



KINGSTON TENNIS CLUB

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Spring 2012

Fun and Friendship in an Outdoor Environment



The Kingston Tennis Club opened its doors in 1924 and is one of the oldest sports organizations in Kingston. It is a non-profit club located downtown in a quiet, tree-lined neighbourhood. The historic wooden clubhouse contains change rooms, a casual lounge area, and the steward's office where court bookings can be made and tennis supplies, drinks and snacks can be purchased.

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. It is 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.

We host Singles, Doubles, and Mixed Doubles tournaments for competitive play and also run weekly drop-in



Mixed Doubles games for social interaction. Our Mixed Singles ladder provides an opportunity to meet new people who play at your own skill level.

We also host a Tennis Social once a month, consisting



of three rounds of Mixed Doubles followed by a themed meal and camaraderie on the clubhouse deck. All players are welcome!



Finances

Over the past several years, the club has steadily made improvements in the facilities while simultaneously making significant strides to whittle down the balance on the outstanding debentures; so much so that we anticipate being able to pay off the remaining balance by the end of September 2013, barring any unforeseen circumstances.

As we begin to turn the final page on this chapter, we are able to

look ahead to further, major improvements at the club: updating and rationalizing the layout of our facilities to enhance enjoyment of the club and to better control access to the facilities. This involves plans to build a new clubhouse on the lawn area and adding an eighth court in the existing clubhouse location in order to support our growing membership. We hope to begin that chapter as early as the Fall of 2014.

Volunteer Executive

Igor Kozin (President)
Anees Karmally (Vice President)
Taco Meuter (Treasurer & IT Support)
Elena Personova (Secretary)
Nancy Dyck (Advertising & Publicity)
Erling Armson (Infrastructure)
Bud Nelson (Membership & Leagues Coordinator)
Claire Tremblay (Social Events)
Paula Loh (Newsletter)
Doug Bowie (Past President)
Gill Turnbull (Immediate Past President)

President's Message



The days of the seemingly endless, albeit mild, winter are almost over and we all hope that soon we will be at the KTC courts to enjoy our beloved game of tennis. From last November until now, your volunteer executive has been working hard to ensure that the upcoming 89th KTC season runs in a highly-organized fashion and provides exciting athletic and social events for club members and their guests. There is so much to look forward to:

the ever-popular Mixed Doubles Leagues and Drop-in Doubles, the Mixed Singles Ladder (to be re-invigorated due to a new format!), the KTC Men's and Women's Tournaments, and the (delicious!) monthly evening Socials are some of the events, just to name a few.

I am happy to report that this season we will have two very capable tennis professionals who will offer a full range of individual and group lessons, as well as clinics for adults and juniors: Jennifer Williams will assume the responsibilities of KTC Head Pro, and Michael Stych will be our new Assistant Pro and Junior Camp Director.

The club will enter the upcoming season on a good financial footing, which will allow us to keep the membership rates largely unchanged. However, we have several infrastructure projects, which have been scheduled to take place before the club open-

ing or in early May, depending on the weather. This includes the repair of the water line under Court 7, repairs to the light fixtures damaged by high winds at Court 4, and court surface repairs/painting (Courts 1 and 7). In addition, we have begun the initial planning to erect a new KTC clubhouse.

As can be seen from all of the above, the management and improvement of the club's facilities will require not only substantial funds, but the full commitment of KTC executive board and staff and, frankly, all the help we can get from you, the KTC members.

To start with, come on out for the Spring Clean-up Day (set for Saturday, April 14th, rain date - April 21st) to get ready for the club opening on April 28th. Shrug off the winter blahs and get your tennis gear in order. Looking forward to seeing you on the courts!

Queen's Tennis

Tennis at Queen's University has not been a varsity (funded) sport for several years now. Queen's tennis players take it upon themselves to form a competitive team and join the KTC as Fall members, practising at the club during designated times.

Their captain, Nathan Terrana, extends the following message: "I want to thank you again; without the help and support from the KTC our team would never be possible."

The Queen's Tennis Team played in the OUA Team Championship in mid-November. Since the team has no funding or support from the university it cannot play throughout the regular season and was forced to enter the tournament as the number eight seed, in last place. The team had an amazing performance against the top-seeded teams, coming close to an upset - they look forward to an even more successful season for 2012!

Our New Club Pros & Stewards



Jennifer Williams

We are pleased to announce that Jennifer Williams will be returning to the Kingston Tennis Club this year in her new position as Club Professional. Over the past two years she has successfully used the Progressive Method of teaching to guide participants in be-



Michael Stych

coming proficient players and enjoying the game more quickly. Since 2005, before joining the staff of the KTC, she coached and supervised Junior Summer Camps for players aged 4-17, most recently teaching at the Ottawa Athletic Club. An ac-

complished player in her own right, she has competed both nationally and internationally. Jennifer will again be available for Private, Semi-Private and Group lessons and is looking forward to building on her first two years at the KTC.

Michael Stych will be our new Assistant Pro and director of our Junior Tennis Camp. A talented tennis player, he was the 2011 winner of the Mens Singles Tournament and the Mixed Doubles Tournament. He will also be offering lessons and junior clinics.

Our head steward will be Sam Faris, with Alyssa Brunt and Laura Hendren (full-time stewards) and Isabelle Côté (part-time).



Sam



Laura



Alyssa

New Junior Camp times approved

Several current members highlighted legitimate concerns regarding the “squeeze” on morning court availability when the summer camps start. In response to these concerns, the executive proposed revamping the Junior Camp structure as follows: camps will begin at 9:30am rather than 9:00am (before and after-camp supervision will be offered for an extra charge). Thus ALL courts (apart from possible private lessons) will be available to members until

9:30am. In addition, the camps will reduce their court usage from 9:30am to 11:30am, making two additional courts available to members. As before, during the summer camps only one court can be booked by the Club Pro(s) to provide lessons to regular members and guests. The suggested changes will significantly improve the availability of courts for regular members during morning hours, while preserving all teaching aspects of Junior Camps.

Infrastructure Update

Plans are in the works this spring to replace the water supply pipe that has been slowly leaking in the vicinity of Court 7 this past season. The leak is somewhere underground between the main connection at the road and the hookup to the clubhouse, but has proven elusive to find. The simplest and most economical solution is to sever the old pipe and install a new one using a horizontal drilling method. A hole for the new pipe will be tunnelled underneath Court 7, leaving the surface undisturbed and avoiding additional costs.

KASSAA and EOSSAA at the KTC

Each spring the KTC offers its courts for a reasonable fee to host the Kingston and Eastern Ontario secondary school tournaments. The organisers of these events (KTC members Brian Bontekoe, David Stocks and Dan Fruhling) approached the club with the request to use all the courts

for one full day during each of these events. Attendees at the 2011 AGM supported the request and voted unanimously in favour of the request. This season the KTC will be closed twice for one full day: one day for KASSAA and one day for EOSSAA.



Head Pro, Andy Rogall, ‘retires’



Andy Rogall can now play tennis year-round in the Caribbean. The beautiful island of Saba is his new home while he attends medical school there. Andy says that the tennis courts are surrounded by jungle except for one side that faces a spec-

tacular seaside cliff.

Andy served the KTC in several capacities, starting as a camp counsellor fourteen years ago and was the Club Head Pro for the past five years. We wish him well in his educational pursuits - his positive attitude and ready smile will be missed.

A tribute BBQ was held for Andy in August, where he was presented with a book filled with personal messages by many KTC members and a cash gift (also from members) to be put towards the purchase of medical school supplies. An additional gift was a poem written for Andy by Mike Byrne, read aloud at the BBQ by Mike (see poem to the right).

Ace

*Some can hit a sizzling ball, a comet into the blue,
But Andy could hit a forehand smash while at the barbeque.
With balls and burgers he was the king,
And even vegetarians his praises, they did sing!*

*His talents on the court and at the grill can't be denied,
But how many of us knew his creative side?
Punisher, Baby Face, A**monkey, were just a few,
Of the nicknames he bestowed upon you know who!*

*Tis really sad to say farewell to such a friendly face,
For he will be sorely missed and impossible to replace!
But don't despair too long dear friends,
For even though we'll miss him so,
I've been practicing all these years
And can fill his shoes as pro!*

by Mike Byrne

Singles Ladder and Doubles Leagues

The **2011 Mixed-Singles Ladder** was again well-participated, with over 80 players. (For the 2012 season, we are looking at implementing a true ladder format with individual rankings; details will follow.)

Congratulations to Luis Saez, who won the most matches during the season. Honourable mentions to Sam Faris, Danny Purdon, and Barb Lett (runners up for most matches won, in order).

The ladder can be signed up at any point during the season, with the first opportunity being the checkbox on the

application form. There is no age restriction for the singles ladder, but participants are usually 16 and older, as there are organized events for younger players.

There is a short 2-3 week session following the club's Open House, as there is usually a small influx of those that missed initial signups. Here's looking ahead to another great singles season that provides everyone with both social and competitive opportunities for their game...the best tennis in Kingston!

The **Intermediate and Advanced Doubles Leagues** were capably-run by Andy Rogall last year. Andy has moved on to academic pursuits elsewhere, so if anyone has an interest in running any of the leagues, feel free to contact Bud Nelson. He can give you details and you can then decide if it's something you'd like to try your hand at (attention, Sports Management students?!).

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



Tournaments

Congratulations to our 2011 champions!

Mixed Doubles - Larischa DeWet/Michael Stych (finalists: Danie & Erika De Wet)

Ladies Doubles - Clare Gordon/Barb Lett (finalists: Caroline Davies/Sarah Barry)

Mens Doubles - Sam Faris/James Nearing (finalists: Lawrence Choy/Martin Arh)

Ladies Singles - France Couture (finalist: Paige Ready)

Mens Singles - Michael Stych (finalist: Max Corrigan)

O55 Open Singles - Luis Saez (round-robin)



Paige Ready, France Couture



Barbara Lett, Clare Gordon



Michael Stych, Larischa DeWet

April/May Dates to Remember

EARLY-BIRD MEMBERSHIP DEADLINE - April 6

SPRING CLEANUP - Saturday, April 14, 10:30am

Bags of leaves and piles of brush were removed by a hard-working group last Fall - thanks, everyone! (we wish that more members had come out, though) - but there's always more in the Spring. Bring a rake and help get the leaves and debris off the courts and then play some tennis. Coffee and donuts are on us (Rain date - April 21).

CLUB OPENS - April 28

The club officially opens and stewards will be on duty from this date. Past experience suggests that nets will be up well before this. Members wishing to have an early start to the season are welcome to use the courts.

KTC OPEN HOUSE - Saturday, May 5

Bring your friends. Free clinics, round robins, prizes, program registration, BBQ and more!!

MIXED SINGLES LADDER - Starts May 14

A great way to meet players at your level. Arrange your

matches and move up (or down) as the season progresses. Check the box on your application form, or sign up with the stewards.

DOUBLES LEAGUES - Begin May 14

Tuesdays are for advanced players, Wednesdays are for intermediate players, and 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, 8:30-10:30am.

FIRST SOCIAL - Friday, May 18

Always a fun evening and a chance to make new (or renew old) acquaintances. This will be the inaugural event for our new social director, Claire Tremblay - check the bulletin board for details and sign up with the stewards.

JUNIOR OPEN HOUSE - Saturday, June 2, 11am-2pm

Free for kids of all ages, members and non-members. Round robins, games, contests, prizes, BBQ.