is just like the 7-point, but is first to 10, win by 2 points.