

# Senior Tennis Players Club, Inc.

5200 West 28th Street Minneapolis, Minnesota 55416  
(612) 922-4327 A Nonprofit Corporation

DECEMBER 1987

## HATS OFF TO GINNY OWENS!!!

Approximately 100 people enjoyed great tennis and a feast at Northwest's beautiful new facility, Hiway 494-Crosstown Racquet Club. It is through Ginny's efforts that we are able to have our parties there. Her committee outdid themselves in providing delicious food which included soft drinks, beer, wine, hors d'ouvres, chicken, coleslaw and potato salad, and an assortment of delicious desserts. Can you believe all of this plus great tennis for \$7.50. What a bargain!

The committee members who did this great service for us are: Laurene Westvedt, Marilyn Thorne, Norm Diamond, Elsie Noonan. Ned Bunday, as usual, had the tennis scheduled play well organized. As an added bonus, Percy Hughes conducted a lesson on footwork designed to prevent backward falls on the tennis court, which seem to be a common occurrence and often result in broken bones.

Everyone who attended had a great time--not only playing tennis and feasting, but socializing. It's great to be with so many interesting, kind, wonderful people in our great club. What a warm feeling to belong to such a group.

Mandy Johnson

## AND THE WINNER IS...EDWARD BREHM

The waiting and wondering is over. Your newsletter has a name. Starting with the next issue, it will be known as the

### SENIOR TENNIS TIMES

Edward Brehm of 5237 Kellogg Avenue, Edina will be awarded a Prince racquet on December 9 at the "Early Birds" Tennis and Breakfast at the Hiway 494-Crosstown Club.

The Executive Committee had fun pouring over 195 entries, and it was a tough decision to make. There were so many interesting names, but in the end the decision was unanimous.

Thanks to all of you for your names, sketches and even logos. I enjoyed them all. Congratulations, Ed, for your contribution to another milestone in the Club's growth.



## FREE CLINIC

December 17 at Percy's Nicollet Tennis class from 10 until 11:30 a.m. Roger Boyer will be giving a Prince ball machine clinic. All are welcome. Have your strokes looked at, and this includes doubles strategy. Feel free to come to this class. Please bring \$1.50.

## LOOK HERE!

Our official tennis jackets are available. A telephone call to Ned Bunday (831-7677) and a check for \$19 will get you an attractive, practical cotton/poly jacket to wear with your tennis clothes or otherwise, winter or summer. For an extra dollar you can have a name attractively applied under the STP initials or you can choose not to have any insignia at all. If you take quick action, you may get it in time for Christmas. It would make a great gift.



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## TENNIS TIPS

By Virginia Morgan

During a doubles game, move with the ball that is on the opponent's side across the net from you. It will cut off their angle of return. Watch the opponent that is closest to you. Return the ball to the opponent who is furthest away. Move with your partner sideways and up and back as if there is an 11-foot rope tied to you and your partner's waist.

When in doubt as to where to return the ball, usually a good shot could be low and deep down the middle. The net is lower there and it could also confuse opponents.

Never reach over the net to return a ball. The ball must be hit on your side of the net and the follow-through can go over the net; however, during a point you cannot touch the net.

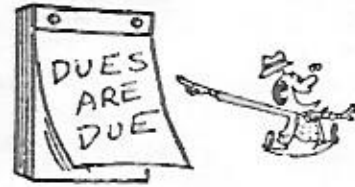
A game will run smoother if everyone knows where all 3 balls are at all times and send them to the server. Rather than push the ball on the ground with your racquet, pick it up and gently hit it to the server. The person furthest away returns it first.

A good place to keep the third ball (if you or your partner does not have pockets) is on the ground at the net. Then all can see it and either side can retrieve it.

It's a good idea to observe if your opponents are right or left-handed. Also check the name and number on the balls you are using.

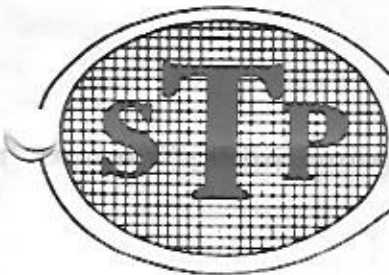
JUST BRIEFLY - If you are scheduled to play tennis at a tennis party, be sure to be there before starting time. You cause no end of problems to the scheduled tennis play if you are late.

YOUR 1988 DUES ARE DUE NOW!!!



Please send in your dues so that they will be on Elsa Hutchinson's desk by December 15. We had a great response to last month's request, but there are still a number of you we haven't heard from. We need to start the new year with our records complete so that we can put together our roster and make it available to you. Be reminded that you will not receive the January newsletter unless your dues are paid. We do not want to terminate your membership.

The drawing for the tennis racquets will take place at the Tennis Breakfast at the Crosstown Racquet Club on December 9. You need not be there to win. If your dues were received among the first two hundred, they will be included in the drawing. We will be giving away two Pro-Avenger tennis racquets which have been donated by the Wilson Company.



## Senior Tennis Players Club, Inc.

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL/APPLICATION

Enclosed are my \$15 (  ) \$30 (  ) dues for the calendar year 1988.

Please print

Name

Name of Spouse

Address

City  State  Zip

Phone (Home)  (Work if desired)


Please circle skill level(s)

Name(s)

- |                            |                            |                     |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A | <input type="checkbox"/> A | Better than average |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B | <input type="checkbox"/> B | Average             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> C | <input type="checkbox"/> C | Below average       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> D | <input type="checkbox"/> D | Beginner            |

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....We have many people in our club who do interesting and exciting things. It's a good idea to share some of these to give our club personality and color. Here's the first of these items.

#### EMILY DAY WALKS AMONG THE PENGUINS

Recently Emily took part in a plane trip with a Chilean group, leaving from Punta Arenas on the southern tip of Chile, the southernmost city on earth, and arriving on Ardley Island on the continent of Antarctica. They could not land on the first try due to strong winds, but on the second try they landed on Marsh Base.

She remarked about the wonderful spirit of cooperation among all of the groups working there on study projects: the Russians, the Chinese, the Germans and the Norwegians. In her group was the head of a NASA project which was studying

the hole in the ozone layer. This person gave lectures and showed slides to the group. There is a thirty-year pact among nations that no one is to claim any part of the Antarctic, nor are they to disturb anything there.

While there, Emily was taken on a helicopter ride over the area as well as a ride in an amphibian tank.

Ask Emily about the trip--she has a lot more to tell.

A while back at one of our get-togethers, Ken Anderson told me about an interesting article on TENNIS SCORING he read in the Los Angeles Times while on a flight from California. He said how sorry he was that he didn't clip it and save it for our newsletter--that it was really fun reading. Well, feeling confident that the LA Times has a terrific computerized retrieval system I wrote to them asking for the article. They sent it and so, with the permission of the Los Angeles Times, here's the article in its entirety, as it was published June 19, 1985. Enjoy. --M.J.K.

TAKE MY WORD:  
TENNIS SCORING IS DEUCEDLY DIFFICULT

By Thomas H. Middleton

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Los Angeles Times

A few months ago, I mentioned that the line "O Romeo, Romeo! wherefore art thou Romeo?" had been altered by someone who wanted to simplify Shakespeare. He changed it to "O Romeo, Romeo! wherefore are you Romeo?" -- a change that seems to me to simplify absolutely nothing. No one who can read could possibly be in the dark as to what "art thou" means. The tough word in the line is wherefore which vast armies of people have assumed means where instead of why. Juliet isn't asking where Romeo is; she's asking why he is Romeo, scion of the loathed Montague family, instead of some innocuous young gentleman of Verona with whom she might fall in love without getting all messed up with family feuds.

#### Altering Shakespeare

I went on to say that it probably is not a good idea to alter Shakespeare's words. I think perhaps I should take that back. I recall that in Sir Laurence Olivier's film version of "Hamlet," a slight alteration of the original text was made to make it more intelligible to modern audiences. In the scene where Hamlet sees his father's ghost and is determined to follow it, Horatio and Marcellus try to stop him, holding him back and saying, "You shall not go." Hamlet shakes them off, saying, in the original, "Unhand me, gentlemen. By heaven, I'll make a ghost of him that lets me!"

Olivier changed that to "... of him that hinders me," feeling, rightly, I think, that hardly anyone thinks of lets as hinders, but of course that's what lets means in Hamlet's line. That meaning for let survives today only in the expression "without let or hindrance" and in tennis, where a ball that is hindered in its flight across the net is called a "let ball." That particular let is obscure enough these days so that you're more likely to hear "Net!" than "Let!" on most American tennis courts when the ball ticks the net.

Speaking of tennis, most of us have probably wondered from time to time why the scoring goes as it does. I've tried to look it up in books, and I've asked my fellow tennis players, but no one seems to know. The most sensible answer came from Norman Cousins, crack tennis player and former editor of Saturday Review. He said, "It was a hoax perpetrated by some unprincipled prankster like the former editor of Saturday Review."

Why is the first point 15? Why not 1? And why is the second point 30? Why does the third point abandon that 15-point progression and leap ahead a mere 10 points to 40? And how many points is game? No one knows. Game is the point after 40, unless both players get 40, in which case the score is "deuce," and one player must then win two successive points to get game. The first point after

deuce is not even a point; it's something called an advantage or ad, for short. Theoretically, "game" can be anything from 40 plus 1 point (which surely is not 41 in this mad scheme) to an infinite number of ads and deuces.

#### An Obvious Derivation

And why sets? Why six games -- or an indefinite number of games until one player wins by two (as it used to be before the "sudden death" convention) -- per set? Why not 15 or 21 points per game, as in more sensible racquet games?

Deuce, as a term, has an obvious derivation -- deuce meaning two, from the French deux -- since a player needs two consecutive points for game. The use of love for zero, however, is, aside from the screwball system of scoring, probably the most puzzling problem in tennis. The most common piece of folk etymology concerning love, meaning "no score", or "nothing," is that it comes from the French l'oeuf: the egg. The trouble with that explanation is that, while "goose-egg" is American slang for zero, l'oeuf is not now, nor has it ever been, French slang for anything like zero. Nor is l'amour French for "nothing." Far from it.

To my mind, the most ingenious etymology for tennis's love is that it is derived from the expression "for love or money," love in this context being the equivalent of nothing in contrast to money.

Ingenious, but hopelessly far-fetched, I'd say. Hypotheses on the origins of both love and the inexplicable scoring pattern will probably live and die as long as there's a Wimbledon, but, barring some discovery on the order of the Dead Sea Scrolls of Tennis, the hypotheses will amount to no more than conjectural fun and games, and the question will still be, "O Romeo, Romeo! wherefore 40-love?"

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#### YOU'RE IN THE NEWS

Our own Percy Hughes was inducted as a charter member of the Minnesota Jazz Music Hall of Fame November 9 at Rupert's Nightclub in Golden Valley. The event was the first annual Minnesota Jazz Music Awards honoring more than 50 jazz musicians.

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#### YOU'RE INVITED

Landscape paintings by member Frank Evans will be shown at the Edina Community Center, 5701 Normandale Road, Edina December through January, with an opening reception Sunday, December 6. Please come, 12:30-3:30.

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#### TERRIFIC TENNIS PARTY ENJOYED AT MIDWEST TENNIS CENTER

Saturday night, November 14, was a good night for food, fellowship and tennis. Domino Pizza furnished all the pizza that people could eat.

Some of those who helped make the party a success were: Connie Custodio, Florence Habegger, Virginia Heinzen, Harley Wishart, Jean Kelly, Ruth Van Hilst, Chuck Supplee, Clarence Brockman, Virginia Owens, Mrs. Phil Briant, Mrs. Ed Holzhacker and Mrs. Ken Anderson.

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Arden Hills MN 55112

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#### NICOLLET CENTER PLAYER OF THE MONTH

The Nicollet Tennis Center newsletter recently profiled Ruth Van Hilst as their player of the month. In 1977 Ruth realized she had gained 30 pounds and was getting no exercise. Remembering tennis at the age of 17 in a high school club in Jena, East Germany, she renewed her interest with private lessons. At first, no one would even hit with Ruth so she had to practice against the backboard at Donaldson Park. Eventually the lessons paid off and other players accepted her requests to play. She remembers this period as "very scary."

Ruth joined a tennis club across the street from her job at Sperry Univac. She retired from Sperry in 1982 and joined a Nicollet league. From then on, Ruth's is a success story. She distinguished herself in singles leagues and is now playing in a 4.0 doubles league five or six times a week. Oh yes, all that dedication paid off, and she lost those 30 pounds. Many of us in the Senior Tennis Players Club know Ruth, and she has contributed much to the Club. She's a gem to play with and an inspiration to all of us. So you see - nothing's impossible.....you can do it, too.



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Mary M Dulebohn  
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**December 1987**

Monthly Newsletter for  
Senior Tennis Players Club, Inc.

Editor  
Mary J. Kaminski  
3300 East Gate Road  
Saint Anthony, MN 55418  
781-3271  
Associate Editor  
Mary C. No11

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next issue is

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