



KINGSTON TENNIS CLUB

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Spring 2013

Fun and Friendship in an Outdoor Environment



Social Events by Claire Tremblay

Welcome new and returning members to the wonderful world of tennis! Such a civilized sport full of variety and beauty, power and flexibility, where one is constantly challenged to make split-second decisions, where all sorts of temperaments are on display as players berate themselves for missed shots, where laughter and camaraderie is also found, where if you work hard enough you may take delight in the winter fat melting off your body

and where you see familiar faces as people keep coming back for more tennis ... YES!

I look forward to all this and more. I look forward to the warm summer days and participating in the doubles leagues, the singles ladder and the tournaments! I look forward to seeing the next generation of tennis enthusiasts out on the courts threatening to "crush their opponents like a grape". I look forward to the monthly social events and I welcome

your input regarding food and activities. I look forward to greeting our gracious and cheerful stewards as they keep our club and its grounds tidy and organized. And I'd like to thank the Executive for their volunteer hours throughout the season and off-season. You rock!

Remember: KTC is YOUR club! Help us make it work: keeping it friendly, keeping it affordable and accessible, and keeping it a fun place to be a proud member of.

"Clarapova"

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. 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.

Infrastructure Project - Clubhouse and Courts

A special membership meeting was held on November 14, 2012, to vote on the motion put forth at the October AGM regarding construction of a new clubhouse on the existing property along with the demolition of the old clubhouse and construction of an eighth court in its place. Discussion among the 60 members in attendance centred around three options: buying a

property elsewhere in Kingston to construct a larger club, renovating the old clubhouse, or constructing a new clubhouse on site.

The final results of voting were 90 For, 20 Against, and 1 Abstain (several absent members submitted their vote by proxy). The executive board thanks you for your mandate and is proceeding with plans to construct a new clubhouse on the lawn area.

Volunteer Executive Board

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

President's Message by Igor Kozin



Welcome everyone to the 90th KTC season, which yet again promises to bring a plentitude of exciting tennis matches and lots of fun-filled social events. Last year we reached some important milestones. Just to mention a few:

- Our summer tennis camps continued to be extremely popular with kids and their parents, which contributed to fostering the development of new generations of tennis players.
- The club was successful financially - we substantially reduced our debt obligations and made provisions for future savings, which can be earmarked for future improvements of club facilities.
- We started a serious discussion on the new clubhouse and court expansion project. It is gradually taking shape, thanks to members' feedback and the contributions of the volunteer sub-committee formed last Fall. This work will continue and significant progress in the design of the new clubhouse will be reported to the members.
- Most importantly, the club has retained its attractiveness as a place where folks can

enjoy themselves, on- and off- court, in a relaxed and friendly social atmosphere.

Over the long winter months, the executive board members spent a great deal of time and effort in planning for the future and taking care of numerous other matters that required immediate attention.

I am happy to announce that the 2013 membership and junior camps rates will remain unchanged – take advantage of the popular 'early bird' discount before the April 5 deadline! Soon we will have the long-awaited opportunity to put our tennis gear back to use. We will have our Spring Clean-Up Day on Saturday, April 13th. Come on out for a chance to meet up with new and old friends and get the club in good shape in anticipation of the 90th season of the Kingston Tennis Club!

Treasurer's Report by Taco Meuter

Following the significant improvements that we've made over the past few years, KTC has enjoyed several years of record growth that we expect will stabilize to a steady pace this year. Almost half of the small amount of debt that remains from the 1997 property purchase will be paid off this year, and the "burning of the mortgage" will be celebrated next year.

This moment will really be an all too brief, momentary pause as we have already begun saving for KTC's largest project since 1928: the new clubhouse on the lawn, further significant court improvements, and one beautiful additional court.

Our building subcommittee will be hard at work this year to make that a reality, with construction beginning as early as the Fall of 2014, at which point it's once again, "We owe, we owe, it's off to play we go!" But it will be a pleasure!

Club Pro & Junior Tennis Camp Director



Michael Stych

Michael Stych is returning this year in the position of Club Professional, having been the Assistant Pro last year. Michael will be offering Private, Semi-Private and Group lessons throughout the season. A talented tennis player, he continued to win

club tournaments in 2012, capturing the Men's Singles title and the Mixed Doubles title.

Philippe Côté will be assuming the position of director of our Junior Tennis Camp program. He has worked as a camp instructor for the past

two years and has been a member of the KTC for twelve years. He also participated in the junior tennis camps for five years when he was much younger!



Philippe Côté

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



Historical Documentation is Needed!



It is long overdue - a historical record of the Kingston Tennis Club. Our records are sparse and scattered, so we are sending out a request to you, our members, to scour your attics, talk to elderly neighbours and scour their attics, and to pass on whatever artifacts, documents, and old photographs you can find to enable us to piece together the history of the tennis club. (If you prefer to keep original documents and photographs, electronically scanned images are also welcome.)

Please contact me at paula_loh@kingstontennisclub.com with any information you may have.

History of the Kingston Tennis Club

Our planned expansion of the club has precipitated a look into the past as we document our history to formulate a proposal for financing. Did you know that the Kingston Tennis Club was sold by its then owner-members to Queen's University in 1953 for \$6,613.00? (The market value was estimated at between \$18,000 and \$25,000.) The club had been facing financial difficulties and approached Queen's with the proposal that they buy the club, with the understanding

that it would be leased back and continue to operate for at least ten years with membership open to the general public as well as the Queen's community. Queen's agreed, as they had recently demolished their own tennis courts due to the construction of the Gordon Hall extension and were seeking alternative facilities. It was more economical for them to purchase the club than to construct the new courts that they had promised to the Queen's Athletic Board of Control. The university would hold title to

the KTC property and the Athletic Board of Control would be responsible for overseeing operations, including the absorption of any profits or losses incurred.

On June 29, 1989, the office of the Vice-Principal (Resources) at Queen's sent a letter to the tennis club as a reminder that the annual rent was overdue and that, by the way, it had decided to sell the property. The university planned to realize the significant appreciation in the value of the land and offered a six-month lease as of July 1, 1989 to allow

completion of the 1989 season. Years of delays and heated discussion followed, but the members of the Kingston Tennis Club successfully negotiated a resolution to this dilemma and repurchased the property in 1997 for \$320,000.

Sources: Minutes of the Queen's Executive Committee of the Trustees, dated February 7 and April 11, 1953. Letter from the Office of the Vice Principal (Resources), dated June 29, 1989. Courtesy of the Queen's Archives

Infrastructure Update by Erling Armson

The fence damage on courts 2 and 6 caused by the downed tree limbs from September's wind storm has been repaired. We still plan to remove the large dead tree at court 2 and trim trees and large berry shrubs at court 4 before April. I would like to instigate a more rigorous court maintenance and cleaning program during the season (ie. power washing, possible crack repairs, paint) which may cause some courts to be closed occasionally during the season on a rotational basis. And finally, we will buy some new umbrellas and a bench or two to replace damaged ones.

High School Tennis and the KTC

High school tennis is attracting a consistent number of participants from year to year, says David Stocks, KTC member and one of three tennis coaches for KCVI (other coaches are KTC members Brian Bontekoe and Dan Fruhling). Local and district tournaments remain fully subscribed, and the KCVI team itself has shown an increase in competitive players who are also members of the Kingston Tennis Club. They attend after-school practices at the club, with their numbers climbing from only 2 or 3 "club players" a few years ago to 12 last year. There are also several players on the team who have little or no experience. They attend early-morning practices to

build their skills and have fun with friends; their numbers also increased last year. The PhysEd program at KCVI includes tennis and is a good way to introduce students to the game, including those who do not necessarily tryout for the school's tennis team.

Signs are hopeful that there will be a successful resolution to the secondary teachers' job action regarding extracurricular activities in time for the start of the spring tennis season for the high school teams. Each year KTC hosts the local tournament, KASSAA, and the district tournament, EOSSAA, committing all courts at the club for the two days of the tournaments scheduled in May.



Member News

Erika de Wet's 800 km Camino de Santiago trek for Hospice Kingston

Erika and her family have been active KTC members since moving to Canada five years ago. The family's teenage children, Larischa and Alrich, were both junior camp counselors for the 2012 season.

In May 2013, Erika will walk nearly 800km, covering between 20km and 30 km per day, in support of Hospice Kingston. She plans to raise \$10,000 to contribute to building a residential hospice with a "children's bubble corner" - a safe place for a child's imagination to drift away and ease their pain in hope that this may bring them joy and comfort. Join Erika on her journey at www.erikascamino.blogspot.ca.

Donations may be made by cheque, payable to Hospice Kingston (Erika's Camino), or online at www.hospicekingston.ca by clicking on "Donate Now". Enter "Hospice Kingston" in the "enter charity name or cause" field, then "Erika's Camino" in the "message/instructions" field.

Mixed Singles Ladder by Bud Nelson

The Mixed Singles Ladder saw a major revamp last year. That change met with considerable success, offering website-accessible, real-time rankings of the 100+ players enrolled in the ladder. One negative aspect continued from previous years, which was a lack of activity on the part of some who signed up for the league. This will be addressed this year. First, signup (select the checkbox on the membership form, or contact a club steward). Signup is easy, but 'commitment' to the league is sometimes spotty - with some

not wanting to initiate or return calls for games. The reasons for this may appear legitimate to the individual, but are not acceptable in terms of the league's expectations. To address this, there will now be a criteria for minimum participation: anyone who does not play at least 2 matches in a calendar month will be bumped from the league. If anyone who has been bumped then wishes to be re-instated, they need only ask the steward, but they will be dropped 20 spots below their last ranking. Appeals may be made

to the league coordinator, but few exceptions are expected, given that 2 matches per month is a minimal requirement.

The league will start May 1st and new members may sign up at any point. If you expect to be away or are injured for more than 2 weeks, you should let a steward or the league coordinator know, and they can list you as 'Temporarily Out' on the player list. Initiated last year, there are again plans to award 3 'participation' t-shirts around mid-August this year.



Tournaments

Congratulations to our 2012 champions!

Mixed Doubles - Larischa deWet/Michael Stych (finalists: Sam Faris & Paige Ready)

Womens Doubles - Ginette Blais/Kathy Lawton (finalists: Caroline Davies/Clare Gordon)

Mens Doubles - Andrew Nearing/James Nearing (finalists: Bud Nelson/Michael Stych)

Womens Singles - Paige Ready (finalist: France Couverture)

Mens Singles - Michael Stych (finalist: Sam Faris)



THE INIMITABLE SAM FARIS ON THE COURTS ...

After six years as a staff member at the KTC, and head steward last year, Sam is graduating from Queen's and moving on to employment in the "real world". Thank you for your commitment to making our tennis club a wonderful place to be a member!

April/May Dates to Remember

EARLY-BIRD MEMBERSHIP DEADLINE - April 5

SPRING CLEANUP - Saturday, April 13, 10:30am

Bags of leaves and piles of brush were removed in no time by a large, hard-working group last Fall - thanks, everyone! - 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 20).

CLUB OPENS - April 27

The club officially opens and stewards will be on duty from this date. Past experience indicates 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 4

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

MIXED SINGLES LADDER - Starts May 1

A great way to meet players at your level. Arrange your matches and move up (or down) as the season progresses.

Select the checkbox on your application form, or sign up with the stewards.

DOUBLES LEAGUES - Begin the week of May 13

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. See stewards for the start time.

FIRST SOCIAL - Friday, May 17

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.

JUNIOR OPEN HOUSE - Saturday, May 25, 11am-2pm

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