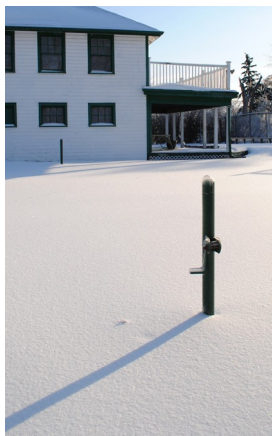


KINGSTON TENNIS CLUB

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Spring 2014

Fun and Friendship in an Outdoor Environment



From this



to this



... soon!



Social Events by Lesley Furter

It is my pleasure to be your Social Chair this season and 2014 promises to be an exciting year of social activity for new and returning members alike. We were off to an early start this past fall with the Staff and Executive Appreciation Night, held at the Toucan on November 1st as a way to thank everyone for all of their hard work in 2013.

As a new incentive for 2014, the KTC will be offering 5 tennis socials instead of 4 (two to be held in May), to

capitalize on early season enthusiasm and to allow members the opportunity to meet potential partners for the Mixed Doubles Tournament in June. The cost is \$12 per person with round robin matches starting at 5:30 pm, and dinner beginning at 7:00 pm. As always, a wide variety of cuisines, representing different flavours and cultures, will be provided.

Keep the evening of Friday, May 16th open for our inaugural social (free for new members), followed two

weeks later on May 30th by "equipment demonstration night" featuring a showcase of the latest tennis gear by Larry Howes from Racquet Science, 332 Barrie Street. A time-limited discount from Racquet Science will be offered to those who attend this special event!

A special thank you goes out to Claire Tremblay for doing a great job as past Social Chair, and to Marie and Paige Ready, Violeta Jost, Kathy Lawton, and Sam Faris, who have offered their assistance with the upcoming social events for 2014.

The Kingston Tennis Club is a non-profit club located downtown in a quiet, tree-lined neighbourhood. There are seven outdoor courts available for booking either in person, over the phone, or by using our convenient online system. We welcome members of all ages and all levels of ability, from beginner to advanced. We are a family-oriented club that provides many opportunities for young players to participate, from summer day camps to weekend skill-building sessions and youth tournaments.

Infrastructure by Rick Donaldson

It's the beginning of March and tennis season still seems a long way away! The water and power will remain off until all danger of frozen pipes has passed. Realistically this means mid-April, at which time we will be having a Spring Clean-up Day on April 12 to tidy up the courts and get the windscreens up etc. We will be looking for volunteers for this, so please consider helping.

In February, several dead trees and

broken branches hanging over our fences were removed. The tree shading the lights on Court #4 was also removed.

During the ice storm in January, the eavestrough on the front of the balcony came down and will need to be replaced once the snow is gone.

Members Ben Doornekamp and Chloe Wilson have kindly offered to solve our mud problem at Court #3. Doornekamp Construction will be volunteering their

services in the spring to install pavers at cost in front of the bleacher and at the entrance to the club.

As soon as the snow on the courts is gone, we will be putting up some of the nets and will change the winter lock back to the regular combination lock on the front gate. Same combination as last year.

Looking forward to seeing everyone soon.

President's Message by Paula Loh



Welcome to the long-awaited 2014 tennis season - our 90th anniversary since the 1924 founding of the Kingston Tennis Club. Returning members may take advantage of the early-bird membership rates until April 4; regular rates apply after this date.

The KTC has a vibrant board in place, with a combination of 6 new members and 6 incumbent members. The new board has been meeting regularly since November to plan the 2014 season with the goals of

continuing to improve our services and to build an even-stronger sense of community.

New initiatives this year include:

- a weekly **Doubles League** geared towards players new to Doubles strategy
- a **Doubles Ladder** for players of all abilities
- **after-school drop-in sessions** for junior members
- a partnership with the City of Kingston and the Ontario Tennis Association to promote our **Junior Open House** that will be held this year on our opening day of Saturday, April 26.

Our website has an updated look and now includes a Twitter feed for up-to-date information on club activities and court conditions on rainy days.

From my conversations with former club members of the 1940s and onwards, I have learned that the clubhouse used to be a hangout for

teenagers during the summer months. Youth would play tennis and card games, and hold a weekly dance upstairs! To help recapture this spirit, we encourage tween and teenage members to form their own drop-in tennis sessions during the summer months and to use the ping pong table upstairs (at the stewards' discretion).

We will once again host the Kingston and Eastern Ontario high school tennis tournaments (KASSAA & EOSSAA). All courts will be set aside for one day for each of these tournaments in May. This involvement is an important way that we can support our developing junior players.

Planning continues on our new clubhouse. Our property was assessed in September (thank you to KTC member Andrew Grace for donating his services), a required archaeological survey was submitted for review in October, and proposals were received in late-February

from several architectural firms and are currently under review. Following the selection of an architect, we will begin consultations to create an initial design for an attractive and functional clubhouse that will serve us well for many decades.

Fundraising will begin this year for the clubhouse/eighth court/extended lighting project, including an application this Fall for a Trillium Foundation Grant to cover part of the cost. We are seeking knowledgeable and energetic people to participate in the fundraising committee - please contact me with your ideas and to join in.

I would like to extend a big "thank you" to all the executive board members who volunteer a great deal of their leisure time to foster the continued growth and well-being of the KTC and the sport of tennis. Special thanks go to past president, Igor Kozin, for his enthusiasm and commitment to the club over the past three years in this position.

KTC Polo Shirts



tion Form, or in-person at the club after the opening date.

Wear your KTC pride with one of our attractive polo shirts. They are \$30 each (inclusive of HST) and available in a variety of colours. View the full selection on our website under *Services/KTC Polos*. Orders may be placed as part of your 2014 Membership Application

Tennis Ball Machine

When not in use by an instructor, our ball machine will be available for rental by members who would like to tune up their strokes. The cost is \$10 per 50-minute session (allowing time for balls to be picked up following use) and bookings may be made with the stewards up to 2 days in advance for the following off-peak times: Mon-Fri 11:30am-2:30pm; Sat, Sun and holidays 11:30am, onwards. Ball machine and court reservations are forfeited in the event of late-arrival of 10 minutes or more. The ball machine may also be used on a walk-on basis outside of these hours, subject to the availability of Courts 1 or 7.

Treasurer's Report by Taco Meuter

After several years of record growth, KTC began an expected stable respite last year, which we anticipate will persist this year and the next. To deal with the rising costs of doing business, we have had to increase our rates this year for the first time in five years, but we've been able to keep the increase under 4%. We will pay off our mortgage by the end of April as promised, four years ahead of time: a definite cause for celebration.

Last year at this time, we had indicated that we might be able to start our big new project as soon as the autumn of this year. However, to fulfill our vision for the new clubhouse, additional court, and lights over courts 2 and 3, we will

require an extra season to prudently build our resources. Doing so will enable us to realize most of the project in the 2015/2016 off-season and minimize the disruptions to our members and the neighbourhood. The bigger clubhouse, eighth court, and increased opportunities for night play will ensure that we continue to be the vibrant home of Kingston's outdoor tennis enthusiasts and the hub of our neighbourhood's recreational activities.

To help raise funds for the project, all donations submitted with membership payments will be designated specifically to it, and set aside.

History of the Kingston Tennis Club

We have received several black-and-white photographs from Marian (MacLachlan) McPherson. Marian lived with her family at 230 Willingdon Avenue when it was newly-built in the 1930s. Her father, Ian MacLachlan, was one of the original members of the Kingston Tennis Club, along with his brother, Grant (whose trophies are pictured in the 2013 Fall newsletter). Ian had a film camera and created the B&W film that can be viewed on our website. A c1935 photograph

taken of Marian and her grandmother at the corner of Willingdon Avenue and Hill Street shows in the distance the KTC clubhouse and a fence along what would become Napier Street, across then-empty fields.

Marian described another photograph, c1935, as "me wearing a large bow in my hair which Mother always made sure I was wearing as I walk across the overgrown fields to the tennis club".



2014 Tournament Schedule

June 13-15, 2014

Mixed Doubles

July 11-13, 2014

Men's & Women's Doubles

August 15-17, 2014

Men's & Women's Singles

September 6, 2014

Junior Tournament

Mixed Doubles Tournament

Members of all ages and skill levels are encouraged to participate in our first tournament of the season, *Mixed Doubles*, to be held on the weekend of June 13-15. If you need a partner, ask around at the Friday tennis socials or give your name to the stewards for their assistance. The club tournaments offer a combination of social and competitive opportunities, with fun both on and off the court.

Each team is guaranteed a minimum of three matches. The first round of play can be the most challenging one for intermediate players, as they will often be facing advanced players, but it gets easier after that as similarly-qualified players begin to be matched up for subsequent rounds (ie. winners play winners, losers play losers). The club tournaments provide fun, experience, and the opportunity to meet new people while either playing, watching, or attending the Saturday night tournament BBQ.

The KTC Volunteer Executive Board



Front Row: Lesley Furter, Claire Tremblay, Paula Loh, Chloe Wilson.

Back Row: Doug Bowie, Bud Nelson, David Stocks, John Sylvester, Taco Meuter, Rick Donaldson, Eric Davies. Absent: Igor Kozin.

Paula Loh (President)
David Stocks (VP, Staffing Coordinator)
Taco Meuter (Treasurer, Web-Editor)
Chloe Wilson (Secretary)
Rick Donaldson (Infrastructure)
Bud Nelson (Membership, IT)
Claire Tremblay (Summer Newsletters)
Lesley Furter (Social Events)
Eric Davies (Building Committee)
Doug Bowie (Member-at-Large)
John Sylvester (Member-at-Large)
Igor Kozin (Past President)

Mixed Singles Ladder by Bud Nelson

The Singles Ladder will start on May 1. You can join by either checking the box on your membership application or at any later point in the season. As the ladder heads into its third season in this format, a recurring question from participants has been why their ranking may rise (when they win), then drop again in subsequent listings. The only real movement up the ladder is brought about by winning matches against higher-ranked players. During the months of May and June there is a continuing influx of both first-time KTC members and some returning members. As first-time members are added, they are asked a few questions about their previous tennis experience in

order to 'slot' them into an appropriate level in the ladder. There is plenty of constant 'slotting-in' at varying levels, although many new ladder participants (typically new to club-play) are seldom slotted any higher than half-way up the ladder (and mainly bottom-third). This is why the further down in the ladder you are ranked, the more 'dropping' effect you're likely to experience through the first couple of months. Any time you believe that your ranking is lower than it should be, the simple solution is to keep playing and winning matches against higher-ranked people, and you will find yourself at your proper ranking well before the end of the season (and climbing

is where a lot of the fun can lie!).

Any player returning to the ladder retains their last-recorded ranking. First-time people are usually ranked about 20 spots lower than the level their answers to background questions indicate. This gives them the chance to meet players as they hopefully work their way up. The 2-match monthly minimum still applies, in order to make sure that those on the ladder are active participants. You are encouraged to make use of the 'Temporarily Out' option, or even temporarily remove your name, should you plan to not play for more than 2 weeks at a time.

The KTC singles ladder is arguably one of the best offered by any tennis club, providing game stats and real-time web results. 100 members can't be wrong!

Doubles Ladder by Taco Meuter

Following in the footsteps of our highly successful Singles Ladder, a Doubles Ladder will be introduced this year. This ladder will replace the Advanced and Intermediate Doubles Leagues, that have become somewhat sclerotic. Players of all skill levels can join and, to make it more interesting, each player can form up to three pairs of Mixed, Men's/Women's, with different partners. Join by signing up at the desk or by emailing us at ktc@kingstontennisclub.com - include the name and contact info (phone & email) for each team member.

Please see our club stewards for help in finding a partner, if you would like to participate in the Doubles Ladder but

don't have an existing partner. These partnerships can be changed as the season progresses due to injury, personality clashes, etc.

The rules are the same as those for the Singles Ladder (refer to online Ladder page). The recommended Ladder-match format for Doubles is the best of three sets in two hours of play, rather than the Singles pro-set matches that can usually be completed in one hour of play.

To get the ball flying, in May & June we will take reservations for Doubles Ladder games on Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30. See a steward to book a game in one of these blocked-off time slots.

Doubles League

New this year, Wednesday evenings will be set aside for members to play/learn in a stress-free environment. This will allow players who are new to Doubles strategy, or those who wish to gain further experience in a non-competitive environment, to build their skills and meet future Doubles partners who can potentially play games outside of the league.

Please note that all scheduled games, whether in the Singles Ladder, Doubles Ladder, or Doubles League, count as each member's daily court booking.

April/May Dates to Remember

EARLY-BIRD MEMBERSHIP DEADLINE - Friday, April 4

SPRING CLEANUP - Saturday, April 12, 10:30am

Bring a rake or pruning shears and help with getting our club cleaned up, then play some tennis. Coffee and donuts are on us. [Rain date: Sunday, April 13]

CLUB OPENING DATE - Saturday, April 26

The club officially opens and stewards will be on duty from this date. This year, our Junior Open House will be taking place on this day as part of Kingston's Get Active Month.

JUNIOR OPEN HOUSE - Saturday, April 26, 11 am-3pm

Free for kids from 5-17, members and non-members. Mini- and full-court games, contests, BBQ. Ontario Tennis Association representative on site as part of their "Raise the Net - Kids' Tennis" program. [Raindate: Sunday, April 27]

KTC OPEN HOUSE - Saturday, May 3, 10:30am-2:30pm

Bring your friends and your racquet. Free clinics, round robins, program registration, BBQ and more!! Non-members welcome.

MIXED SINGLES & DOUBLES LADDERS - Start May 1

A great way to meet players at your level. Select the Singles Ladder checkbox on your application form, and/or sign up with the stewards.

EVENING DOUBLES LEAGUE- Begins the week of May 12
Wednesdays are now for players who are new to Doubles or those seeking a non-competitive environment. Fridays are for informal drop-in Doubles for everyone. All sessions begin at 6:30pm.

MORNING DOUBLES - Similar to Friday evening drop-in doubles. Just turn up and a game will be arranged. Tuesday and Thursday mornings. See stewards for the start time.

JUNIOR DROP-INS - Tue & Thu, 3:30-4:30pm, May & June
New this year, we will be running after-school drop-in sessions for our junior members. You are welcome to bring a friend who is a non-member to introduce them to the club.

FIRST TENNIS SOCIAL - Friday, May 16, 5:30pm

Always a fun evening and a chance to make new (or renew old) acquaintances. Check at the club for details and sign up with the stewards. Free for new members. BYOB.