

# Senior Tennis TIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE SENIOR TENNIS PLAYERS CLUB, INC.

JANUARY 1997

## 1997 RENEWALS PROCEEDING NICELY

by Nancy Kaminski, Renewal Central

STPC members are renewing for 1997 in droves! To date, we have received over 1,100 replies to the invoice sent out the first week of December.

If you haven't returned your invoice with your 1997 dues, do so now! Just pop that check and the invoice with your corrections marked on it (and please, don't cut it apart—we want to see the entire sheet) into an envelope and mail it to Nancy Kaminski, 3300 East Gate Rd, Saint Anthony, MN, 55418-2545.

If you want to be included in the 1997 membership roster, we must receive your renewal by February 1, 1997. So act now! ■

## BONUS DRIVE A BIG SUCCESS

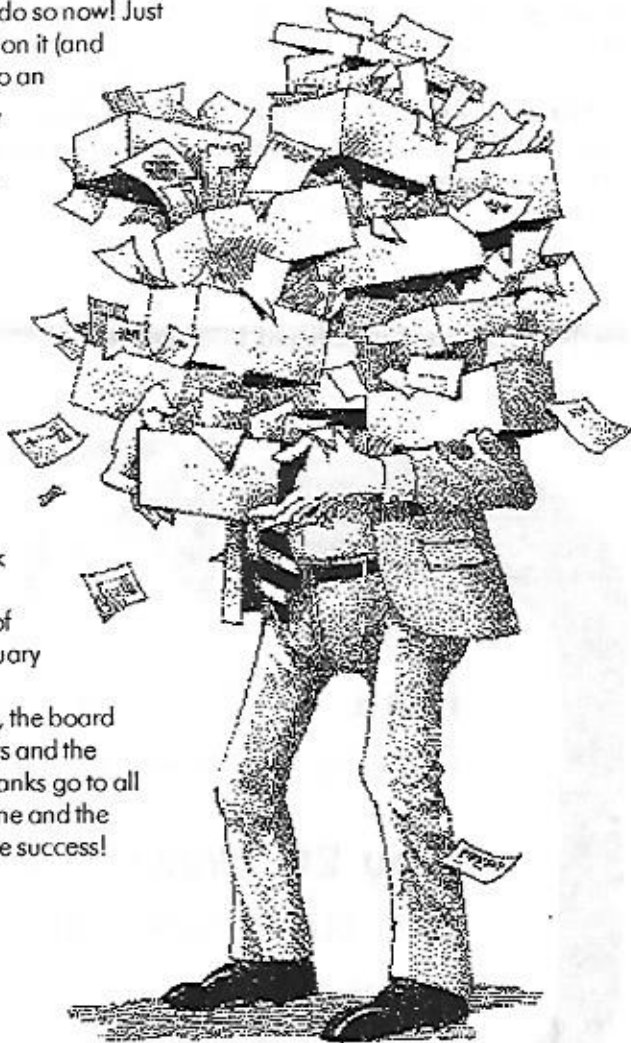
by Grayce Aberle, Membership Chair

The Membership Recruitment Campaign Committee, chaired by Grayce Aberle with members Sue Larson, Bob Tischbein, Char Hall and Chuck Slocum, with assistants Jack Wallin, Dick Lidstone and Marv Schneider, wants to thank everyone who responded to the membership drive. Because of you all, we have reached our goal of 1,700 members by January 1, 1997!

Thanks go to the STPC members who referred their friends, the board members who were asked to recruit two or more new members and the captains who were asked to recruit one new member. And thanks go to all our new members who responded to the ads in the Star Tribune and the Pioneer Press. You all helped to make our bonus drive a huge success!

Thanks again—you sure made me look good! ■

**Important!** This will be your **last issue** unless you renew your membership! **Act now!**



## Ad In

by Sue Larson, STPC President

On this snowy, wintry, blustery day I am tied close to the home front. To add to the situation, I am joining those many, many others with a drippy nose, sore throat, etc. However, my Puritan ethics insists that I finish a few tasks before I can settle down with a warm, sudsy bath and my Margaret Atwood book, "Alias Grace."

First task was to complete my New Year resolutions, but the list was so long I temporarily gave up.

Now what can I share with you about Senior Tennis' future plans? Well, not very much, because my watch is about over and I have had my chance. If elected by the board, I

will continue for this year as a board member. My greatest interest is in defining the nomination process enabling board members, regular members, the chair of the Nominating Committee and the President to work as a team. I have thought that since we are a membership organization, why not have the final election of new board members and officers take place at the annual meeting? What do you think?

Remember, you are invited to our regular monthly board meetings. Call Al Uhl for the place, date and time. Action at the board meetings is far better than the evening sitcoms. No rubber stamp board here! We have a group of intelligent people who have as their goal to continue to make STPC the very best tennis club for seniors.

May you accomplish all your New Year resolutions and have a tennis year of many aces! ■

## ERNIE GREENE TO BE INDUCTED INTO NWT A HALL OF FAME

Ernie Greene will be inducted into the Northwest Tennis Association's Tennis Hall of Fame at the NWT A Hall of Fame Banquet on January 25, 1997. U.S. Davis Cup coach Tom Gullikson will be the featured speaker. A casino party will follow the banquet, with proceeds going to the Tim and Tom Gullikson Foundation.

For schedules or ticket information, call the NWT A office at 546-0709. ■

## Upcoming Events!

**April 19:** STPC Annual Meeting and Luncheon, Bandanna Square, Saint Paul

**May 20:** Annual John Bolger Tennis Clinic and Luncheon, Nicollet Tennis Center

# Presidents' Day Tennis Party

**Hiway 100 North France Racquet  
Swim and Health Club  
4001 Lake Breeze Avenue, Brooklyn Center**

**Saturday, February 15, 1997**

- Play 5-7 pm or 7-9 pm. Players matched by skill for the first round. Rotation every half hour, based on win/loss. Partners not needed to attend!
- Cost: \$10 for players, \$5 for nonplayers. All players must be a member of STPC.
- Light meal follows play.
- Registration deadline: Monday, February 10.

## President's Day Tennis Party

Send this reservation form with your check for \$10 per player, \$5 per nonplayer, made out to STPC, to:

**Chuck and Mary Wenz  
1296 Charlton St  
West Saint Paul, MN 55118**

For more information, call Chuck or Mary at 457-5347.

Player #1: Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Rating \_\_\_\_\_ Time (5 or 7) \_\_\_\_\_

Player #2: Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Rating \_\_\_\_\_ Time (5 or 7) \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be willing to serve on the tennis party planning committee for the next indoor season?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

## Tip o' the Month

### Improving Your Stroke

It is essential to join each of the key features of the service stroke into a fluent, powerful movement. Preparation for the swing at the ball includes taking the racket back and lifting it into the throwing position between your shoulder blades as you toss the ball. Keep your hitting elbow high and your arm and racket away from your body.

This is the trigger for the hitting thrust at the ball, shown right. As the racket head approaches the ball it must gather maximum speed with legs, shoulders, hitting arm and wrist all playing their parts.

- A. Hitting platform.** Push your front hip forwards as you move your weight over your bent front knee, stabilizing your front foot.
- B. Hitting shoulder.** The back shoulder must turn in to add its power to the hit as the racket head is thrown up to meet the ball. Turning the hitting shoulder too early or too late will waste this power.
- C. Hitting zone.** Keep your head up with your eyes on the ball. At the hit the wrist should snap forwards to present the strings to the back of the ball, with an up, through and over action.
- D. Follow through.** Let the racket arc past your left leg as your momentum carries you forwards onto your right foot which has swung through across the baseline.

*Reprinted from The Handbook of Tennis, by Paul Douglas. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1996.*



## Captains' Profiles

by George Erickson

### Bernard Ackerson

Most Senior Tennis players who prowl the Daytona and Brooklyn Center courts know Bernie Ackerson pretty well, for, until health problems recently intervened, Bernie co-captained those courts with his smiling buddy, Harvey Benson.

Bernie started life in a small farming community in Illinois called Polo, then moved on to another town near Elgin, Illinois. There he met his future wife, Marjorie, a Minnesota girl who had found work during those tough times at the Elgin watch factory. Over the years, Bernie and Marjorie, who died a few years ago, had two daughters and one son, with two of them living in the Twin Cities area and one in Kansas City.

According to Bernie, "I started tennis when I was in junior high school. At that time, tennis was considered a girl's game, and since most of the boys had to head for the farm after school to help with the milking, I hung around and played tennis with the girls." (Good move, Bernie.)

After five years as a truck driver, World War II persuaded Bernie to join the Air Force, where he served as radioman, mechanic and aerial gunnery instructor. Then, just as Bernie was about to be shipped overseas, Truman bombed Hiroshima. Faced with Bernie and the A bomb, the Japanese surrendered and Bernie's military career soon drew to a close.

Returning to college, Bernie earned a degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Minnesota. At that time, a tough job market found engineers taking work as bus drivers. Bernie finally found work with the Minneapolis Tank and Storage Company. Fortunately, the company and Bernie hit it off, and he stayed for thirty-two years.

Besides staying in touch with his children, Bernie enjoys a group called "Movin' On," a social group of widows and widowers, one of whom seems to have caught Bernie's eye. Sports, too, appealed to Bernie, and over the years, he has enjoyed football, baseball and fishing, with Mille Lacs as his favorite spot.

Because of the Ackerson's Swedish roots, husband and wife not only made a trip back to Sweden, they became involved in the Swedish Institute, which now has Bernie for its number one booster. Fortunately, Bernie's vivid descriptions of the Swedish Institute's smorgasbords came at the end of our conversation, for it's hard to talk when one's mouth is watering, and I was really glad it was time for lunch! ■

## IN MEMORIAM

**Jack Burns**, 69, of South Haven, Minnesota died December 9 of cancer. His widow, Ethel Trebil, is a lifetime member of STPC.

**Harley Gronseth**, 78, of Edina, and husband of STPC member Margaret Gronseth, died Christmas Day of pancreatic cancer. ■

## Tennis Notes

### New Courts

If there is a demand for it, we may be able to schedule two courts at North Junior High School and West Junior High School in Hopkins. The proposed times are:

Mon.: 11:30-1:30 p.m.  
Tues.: 11:30-1:30 p.m.  
7-9 p.m.  
Wed.: 1:30-3:30 p.m.  
7-9 p.m.  
Thurs.: 7:30-9:30 a.m.  
7-9 p.m.

Call Dick Lidstone at 941-4724 if you're interested in playing. ■

### Players Wanted

Players of skill level 2.0-2.5 are wanted for the Monday, 7:30-9 a.m. session at Lilydale Club. If you're interested, call Pat Palmer at 686-6780. ■

### New Courts at Nicollet

Courts are available at the Nicollet Tennis Center at 7 a.m. on weekdays for doubles play.

If you're interested, please call Percy Hughes at 831-2872 and tell him which day you'd prefer to play. ■



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### Two-Liner Want Ads

These free two-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 100 spaces long, so be brief!

**Puerto Vallarta:** Ocean-front estate, 5-bedrooms/private baths. Tennis, pool, cook, maid. \$3200/wk. 935-4578.

**Wanted.** Camp registrar for River Falls Tennis Camp. Computer desired. Join the staff! Call Chuck, 888-0551.

**AAUW** offers 3 educational programs each Mon.; and June excursions. Dues reduction now. Call 724-0313.

*Paid Advertisements*

## NEW MEMBER LESSONS AND MEMBER DRILLS

Day	Time	Who?	Cost	Skill rating	Instructor	Phone
<b>Nicollet Tennis Center</b> 4005 Nicollet Ave, Minneapolis. 825-6844.						
Mon	4:30-6 pm	MW	\$2.00	all ratings	Ernie Greene	488-6359
					Jason Sowder	966-5133
Thurs	8:30-10 am	MW	\$2.00	all ratings	Percy Hughes	545-7696
					Paul Stormo	944-6286

<b>Williston Fitness &amp; Sports</b> 14509 Minnetonka Dr, Minnetonka. 935-8638						
Tues	5:30-7 pm	MW	\$2.00	all ratings	Connie Custodio	824-2569

<b>Wooddale Recreation Center</b> 2122 Wooddale Dr, Woodbury. 735-6214						
Mon	8-9:30 pm		\$2.00		Lois Nordman	735-6214

### Private Club Drills Open to STPC Members

<b>Decathlon Athletic Club</b> 7800 Cedar Ave S, Bloomington						
Wed	9:30-10:30 am	MW	\$6.00	3.0	Brian Christensen, Chris Combs	854-0322
Fri	11:30-12:30 pm	MW	\$6.00	3.0	Brian Christensen, Chris Combs	854-0322

<b>Nicollet Tennis Center</b> 4005 Nicollet Ave, Minneapolis. Note: Phone 825-6844 no later than the day before to sign up.						
Tues	9-10 am	MW	\$5.00	3.0 and up	Rod Vaught	825-6844
Thurs	12-1 pm	MW	\$5.00	2.5-3.0	Rod Vaught	825-6844

<b>Wooddale Recreation Center</b> 2122 Wooddale Dr, Woodbury. Note: Space is limited. You must sign up.						
Wed	12-1 pm	MW	\$7.00	All levels	Lois Nordman	735-6214

There is a \$2/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. **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.

TENNIS ANYONE?

WHADAYA MEAN  
FOOT FAULT?!!





**Senior Tennis Players Club, Inc.**

A nonprofit corporation. 2888 Joppa Ave S #409, Minneapolis, MN 55416. 612-929-4673.

**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 or 612-672-6882.

E-mail: nancykam@minn.net

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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
2-line ad (members only, 50 spaces/line) .....	free

**Publication Deadline**

Submit articles to the editor by the 20th of the month for publication 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 December 1996, STPC membership totaled 1,697.

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