

Senior Tennis times

Newsletter of the Senior Tennis Players Club, Inc.

A golden opportunity — free official USTA national ratings!

John Stecklein

As many of you know, the board of directors has been considering making a change in our skill ratings from the current STPC system to the official USTA National Ratings system. Not all members see the need for such a change. However, reports from members who have attempted to play in USTA-sanctioned tournaments or who wanted to play at clubs in other parts of the country have indicated that the STPC ratings are not always acceptable; USTA ratings are preferred. Aside from the difficulty of equating STPC and USTA ratings to determine appropriate skill levels for tournament play, attempts to arrange tennis playing opportunities at clubs located elsewhere in or out of the United States are usually easier to obtain when USTA ratings are given than when the only rating information is our STPC ratings. It seems clear that the adoption of the USTA National Rating System is desirable. A second obstacle to such a conversion was the cost of obtaining USTA ratings. The latter objection has now been eliminated.

At its February 7 meeting, the board of directors unanimously approved acceptance of the kind offer by the NWTN (Northwestern Tennis Association—the regional unit of the USTA) to provide official USTA rating verifications (NTRP ratings) for current STPC members, **at no charge**. This seems like a golden opportunity, both for the club and for the members.

All STPC members who wish to have their self-ratings verified by a "verification pro" may do so by calling the NWTN office at 612-546-0709 to register for one of their verification clinics. The clinics are offered on April 26, 1995, starting at 11:00 a.m., and on May 23, 1995, beginning at 9:00 a.m. The clinics will be held at Augsburg Park in Richfield. The NWTN will provide the courts, balls, and the verification pros. They will also have snacks and drinks available. Those who attend the clinics and have their self-ratings verified will receive a verified rating card that they can carry with them. All of this will be at no charge to our members. Anyone who passes up this opportunity may, of course, attend any of the other verification clinics offered by NWTN throughout the year, but they will be charged a fee of about \$12.

Continued on page 4



Tennis & Life Clinic announces special admission price for seniors

On Saturday, April 8, 1995, the Northwestern Tennis Association is once again hosting its annual Tennis and Life Clinic at Eagan High School in Eagan, MN. The list of clinicians at this year's event is impressive. Mr. Peter Burwash, title holder, coach and renown teaching pro will be the headliner for the event. There are over 24 topics to choose from. Perhaps you'd like to try "Building a Singles Strategy Using Your Individual Strengths" or "The Confidence Factor: How to Gain the Confidence You Need — Now!" Having trouble with your serve? Attend Marc

Continued on page 7

March 1995



Baseline

John Stecklein
STPC President

As some of you may be aware, my term as president ends in April. Therefore this will be the final issue of the *Baseline*. I hope you have found it useful in keeping abreast of club concerns and activities.

I am pleased to present the slate of new officers elected by the board at its February 7, 1995 meeting. The new officers, elected to one year terms, are:

- President: Sue Larson
- Past President: John Stecklein
- Senior Vice President: Matthew Little
- Treasurer: Jim Tornoe
- Secretary: Marilyn Erickson
- VP Membership: Charlotte Hall
- VP Newsletter/Public Relations: Alan Uhl
- VP Tennis Programs/Facilities: Charles Slocum
- VP Activities: Lee Patten

Due to the change in the by-laws last year, the historian and coordinator of lessons are no longer board directors, but are appointed positions. Emily Day and Percy Hughes have agreed to continue with those responsibilities, respectively. Because their 3-year terms as directors expire April 1, the terms for Sue Larson and John Stecklein were extended for one year by Board action.

I believe that, with Sue Larson's leadership, the club can expect an active and vital operational program for the coming year. Sue's involvement in the club goes way back to the days of charter membership, so her commitment to the club's purpose and best interests are unquestioned. Her involvement in many phases of the club's activities

give her an insight into its processes and problems that have not always been available to previous presidents. I wish Sue and the other officers much success and urge the membership to give them their full support.

Many exciting activities are on the horizon. Not all details have been worked out, but as of now, the following events will be available to club members:

1. The Northwestern section of the United States Tennis Association (the Northwestern Tennis Association, or NWTAA) has generously offered to make available to STPC members a USTA rating verification program (NTRP) *free of charge*. STPC members may register for verification clinics, which will be set up in April and May. Details are published in an article elsewhere in this issue. Our members will take their self-ratings to the clinics at which USTA "verification pros" will view their play and verify or modify the ratings, using the NTRP system. Printed cards will be given to participants to carry with them and use whenever desired. Snacks and drinks will be available. I urge all of you to take advantage of this opportunity.

2. You should have received your February issue of the *Times* in which a program for videotaping members is tentatively proposed, and members are asked to indicate their interest by returning a simple registration form. As of February 19, 15 people have signed up. We hope for many more. If enough people sign up to make the time, effort, and money worth it, we will move ahead with the program. If not, we will drop it.

3. Our April 29 Annual Meeting has been planned (see the ad opposite). Upon further discussion with the board, my intention to devote the business session to in-depth discussion of proposals considered by the STPC 2000 Committee seems to present an undesirably long program. I am therefore reconsidering and will try to find some other means by which members can make known their feelings about issues like I mentioned in my February *Baseline* column. The luncheon and speaker Jim Klobuchar, nevertheless, presents an unusually enjoyable prospect for our annual get-together. I hope you all plan to attend and will get your reservations in early.

4. As last year, awards for our hard working (and often unappreciated) captains have been authorized by the board. Details will be announced in the April issue of the *Times*.

The next board meeting is scheduled for March 14 at 1:30 at the Norwest Bank, New Brighton branch on Silver Lake Road just north of 694. Another meeting has been scheduled for April 4 at the Norwest Bank, Chicago and Nicollet Branch, at 1:00 p.m.

It has been a pleasure serving as your president. I look with pride on the things we have accomplished and the way the club has been developing. With your help, and especially your volunteer activities, the club can continue to grow — in depth and service, as well as in size — in the years to come. Thank you for your many kind remarks and support. ■

the Annual meeting

Saturday, April 29th
 Crown Sterling Suites
 175 East 10th Street
 Saint Paul
 224-5400



featured speaker
Jim Klobuchar

Entree Choices (\$12 each)...

Each entree is \$12, and includes salad, rolls and butter, dessert, and coffee, tea or milk. Your choices are:

Steak Sandwich — a broiled New York steak on grilled french bread, served with french fries and onion ring garnish,

Chicken Supreme — a sauteed breast of chicken with a mushroom cream sauce, served with blended wild rice and carrots.

Jim Klobuchar, well-known Star Tribune columnist, will talk about some of the limited joys of playing tennis encumbered by tubes, plates and the usual hardware of late-blooming McEnroes. He'll also look at some of the medical issues we all face, some serious, some amusing.

The Program...

- noon social hour with cash bar
 - 1 P.M. lunch
 - 2 P.M. Jim Klobuchar, "Getting Old Isn't for Sissies"
- The STPC business meeting will be held after Mr. Klobuchar's talk

STPC Annual Meeting			
	name	phone	chicken steak
1			
2			

Yes, I'll be there!

Send this with your check for \$12 per person, payable to STPC, to:
Mary Kaminski
 3300 East Gate Rd
 St. Anthony, MN 55418-2545
 Phone 781-3271

Continued from page 1

As a convenience, members who are interested will be given an opportunity to join the USTA leagues—adults, seniors or mixed doubles. Two of the requirements for entrance into the league programs are USTA membership and NTRP rating verification (but this opportunity to obtain a rating verification carries no obligation to join the USTA).

These NTRP ratings will only be valid for one year as far as participation in USTA sanctioned leagues is concerned, but they may be used indefinitely as recorded and verified self-rating judgments. Those who obtain rating verifications and decide to participate in league play (at least two matches) will automatically receive a computer-generated updated verification at the end of the year, which will be good for two years as far as league play is concerned, and may be used for nonleague purposes, of course.

It is not expected that all members will want to obtain NTRP rating verifications. There is no intention to make this mandatory, but it is hoped that a large proportion of the membership will take advantage of this great opportunity. Those who get their self-ratings verified will be listed in the newsletter. Since it is too late to incorporate the verifications

in our membership roster this year, they will be listed starting next year.

Players who attend a verification clinic will be asked to complete a player profile and a self-rating form (preferably using the NTRP rating system listed elsewhere in this newsletter). They will be given a short warm-up time and then be asked to play (usually doubles) for a short while. Verification pros will observe their play and a card will be given to the participants showing their verified NTRP ratings. The approximate total time involved will be one hour.

So if you want to participate, choose a location and time and call NWTa at 612-546-0709 for an appointment. Remember to identify yourself as an STPC member. You will be asked your approximate rating so that they can group players together according to ability at the clinic. Directions for getting to Augsburg Park will appear in the April issue of the *Times*.

We are grateful to the NWTa for making this generous offer and hope that the membership acknowledges this gratitude by taking full advantage of the opportunity. ■

The National Tennis Rating Program (NTRP)

General characteristics of various playing levels

1.0 This player is just starting to play tennis.

1.5 This player has limited experience and is still working primarily on getting the ball into play.

2.0 This player needs on-court experience, and has obvious stroke weaknesses, but is familiar with basic positions for singles and doubles play.

2.5 This player is learning to judge where the ball is going although court coverage is weak. This player can sustain a rally of slow pace with other players of the same ability.

3.0 This player is consistent when hitting medium paced shots, but is not comfortable with all strokes and lacks control when trying for directional intent, depth, or power.

3.5 This player has achieved improved stroke dependability and direction on moderate shots, but still lacks depth and variety. This player exhibits more aggressive net play, has improved court coverage, and is developing teamwork in doubles.

4.0 This player has dependable strokes, including directional intent and depth on both forehand and backhand sides on moderate shots, plus the ability to use lobs, overheads, approach shots, and volleys with some success. This player occasionally forces errors when servicing and teamwork in doubles is evident.

4.5 This player has begun to master the use of power and spins and is beginning to handle pace, has sound footwork, can control depth of shots and is beginning to vary tactics according to opponents. This player can hit first serves with power and accuracy and place the second serve and is able to rush net successfully. Aggressive net play is common in doubles.

5.0 This player has good shot anticipation and frequently has an outstanding shot or attribute around which a game can be structured. This player can regularly hit winners or force errors off of short balls and can put away volleys, can successfully execute lobs, dropshots, half volleys,

and overhead smashes and has good depth and spin on most second serves.

5.5 This player has developed power and/or consistency as a major weapon. This player can vary strategies and styles of play in a competitive situation and hits dependable shots in a stress situation.

6.0-7.0 These players will generally not need NTRP ratings. Rankings or past rankings will speak for themselves. The 6.0 player typically has had intensive training for national to tournament competition at the junior level and collegiate levels and has obtained a sectional and/or national ranking. The 6.5 player has a reasonable chance of succeeding at the 7.0 level and has extensive satellite tournament experience. The 7.0 is a world class player who is committed to tournament competition on the international level and whose major source of income is tournament prize winnings.

1995 Senior (Over 35) Tennis Camp Registration

The Senior Tennis Camp at River Falls, Wisconsin, will again hold five camps in July and August. The camp fees include room and meals, coaching, workshops, station drills and organized or individual play under the professional leadership of director Chuck Supplee (888-0551) head coach Connie Custodio, Lois Nordman, Ernie Greene, Brian Christensen and other pros. In addition to tennis the River Falls Campus offers volleyball, horseshoes, bocci ball, plus hiking and biking trails for your enjoyment. River Falls is also the summer practice home of the Kansas City Chiefs for interested fans.

Session prices are based on double occupancy. There is a \$3 surcharge per night for a single room. Air conditioning costs \$3.50 extra a day per room.

Registration is limited; we recommend you sign up early!

How to register: On the form below, please indicate which session(s) you will attend, preference for single or double occupancy and air conditioning. Send this registration form and a check in the amount of \$50 per person, made out to Senior Tennis Camp, as a down payment to:

Ginny Heinzen, 4746 Barbara Drive, Minnetonka, MN 55343. Phone 612-933-1613

Note: A 25% service fee on the down payment will be retained if you cancel after May 1, 1995. A 25% service fee on the full amount will be retained if you cancel after July 1, 1995. Please state on your check which camp(s) you will attend.

name #1 _____ phone _____
 name #2 _____ phone _____
 address _____
 city, state, zip _____

<u>session</u>	<u>dates</u>	<u>days</u>	<u>\$ each</u>	<u>double</u>	<u>single</u>	<u>air condng</u>
1	July 24-27	4	\$210	_____	_____	_____
2	July 28-30	3	\$165	_____	_____	_____
3	July 31-Aug 3	4	\$210	_____	_____	_____
4	Aug 4-6	3	\$165	_____	_____	_____
5	Aug 7-11	5	\$240	_____	_____	_____

Waiver and Indemnity Agreement

Acceptance of my entry in these events is without responsibility of any kind by Senior Tennis Camp. I do hereby for and on behalf of myself and my heirs and legal representatives release and forever discharge the Senior Tennis Camp and Staff from any and all claims, demands and injuries, howsoever arising, and all such claims are hereby waived and released, and I covenant not to sue.

In agreement: signature _____ date _____
 signature _____ date _____

Captain's corner

Chuck Slocum

Believe it or not, it will soon be time to play outdoors. We will have our outdoor schedules ready, with your cooperation, in the April issue of the *Times*.

Please check now with the various facilities which we have used in the past, and reserve playing time for the outdoor season. I will be calling you to verify the schedules, or you can call me at 941-4059 to furnish the information. We are counting on the usual standby volunteers to help us get this schedule ready for publication and use. Put this item on your calendar. You know the only way STPC works is that everyone pitches in and helps. Thanks in advance! ■

Flagship & Richfield NW need players

Regulars and substitutes of 3.0-3.5 level are needed for play on Thursdays, 7-9 A.M. at Flagship in Eden Prairie, and on Mondays, 7-9 A.M. at Richfield NW. Call Florence Habegger at 869-7918 or Chuck Slocum at 941-4059 if you would like to play. ■

Decathlon looking for players

Players are wanted (regular or substitute) at Decathlon on Thursdays, 11 A.M. to 1 P.M. Call captain Harley Wishart at 894-4523, or Gene Gibson at 455-0122. *Exercise!* ■

Schedule change

Bernard Ackerson is no longer serving as captain at Dayona on Tuesdays. ■

Tennis Tips by Ernie Greene

Hitting Shallow

Problem: A very common tactical error is unintentionally hitting short balls — shots that land near or just past the service line. The short ball is the nemesis of all would-be club champions. Depth in the ground strokes is necessary to keep your opponent away from the net.

Many players try to gain depth on their shots by hitting the ball harder. Hitting harder isn't the answer. The usual result of this is a few more errors, causing you to ease up in order to keep the ball in play.

Solution: Avoid skimming the net without very good reason. On some passing shots and angled touch shots, yes — but these are relatively few cases. If you have the tendency to skim the net, raise your aim point to 4-5 feet above the net and you will accomplish three things. 1) You will decrease the number of balls hit into the net. 2) You will be getting depth on the ball. 3) You will keep your opponent from coming to the net on you.

To advance to the next level of excellence, you must work on depth and control in your ground strokes. These qualities are far more important than sheer pace and power. ■

1994 Senior Tennis Players Club Financial Statement

The 1994 STPC financial statement was prepared by Bob Metcalf, STPC Senior Vice President.

Income

dues	\$26,200
interest & misc.....	2,836
Total Income	\$29,036

Expenses

newsletter	11,616
lessons	7,375
office expense	1,659
special events	(777)
awards	666
public relations	735
insurance	1,095
Total Expenses	\$22,370

Net Income

	\$6,666
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Total Assets

	\$43,795
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Congratulations

The latest STPC member to complete twelve lessons are:

Bill Bixby, Rosemary Bixby, Polly Thiel

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

Continued from page 1

Miller's "The Serve and Return." This popular presentation, which Marc has conducted in years past, draws standing room only!

The Tennis and Life Clinic has something valuable to give to all players at all levels. And, for 1995, we have a special offer just for you, the senior player!

This year, the NWTa would like to make an exclusive offer to the members of the Senior Tennis Players Club. The normal admission price for seniors (50 years of age and older) is \$20. *For club members only*, this will be reduced to just \$12!! Have any other questions? Call the NWTa office at 546-0709. A registration blank is provided below for your convenience. ■

A thank you from Ernie Greene

Dear Senior Players: I and the kids in the St. Paul Urban Tennis Program thank you for the tennis balls. We found them to be in excellent condition for used balls.

We want each and every one of you in Glen Gulliksen's and Don Bratt's Monday group, and Dennis Christenson's Wednesday group at the Nicollet Tennis Center, and Firmin Alexander's Friday group at Wooddale Rec Center, and also Dick Pratt, who collected and delivered them, to know that we really appreciate what you're doing for us. It has been said, "No one was ever rewarded for what he received — honor is the reward, for what he gave." Gentlemen, the honor is yours. Again, our heartfelt thanks to you all.

Sincerely, Ernie Greene, Coordinator of St. Paul Urban Tennis Program ■

Correction

We regret that we published an incorrect fee for Connie Custodio's Friday drills at Northland North. We printed that the fee was \$7.50. **It is actually \$5.** Our apologies to Connie and his students. ■

NWTA Tennis and Life Clinic Senior Registration Form

please print

Yes! I am a member of the Senior Tennis Players Club. Please accept my reservation.
Entry fee and this form must be received by 4/1/95.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City\St\Zip _____
 Telephone _____

Admission price for STPC Members: \$12. Send check payable to NWTA and completed form to: NWTA, 5525 Cedar Lake Rd, Minneapolis, MN 55416.

Additional Feature!! Sign up at the Clinic to be a USTA member!! New individual membership specials available **clinic day only at the NWTA booth!**

One-Liner Want Ads

These free one-liner want ads are available to all STPC members. If you would like to place a free ad, call or write the Editor, Nancy Kaminski. **Your ad can only be about 50 spaces long, so be brief!**

Full or PT work—APS Sec. Officer. Chuck 888-0551.

For sale: youth racquet wide Centra. \$25. 483-2760.

VCR Repair. Wally Bahn. 431-3361.

Buy: Kodak carousels. Sell: Airequipt mags. 593-1117.

3rd Annual Hilton Head Oct. Reserve now. Marilyn, 471-9813

For sale: oak showcase 48" x 36", glass top/front. 459-6095.

BIG NAME BRANDS ..AT LOW TENNIS PRICES!



Adidas, Babolat, Balle de Match, Boast, Cycle, Darlyn Designs, Dunlop, Ellesse, Fancy Pants, Fred Perry, Gift Items, Hanasport, Head Racquets, Head Sports Wear, IXSPA, K-Swiss, Kaelin, LeCoq Sportif, Lily's of Beverly Hills, Little Miss Tennis, Nike, Penn, Prince, Sergio Tacchini, Sport Panties, Tail, Thor-Lo, Videos, Wilson, Wimbledon, Volkl, Yonex and much more....and furthermore, if you don't find it, we will special order it for you!

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Spring Fling indoor tennis party

2 hours of great tennis followed by snacks, beverages & fellowship

Northwest Health Club at Hwy 100 & France Ave North

4001 Lake Breese Ave, Brooklyn Center, 535-3571

Saturday, March 25, 1995

6-8 P.M. and 8-10 P.M.

\$10 per player, \$5 per non-player

you will be paired by skill levels or you can request your favorite partner for the first round. New partners every half hour.

Send check (payable to STPC) and reservation form to **Bill & Louise Storie**,
14220 Starlite Dr, Rogers, MN 55374. Phone 428-2052.

Reservation Form

name 1 _____ phone _____ rating _____ desiredtime _____

name 2 _____ phone _____ rating _____ desiredtime _____

amount enclosed \$ _____

**Hwy 100 & France Ave N
party, March 25, 1995**

Your 1995 Membership Roster

As you can see, your 1995 STPC Membership roster is included in this month's Times. Thanks to all you members who returned their membership renewal forms so promptly.

Verifying the renewal information, and adding all the new members, went very smoothly this year. And you all get high marks for legibility! If you've ever done masses of data entry, you'll understand the advantages of nicely printed information done in dark ink. And there was very little, shall we say, *creativity*, in filling in the blanks. For which I am also very grateful.

David Brink and I processed 1,178 individual renewal forms. My thanks go out to David, who did such a wonderful job of receiving in the renewal checks, doing the reality check on the forms, and sending huge stacks of alphabetized forms to me for input.

I'd appreciate it if you members gave the roster a final reality check. Look at your own listing and let me know if I got anything wrong. Even though I proofed it, mistakes can slip through. Call me at 781-3271 and set me straight, and I'll publish corrections next month. Not there will be any. Uh-huh. **Nancy Kaminski, editor.**

TENNIS ANYONE?

KAREN ... YOU BETTER GO IN FOR BILL ... HE SEEMS TO BE TIRING!! HE COULDN'T GET TO THOSE LAST TWO LOBS!



1994/95 Winter Schedule for New Members Lessons/Members Drills

Location	Day	Time	Fee	Instructor	Phone
Nicollet Tennis Center 4005 Nicollet Ave. Minneapolis, 825-6844	Thurs	8:30-10 am M/W, all ratings	\$1.50	Percy Hughes Ginny Owens	545-7696 546-9666
	Fri	5:30-7 pm M/W, all ratings	\$1.50	Ernie Greene	488-6359
Williston-Sagedahl Club 14509 Minnetonka Drive Minnetonka, 935-8638	Tue	5:30-7 pm M/W, all ratings	\$1.50	Connie Custodio	824-2569
Wooddale Recreation Center 2122 Wooddale Drive Woodbury, 735-6214	Mon	8-9:30 pm	\$1.50	Lois Nordman	774-3782

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 pm M/W, 1.0-2.0	\$7.50	Ted Kopren	425-5880
	Fri	9-10:30 am M/W, all ratings	\$5.00	Connie Custodio	824-2569
Decathlon Athletic Club 7800 Cedar Avenue S Bloomington	Tues	10-11 am M/W, all ratings	\$5.00	Brian Christensen	854-0322

There is a \$1.50/session court rental fee for indoor lessons and drills

New members are welcome to take 12 (or more) lessons. After 12 lessons you will receive a free can of balls, a certificate of accomplishment, and congratulations from the STPC president. *You must notify the instructor when you have completed 12 lessons!* The lessons are offered free, as part of your membership.

Members are encouraged to attend lessons and drills at any time. If your game needs improvement, here is your opportunity.

Skill rating: If you need to know your skill rating, attend one of the lessons/drills and ask the instructor to rate you. If you have any questions, call the instructor.

Senior Tennis Players Club, Inc.

A nonprofit corporation. 1988 North Wheeler St.,
Saint Paul, MN 55113. 612-644-8304

Senior Tennis Times

The *Senior Tennis Times* is published monthly by and
for the members of the Senior Tennis Players Club, Inc.

Editor

Nancy E. Kaminski, 3300 East Gate Rd., Saint Anthony, MN
55418-2545, 612-781-3271

1994-1995 Board of Directors

H. Jack Dow, Founding President	
John E. Stecklein, President	644-8304
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Nathaniel L. Watkins, Director	636-6801
Mary J. Wenz, Director	457-5347
Percy Hughes, Coordinator of Lessons	545-7696
Contributing Cartoonist	Fritz Christensen

Advertising

Send camera-ready art and payment to the editor by the
20th of the month for publication the following month. We
can create an ad for you for a \$10 fee. Ad rates are:

full page (7 x 9 in)	\$100
half page (7 x 4½ in)	\$75
quarter page (3½ x 4½ in)	\$50
eighth page (3½ x 2¼ in)	\$30
classified ad (members only, max. 4 lines)	\$15
1-line ad (members only, 45 spaces long)	free

Publication Deadline

Submit articles to the editor by the 20th of the month for publica-
tion the following month. All material submitted for publication is
subject to editing.

Address Corrections

Please notify the Editor with any address corrections.

STPC Membership

As of February 1995, STPC membership totaled 1,178.
March 1995: Volume 8, Number 3

Senior Tennis Times
3300 East Gate Rd.
St. Anthony, MN 55418-2545

Address Correction Requested

March 1995

Nonprofit Organization US Postage PAID Minneapolis, MN Permit No. 3270
