

KINGSTON TENNIS CLUB



SPRING NEWSLETTER - 2005

The 2004 season turned out to be one of the most successful in the KTC's 80-year history. We witnessed a dramatic 45% jump in club membership from 260 to 376 -- a level not seen in over a decade. The courts were busy with many welcome new faces in evidence, leagues, programs and socials were bustling. Junior Camps were bursting at the seams.

Why did this happen? No doubt it was due in part to a sharp cut in membership rates last year and several visible improvements which made the club more inviting. But could we also be on the verge of a new tennis boom? As longtime tennis players know, the last big tennis boom occurred in the early 1980's. Inspired by epic battles between superstars Borg, Connors, and McEnroe, thousands flocked to the game. In the ensuing years, however, tennis experienced a lull, while a certain four letter game became all the rage.



Great Tennis!

Whether this is really the beginning of a tennis new boom only time will tell. All we can say for certain is that our beautiful Napier Street facility is going stronger than ever. With more significant improvements planned (see inside), the upcoming season promises to be equally successful. Of course, our club is only as strong as its membership. As always, we need your support. If you want the KTC to continue to thrive and improve, we urge you to join, to encourage your friends to join, to volunteer for events and projects and take an active part in club activities.

Years ago, at the height of the tennis boom, we had to cut off membership at 500 -- capacity for our seven-court club. With a membership of 376, we're not at that point yet, but why take a chance? **Join early and avoid disappointment.**



P. O. Box 621
Kingston, ON K7L 4X1
Tel.: (613) 542-2467 (after April 23)
www.kingstontennisclub.com
E-mail: ktc@kingstontennisclub.com



Friendly People!

With a new wave of exciting young players on the scene -- Federer, Safin, Hewitt, Sharapova, the Williams sisters -- people are once again discovering, or rediscovering tennis. And with good reason. Tennis truly is "the sport of a lifetime" for the whole family -- the ideal way to get a great fresh air workout, spiced with fun, camaraderie and spirited competition, with no waiting for court time (or for the dawdling foursome ahead of you). And it's easy on the pocketbook. For \$240 -- less than a single round of golf at Glen Abbey -- a true tennis fanatic can play every day for six months at KTC.



Since 1924!

NEWS FLASH - NO INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP RATES!!

Last summer we introduced a dramatic reduction in membership rates across the board. With the success of this initiative in attracting new members of all ages, we have decided to hold the line for this season, and offer memberships in all categories at the **same great rates as last season**. This means, for example, that a whole family can join for \$480, a couple for \$360. **An application form is enclosed with the full rate schedule. And we still pay the GST!**

Remember, with The Landings unfortunately closed, the KTC is not just a summer club. For your money you get a Spring-Summer-Fall club, open for full service from **April 23 to Thanksgiving**. And the nets always stay up well after that, for those sensible souls who recognize that November is really the best month for outdoor tennis.

Re-instituted last year, the **EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT** proved to be very popular and is back again. The deadline is **April 15**. There will be no exceptions, except for brand new members, who may join at the Early Bird rate at any time.



More Friendly People!

Paul Ripley and Lesley Furter promote the KTC at the Recreation and Leisure Showcase at Portsmouth Olympic Harbour. Drop by our booth this year, Friday April 1, 5-9 p.m. or Saturday April 2, 9 a.m.—2 p.m.

CLUB IMPROVEMENTS KEEP ON COMING...



Reason to celebrate! The ribbon is finally cut on Court 7.

After being without it for two seasons, many members turned out to celebrate the newly completed reconstruction of Court 7 last June. This was a grand event, and even a flash thunderstorm which interrupted the pros' exhibition match couldn't dampen the festive spirit. Everyone repaired to the clubhouse to enjoy a delicious lunch (thanks to all who contributed), and watch vintage film footage from an earlier era at the club (with only Neil Neasmith recognizable among the old-timers.) Thanks to Gill for her organizational skills, and Jan Myslivecek for his great work on the court restoration.

In addition to Court 7, other significant infrastructure improvements were carried out last season. The men's locker room was completely gutted and renovated. The crumbling practice wall was re-mortared and painted. The lights were repaired and new access gates installed to allow work on Courts 4, 5 and 6. Trees were trimmed and we think most will agree that overall grounds maintenance was much improved.

Summer Employment Opportunity

Our employees are important to the success of our club, and there may be openings for Stewards this summer. Candidates should be mature and responsible individuals, with a good work ethic, willing to work independently. Duties include weeding, mowing, and the general upkeep of the courts and clubhouse, as well as manning the office, and doing simple book-keeping. The club's "front line", candidates should be outgoing, and enjoy interacting with and assisting members. Preference will be given to post secondary or final year high school students.

If interested, please send your application to:
P.O. Box 621, Kingston, ON K7L 4X1.
Attention Neil Neasmith, before March 31.

... AND COMING

More remains to be done, however. A good start was made on clubhouse painting, but it's still not finished. Rotting deck boards need to be replaced and the pergola rebuilt. The upstairs lounge floor needs repair and refinishing. And with the men's locker room now renovated, can the women's be far behind? A volunteer is still needed to update the KTC History and Champions board upstairs which has fallen woefully out of date. And gardening help is always welcome.

If you would like to help with any of the above, please let Bud or Jan know. As well, if you have other things you would like to see fixed up, or suggestions regarding anything to do with the club, please let us know or make a note on your application form. We'll do our best to act on them.

COURTS 4,5 & 6 - EVERYTHING OLD WILL BE NEW AGAIN



The Doubles League in Full Swing

The good news is that Courts 4,5 and 6 (the back courts) will be **completely resurfaced** as soon as weather permits -- by the third week of May, we hope. This is a major undertaking (budgeted at \$48,000) and we have applied for an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant to assist us with it. We previously received a \$15,000 Trillium grant for Court 7, and await the announcement (expected in early April) with optimism. Courts 4 and 5 in particular have heaved and deteriorated over the years, and three brand new, lighted courts will be a huge boon to members.

The bad news is that we will only have four usable courts at the beginning of the season, until the new ones are ready, and court availability may well be tight at certain times. (There's a possibility of putting up nets temporarily on 4, 5

and 6 until the unlined asphalt can be painted, but we're not sure about this.) We'll make every attempt to have the courts done as early as possible, and we ask for your patience in the interim. We're sure they'll be worth the wait.

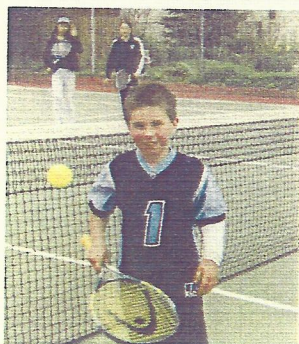
THE ONTARIO
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LA FONDATION
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JOSH LEWIS - FROM CAMPER TO CAMP DIRECTOR - TO PRO!

We're pleased to announce that **Josh Lewis** is our new club professional. First introduced to the club as a youngster in the Junior Camp, Josh went on to become a multiple club champion and OTA certified teaching pro. Now a McGill graduate, where he captained the varsity team, he has been the director of the Junior Camp for the past two summers. Josh will offer a full range of private and group lessons, run the junior program, organize tournaments -- and you may well get a chance to hit with him at club socials. Members will find Josh friendly and approachable, and an excellent teacher with fluid strokes that we'd all like to emulate -- in our dreams.



Start young!

Assisted by Andy Rogall, Josh will also oversee our highly popular **JUNIOR TENNIS AND SPORTS CAMP**. There will be 10 one-week sessions beginning June 27 and running until September 2 for kids aged five to 17 years. We offer three options:

- **Tennis Only:** 10:30am - Noon.
- **Tennis and Multi-Sport:** 9am - Noon
- **Full Day Tennis and Multi-Sport:** 9am -4pm.

Racquets are provided and all participants receive a T-shirt and a Friday barbecue. Check our web site at www.kingstontennisclub.com for further details and registration forms. Many weeks fill up quickly, so book early.



Josh Lewis

APRIL and MAY DATES TO REMEMBER

SPRING CLEANUP -- SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 10:30 am

A lot was done by a hard-working group last fall, but there's sure to be more. Bring a rake (and a racquet) and help get the leaves and winter debris off the courts and then play some tennis. We'll supply the coffee and donuts. (Rain date -- April 23.)

EARLY BIRD DEADLINE -- FRIDAY, APRIL 15

OPENING DAY -- SATURDAY, APRIL 23

KTC OPEN HOUSE -- SATURDAY, MAY 7

Introduce your friends to the club. Free clinics, round robins, prizes, program registration, BBQ and more!!

FIRST SOCIAL -- FRIDAY, MAY 20

With the return of our intrepid (dauntless and redoubtable) organizer Gill Turnbull, socials are more popular than ever. Check the bulletin board for details and sign up with the stewards.

MIXED SINGLES LEAGUE -- Starts MAY 15

Designed for players of all abilities, this is a great way to meet a variety of players at a similar level. Check the box on your application form, or sign up with the stewards.

DOUBLES LEAGUES -- Begin MAY 16

Mondays are for more competitive players, Wednesdays are for intermediates, and Fridays are for informal drop-in doubles for everyone. Just sign in when you arrive and the stewards will set up the games. All sessions at 6:30 pm.

MORNING DOUBLES

This is similar to Friday evening drop-in doubles. **TUESDAY and THURSDAY mornings, 8:30-10:30am.**

Kingston Tennis Club is a member of the *Ontario Tennis Association*



FUNDRAISING AUCTION: A TASTY SUCCESS!

Thanks to Sarah Jackson and her team, our fundraising auction was restored to its former glory and raised over \$3,000 for club improvements. In fact, it was so well attended we ran out of food! -- a problem promptly remedied with a flurry of phone calls by the unflappable Sarah. Special thanks to Justin McHenry, our wine dispenser extraordinaire, silver-tongued auctioneer Dave Corrigan and Alison Bowie for her piano stylings. Volunteers and donors will be needed to make the event even bigger and better this year, so if you'd like to help, let us know.



Bid early! Bid often!

Many Thanks to Our Generous Donors

Boiler Room Climbing Gym
 Pan Chancho Restaurant
 Tony Boston
 Moira Jackson
 Wilton Emporium
 Pam & Lesley Furter
 Spa at the Mill
 Doug Bowie
 Thousand Islands Playhouse
 Neil Neasmith
 Gill Turnbull
 Mike Barry
 Wendy Labine
 Gaul Beck
 Jan Myslivecek
 Peter Girrard
 John Eby
 Raymond & Lori Vos
 Norman MacIntosh
 Igor Kozin & Elena Personova
 George Clark
 Stan Gibson
 The Landings Golf Course
 Jennifer Brejak
 Sarah Jackson

GET THE LATEST at www.kingstontennisclub.com

Remember that our web site is continually updated, and has all the latest news and information about the KTC's programs and events, membership rates and junior camp information as well as downloadable application forms, even the local weather report. Check it out.

SPECIAL THANK-YOUS:

To Jim Martin and Assante Financial Management for their ongoing support of the KTC.

And thanks to all members who made a donation towards clubhouse repairs and painting on top of their membership fees last year. **Please note that there's a similar box for voluntary donations on this year's application form if you'd like to help out.** Any amount is appreciated and will be put to good use.



Bud Nelson congratulates our discouragingly young club champions - Lara Bogdan...



...and Ben Lewis

KTC MISSION STATEMENT

THE KINGSTON TENNIS CLUB IS A NOT-FOR-PROFIT CLUB RUN BY VOLUNTEERS FOR TENNIS LOVERS

Your KTC executive is committed to --

- providing an affordable, friendly club where new members feel welcome, old members feel at home, and people from all walks of life can enjoy healthy exercise in a community atmosphere.
- promoting recreational tennis -- "the sport of a lifetime" -- attracting new players, and raising the overall interest and participation in the game..
- encouraging and supporting the development of tennis skills for players of all ages and levels of ability.
- continually upgrading and improving our facilities -- the courts, the clubhouse, and the grounds -- while offering a full range of programs and activities.
- In short, our goal is to make the KTC the best and most enjoyable place to play (and learn) tennis in Kingston and the surrounding community.

VOLUNTEER EXECUTIVE

Bud Nelson (President)
 Doug Bowie (Vice-President)
 Gary Wilson (Secretary)
 Nancy Langevin (Treasurer)
 Lesley Furter (Publicity)
 Sarah Jackson (Fundraising)
 Igor Kozin (Webmaster)
 Jan Myslivecek (Infrastructure)
 Neil Neasmith (Stewards)
 Gill Turnbull (Social Director)

See you on the courts!