

Former STPC president, Mandy Johnson, dies

Mandy Johnson, 76, died November 10 of heart failure. She was one of the first fifteen people who joined Jack Dow in pioneering the Senior Tennis Players Club eleven years ago. She succeeded Jack as president and served two years.

Mandy's service to the Club was legendary. At the eulogy, member Ted Smith read this tribute, written by Jack Dow, which reflects the thoughts of so many of us:



A Tribute to Mandy Johnson

Mandy was not only one of our closest and dearest friends, but she was the one and only who made the Senior Tennis Club and community successful and important. She was an inspiration to several thousand seniors in this area, and volunteered to take over as president of Senior Tennis Players Club and made it successful in spite of the fact that she had less time and had more health problems to overcome that made it difficult. She had the courage and compassion which everyone of the several thousand seniors enjoyed. Without her help, the community would never have been able to accomplish the great things it has and will do in the future.

She was the greatest teacher this whole area has ever had—an inspiration and a tireless worker who always succeeded in doing the best job possible. As a mother and friend, she was a model for all of us who knew her. She overcame all obstacles, and for that deserved many recognitions, such as her election to both the state and national Senior Tennis Hall of Fame and also the state and national Executive Hall of Fame.

Mandy will always be in our hearts and memories. Her family can be proud of one of the greatest persons of her time. Jane and I are glad to have known her. She enriched our lives as she did with many thousands of seniors and others in the community. Many times she said, "Jack Dow will outlast all of us." To this statement I say, "Mandy, no one will ever outlast you. You will last forever."

Jane and Jack Dow

Court captain Pete Robinson honored

If you're an active STPC member, you more than likely appreciate the efforts of your captain, even if you don't know exactly what he or she does, or how much time is spent doing what captains do. Or, if you're a captain, you definitely know how much time you spend doing what it is you do on behalf of your teammates. You also know that you are often taken for granted.

However, the guys who play with Pete Robinson three times a week have been aware for some time that Pete is not your ordinary captain. Since 1989, Pete has been arranging for playing space, winter and summer, on virtually every Monday, Wednesday and Friday of the year. So last May, after the final Friday of the Winter season, Vern Backes, a winter regular, opined that Pete deserved some recognition for his efforts. Ken Kinney agreed, and the wheels started to turn.

Vern and Ken held a preliminary meeting (they did lunch, actually) and de-

Continued on page 3

Renew for 1994

Please remember to send in your renewal form for your 1994 STPC membership. The form was in the November issue of the *Times*, and every 1993 member should have received one by now.

Annual dues are quite a bargain at \$20—look at all the tennis and socializing you get! So fill in that form and send it with your check to Bernice Hanson, Treasurer. Thanks!



BASELINE

BY JOHN STECKLEIN,
STPC PRESIDENT

With the holiday season upon us, it seems inappropriate to spend this column on Club business. But I do want to let you know that the new playing opportunities established in October are going very well and are fully subscribed. If you have not been able to join in, get your reservation in early for the Winter and Spring sessions.

I will also mention that nominations are still welcome for Board memberships (to take office in April 1994). The deadline is December 31, 1993. Elections will take place at the January meeting of the Board.

We began November with the sad news of Mandy Johnson's passing. Those who knew her will miss her greatly. She played an important role in the formation and early development of the Senior Tennis Players Club. We are much in her debt and extend our condolences to her family.

I hope those who attended the Holiday Dinner Dance had as good a time as my wife, Helen, and I did. Those of you who have not become involved in the social activities of the Club are encouraged to sample them. The monthly tennis parties are always enjoyable and well-managed by Frank McCabe and his committee. The food is always good and the participants are well-mixed to provide a variety of playing experiences and new acquaintances. Sign up early and assure yourself the opportunity for a pleasant evening of tennis.

Be sure to note and attend the special social activities planned by Sue Larson and her committee, too. Get the most you can from your Club membership.

My wife and I wish you all a Happy Holiday season, good health, and best wishes for an enjoyable and active New Year.



Additional analysis (and a couple of corrections) for the demographic data presented in the October *Times*

As I mentioned in the comments accompanying the demographic map in the October *Times*, we would need to make additions or deletions to the map as playing sites change. Three additions should be made now to add the Daytona Club, the Flagship Athletic Club, and the Lilydale Club to the map, as well as some corrections and deletions.

Additions

- Daytona Club: Draw a solid triangle at the top edge of the map, where a road goes due north above Diamond Lake, northwest of Dayton.
- Flagship Club: Add a solid triangle east of the words "Eden Prairie" on the eastern side of Flying Cloud Road, just west of Anderson Lakes. This is southeast of where Highway 169 goes south from Highway 5.
- Lilydale Club: Draw a solid triangle just to the southeast of the intersection of Highway 35E and Sibley Memorial Drive, next to the circle with "41" in it.

Deletion

- The triangle located due west of Lake Calhoun should be deleted. No indoor site is located there, although outdoor courts are used during the summer.

Corrections

- Finally, the solid triangle denoting Northland Fitness Center (North) should be located north of Highway 94/52 (just west of Route 81), not south of 94/52.

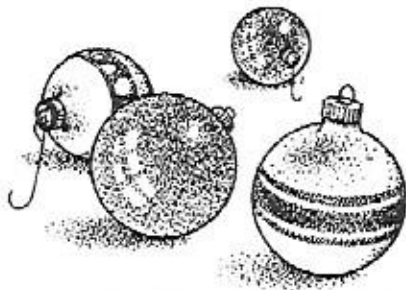
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decided first to hold a dinner at Lord Fletcher's in Spring Park. They then divided the most recent winter and summer rosters, about 65 names, and, with the help of Alex Bezat and Bob Fridgen, invited all by phone to attend a dinner.

The result was a lively, virtually sober gathering at Lord Fletcher's on November 10, attended by 24 of the faithful troops. Vern bought and presented Pete a plaque, suitably inscribed, and Ken and Alex pinned a set of captain's bars on Pete so the entire world could see that he is, indeed, a captain.

Pete was profuse in his thanks for what he called "the First Annual Pete Robinson Testimonial Dinner." No plans, however, have been announced of a follow-up event. But if Pete somehow is promoted to major, it's a possibility!

**Demographic Analysis, continued from page 2**

- In the last paragraph on page 3 of the explanatory notes, starting with the third sentence beginning "Similarly, the schedules..." and continuing to the end of the paragraph, each time the word "winter" appears, it should be replaced by the word "summer." The author apologizes for the errors.

Data for Winter Sites

Data for the winter sites on the map (including the additions and deletion listed above), show 7 sites for the Minneapolis area and 3 sites for the St. Paul area. Using the same membership counts as for the summer analysis, these figures boil down to winter ratios of 146 members per site for the Minneapolis area and 105 members per site for the St. Paul area.

When playing opportunities (as listed in the November *Times* schedule) are counted, you find 62 at the Minneapolis sites and 16 at the St. Paul sites. These figures give a winter ratio of 16.5 members per playing opportunity for Minneapolis members and a winter ratio of 19.7 members per playing opportunity for St. Paul members. Both comparisons, while showing smaller differences between the two Twin City areas than one might have expected, nevertheless indicate a need for more playing opportunities in the St. Paul area. The Vice President for Programs is working hard to find additional opportunities.



Pete Robinson, left, accepts a plaque from Vern Backes.

Roger Boyer's Christmas drills

Roger Boyer will hold his annual Christmas Drills on Thursday, December 16, at the Nicollet Tennis Center, from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. All STPC members are welcome. Roger, the Prince representative for this region, will run the drills together with Ginny Owens, Percy Hughes, and Paul Stormo. As in previous years, Roger will bring prizes.



Make a run for the border!

This is just a reminder for the South of the Border Tennis Party. It will be held Saturday, January 8, 1994 from 7 p.m. at the White Bear Racquet & Swim Club. The reservation form was in the November *Times*, page 11.

\$15 covers the tennis courts and very light refreshments (no meals). Cancellations are accepted up to December 22 (mail early). There will be prizes for the best man's and woman's Mexican costume. Call Darlene Moynagh for more information, at 436-8927.

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Tennis Tips by Ernie Greene



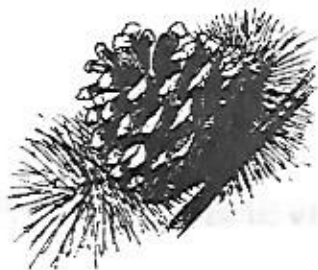
The problem:

Hitting short balls—unintentionally hitting short balls is a very common error made by most of us. When a short ball is hit, it's an open invitation for your opponent to take the offensive position at the net and pick apart your game. Depth on

your ground strokes is necessary to keep your opponent away from the net.

The solution:

How deep a ground stroke lands in the court depends on how hard it was hit and also how high it was hit over the net. The best way to gain depth on your ground strokes is to hit them at



a moderate speed 3 or 4 feet above the net.

On some passing shots and angled touched shots, minimum net clearance is desired, but these are relatively few cases. Concentrate on the depth of your ground strokes and by maintaining depth you keep the ball in play with a greater margin of safety. Remember, your aim point should be 3 or 4 feet above the net.

Correction:

In last month's *Tennis Tips* by Virginia Morgan, we accidentally printed the last paragraph incorrectly. It should have read:

"When receiving, think of the three Rs—*ready, read, and react*. Be thinking or anticipating of where you want to return the ball. Options are cross court, down line or lob (doubles)."

The editor apologizes for any confusion.

Congratulations

The latest STPC members to complete twelve lessons is:



Harriet Warner
Joan Ericksen

Remember, notify your instructor when you've completed twelve lessons.

Williston needs players

Regular players and subs with ratings of about 3.0 are needed to play at Williston. The time is Thursdays, 7-9 a.m. Call Dick Abbott at 934-3746 if you're interested in signing up.

Time change at Northland North

There is a change in schedule for Bob Metcalf's Northland North Thursday group. The starting time used to be 10:30 a.m. This has been changed to 10 a.m.; the session now runs 10 a.m. to noon. Please note this on your schedule.

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THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS (THE TENNIS-LOVER'S VERSION)

COURTESY OF FRANK BEUTEL.

'Twas the night before Christmas,
And out on the courts,
Was a jolly old fat man
In red tennis shorts.

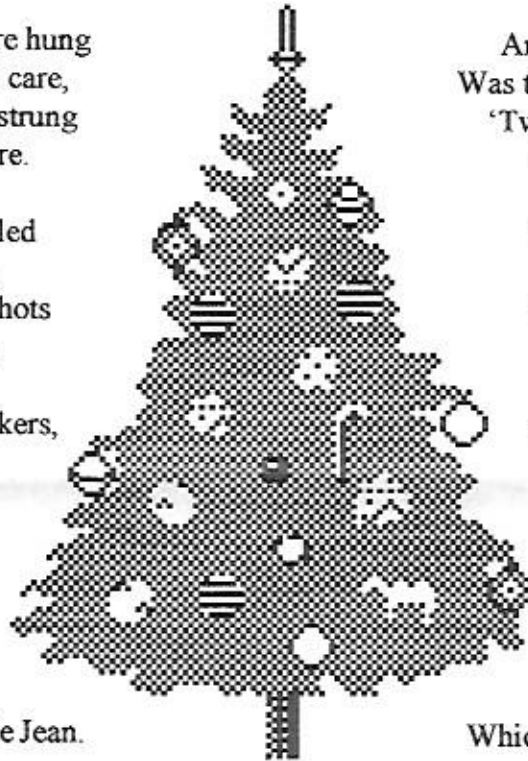
The sweat socks were hung
In the Pro Shop with care,
And the racquets were strung
With a Christmasy flare.

The players were snuggled
All safe in their beds,
While visions of passing shots
Danced in their heads.

They dreamed about tie-breakers,
Love sets and aces,
Wimbledon, Forest Hills,
All kinds of places.

Whatever the setting,
Wherever the scene—
With Lendl or Graf,
Or perhaps Billie Jean.

A fast match with Martina
With pre-warmup rituals,
For winner-take-all
(Plus the TV residuals!).



When out through the night
There arose such a clatter,
I put on my sneakers
To find out the matter.

And there on the court
Was the source of the troubles,
'Twas Santa and Mrs. Claus
Playing mixed doubles.

I could tell just by looking
At Mrs. Claus' face,
That ol' Santa was poaching
All over the place.

When they saw me they quickly
Assembled their gear—
And were off in a flash
With eight tiny reindeer.

As they flashed through the sky
Disappearing from view,
He had one thing to say,
Which I'll pass on to you:

"Have a Happy Holiday!"
He shouted to me,
"And I hope that your New Year
Is double-fault free!"

IN MEMORIAM

Elsie Noonan of Edina (formerly of Richfield) died after a two-year battle with cancer.
Ed Conlin, 72, an STPC member until 1993, when he was unable to continue playing tennis.

Beverly Meuwissen, 63, of Excelsior, died of ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease).

Marguerite Sutter, 75, of Minneapolis.

Tennis party for singles: mark your calendar for February 19

A singles-only tennis party to play doubles at the White Bear Racquet and Swim Club is planned for February 19. The party starts at 7 p.m. and goes until 11 p.m. We'll rotate playing times so you can play tennis, socialize, and take a swim in the pool if you wish. We'll match playing levels, so you'll have an opportunity to play with others at your own level. The sign-up form will be in the January issue of the *Times*. Mark the date on your calendar today!

Join us to help organize the evening! Call Bev Sinniger at 698-8153 for details.



WINTER TENNIS PARTY SCHEDULE

The schedule below shows the remaining winter tennis parties. An asterisk designates changes in location or date from the previously published schedule.

If you have questions or comments, call Darlene Moynagh at 436-8927.

Date of Party	Northwest Club	Reservation Form In This Times
January 8	White Bear	November "South of the Border"
January 29	Crosstown	In this issue "Eskimo Open"
February 19*	White Bear*	January "Singles Only"
March 26	Highway 100	February

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Mon. March 7-Wed. March 16, 1994

Sign up now to join us in Cochise County, Arizona. Only \$410 per person (based on double occupancy) at a first class hotel with pool and jacuzzi. If you desire, play tennis with Ernie Greene or Lois Nordman.

Your check for \$100 made out to Super Seniors will reserve your room.
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Chuck Supplee

5144 Balmoral Lane

Bloomington, MN 55437

Phone 888-0551.



• THE ESKIMO OPEN •

JANUARY TENNIS PARTY

The *Eskimo Open* will be held Saturday, January 29 at the Highway 494 - Crosstown Racquet Swim and Health Club, 6233 Baker Rd, Eden Prairie.

Tennis play will be from 7 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.
and 8:30 p.m. until 10 p.m.

Non-tennis players gather for cards or hot tub or ?
(All facilities in this igloo are open to us!)

We will do our best to match you with other players of similar ranking.
Of course, there will be eats (blubber?) and all this for \$10 each.
Non-tennis players only \$5.

How to get there: Go west on Crosstown 62 and cross Highway 494. Immediately turn left on Baker Road. Of course, if you are coming by dogsled, it would be better to take less-traveled routes!



Reserve now: Make your check out to STPC.
Fill out the form below. Mail them to:

Betty Fletcher
6566 France Ave S #208
Edina, MN 55435



Eskimo Open at Crosstown			what time do you want to play?	
Name	Phone No.	Rating 1 - 4+	7 p.m.	8:30 p.m.
Player 1				
Player 2				
Nonplayer				

1993-4 Winter Schedule for New Members Lessons/Members Drills (10/20/93)

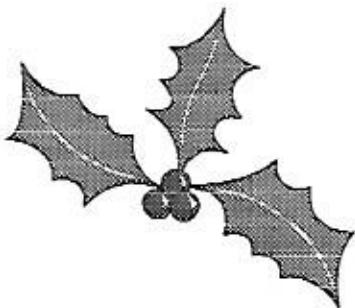
Location	Day	Time	Instructor	Phone
Nicollet Tennis Center 4005 Nicollet Ave. Minneapolis, 825-6844	Thurs	8:30-10 A.M.	Percy Hughes Ginny Owens	545-7696 546-9666
Northland Fitness Center South 5250 West 84th Street Bloomington, 831-2660	Wed	5:15-6:45 P.M.	Ernie Greene	488-6359
Williston-Sagedahl Club 14509 Minnetonka Drive Minnetonka, 935-8638	Mon	5:30-7 P.M.	Connie Custodio	824-2569
Wooddale Recreation Center 2122 Wooddale Drive Woodbury, 735-6214	Mon	8-9:30 P.M.	Virginia Morgan	459-6059
Combination Play and Drill Sessions				
Northland Fitness Center North 7624 Boone Avenue N Brooklyn Park, 425-5880 These sessions are combination drill/play: one 20 min session doubles drills, and two 40 min. sessions doubles play.	Mon	11-1 P.M. (1.0-2.0 rated players only)	Ted Kopren	425-5880
	Tues	10:30-12:30 P.M. (2.5- 3.5 rated players only)	Ted Kopren	425-5880

Membership count

The STPC membership count as of November 20, 1993 is 1,406.

Deadline for stories

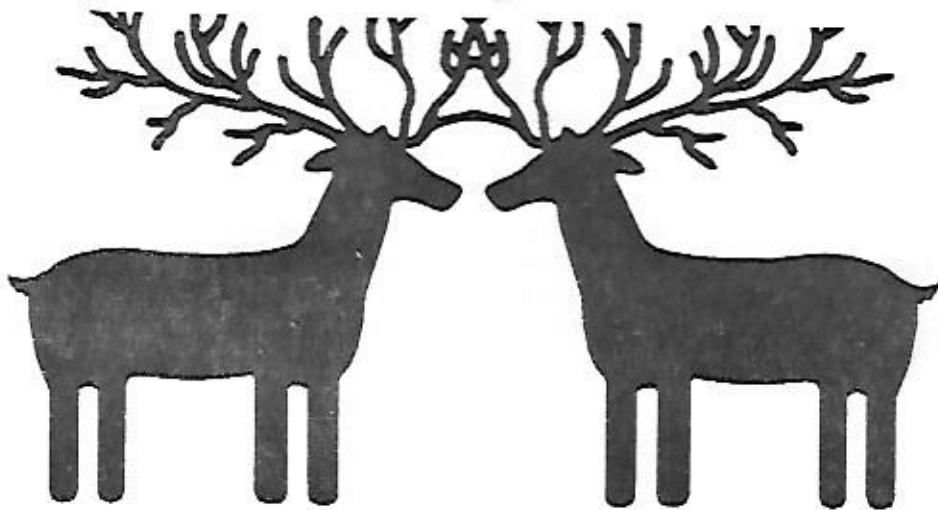
The deadline for stories and ads for the January 1994 *Senior Tennis Times* is December 20, 1993.



Ad Rates

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





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