



Senior Tennis Times

Newsletter of the Senior Tennis Players Club, Inc.

April 2012

Jack Dow award

This year's winner: Rosalyn Bernstein

Rosalyn Bernstein wins the award for her many years of service to the Senior Tennis Players Club. She has been a member of STPC for 22 years and a captain for 21 of those years, joining after seeing an article in the Star Tribune and convincing her husband that they should both join (though his conversation was more along the lines of



(Continued on page 6)

Preliminary summer schedule

Captains! Check the schedule on page 11. **Report changes** to the Minneapolis or St. Paul Area Director. Final schedule in June newsletter.

Jack Dow Tennis Event

By Gary Rother, Event Director

May 7-10 is the time for the Jack Dow, with tennis and chatting with friends before and after the matches. All player skills are needed. A 2.5 player can have a 4.0 partner for a combined STPC Doubles 6.5. All players are guaranteed two matches.

The Jack Dow registration form is available on the STPC website. Direct link: www.seniortennismn.com/events.htm. This year you can fill out the application on-line, print the application, and mail in. It will make it easier to read for the director. The draws will be available Thursday, May 3, 2012 on-line or at Reed-Sweatt Family Tennis Center.

All matches are best of 3 sets with the Super Tie Breaker for the 3rd Set if necessary.

Consolation matches are for those who lose their first match of the event. If you play Monday (Doubles) or Wednesday (Mixed) and lose your first match, you will be scheduled for a consolation match on Monday (Doubles) or Wednesday (Mixed).

Tennis events

By Bob Busch

What an unbelievable year for mild winter temperatures. It was great to see the picture in our last newsletter of STPC members who played outdoors in Minnesota on January 10th, normally the coldest time of the year. As I write this column in mid-March the Twin City temps are in the 70's and I'm sure many STPC members are preparing for the Jack Dow Tournament scheduled for May 7-10 at Reed-Sweatt Family Tennis Center. Sign up with your doubles partner by sending your entry form (copy enclosed in this newsletter or on our website) directly to Gary Rother, tournament director. Gary is expecting a record turnout for this STPC annual tournament in May. If you enjoy competing and like to play on a clay surface, mark your calendar for the



(Tennis events—continued on page 5)

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P. 9: Tennis and Life Scholarships. An opportunity for worthy kids to attend Tennis and Life Camp.

P. 11: Spring/summer court schedule

P. 13: A short history of STPC.

P. 15: Billie Jean King leads gender equality in professional sports, by **Steve Wilkinson**. Interesting story by our Annual Meeting keynote speaker.



Upcoming Events

Jack Dow Tennis Event

May 7-10. Signup on page 7

Annual Meeting & Captains' Luncheon

Saturday, May 12. Signup on page 10

Grandparent/Grandchild Tennis Event

Saturday, August 11

Senior Tennis Players Club, Inc.

A nonprofit corporation, P.O. Box 5525
Hopkins, MN 55343

On the web: www.seniortennismn.com

Senior Tennis Times

The Senior Tennis Times is published ten times annually by and for the members of the Senior Tennis Players Club, Inc.

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David Sommer612-276-1313

Advertising

Send by email or USPS to the newsletter editor by the 15th of the month for publication the following month. **Please send all payments to the newsletter editor.**

Ad rates (first month/additional months):

Full page (7.5x10)..... \$165/135

Half page (7.5x4.9) 110/85

Half page on back cover 125/100

Quarter page (3.7x4.9) 70/50

Eighth page (3.7x2.4) 45/30

Business card special 30/20

Horizontal strip ads: \$55 first two inches; \$20 each additional inch. Vertical: \$75 first two inches; \$25 each add'l inch.

4-line ad (members only)\$10

2-line ad (members only) First three months: free, then \$5/issue.

Membership information changes, newsletter delivery problems, etc., can be made by writing Senior Tennis Players Club, P.O. Box 5525, Hopkins, MN 55343 or email dsommer7@usiwireless.com.

Membership total: 1286

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Letters to the editor

Editor's note: We welcome letters, and also Peeves. I invite readers to submit their own Peeves. It's OK to be peevish—anonymity protected if you wish.



Crazy people

In regard to that article by Duncan Welty:

On that same day, January 10th, it was so nice that I looked at my bike hanging from the ceiling in my garage, then took it down, pumped up the tires and went for a ten-mile bike ride.

I wanted to be able to tell my friends and relatives that I had biked ten miles in January in Minnesota. But then I've been **one-upped** by twelve people that played tennis outside on that day.

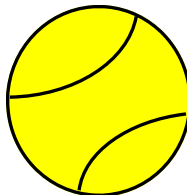
—Don Oseth

50+ PrimeTime Living Expo

USTA Northern will have an interactive tennis area at the 50+ PrimeTime Living Expo April 3-4 at Mystic Lake Casino Hotel. Show time is 9 a.m.-3 p.m. both days. We will have a 36-foot court and modified equipment to show those having a harder time getting around the court how they can keep playing tennis. See you there!

—Lisa Mushett, Director of Marketing and Communications, USTA Northern. 952-358-3282 or 612-804-4008. mushett@northern.usta.com

As a non-profit organization, the Senior Tennis Players Club gratefully accepts donations, memorials and estate gifts.



Mission Statement

The primary purpose of the STPC is to provide tennis playing opportunities to people 50 and older for their mental, physical, and social well-being; and to support the growth of tennis.

Newsletter Submissions

To help make the newsletter as correct as possible, please submit all items in writing only, by mail or email. The deadline is the 15th of the month for publication the following month. All material submitted for publication is subject to editing. Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope if you want materials returned.

Send your submissions to:

David Sommer, 3657 17th Avenue S, Minneapolis, MN 55407.

Email: dsommer7@usiwireless.com.

Opinions expressed in articles, letters or advertisements are those of the author, and do not necessarily represent views of the newsletter editor or the Board or officers of STPC.

Mark's corner

By Mark Mudra

Summer is just around the corner and again we will offer free lessons on Saturday and Sunday at noon, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at 5:30, and Tuesday and Thursday mornings. This is designed to have free lessons available to our working members and at a variety of locations and times. I will keep you in the loop as I complete the times/days/places.



The annual Hughes clinic put on by Roger Boyer and his staff at Reed Sweatt Family Tennis Center is set for June 4, 2012. This will be limited to the first 96 people. Watch my column and the web site for more details as they become available, but save that date and time 8-12 AM Monday 6/4/12.

The last free NTRP rating class of the season is Thursday 4/5/12 10:00 AM at Reed Sweatt—see our web site under Tennis Schedules for information and how to register.

The coaches concentrate on one new shot each month in our lesson program. Coaches will allocate 25% of the first class each month for review of all previous shots.

This also will help new members so they don't feel behind if they join a class mid-season in January/February for instance.

The focus for May drills is the overhead. Think target, turn, trophy position, point at contact point, and weight on front foot.

Something new: at the recent coaching convention we had a tennis fitness expert speak. So I put together a panel of experts who each month will suggest a fitness tip.

The tip for this month is drink more water. Try for the next thirty days to drink more water. Five 8 oz glasses a day is a good start. This should be on top of any water you need to replace that was lost during activities.

Try to drink at the same time each day. For example, drink 16 oz in the morning, 16 oz at lunch and 8 oz at dinner. As we age our thirst impulse is reduced, so we have to make a point of hydrating.

Lack of water will reduce your recovery time. Think water bottle before, during, and after tennis to help keep you fit.

Minnesota Senior Games: See the article on page 6!

Thank you for your support.

Mark Mudra. markmudra@aol.com or 952 833 1469.

Want ads

These two-liner want ads are available to all STPC members. Your ad is free for three issues. After that, there is a charge of \$5 per publication.



Expert Racket service. Fred Jurewicz 952-496-1018 (H); 612-250-3185. *10% STPC discount.*

Time for fall/winter project? Kitchen, bath, paint, lighting/electrical, plumbing, tile. High quality attention to detail. Home Improvement Specialist 612-710-7055, ericostergaard@yahoo.com.

Snowbirds alert! 2BR/2BA furn condo in E Blmngtn. \$1200/month (util incl). 6 mo rental. 941-778-5406

For Sale: New Reebok White Court Shoes, Size 8, \$30. Irmi Habeck 952-881-6852.

2 Greek homes 3BR 2.5BA near Nafplio. €590-€785/wk. MN owner Sally Howard 612-340-9706 for details.

Subs, 3.0-3.5 MF for play at Baseline, Fridays 9:30-11:00 AM through April. Judy Sweeney 612-866-5298.

Exercise ball, pump, instruction book. \$15 or best offer. David Sommer 612-276-1313.

Rent Villages FL. Activities for all. 2BR, 2BA, den, garage. \$1200/month Sep-Dec. Vernon 952-935-5670.

Personal Gardener—garden help in Bloom., Edina, S. Mpls., & near areas. Lee Peterson 952-270-9472.



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Thinking of making a move?
Like to know the current value of your home?
Or maybe just a real estate question?
I have been serving the Twin Cities real estate market since 1982! A senior specialist and STPC member. Your satisfaction is guaranteed. **Special discounts for STPC members!**
Joe Kampmeyer, RES Realty...651-276-7890.

●● STPC lessons and drills—September through April—All levels ●●

Some court locations are subject to change during the season. No reservations necessary.

Location	Day	Time	Skill	Cost	Instructor, Phone, Email
Reed-Sweatt Family Tennis Center 4005 Nicollet Ave S Minneapolis 612-825-6844	Mon	1:30-3:00 PM	All	\$7.00	Dilcia Pederson 612-824-6099 dilcia.pederson@innercitytennis.org
					Duncan Welty 952-933-8592 idwelty@q.com
	Thu	8:30-10:00AM	All	\$7.00	Duncan Welty 952-933-8592
					Paul Stormo 952-944-6286 pjstormo@aol.com
Fred Wells Tennis and Education Center. 100 Federal Drive, Minneapolis	Tue	12:30-2:00	All	\$7.00	Brandon Heath 612-252-8367 ext 2 brandon@fwtec.org
Williston Fitness & Sports 14509 Minnetonka Drive Minnetonka 952-939-8370	Wed	5:30-7:00PM	All	\$7.00	Duane Ryman 612-865-9517 dhrtennis40@hotmail.com
PublicIndoorTennis.Com 7833 Highway 65 N.E. Spring Lake Park, MN 55432	Tue	1:00-2:30 PM (start 1/3/2012)	All	\$7.00	Mark Mudra 952-833-1469 markmudra@aol.com
	Fri	1:00-2:30 PM	All	\$7.00	

Free or low-cost lessons* are offered as part of your STPC membership. New members are encouraged to take advantage of them.

* Lessons are free during outdoor season; they cost \$7 when indoor (to pay for court time). You may continue taking lessons as long as you are a member of the club.

●● Private Club Drills Open to STPC Members ●●

Location	Day	Cost	Time	Information
PublicIndoorTennis.com 7833 Hwy 65 N.E., Spring Lake Park	Mon	\$18	7:00-8:30 PM Two groups: 2.5-3.0 NTRP 3.0-3.5 NTRP	Call 763-231-3109 for reservation. Each group limited to six players.
Reed-Sweatt Family Tennis Center 4005 Nicollet Ave S, Minneapolis	Tue Thu	\$10.00	9:00-10:00 AM	Call 612-825-6844 for reservation.
Williston Fitness Center 14509 Minnetonka DR. Minnetonka, MN 55345	Mon	Williston member \$8, non-member \$10	3:00-4:00, 2.0-2.5	Call front desk to sign up: 952-939-8370
	Wed		8:00-9:00 am, 3.0-3.5	
	Fri		8:00-9:00 am, stroke & play	

Drills for April

Note: each month all our instructors will place greater attention on one subject. For April, **the overhead:**

- Turn—your feet must be parallel to the net
- Target: the T (intersection of service line and center line)

- Trophy position, with non-hitting arm pointing at contact area, hitting elbow tight/down, racquet tip pointed up
- Transfer weight to your front foot ASAP in swing
- Keep your chin up—don't let your head drop

(Tennis events—continued from page 1)

InnerCity Tennis Men's Northern Sectional Championships scheduled for August 11-17 at Bearpath and Interlachen Country Clubs. Keep swinging!!

Maule wins world title

Mickey Maule of Wayzata and partner Rick Leach won the ITF Seniors 40's Doubles Championship in San Diego, California in early March. Leach is a 9-time Grand Slam doubles finalist. Maule/Leach defeated top seeded Ellis Ferriera/Roger Miller 6-1, 5-7, 7-5. Ferriera is a former Australia Open doubles champion from South Africa and Mills is from the USA.

Rydberg — wheelchair professional of the year

Jon Rydberg of Oakdale and coach of the girl's tennis team at East Ridge High School was presented with the award in February by the Professional Tennis Registry (PTR). Rydberg won a doubles gold medal in the 2011 Para Pan-American Games in Mexico. He has won a number of medals over the years and has been ranked as high as #1 in the USA and #11 in the World. In 2001, he was named USTA Player of the Year. PTR is the largest organization of tennis teaching professionals with over 14,000 members in 117 countries.

Nationally-ranked top 20

The following Minnesota senior players (55 & over) were ranked nationally in the top 20 in 2011: Ruby Rott—75 singles; David Nash—65 singles (#2) and doubles; Bill & Luke Robertson (#1) Grandfather/Grandson Doubles.

BNP Paribas Open

One of the largest professional tennis tournaments in the world was played in front of thousands at Indian Wells, California in mid-March. The Men's singles final featured a rematch of the February Davis Cup match in which **John Isner** of the USA upset **Roger Federer**. However, Federer was ready and won the championship match 7-6 (7), 6-3 after defeating Rafael Nadal in the semi-final. Federer became the first player to win four BNP Paribas Open Titles. The 6' 9" Isner defeated #1-ranked and



Federer serve



Nadal return

defending champion **Novak Djokovic** in the semi-final and will gain his first top ten ranking. Isner and his doubles partner **Sam Querrey** from the USA also made it to the final in doubles but lost to **Rafael Nadal/Marc Lopez**, Spain, 6-2, 7-6 (3). In a rematch of the Australian Open Women's Singles final, #1-ranked **Victoria Azarenka**, Belarus, improved her 2012 record to 23-0 with a 6-2, 6-3 win over **Maria Sharapova**. Azarenka also defeated Sharapova in straight sets at the Australian Open and is 5-3 against Maria. In Women's Doubles, the top-seeded USA team of **Liesel Huber** and **Lisa Raymond** defeated #2 **Sania Mirza/Elena Vesnina** 6-2, 6-3 in the finals to record their fourth consecutive title and 16th straight match. Lisa Raymond won the tournament for the seventh time with her fourth different partner. She won her first title with Lindsay Davenport in 1994.



Isner serve



Azarenka serve

String tension

As senior players, we are always looking for an advantage that will put less stress on our arms and shoulders. Kristina Dells' Wall Street Journal article of March 7, 2012 reported that pro tournament racquet stringers are seeing a trend toward lower string tensions which may help relieve stress. Pro players are requesting tension levels unheard of a few years ago. String tensions are moving from 60-70 pound range with natural gut strings to the 30-40 pound range for synthetic strings. Rochester's Bethanie Mattek-Sands strings her racquets at 38-40 pounds. Bethanie was the only USA player to win in the Australian Open in January, with her first mixed doubles title. Loose synthetic strings keep the ball on the strings longer and provide more power and control. Roman Prokes, who strings for Andy Roddick and Caroline Wozniacki, recommends that players decrease tension by at least 10% when switching to a poly string. Apparently, Roddick decreased his tension from the 63-64 pound range to 55-56 for play at the US Open. You may want to try synthetic strings and lower tension the next time you restring to prolong the life and durability of your arm and shoulder.

(Tennis events—continued on page 6)

(Tennis events—continued from page 5)

Gopher tennis

The **Gopher Women** improved their record to a remarkable 11-1 after a close 4-3 win at Louisiana State University in mid-March. Recent wins were recorded over Wisconsin, Missouri, North Carolina State and Wake Forest. Strong singles play has been the key to their winning record this year. **Alexa Palen**, Rochester, improved her record to 11-0 in the match against LSU.

Gopher Men won their 5th match in a row with a 5-2 upset of #39-ranked Drake in early March. Their five wins were over Arizona, DePaul, Wisconsin, Virginia Tech and Drake.

Gopher Women's Tennis		
Date	Time	Opponent
03/30/12	6:00 PM	Northwestern
04/01/12	Noon	Illinois
04/13/12	3:30 PM	Indiana
04/15/12	Noon	Purdue
04/22/12	Noon	Iowa

Gopher Men's Tennis		
Date	Time	Opponent
03/23/12	6:30 PM	Michigan State
03/25/12	Noon	Michigan
04/06/12	3:00 PM	Penn State
04/08/12	Noon	Ohio State
04/20/12	3:00 PM	Nebraska

Julian Dehn and **Rok Bonin** improved their doubles record to 8-0. Both Dehn and Bonin lost their first singles sets against Drake but then rallied to win. April will provide opportunities to see the Gophers at the Baseline Center at the U of M in Big Ten action. Mark your calendar from the schedules and plan to see the best tennis in the Twin Cities for *free*.



(Jack Dow award—continued from page 1)

“well, if you want to do it, do it”).

After over a decade of serious practice, she did make it all the way to the US Open—as a spectator. However, she did participate in the Olympics—the Minnesota Senior Olympics, where she and her partner won a silver medal in Women’s Doubles.

In STPC she prefers “behind-the-scenes” work, though she was on the Board of Directors for three of her 22 years. She has also served on various party committees, helped out with the Bolger Clinic for several years, and worked for many years on the Dow Tournament Committee—doing most of the computer work. (Her daughter insists on putting in that she did the software part.) More important, she helped out at the snack table at the tournament. Speaking of food, she has served on the Annual Luncheon Committee for the past two years.

Rosalyn thrives on all sorts of paperwork—she was in charge of the STPC renewals prior to the current renewal procedure and has assisted Ronnae Wagner with the renewal forms for the past six years. In addition to all that, she also has contributed articles to the Newsletter.

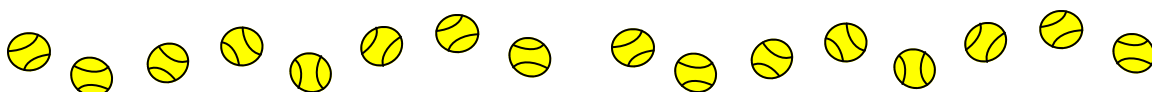
Born in Eveleth, Minnesota (she did know Steve Cannon, though not Bob Dylan), she moved to Duluth as a child. She graduated high school at the top of her class and won a full scholarship for four years to the University of Minnesota, Duluth, where she got a B.A. degree in Business and Economics. Most of her career was spent at the most exciting job of all—or at least one of the least stressful ones—Enrolled Actuary (that explains her love of paperwork).

In addition to tennis, Rosalyn volunteers at the Edina Library (which means she really knows her letters and numbers). Last year she volunteered for over 500 hours worth of work there. She’s also helped out at other tennis events now and then.

Congratulations, Roz, on your well-earned honor!

Minnesota Senior Games

The Games take place in Mankato, May 31 through June 3. To learn more, visit www.mnseniorgames.com or call 507-385-6660 for an information packet. If you have questions, several of our members have won both at the state and national level. Please contact: Ray Ranallo at ray@rdranallo.com or Mark Mudra at Markmudra@aol.com.





Senior Tennis Players Club

18th Annual Jack Dow Tennis Event

May 7-10, 2012



Registration ends: Postmark by Monday, April 23, 2012 or when division is full.

Play Location: Reed-Sweatt Family Tennis Center, 4005 Nicollet Ave. S., Minneapolis.

Time: 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM. Check-in starts at 7:45 AM each day.

Note: Men and Women Doubles **May 7-8**; Mixed Doubles **May 9-10**.

Costs: \$13 per event per person. Single Elimination (Consolation for 1st match lost).

Draws Published: Thursday, May 3, 2012 on the STPC website and posted at Reed-Sweatt. ***Reed-Sweatt staff is not responsible for incorrect times given over the phone.***

Event Director: Gary Rother, Phone: 612-724-5515, E-mail: garyrot@aol.com

Donations Needed!! Individuals or organizations.

Rules:

1. Only STPC members can participate.
2. No partner substitution after the first match begins.
3. 2011 first-place winners must move up one level for the 2012 Event.
4. Participants must play at or above their STPC ranking as in the March 2012 Roster.
5. Minimum of 3 teams to have an event. If 3 teams, only 1 team gets trophies.
6. Maximum number of teams in a division is 16 (e.g., Men Doubles 5.0 is limited to 16 teams).
7. Teams are not fully registered until both players' fees are received.
8. **No refunds after Monday, April 30, 2012.**

Find a partner on the STPC website www.seniortennismn.com. Click Events. Still need help? 2.5-3.0 players, contact Bill Kruckeberg 952-926-3397, corvette76@earthlink.net. 3.5+ players contact Jean Murdock 952-941-5362, jeanmurdock@aol.com.

Jack Dow Entry Form (Please print clearly)

Your Name: _____ * STPC Rating: _____

Phone: _____ E- Mail _____

(Example: Men 3.5 player with a Men 4.0 player = Combined STPC Men Doubles 7.5)

Combined STPC Men Doubles 5.0 ○ 5.5 ○ 6.0 ○ 6.5 ○ 7.0 ○ 7.5 ○ 8.0 ○

Combined STPC Women Doubles 5.0 ○ 5.5 ○ 6.0 ○ 6.5 ○ 7.0 ○ 7.5 ○ 8.0 ○

Combined STPC Mixed Doubles 5.0 ○ 5.5 ○ 6.0 ○ 6.5 ○ 7.0 ○ 7.5 ○ 8.0 ○

Doubles Partner's Name: _____ * STPC Rating: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Mixed Partner's Name: _____ * STPC Rating: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

*** See Rules 3 and 4.**

Need STPC Partner (list of players looking for partners will be e-mailed to you).

Send check payable to STPC and entry form to —>

Helpful hint: Cut out this name and address and attach with tape or glue to an envelope as a label. This will assure timely delivery, which may not happen with a hand-written address.

Gary Rother
 Jack Dow Tennis Event
 5208 16th Avenue South
 Minneapolis MN 55417-1814

Tennis as sport and art

By Bill Cosgrove

As I write this, Minnesota prep sports are climaxing with various playoffs and state tournaments, in the NBA “Linsanity” has broken out, March Madness is on the horizon, spring training has started, and tennis players and aficionados are between the Australian Open and the French Open. Some say these activities take us away from our more mundane, work-a-day lives because the sports world isn’t our everyday world, and it’s that very difference that appeals to us.

But I’d like to qualify and modify that difference a little. Sports may connect with our lives in more and different ways than we sometimes think. Someone once claimed in these very pages that no issues other than those of the sport itself—tennis for most of us at our age – have any place in the sport. And certainly not politics, of all things.

I suggested then, and do again now, that tennis is not a “place” separate from politics or any of the other serious undertakings of human beings. All sport activities accommodate, indeed invite, the same kind of useful exercise of our mental efforts as many other non-sport activities that we willingly give our time and effort and respect to. And they can be equally helpful and rewarding for us in ways that have nothing to do with the sport itself because they can empower and help us understand ourselves.

Just as we try to figure out the best answer when we face challenges and problems in our everyday lives, so can sports give us practice doing so by presenting facsimiles of these issues in a setting we have freely chosen and take pleasure in. How many of us have not, after doing well or ill on the court, asked ourselves “Why?” or “What the heck was *that* all about?” And then figured out a possible explanation and course of action to address it: “I need to work harder” or “Go for my shots” or “Don’t quit.” And we take our own advice because we like and value what we are doing.

What sports does, in many cases, is provide a medium for our most basic mental, psychological, emotional selves to come into play in a specific place, performing a set of somewhat ritualized actions, during a concentrated time period (9 innings, 4 quarters, 3 periods, 2 sets out of 3, 18 holes) with ourselves right in the middle of it all. Whether we shoot hoops, hit a ball, ride a bike, or run a 5K we place ourselves willingly into a mini-drama, a reduced, miniaturized version of everyday life with its basic ingredients which make up what we all go through every day of our lives—

someone, doing something, somewhere. The narrative of our lives: character, action, setting. And these can be building blocks that provide us with ways of understanding life issues beyond the sport itself.

That’s what’s most important. It’s up to us to supply the meaning, the symbolism available in the narratives we create. That’s how sports empower us. Not by making us better than non-participants at doing something (throwing, running, hitting) or at being human, for that matter, but by inviting us to find our own meaning and understanding in what we do for the concentrated time we are engaged in the sport. The multiple narratives of our ordinary lives can be “overlaid” on almost any sports activity that we can participate in actively or vicariously. And we can profitably exercise our unique ability to find meaning in these concentrated activities just as we do in our own lives.

But what does all this have to do with tennis? I suggest that tennis is one of the most mental games going of all the life-long sports, and prompts the most concentrated, chess-like thought processes when successfully applied. And when you throw in the split-second timing required many times in the course of one exchange of strokes and winning one point, well, it may be the *most* demanding of them all.

The geometry within just one exchange of strokes can be mind-bogglingly complex in placement, power, angles, spin, and direction. Then we realize that a premium is placed on being able to counteract and change the angles, spins, and placements of your opponent in a split-second with your own shot-making ability. It is a kind of art in itself.

The late David Foster Wallace, an accomplished tennis player and even more accomplished writer, has an assertion about tennis that I’ve used in earlier essays that testifies to the dizzying array of skills required of players:

“I submit,” he writes, “that tennis is the most beautiful sport there is and also the most demanding. It requires body control, hand-eye coordination, quickness, flat-out speed, endurance, and that weird mixture of caution and abandon we call courage. It also requires smarts. Just one single shot in one exchange in one point in a high-level match is a nightmare of mechanical variables.” And like any of our nightmares, we can examine it to know what it means: “In other words,” Wallace concludes, “serious tennis is a kind of art.”

(Tennis as sport and art—continued on page 9)

(Tennis as sport and art—continued from page 8)

But perhaps it's as an observer of sports where the more agile application of the idea of tennis and sports as a form of art comes in for many of us. A lot more people may watch and engage in sports than pay serious attention to the political, social, fiscal issues around them. Sports can be more interesting than, say, economic policy, and so the various narratives, and the meanings that can be "overlaid" on them, are available to more of us than they would otherwise be.

The inherent drama and unpredictability of sports events can appeal to our senses, engage our need for excitement and challenge, and provide a setting for rehearsing the kind of analysis and imaginative projecting of possibilities we use every day without even knowing it. For example, we routinely attempt to plot out our lives for the next few minutes, hours, days, weeks – we try, that is, to see and control as much as possible our individual destinies. We may call it something else – planning ahead, anticipating events, foresight. But it's using our imagination to project possibilities and prepare for them. When we lay plans for tomorrow (and tomorrow and tomorrow) for that meeting or appointment (or how we will play the next point), we are really imagining the future.

Artists have always made similar claims about our imaginative powers and exhibited them in their art. To many of them, imagination is a real ability we all have that helps us to influence in a serious way the kind of real life decisions we make. As our own Minnesota writer and 1978 National Book Award winner Tim O'Brien puts it, we "imagine our futures and then try to step into our imaginations..."

We do the same thing when we play tennis or any

sport: "He gives me a forehand return I'm gonna crush it into his backhand corner, come in, and put it away." Imagining the future—a very immediate future, yes, but the future still. When we create that future, we are creating an art form, as humble and short-lived as it may be.

In tennis this may be especially true because of its inherent drama, its unpredictability, its severe condensing of almost instantaneous jeopardy into compact form (the next few seconds), and its dizzying array of variables open to the tennis player/artist. Tennis would seem to have rapid-fire imaginings of the future snapping and crackling all over the court on a good many points due to the speed of the game. And the jeopardy surfacing in sometimes eye-popping microseconds on court can mirror those we can face in our daily lives. A new mini-narrative can be created with almost every stroke of the racket on the ball.

Maybe tennis is a sport in art form. Or art in sport form? It may be that tennis is just a form of play that humans have ritualized into something we call sport, and that some version of it, like art, developed simultaneously in other animals, as well, not just *homo sapiens*. Scientists have found forms of play throughout the animal kingdom. Understanding that, like understanding art, may help us see more expansively our world and ourselves.

Whether play, sport, or art, tennis is a kind of second skin that many of us wear over our own a few times a week. In my case, (and in the spirit of what Lincoln said when accused of being two-faced, "If I had a second face, do you think I'd be wearing this one?") any skin may be preferable to the one I'm in.

Tennis & Life scholarships

By Neal Hagberg, Director, Tennis and Life Camps at Gustavus

Do you know someone who might benefit from a TLC Karen Gibbs scholarship? Karen's inspirational life in the face of tremendous adversity set the tone for Tennis and Life camps 36 years ago. We are awarding 30-50 of these \$250 awards to kids who qualify by submitting an application by April 1. The award is based on the applicant's (1) tennis-playing accomplishments, (2) academics (B honor roll or better), (3) extracurricular activities, (4) humanitarian service, and (5) essay explaining what you hope to obtain by attending TLC.

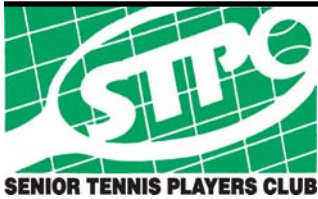
Though financial need is not a prerequisite, this can

also be a good way for someone with financial need and great motivation to be able to attend a camp that would otherwise be out of reach.

Applicants must not have yet started the ninth grade; (In other words, an 8th-grade graduate is eligible this summer). NCAA rules prohibit TLC from giving awards to high school students.

We realize that with younger students, they may not have had time to acquire a "tennis resume", so please do not let that be a deterrent. We are looking for quality kids who will make the most of the camp experience and bring the TLC message of sportsmanship, effort, and positive attitude home to their schools and teams.

To apply, go to our website www.tennisandlifecamps.org and click on **Awards and Scholarships**, then **Karen Gibbs Award**.



STPC Annual Spring Luncheon

- Captains' Recognition
- Jack Dow Trophy

Saturday, May 12, 11:00 am - 2:30 pm

Town & Country Club • 300 Mississippi River Boulevard N. • St. Paul, Minnesota

Schedule of Events

- 11:00 am Social Hour
- 12:00 pm Luncheon
- 1:00 pm Welcome, introduction of Board members, Jack Dow Trophy presentation to Roz Bernstein by David Sommer.
- 1:25 pm: Speaker: Steve Wilkinson
- 2:00 pm: Recognition of Captains
- 2:15 pm: Treasurer's report
- 2:25 pm: Closing by Fred Jurewicz

Luncheon Menu

Herb Marinated, Grilled Breast of Chicken with Lemon Risotto, served with Grilled Asparagus

OR vegetarian: *Oven-Dried Tomatoes and Grilled Vegetables, Stacked on a Portobello Mushroom Cap and Finished with a Port Wine Reduction*

Strawberry and Brie Salad with Poppyseed Vinaigrette. Warm Rolls and Butter

Dessert: Raspberry sorbet

Regular or Decaf Coffee, Hot or Iced Tea

Directions to Town & Country Club

From I94: Take the Cretin Avenue/Vandalia Street exit (exit 237) and turn south onto Cretin Avenue. Turn right onto Marshall Avenue. Turn right onto Otis Ave, then left into parking.

From south suburbs: I494 east to Hwy 5. East across river and exit to Edgumbe. Follow Edgumbe to left on St. Paul Ave, which becomes Cleveland by Ford Parkway. Cleveland to Marshall. Turn left onto Marshall. Turn right on Otis Ave. Clubhouse parking is first driveway on left.

From Minneapolis: Take Lake Street east across river. It becomes Marshall. Take left on Otis Ave (one short block from river). Clubhouse parking is first driveway on left.

Send reservation form by Monday May 7 with check for \$25 payable to STPC to:

Ronnae Wagner • 6085 Lincoln Dr #115, Edina, MN 55436 • 952-938-0374

Please call to cancel if unable to attend.
(Cancellations accepted up to **Tuesday, May 8**)

Captains: you will receive a mailed invitation—**do not use this reservation form!**

STPC Luncheon Reservation form for Non-Captains and guests only
Saturday, May 12, 11:00 am - 2:30 pm. Cost: \$25 per member or guest

Name: _____ Check for vegetarian

Name: _____ Check for vegetarian

Phone: _____

Important: *vegetarian—see menu.*

2012 Spring/Summer Court Schedule—Senior Tennis Players Club

Play is usually May-August. Check with captains for start/end dates
Up-to-date schedule is always on our website: www.seniortennismn.com

●● St. Paul Area ●●

For corrections or changes for St. Paul and suburbs call the Area Director:
Thue Rasmussen at 651-917-0075 or E-mail him at thueor32@comcast.net

Location	Day	Time	Cts	Skill	Captains	Phone
Irondale High School Long Lake Road south of Cty Rd H, New Brighton	Sat	8:30-10:30 am	4	3	Jim Vint	651-636-0071
Marthaler Park 1625 Humboldt Ave (across from Police & Fire Depts.), West St. Paul	Tue Thu Sat	9:00-11:00 am	2	2.5-3.0	Bob Class	651-699-8728
Mendota Heights Marie St, between Victoria & Lexington	Tue	7:30-9:00 am	2	2.5-3.0	Bernice Dougherty	651-454-1353
North Valley Park Hwy 52 So to 70 th , left ¼ mile Inver Grove Heights	Mon Wed Fri	8:30-10:30 am	4	2.5-3.5	Jan Machacek	651-455-5236
Roseville Middle School 15 County Rd. B2 E; Little Canada; 2 blocks E of Rice St.	Mon Wed Fri	6:30-8:30 am	8	3.0-3.5	David Howard	651-353-8564
	Mon Wed Fri	8:30-10:30 am	8	3.0-3.5	David Howard	651-353-8564
Skillman Courts, Roseville East of Cleveland on Skillman	Mon	8:00-10:00 am	4	2.5-3.0	Anne Carchedi	651-494-9050
	Wed				Lois Nedoroski	651-645-2368
	Tue Thu	8:00-10:00 am	4	3.0	Svetlana Shavzin	651-699-6891
3M Tartan Park 20 th Street N between Cty Rds 17 and 15, Lake Elmo. Enter through picnic/sports area. Follow sports complex signs to Pavilion #1.	Mon	9:00-11:00 May & Sept	6	3.0-3.5	Darlene Moynagh	651-436-8927
	Wed	8:00-10:00 am June-Aug			Sandy Barstad	651-777-7582
	Fri				Rudy Jensen	651-738-9152
Walton Park 1584 Hadley Ave N, Oakdale	Tue Thu Sat	8:00-10:00 am May 10 thru October	3	2.0-3.5	Dick Wigfield	651-983-1351
White Bear Lake High School County Rd E and McKnight Rd White Bear Lake	Wed	6:00-8:00 pm	7	3.0-3.5	Shirley Kresko After May, ask Shirley for time	651-399-9431

For corrections or changes for St. Paul and suburbs call the Area Director:
Thue Rasmussen at 651-917-0075 or E-mail him at thueor32@comcast.net

●● MINNEAPOLIS AREA ●●

For corrections or changes for Minneapolis and suburbs call the Area Director:
Jon Holmgren at 612-702-7509 or E-mail him at e_jon_holmgren@yahoo.com

Location	Day	Time	Cts	Skill	Captains	Phone
Aquila Park , St. Louis Park Not drop-in. Call Rick.	Mon	7:15-9:30 AM	5	3.5-4.0	Rick Van Doeren	952-897-3888
Augsburg Park 72 nd and Blaisdell, Richfield	Mon Wed Fri	8:00-9:30 am	5	Open	Carol Ogden	612-869-9062
Bryant Park 85 th and Bryant, Bloomington	Mon Tue	8:30-10:30 am	4	All levels	Chuck Supplee	952-884-2575
	Wed Thu				Irmi Habeck	952-881-6852
	Fri				Bill Kruckeberg	952-926-3397
Brookview Park Hwy 55 & Winnetka Ave Golden Valley	Sat	8:00-10:00 am	6	2.5 – 3.5	Gloria Kumagai	763-377-5602
					Rod Johnson	763-588-2107
Central Middle School, Eden Prairie. Technology Drive and Wallace Rd. Behind the school	Sat Sun	3:00-5:00 pm	7	3.0+	Marv Schneider	952-975-1895
Donaldson Park 75 th and Humboldt Richfield	Mon	7:00-9:00 am	4	3.0-3.5	Ann Barten	612-724-0712
	Wed					
	Fri					
Dred Scott Park West Old Shakopee Rd & Ferry Bridge Road, Bloomington	Mon thru Fri	8:00-10:00 am	5	Open	Robert Ostlund	952-934-6306
Fridley High School 61st Ave & 7th St (park behind Community Ed Building). NOTE: during June-July, play will be at the Middle School courts – north across 61 st Ave, just beyond water tower.	Tue Thu	9:00-11:00 am	6	3.0 - 4.0	Connie Metcalf	763-571-3596
Holasek Park Call first – subs may be needed	Mon	7:30-9:00 am	2	3.0-3.5 W	Libby Hargrove	952-941-1313
			2		Susan Rosenberger	952-473-7939
Holy Family School 8475 Kochia Lane, Victoria	Tue Thu	8:00-11:00 am	8	Open	Steve Nelson	952-443-2989
Kenwood Trail Middle School 19455 Kenwood Trail (Kenwood Trail & 192 nd St), Lakeville	Mon	8:30-10:30 am	4	2.0-3.0	Warren Porter	952-431-5850
	Tue	6:00-8:00 pm	4	3.0-3.5	Bruce Abrahamson	952-461-2617
	Wed	8:30-10:30 am	4	2.0-3.0	Rick Specht	952-423-5974
	Thu	8:30-10:30 am	4	3.0-3.5	Bruce Abrahamson	952-461-2617
	Fri	8:30-10:30 am	4	2.0-3.0	Warren Porter	952-431-5850
Lone Lake Park No walk-ons. Call Skip Pederson at 952-831-0684 or sapederson11@earthlink.net	Mon Tue Wed Fri	9:00-noon	4	3.0-4.0 MW	Skip Pederson	952-831-0684
Monterey Courts 36th Street and Monterey St. Louis Park	Mon Wed Fri	June-August: 9:00-11:00 am May, Sep, Oct 10:00 am-noon	2	2.5-3.0 MW	LaVerne Wilger	952-929-8120
Minnetonka Junction Park Excelsior Blvd ½ mile west of Shady Oak	Fri	8:00-10:00 am	2	3.0-3.5	Herb Bacal	612-750-8318
New Hope Park 4300 Xylon Ave N (behind swimming pool), New Hope	Mon thru Fri	8:00-10:00 am	5	2.5 – 3.5	Richard Brandt	763-533-0579 612-821-4070
Parkers Lake County Rd 6 & Niagara Lane Plymouth	Mon thru Fri	8:30-10:30 am	4	2.5 – 3.5	Ed Fischer	763-550-9770

Pershing Courts 48 th St & Chowen Ave S, Mpls	Tue	8:00-10:00 am	4	3.5-4.0 MW	Mark Mudra	952-833-1469
	Thu				Jon Holmgren	612-702-7509
Rivers Bend Park in Ramsey 14200 Waco Street	Tue Thu	9:00-11:00 am	4	2.5 – 4.0	Donna Mueller	763-421-8436
Terrace Oak Park ½ mile E of Cty 11 on Burnsville Parkway, Burnsville	Tue Wed Fri	9:00-10:30 am	2	3.0+ W	Ann Listug	952-890-9643
Valley View Park 90 th St between Nicollet and Portland, Bloomington	Mon Wed Fri	7:00-9:00 am	4	3.0+ MW	Ken Gjerde	612-827-2073
Team Tennis Organized team play at various west metro locations. Contact coordinator Marv Schneider or any of the team captains for information.	Tue	9:00-11:00 am	4	3.5+ M/W	Don Harnish	651-227-8387
					Ken Landro	763-544-9757
					Marv Schneider	952-975-1895
					Ronnae Wagner	952-938-5785
					Jon Weiss	952-220-6510
Women On Wednesday June-August team play. Courts in New Hope and Golden Valley.	Wed	9:00 am	6	2.5-3.5 W	Al Simcoe	763-315-0657
					Jane Tischbein	952-938-9348
For corrections or changes for Minneapolis and suburbs call the Area Director: Jon Holmgren at 612-702-7509 or E-mail him at e_jon_holmgren@yahoo.com						

A short history of STPC

By Dottie Gardner

In 1981-1982 Jack Dow decided to start an adventure for people over 55 (now, people over 50) to keep healthy with exercise, community involvement and a membership fee of \$10. Jack promoted lifetime memberships for \$100 for 100 people. The club was established and the first tennis pros were Percy Hughes, Ernie Greene and Virginia Morgan. In a few short years the club was incorporated as a non-profit with a membership of around 1400.

In 1987, 8% of Twin City adults played tennis and we were the #1 city for USTA sign-ups. In 1995-97, when Sue Larson was President, our membership reached an all time high of 1800 members!

In 1996 the Dow and Grandparent/Grandchild tournaments were established. In some cases, various sponsors financially supported these tournaments and the Bolger Family financed their famous clinic now

known as the Hughes Clinic.

Jack was a great PR person and never missed an opportunity to get people involved with trips to Naples, Florida, the US Open, Wimbledon, camps, social events and picnics. Lots of picture publicity from the local newspaper included many personalities who promoted tennis in this area; to name a few: Bob DeHaven, Charlie Boone, Eddie Albert, Charlie Stenvig, Don Stoltz and Don Budge.

Today our website (www.seniortennismn.com) and the Newsletter are a wonderful source of information. STPC will always welcome contributions to help with our programs. We financially support Inner City Tennis, Fred Wells Tennis and Education Center and St. Paul Urban Tennis.

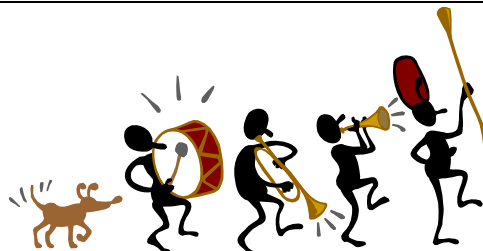
Still a “Heck of a Deal” at \$25 for a one-year membership!

Information gathered in creating the 30th Anniversary DVD, which will be shown at the Annual Meeting.

Senior Tennis Player Club

Members, follow the leader and **march** to the Annual Meeting-Spring Luncheon on May 12, 2012.

Now is the time to **march** into Spring to celebrate our Club’s 30th Anniversary! Let’s **dress up** and enjoy a lovely afternoon at the Town & Country Club. The menu is terrific, you will see many friends, and as the saying goes, “Eat, Drink and be Merry!”



How fortunate we are to have **Steve Wilkinson** as our speaker. Many of you know him from **Tennis and Life Camps**. He is a coach and teacher extraordinaire, and is retired from Gustavus Adolphus College. How can you pass up this wonderful invitation? Please **march** your reservation form (in this newsletter and online) to Ronnae Wagner by May 7th.

STPC new members, renewals, and changes

Name Rating Primary phone Other phone Address, Email, Member #

[no personal info shown on website!]

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE STEPHAN PASTIS



Billie Jean King leads gender equality in professional sports

By Steve Wilkinson

During the summer of 2011 at Wimbledon, I watched an exciting first round mixed doubles match that involved former Gustavus player Eric Butorac, now ranked among the world's top doubles players. He and Olga Govortsova from Belarus faced Mike Bryan (ranked #1 in men's doubles) and Samantha Stosur (US Open singles champion in 2011) in an ESPN televised match. Eric and Olga won 6-4, 3-6, 6-4, much to the surprise of the television commentators.

In this match and Eric/Olga's next two, I was struck by the doubles skills of all four players. Neither man was holding back or trying to be "nice" to the opposing woman. Prize money and the potential honor of a Grand Slam title motivated each player. The resulting tennis was a joy to watch.

Mixed doubles is a unique event, played mainly at the four Grand Slam tennis tournaments. Not only do the men and women professionals compete together, but they also receive equal prize money, audiences, and media attention. To my knowledge, this is unique in the professional sporting world. Nowhere else do men and women compete against each other and receive equal benefits. Professional tennis leads the sporting world in gender equality, and mixed doubles is, in my opinion, the crown jewel.

The torchbearer for gender equality in tennis has been Billie Jean King. Besides advocating equal prize money for men and women at the Grand Slam events, she is the creator and promoter of World Team Tennis (WTT), a professional summer tennis league that features coed team competition between ten American cities. The innovative format involves women's singles and doubles, men's singles and doubles, and mixed doubles. Each match is one set. The games won in each set contribute points to their team's total. After the final mixed doubles match is played, the total games won by both sides are tallied. If the leading team won the mixed doubles, the match is over. If the trailing team won the mixed doubles, then the mixed doubles competition continues until the leading team wins one more game. If the trailing team draws even, then a super breaker determines the team match outcome.

It is time for other sports to follow suit. For example, if we applied the World Team Tennis format to basketball, women could play the first third of the

game, men could play the second third, and both men and women could play the final third. Another possibility could be full mixed gender games with three women and two men on each team during the first half and three men and two women in the second half. The organizers of professional basketball would need to devise the format that works best for them.

Other sports, in which both men and women play professionally, could do the same. Volleyball, golf, hockey, soccer, cricket, rugby, etc. could create innovative and exciting formats where men and women play together and where women receive equal pay.

As of 2012 professional sports are segregated, except for tennis. The salaries, audiences, and media attention for professional women athletes pale in comparison to men, except at the Grand Slam tennis tournaments. There everything is equal, including the prize money.

The groundbreaking leadership of Billie Jean King has caused this to happen in professional tennis. She has been the leader in transforming the United States Open and the other three Grand Slam tennis tournaments into showcases for gender equality. Also, through 36 years of successful World Team Tennis leadership, King has offered a blue print for gender equality that could be duplicated in other sports.

Thanks to Billie Jean King and professional tennis for leading the way to gender equity in professional sports!

Editor's comment: Steve Wilkinson will be our speaker at the Annual Meeting in May. I'm sure he'll have much to say that will be provocative and stimulating.

A quick scan of our Fall/Winter Schedule reveals that about 2/3 of our groups include both sexes. My Baseline groups are "equal opportunity tennis,"—any set may have all men, all women, or both men and women. I think most groups are run the same way. A few groups manage to play mixed doubles (man and woman on each side). I suppose running a strictly mixed doubles group is more difficult, as the captain would have to arrange for an equal number of men and women each time.



Why are these people so happy?

Because they're at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden in southern California, taking a short break from watching the BNP Paribas Tennis Open. They saw the *final three days*, including all semi-finals and finals.

Highlights were the amazing men's semi-final matches: **John Isner** defeated **Novak Djokovicz**, and **Roger Federer** defeated **Rafael Nadal**. See Bob Busch's [Tennis events](#) column for details of the tournament.

Left to right: Louise Halverson, David Sommer, Serena Thomas, and Joan Thomas. All except Serena are STPC members.

