

From the President *Holger Christiansen*

We are now comfortably settled in our townhome on the third fairway of the Majestic Oaks Golf Course in Ham Lake. As many of you know, moving is a big job, especially when you haven't moved for thirty years. We are fortunate to have a full basement so all of those unopened boxes have been placed on newly installed shelves. I even have one end wall which is unencumbered, so I'm thinking of painting a line on it at net height and using it as a bangboard. NOT, says my wife.

During the past month some of you have contacted me and other individual Board members about the increase in dues for 1993. I want to assure each of you that your concerns have been brought to the attention of the full Board. Your comments were sincere and were thoroughly discussed at our January meeting. However, the Board unanimously agreed that the increase is needed, and that the suggestions of offering reductions to certain persons, such as captains or spouses, would prove to be extremely cumbersome to implement and record. In the interest of fairness, it was agreed that all annual dues should be the same. And, even though the

percentage of increase seems high (because of the low base) the increase amounts to less than one and a half cents per day.

I hope all of you snowbirds who receive this copy of the *Times* at your "warm address" are enjoying yourselves and this wonderful game of tennis. If your weather hasn't been too good, cheer up. It'll get better because Dagny and I will be joining you soon.

Incidentally, wasn't it nice to see that *Sports Illustrated's* Man of the Year was Arthur Ashe, a fine human being who just happens to play tennis.

New Format Tried at 1993's First Tennis Social

Eighty-three STPC members enjoyed the Midwinter Tennis Social on Saturday, January 16. The first party of the year was held at the Crosstown Racquet Swim and Health Club.

Frank McCabe, chair of the tennis social, surveyed thirty members to find out when they'd like to see tennis socials start, how many hours they'd like to play, and other factors to make the party more appealing to players. He came up with a format where players could play for 1½ consecutive hours,

with the first round of tennis starting at six o'clock. The new arrangement seemed to go over with the partygoers.

Irma Bong was cochair of the event. Her committee consisted of Mary Ann McCabe, Doug Bong, Marilyn Thorne and Char Hall.

Our thanks to Frank and Irma for an evening of (as was advertised!) "tennis, food and fun."

Coming Next Month: Your 1993 Membership Roster!

Tennis Tips

*This Month's Tipster:
Ernie Greene*

Doubles Strategy

This month's tennis tips are about your strategy for playing doubles. Generally, what you want to do is 1) take command of the net, 2) hit

down the center of the court, or 3) place the ball at your opponent's feet.

Here are some ways you can achieve these goals:

- Always be in the ready position

(the "split-stop") before your opponent hits the ball. You can go in four directions from this position-forward, backward, left and right. For more advanced players, there is a fifth position, for when the ball drops at your feet. You take one step back, and scoop your racquet under the ball for a half volley.

- Flow with the ball. You and your partner should move together as a team.

- Be in the middle of the hitting

opponent's return angle.

- Measure where you should be (your court position) in time-not distance. You must be "set" before your opponent hits the ball.
- Attack the net whenever possible.
- The two things that make you very strong on the court are the ability to hit down on the ball and being able to hit angles at the net.

Remember these principles and you'll be more successful as a doubles player!

LEARN TENNIS

1993 Schedule for Beginner Lessons and Drills

LOCATION	DAY	TIME	INSTRUCTOR	PHONE
Nicollet Tennis Center 4005 Nicollet Avenue Minneapolis 825-6844	Thurs	8:30 - 10 am	Percy Hughes Ginny Owens Paul Stormo	545-7696 546-9666 944-6286
Northland Fitness Center South 5250 West 84th Street Bloomington 831-2660	Wed	5:15 - 6:45 pm	Ernie Greene	488-6359
Willeston-Sagedahl Club 14509 Minnetonka Drive Minnetonka 935-8638	Mon	5:30 - 7 pm	Connie Custodio	824-2569
Wooddale Recreation Center 2122 Wooddale Drive Woodbury 735-6214	Mon*	8 - 9:30 pm	Cathy Morgan	690-5204
	Thurs	1 - 2:30 pm	Virginia Morgan	459-6059

NOTE: The cost of indoor courts will be defrayed by collecting \$1.50 from each student.

* This class is discontinued February 15, 1993.



Beginner Lessons and Drills at Wooddale are Changed

Effective February 15, the Monday 8-9:30 p.m. lessons and drills at the Wooddale Recreation Center will be dropped.

Add These to the Decathlon Schedule

On Wednesdays from 11:30 to 1:00 p.m., Stan Furber will captain a group. His phone number is 830-9702.

On Thursdays from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m., Cliff McMinn will captain a group. His phone number is 888-4989.

Northland (North) Has Additional Court Time

Two courts for doubles are available at Northland in Brooklyn Park. One singles court is also available for lessons. If you are interested and can come up with a captain, please call pro Ted Koppel (yes, that's really his name!) at 425-5880.

A Reminder

The Singles Tennis Evening is coming up pretty quickly. It's on Saturday, February 13, at the White Bear Racquet and Swim Club from 7-11:00 p.m.

Facts About the 1993 U. S. National Senior Sports Classic IV

The U. S. National Senior Sports Classic IV will be held June 12-18,

1993 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Over 50 senior tennis players qualified to go. We expect over 30 of these to join 150 athletes to represent Minnesota. It'll be a great week with parades, tours, banquets, bands and dancing.

For ten or eleven weeks before this event, we expect to get the tennis people out to play with their partners. Then maybe this time we can have some gold and silver winners!

It's Winter, But Thoughts Turn to Summer Camp

Chuck Supplee is planning his annual senior tennis camp for the summer of '93 at River Falls, Wisconsin. Watch the March Times for complete information and a registration blank. If you need information now, call Chuck Supplee at 888-0551 or Ginny Heinzen at 933-1613.

Captains-Start Planning for Summer Play!

Please start lining up courts you'll be using with the various communities or parks and recreation departments. Some captains have already had confirmation of courts for the summer months and have called in this information.

For the benefit of new members who aren't familiar with what happens after indoor court time is over, playing generally moves outdoors the first week of May. Some start playing earlier, depending on the captain and the weather. There's **no charge** for summer play, another membership benefit. Summer play is less structured. You just select the location and the time and show up.

The outdoor locations will appear in the May issue of the Times. Beginners' lessons, too, will be outdoors. If you were a captain last summer and would like to continue, please call Charlie Peterson, 471-9524, with details.

Arthur Ashe to Head Tennis and Life Clinic

Arthur Ashe, *Sports Illustrated* Sportsman of the Year for 1992, will be the featured presenter at the 1993 Tennis and Life Clinic from 8:45 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. April 3 at Eagan High School. Plans have begun for a fund-raising dinner in honor of Mr. Ashe on April 3 at the Decathlon Club in Bloomington. The dinner will benefit the Arthur Ashe Foundation and the National Junior Tennis League (NJTL) Program in the Northwestern Tennis Association.

Joining Mr. Ashe on the 1993 Tennis and Life Clinic staff will be Jose Higuera, who coaches number one ranked Jim Courier and Tim Gullikson, coach of number three ranked Pete Sampras. Other clinicians will include Dick Stockton, Bryce Young and Joe Cary.

Both the Tennis and Life Clinic and the Fund-Raising Dinner are open to the public. For further information, call Tim Harrigan at the Northwestern Tennis Association at 546-0709.

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Sprains-Strains-Aches-Pains When to Worry/When to Relax

a presentation by Dr. George Kramer
Chair of the Department of Physical Rehabilitation and
Director of Sports Medicine at Park Nicollet Clinic

Wednesday, March 24, 1993, 7:00 p.m.
Richfield Community Center
7000 Nicollet Avenue South, Richfield
Free! (Part of the Membership Appreciation Series)

Program Chair: Susie Mackenstadt / Sponsored by STPC Activities Committee

Ad Rates

full page----- \$100
one-half page----- \$75
one-quarter page----- \$50
classified ads (max of 4 lines,
available to members only) ---- \$15

Call Mary Kaminski at 781-3271

The deadline for articles
to be published in the
March issue is
February 20, 1993



Hey Partner!
Rope yerself a hoss and
get ready to ride to the
Annual Meeting at the
K.C. Hall in Bloomington!

Friday, April 30
A reservation form will
be in the March *Times*.



1943: Downey High School's John Stecklein Defeats Jack Kramer, Rising Tennis Phenom

There young Stecklein was, a Downey Union High School netter in the California town, slated to play the notorious Jack Kramer from Montebello High some distance away. Kramer's reputation as a giant killer on the courts was legendary in the area and it was rumored he would turn pro right out of high school. Stecklein was shaky at the prospect of competing against Kramer and before the scheduled match was a bundle of nerves.

The outcome was a fairy tale with the proverbial happy ending. Kramer was a no-show and the jubilant Stecklein was the victor by default. There are those scoffers who would deny Stecklein the fruits of his victory, but a win is a win no matter how the ball bounces. For posterity's sake, Stecklein can tell his eight grandchildren, with some embellishment, he whipped the pants off one of the greatest tennis players in history.

John Stecklein, 69, attained the title of Professor Emeritus at the University of Minnesota in 1990 after a distinguished career of nearly forty years with the school. It took me longer to read his eight-page resume than it did a synopsis of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire. If he plays tennis with the completeness of his high standing in the academic community, you'll probably want to avoid his onslaughts.

Although he was born in Denver, the family migrated to Downey, California, and his father went into the hardware business. Our young hero graduated from high school and went on to get a BA degree in physics (math minor) from Whittier College (a kid named Richard Nixon also attended the college). The date was 1944 and because of his expertise, Stecklein

worked on classified research for the United States Government during World War II. He later received his masters degree in physics from Penn State and in 1953 completed a Ph.D. in educational measurement and statistics at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. In between degrees he was an instructor at Whittier College and spent a year at Stanford University.

He met his wife, Helen Ross of Washington, DC., over a badminton game while both were graduate students in Madison. Helen received her masters degree in physiological chemistry and spent three years working for the U of M Medical School before embarking on raising four children. Meanwhile, Stecklein was a research associate at the U of M before rising in the ranks. After a hiatus stretching out for many years, Helen is currently a Certified Financial Planner for widows, widowers and divorcees.

After some seasoning at the U of M, Stecklein became their Director of the Bureau of Institutional Research—a position he held for seventeen years. I could fill many pages in this issue concerning the important positions Stecklein has held in his more than illustrious career. Perhaps the main focus of his many achievements centers on his work as Director and

Professor of the U of M's Department of Educational Psychology. This has enabled him to travel the world and disseminate his expertise to many countries and their leading universities. For example, in 1968-69 he led the U of M party in a cooperative venture with the University of Concepcion in Chile where he directed activities relating to administrative organization,

library development, general education program and staff issues.

His sabbaticals have taken him, among other schools, to the University of California at Berkeley and Los Angeles for research, development and evaluation projects. Mentioned here is only a fraction of the outstanding educational feats

he has accomplished in his lifetime. He has traveled to Indonesia, Thailand, Colombia and Venezuela, to name a few countries, to serve as a consultant for problems relating to education. Brazil has requested his services on three occasions. A trip to Sweden resulted in his founding and serving as the first president of the Association for International Research in America. One of his greatest challenges was exposure to the political process, where he had to fight for new programs for state educational institutions. He was a formidable spokesman, which is reflected in his long and fruitful career as an educator.



Having glossed over Stecklein's contributions to education, you might think we're dealing here with a pompous curmudgeon. Wrong! He has a warm smile and a good sense of humor mingled with a sense of perfection in everything he undertakes. For example, as STPC Board of Directors Secretary, his minutes are lessons in concise terminology and perfect spelling.

He started tennis at age 13 and, as you know, played on the high school team. Then he took off fifteen years to pursue higher education and stored his racquet in the attic.

About four years ago he joined STPC after being influenced by a member friend. In the first year he was strictly on the mixed doubles circuit, later transferring to a men's group for "a bit more competition." He and his wife,

Helen, who is also an STPC member, have traveled to all the major tennis Opens in the world, except for the French Open. That's next on the agenda.

In discussing a philosophy of life with Stecklein, he reverted to his penchant for perfection. "Everything worth doing should be done right. There is no such thing as a 'slight error'; an error is an error." It's no wonder he has turned out so many outstanding students in his lifetime.

With many honors under his belt and a slew of organizations he belongs to, he is also listed in *American Men of Science*, *Who's Who in America*, *Who's Who in Education* and *Who's Who in the Midwest*. It's obvious that with all the Who's Whos, Stecklein knows What's What!

He has been a consultant to General Mills, the United States Public Health Service, the Modern Language Association, the Minnesota Board of Pharmacy, Presbyteries Cooperative Committee on Examinations and a host of other major groups. He's an honorary member of Phi Delta Kappa (Education); Pi Mu Epsilon (Math); and Sigma Pi Sigma (Physics). He has written articles too numerous to mention, but believe me when I state the contents would keep classrooms busy for years.

One of these days a noted writer will tackle the Stecklein Saga. I would admonish them to set aside several years to complete the task. We can all be happy Stecklein's perfection is not always prevalent on the tennis courts. Thus spake your scribe!

Norm Diamond

Awright, Ginny!

A wonderful picture of smiling Ginny Owens appeared on page 2 of the January, 1993 issue of the Northwest Racquet Swim & Health Club magazine. The accompanying story was titled "Employees Who Make a Difference." Ginny was recently honored with the Northwest Tennis Association Senior Tennis Development award. Besides being one of our tennis instructors, Ginny is employed as personnel director in the Pro Shop Office of the Northwest Clubs.

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"Sirs: I thought you would be interested in knowing that I have just shoveled three feet of partly cloudy from my front steps."



**HAPPY
VALENTINE'S DAY**

1992 - 1993

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Editor

Mary J. Kaminski
3300 East Gate Road
Saint Anthony, MN 55418-2545
781-3271

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