
SENIOR ❖ TENNIS ❖ TIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE SENIOR TENNIS PLAYERS CLUB, INC.

FEBRUARY 1998

Strategic Planning

Part 1: the Mission Statement

The first of a series of articles on STPC's strategic planning by Jim Tornoe, STPC Treasurer

Few things are easier to put off than planning for the future. Just ask a 20-year-old about retirement plans—huh?, a 40-year-old about estate planning—huh?, or a 60-year-old about “pre-arrangements,” and well, you get the idea. But thanks to Al Uhl's persistence over the past couple of years, your Board has undertaken (shudder) strategic planning.

The Board recently had a workshop to learn what strategic planning is and is not, and how we might go about the process. Most processes follow a sequence somewhat like the one below.

- Developing a mission statement;
- Identifying internal strengths and weaknesses, and external threats and opportunities;
- Articulating the specific issues to be confronted;
- Developing an action plan to resolve the issues, if possible.

In short, the process is “big picture” and concentrates on a few major concerns.

The journey of strategic planning usually starts with a debate in an attempt to identify the core purpose of an organization, the “who we are” to our members. It is not all-encompassing, nor does it describe all that we do, but it is the fundamental principle on which we are based. That's exactly what we did—we debated, argued, wheedled, cajoled, and even got irritated until we agreed on a mission statement, adopted by the Board in October, as follows:

The primary purpose of the Senior Tennis Players Club is to provide tennis playing opportunities to people 50 and older for their mental, physical, and social wellbeing.

After working through a mission statement, president Dick Lidstone appointed a Long Range Planning Committee of Shirley Pratt, Ron Liddiard, Bill Connell, with Jim Tornoe as chair. The results of this committee's discussions will be the subject of next month's article. ■



Line Calls

by **Dick Lidstone, STPC President**—First, I'd like to offer my congratulations to:

- Percy Hughes. Not only is he instrumental in directing and conducting an excellent training program, but he comes in under his 1997 budget allocation figures.
- Grayce Aberle. STPC reached its goal of 1,800 members as of December 31, 1997. Grayce did a great job spearheading the recruitment program.
- Mary Wenz and Kent Dickerman. These two did a fine job in arranging the tennis parties and keeping the cost of these activities at a better than break-even basis.

Plans for 1998 continue to progress. Carol Hall agreed to be cochair with Bev Sinniger of the annual spring luncheon, and Matt Little will once again chair the Dow Tournament. My personal thanks to these people in taking on these responsibilities.

The Senior Singles Set continues to function under Carol Curry's leadership. She still is getting calls from singles who want to be a part of the group.

Activities are on schedule and it should be another banner season.

I had a chance to play tennis on January 23, albeit as a substitute, for the first time since the end of last March, at Nicollet. It really felt good to compete, especially on a most friendly basis. During the interim I have participated in the instructional programs put on by Percy and Paul. They did everything they could to prepare me for play, except providing me with gas. I ran out of it, even though I have the tank (unfortunately) for it. My, how out of shape can one get! But it was fun. If you are physically able to play and haven't done so for one reason or another, sign up to play either on a regular basis or as a sub. I am starting back slowly but I am starting. This group I played with were great competitors but not a bunch of diehards. It really was nice. Where else can you have so much fun for so little money?

Next month we expect to announce new Board members and assignments. Stay healthy and move your bod while enjoying the fellowship and challenges! ■

1997 STPC Financial Statement

A note of thanks to Bob Metcalf, who provides accounting services to the club and prepares our quarterly and annual financial reports. We sincerely appreciate his time and efforts.—Jim Tornoe.

Income

Dues \$32,203
Interest..... 2,473
Total \$34,676

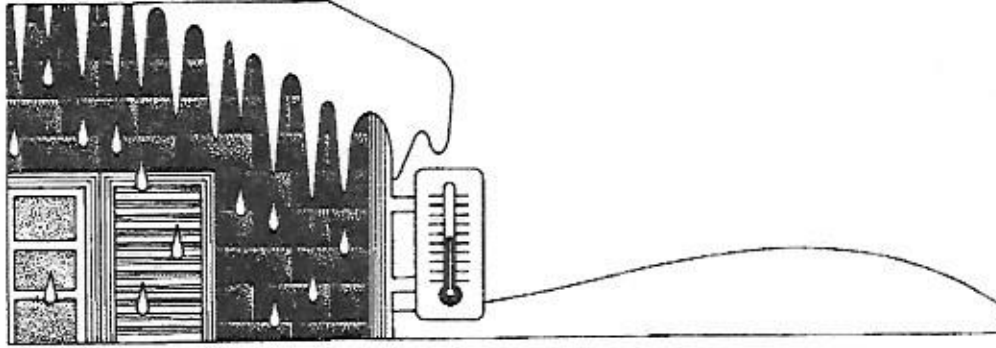
Expenses

Newsletter \$18,736 49.6%
Lessons 10,315 27.3

Special Events 879 2.3
Captain's Dinner 3,225 8.6
Administrative 4,589 12.2
Total \$37,744 100.0%

Net Income (loss)..... (\$3,065)

Net Worth
at Year End \$44,909



End O' Winter Tennis Party

Saturday, March 21, 1998

Hwy 100 North France Racquet Club

4001 Lake Breeze Avenue

Brooklyn Center

Play 5-7 p.m. or 7-9 p.m. 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 members of STPC.
 Light food and beverages follow play.

Deadline: Registration is due by Monday, March 16.
 Send your registration form and check, payable to STPC, to

Alice Mae Hilstad
2510 Vincent Ave N
Minneapolis, MN 55411
588-7047

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

Alice Mae Hilstad
2510 Vincent Ave N
Minneapolis MN 55411

For more information, call
 Alice Mae at 588-7047

| | | |
|------------|---------|--------------------|
| Player #1: | Rating | Time (5 or 7 p.m.) |
| <hr/> | | |
| Player #2: | Rating: | Time (5 or 7 p.m.) |
| <hr/> | | |

Check enclosed for \$ _____

Club Notes

New Policy Approved

At the Board of Directors meeting on January 14, 1998, the following policy was approved:

"It shall be the policy of the Senior Tennis Players Club, Inc. that all tennis and tennis-related activities shall be financially self-supporting. Exceptions must be approved by the Board." ■

Senior Single Set Events

February: Minnesota Historical Society

Garrison Keillor's out (watch for a future date) and the Minnesota Historical Society is in! Come on March 7 for gourmet food, café style. Take a short tour of the museum, and then go back to the café for coffee, dessert, and discussion. Meet us in the café at 1 p.m.

The Minnesota Historical Society is located at 345 Kellogg Boulevard West in Saint Paul. Call them at 296-6126 for directions. For more information, call Carol Curry at 920-2222. ■

Thanks!

I personally want to thank the single seniors who attended the Old Log Theatre's "Radio Days" on January 7. We had a great lunch before the play at the Macroni Grill. I would highly recommend this restaurant.—Carol Brown. ■

Captains' Corner

by Jack Wallin—'Tis the time of year when many of our players tend to move south, so as to miss the many marvels of our winter season. While this presents a problem for the indoor captains, it also represents an opportunity for many players to participate as subs.

All you have to do is find a convenient location, find the skill levels closest to your abilities, and start calling the captains listed in the indoor court schedule. Newer members are especially invited to call, as this can be a way to introduce yourself to and play with many of our fine people.

The captains don't know which of you want to play, so it is up to you to call and let them know of your availability. ■

STPC Member Shines in Women' Daytime League

Sandra Dyer, an STPC member, has been playing with the citywide Women's Daytime League. She is the number one singles player on the Gold Team, with a record of 7-0. She also plays on the doubles team.

Sandy has continued to be an outstanding player while undergoing medical treatments. Congratulations, you're an inspiration to all who know you! ■

Playing Nice: Encouraging Civility on the Courts

By Bob Tischbein—*There are rules and customs governing the playing of tennis that promote fairness and civility. Some of you might not be aware of them—after all, how many of you have read the USTA Rule Book? Here are a few "rules of the road" that are frequently violated. Look them over and mention them to your playing group if you think*

Senior Tennis Times is published monthly by the Senior Tennis Players Club, Inc.,
3300 East Gate Road, Saint Anthony, MN
55418-2545.

February 1998. Volume 11, No. 2.

they're being ignored. Playing nice makes tennis so much more enjoyable for everyone!

In doubles, when one player calls a ball out and the partner calls it good, and they do return the ball into the opponent's court, a let is authorized.

The code of the USTA says that if you call a ball out, return the shot in play to your opponent's side of the court and then immediately correct that call to good, a let is authorized and the entire point is replayed. Honest mistakes are made when you play without an umpire.

If you are outside of the court and a ball touches you before it lands out you lose the point. If you are inside the court and a ball touches you before or after the first bounce, you lose the point. ■

Save Those Balls!

Attention, Captains: Percy Hughes asks that you hold onto your used tennis balls. They will be needed next spring for tennis instruction and drills. Arrangements will be made to collect them at a later date and turn them over to Percy. ■

Free Concert

Come to a free concert by the Percy Hughes Quartet on Monday, February 16 at 7 p.m. It will be held at Edinborough Park in the Concert Bowl, 77th and York Avenue South in Edina. ■

Players Needed

Substitute players of skill levels 2.5-3.0 are needed for Friday afternoons, 1-3 p.m. at Wooddale Recreation Center. If you're interested, call Diane Lehman at 488-6147. ■

Congratulations

Congratulations to Rudi Faller, Len Maceachron, Lorraine Moore, Alverda Simcoe, Jerry Simcoe, and Don Wagner, the latest members of STPC to complete twelve lessons.

Remember to keep track of your lessons and let your instructor know when you've completed the set of twelve. ■

Spring Luncheon and Annual Meeting to be Held in May

Circle Saturday, May 2, on your calendar! That's when the STPC social event of the year, the Spring Luncheon and Annual Meeting, will take place.

Coordinator Bev Sinniger has reserved a banquet room at the Doubletree Hotel at Highway 494 and 24th Avenue South (near the Mall of America) for a sitdown luncheon. It will be preceded by a social hour, during which STPC's own Jack Wallin will play his sophisticated brand of piano.

A brief meeting will follow the luncheon to welcome the new Board members and officers, and to thank those whose term is up. Things will be capped off with entertainment (to be announced next month).

A registration form will appear in the March Tennis Times.

This is the only purely social function for our entire membership and their significant others. We encourage everyone to attend. Better yet, captains, corral your players and come as a group! We're especially eager to see new STPC members and plan a special welcome for them.

Plan to swing into Spring on this pleasant note! ■



A Few New Year's Wishes

By **Chuck Emme**—For the New Year, I hope the following wishes will be attained:

For **Dick Lidstone**, continued success as our illustrious leader; for **Mary Kaminski**, all articles for the newsletter are submitted on time; for **Jim Tornoe**, the treasury continues in the black and all the logos sell; for **Don Bratt**, may the tennis camp in Naples be sold out; for **Glen Gullikson**, that he finds partners capable of playing with him; for **Dick Pratt**, a speedy recovery and return to tennis; for **Percy Hughes**, adequate numbers of instructors for his tennis sessions; for **Grayce Aberle**, that the membership grows beyond her wildest expectations; for the **Dow Tournament**, that it becomes bigger and better than ever; for **myself**, that I continue to have partners that can hold me up, and for all **STPC members**, that all their serves be aces, their lobs drop on the baseline, and their returns are unreturnable! ■

In Memoriam

Fremont Fletcher, 77, of Edina, died on January 15 of colon cancer. He was a well-known attorney and civic activist. He held many positions in the local, national and international YMCA, and served as the president of Goodwill Industries and as a trustee of Hamline University in St. Paul. He was very active and enjoyed tennis, skiing, golf, canoeing, traveling, hiking, dancing, and bicycling. We extend our sympathies to his wife, Betty, also an STPC member, and his family. ■

We, Too, Remember Dave

No doubt you've all heard the accolades about Dave Moore. Those of use who played tennis with the team he captained at Nicollet loved this gentle, warm man, and we have missed him these many months since his surgery last May. A lifetime STPC member since 1986, he was always serious about his captain's duties. Even though he couldn't play last year, he insisted on doing the paperwork of a captain.

Dave died on January 28 at the age of 73. STPC extends deepest sympathy to Mrs. Moore, his five sons, one daughter, and three grandchildrean. ■

Coming soon...

John Bolger Tennis Clinic & Luncheon

Tuesday, May 19, 1998

**tennis—9 a.m.
luncheon—noon**



**Nicollet Tennis Center
39th and Nicollet Ave S**

**\$10 per member
\$15 per guest**

**Watch for your reservation
form in March!**

**First 72 registrants
guaranteed one hour of play.
Everyone above that will
participate in lessons only.**

STPC Member Badges For Sale

Now's your chance to purchase a Senior Tennis Players Club Member badge. These embroidered green, purple and gold badges can be attached to hats, jackets, tennis bags, or anything else you can think of! They are available to members for \$3 each, or two for \$5.

To order one, just complete this form and send it, with your check made payable to STPC, to **Bob Tischbein, 5471 Rowland Rd, Minnetonka, MN 55343.**

Name _____

Address _____

Number Ordered _____



Captains' Profiles

Vicky Stahlberg

By Carol Hall—Vicky Stahlberg isn't a captain. She isn't even a senior. But Vicky is special to every captain and player at Wooddale Rec, where she is the receptionist. We've come to expect Vicky's cheery greeting when we arrive for tennis and her kibitzing and joking afterward, as she collects our \$5.50 and serves us coffee.



Vicky Stahlberg

Friendship has flourished during these coffee klatches. Vicky has learned much about us, her "seniors." And we've discovered, sadly, that for the past eight years Vicky's been living with cancer. And that over the past year the cancer has spread unmercifully and now is terminal.

Even so, Vicky remains unfailingly upbeat, without a trace of self pity; intent on brightening our day. And this is not a pose, she is just being herself.

We treasure this remarkable woman and marvel at her courage. Yet most of us know little more about her.

Vicky was born 47 years ago in Benson, Minnesota. Her family moved to Kerkoven, Onamia and finally Minneapolis, where Vicky graduated from Roosevelt High in 1968.

She is "100% Swede," her maiden name, Johnson. Marrying young at 18, Vicky and husband Ray Stahlberg have three sons and one daughter: Jeff, 27, Melissa, 25, Jerome, 19, and Joshua, 17. They live in Cottage Grove.

Ray has worked at bowling alleys since age 15, when he was a bowling machine mechanic. Today he manages seven bowling alleys in the Twin Cities area.

Vicky's brother, her only sibling, died tragically eight years ago, killed by a drunk driver in an auto accident.

Before coming to Wooddale in 1989, Vicky worked as a secretary-receptionist for Continental Can Co. in Minneapolis and a home daycare provider. Her job at Wooddale Rec began as a fluke. Son Jeff, who worked there as a DJ for the roller

skating end of the operation, told Vicky they needed a receptionist. "They hired me sight unseen," she said. "I love it—and you seniors are one of the reasons I love it. In my condition I couldn't work anywhere else."

Vicky was diagnosed eight years ago with ocular melanoma in her left eye. Surgery and radiation stopped the growth of the tumor, which she says is the "largest ever radiated." She lost the sight in her left eye, but was otherwise okay until last year, when it was discovered that the cancer had metastasized throughout her body. Amazingly, Vicky so far has little pain.

"I have a friend with terminal cancer who is my inspiration," Vicky said. "She came to all her son's soccer games in pain. If she could do that in pain, I can keep a positive attitude without pain."

Veteran Wooddale captain Bob Western speculates, "I have always wondered whether Wooddale Rec is aware of the great ambassador of good will that Vicky is in her dealings with our seniors. There are many good reasons why we love her and pray for her."

Jeanette Busch, who commutes from Glenwood City, Wisconsin, adds, "If it wasn't for Vicky's wonderful welcome to Lorraine Dickman and me each time we came, we probably never would have kept coming, because it's a 51-mile drive one way. Vicky's one in a million—and she makes me feel that way, too."

"Vicky is Wooddale tennis," declared Bev Sinniger, a longtime player. "She creates the atmosphere for Wooddale which is warm and friendly. The whole nice feeling of playing tennis there is because of her."

Vicky's final chemotherapy treatment was last month, so she becomes even more special to us every day.

"I love you seniors, and I want to thank you for all your love and support," Vicky said. "I couldn't have gotten through the last year without you. Your gifts and flowers and your prayers and hugs mean so much to me."

It's our privilege, Vicky. Entirely our privilege. ■

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!**

Naples, FL House. 1950 ft. \$196,000 includes golf equity and tennis. Call 941-353-1143.

Naples: 1 or 2 to share 2-BR, 2-BA house, World Tennis Center, Naples. 1-6 wk, Feb, Mar. Low \$\$\$. Jim Erler, 941-403-8243.

Your Friend in Real Estate. 27 years experience. John Cummins, Counselor Realty, 566-4111.

Wanted. Single seniors interested in meeting people, play organized evening & weekend tennis. Connie, 428-2922.

For Sale. Alpine Trek exercise machine. Movement emulates cross country skiing. \$75. 731-5127.

Need a ride to the airport or doctor appointments? Airport round trip: \$25, one way \$15. Call Carol Brown, 935-9370.

Elderhostel, U of M Metro Arts. Stay at Regency Plaza Hotel or commute. March 22-27. Call 593-1117 or 624-7004.

At Tennis I'm a Novice
But at Real Estate
I'M DEFINITELY A PRO!



Make "The Right Move"
call
NANCY LINDEMAN
Burnet Realty
827-9450



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★ ★ HALF PRICE ★ ★

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and we will professionally restring it with
the string of your choice.

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New Member Lessons and Member Drills

Nicollet Tennis Center

4005 Nicollet Ave, Minneapolis. 825-6844

| | | | | | | |
|-------|------------|-----|--------|-------------|----------------|----------|
| Mon | 4:30-6 pm | M/W | \$2.00 | All Ratings | Ernie Greene | 488-6359 |
| | | | | | Dave Earlewine | 470-4041 |
| Thurs | 8:30-10 am | M/W | \$2.00 | All Ratings | Percy Hughes | 831-2872 |
| | | | | | Paul Stormo | 944-6286 |

Williston Fitness & Sports

14509 Minnetonka Dr, Minnetonka. 935-8638

| | | | | | | |
|------|-----------|-----|--------|-------------|-----------------|----------|
| Tues | 5:30-7 pm | M/W | \$2.00 | All Ratings | Connie Custodio | 824-2569 |
|------|-----------|-----|--------|-------------|-----------------|----------|

Wooddale Recreation Center

2122 Wooddale Dr, Woodbury. 735-6214

| | | | | | | |
|-----|-----------|--|--------|--|--------------|----------|
| Mon | 8-9:30 pm | | \$2.00 | | Lois Nordman | 735-6214 |
|-----|-----------|--|--------|--|--------------|----------|

Private Club Drills Open to STPC Members

Decathlon Hotel and Athletic Club

7800 Cedar Ave S, Bloomington.

| | | | | | | |
|-----|---------|-----|--------|---------|-------------|----------|
| Wed | 9-10 am | M/W | \$6.00 | 2.5-3.5 | Chris Combs | 854-7171 |
| Fri | 9-10 am | M/W | \$6.00 | 2.5-3.0 | Chris Combs | 854-7171 |

Nicollet Tennis Center

4005 Nicollet Ave, Minneapolis. Note: Phone no later than the day before to sign up.

| | | | | | | |
|------|---------|-----|--------|------------|------------|----------|
| Tues | 9-10 am | M/W | \$5.00 | 3.0 and up | Rod Vaught | 825-6844 |
|------|---------|-----|--------|------------|------------|----------|

Wooddale Recreation Center

2122 Wooddale Dr, Woodbury. Note: Space is limited. You must sign up.

| | | | | | | |
|-------|--------|-----|--------|-------------|--------------|----------|
| Thurs | 1-2 pm | M/W | \$7.00 | All Ratings | Lois Nordman | 735-6214 |
|-------|--------|-----|--------|-------------|--------------|----------|

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.

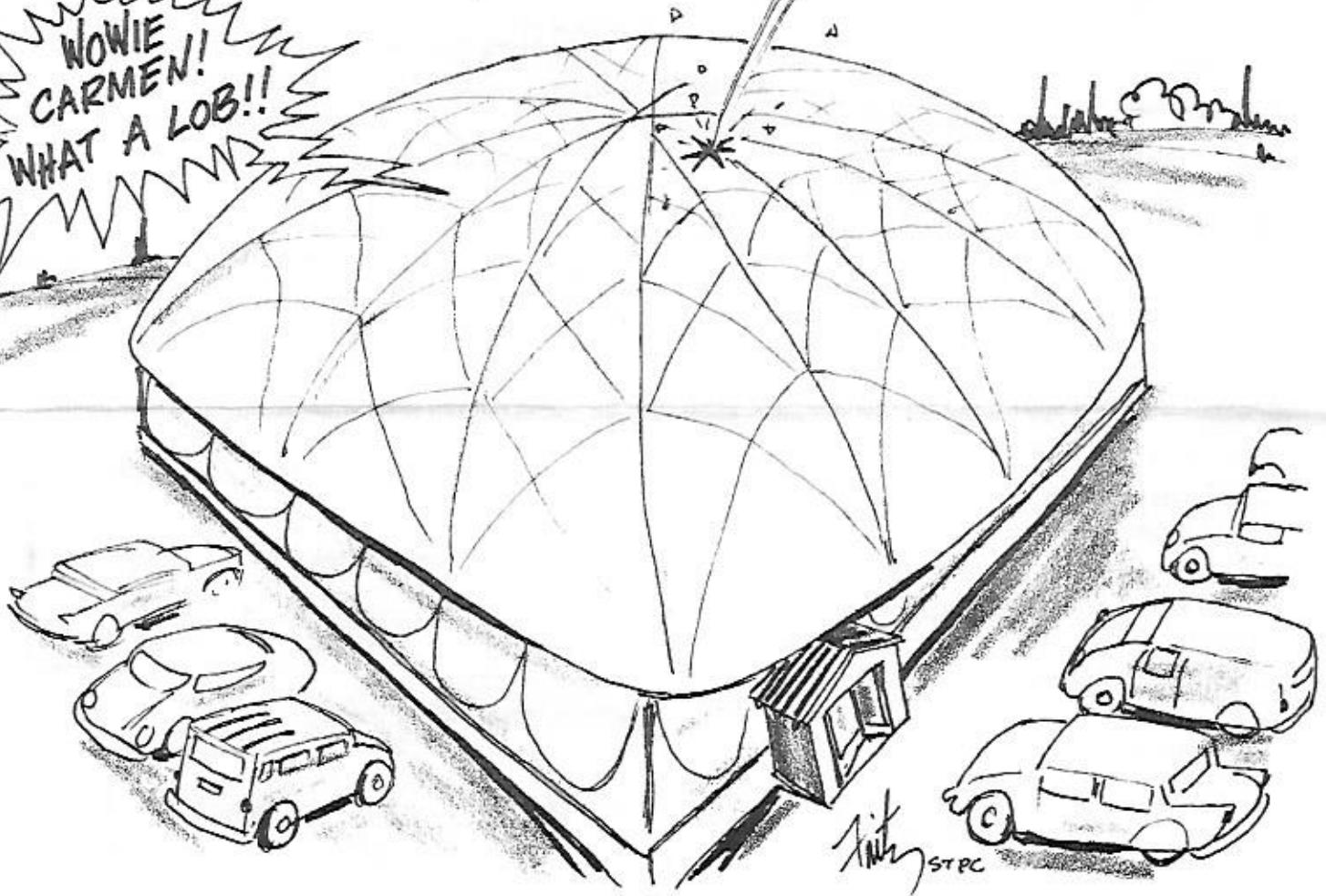
Members are encouraged to attend lessons and drills at any time. If your game needs improvement, here is your opportunity.

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.

If there are any errors or omissions in this schedule, please call Chuck Emme, 788-2824, or Jack Wallin, 457-2266, with your corrections.

TENNIS AN' LONE?

WOWIE
CARMEN!
WHAT A LOB!!



Senior Tennis Players Club, Inc.
A nonprofit corporation. 6800 Sally Ln
Edina, MN 55439 (612) 941-4724

Senior Tennis Times

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

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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 \$20 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 January 15, 1998, STPC membership totaled 1,475
February 1998: Volume 11, Number 2

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

*Published monthly by the
Senior Tennis Players Club, Inc.*

Address Correction Requested

February 1998

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