

KINGSTON TENNIS CLUB

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July 2013

Hardy souls pitch in at blustery Spring Cleanup Day



Upcoming Events

Friday-Sunday, July 12-14

MEN'S & WOMEN'S DOUBLES TOURNAMENT

Our second club tournament of the season. The cost is \$15 per partner, which includes a BBQ on Saturday evening. All playing levels welcome!

Friday, July 26

TENNIS SOCIAL

Mixed Doubles start at 5:30pm, followed by dinner on the deck. Players of all skill levels welcome. \$12/person. BYOB.

Thursday, August 8

ROGERS CUP - WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT

KTC is organizing a trip to Toronto to watch the Rogers Cup on Thursday August 8th at the Rexall Centre. We will have a private box that accommodates up to 18 people. Cost is \$95 per person (only \$57 for those who signed up last year, due to rainout credit). We will also receive 9 parking passes for 18 tickets. Car pooling is often arranged among those attending. Sign up and pay (cash, cheque, debit) at the main desk.

Many members came out on a cold, wet Saturday in April to help prepare the club grounds for the 2013 season. Courts were swept, grounds raked, trees trimmed, and windbreaks hung. Thank you to those who participated! Our post-cleanup reward this year was enjoyed in the shelter of a local coffee shop.



Open House



The sun came out for the Open House, attended by new and old members of all ages on May 4. Informal tennis games led to new acquaintances being made and old ones renewed. The midday BBQ provided a popular social break to the tennis-related activities.

Meet our Stewards for 2013

Leo hails from Oman, where his British parents work as teachers. He has completed his first year at Queen's in Kinesiology. His passion is competing in middle and long-distance running; the running coach at Queen's was a big reason why he chose to cross the pond to Kingston for university.

Jen is our part-time steward, filling in as needed. For those of you who weren't within one block of the tennis club when she recently received notification of her acceptance, an ecstatic Jen will be starting medical school at Western University in the Fall.

Originally from Pembroke, **Rebecca** will be entering her fourth and final year in the Nursing program at Queen's. Her previous two summers were spent at the Pembroke Regional Hospital as a nursing intern.

Asia (pronounced "Asha") graduated this year with a Bachelor of Education, following her B.Sc. in Math and Chemistry. She is now seeking a hard-to-find position as a high school teacher; her backup plan is to begin a Master's in Education in the Fall. Her previous summer jobs have involved research in chemistry labs and she is enjoying the change to an outdoors-based position.



Leo Burns Scully



Jennifer Karmally



Rebecca McGillivray



Asia Zolnierczyk

KASSAA and EOSSAA at the KTC



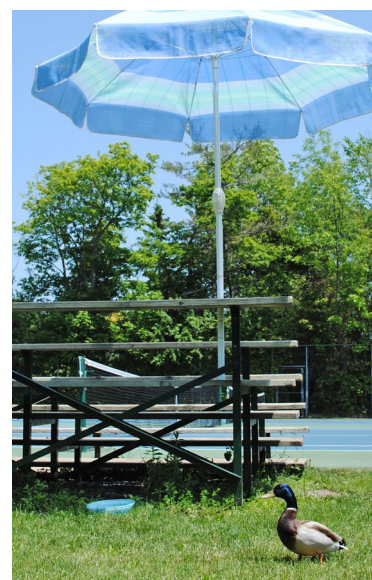
Long-time high school tournament coordinator and KTC member, David Stocks.

The Kingston & Area Secondary School (KASSAA) Tennis Championship was held May 14 at the Kingston Tennis Club. The day was cold and a winner carrying a trophy was spotted wearing a tuque and a scarf. The Eastern Ontario Secondary School (EOSSAA) Tennis Championship was held May 24 at the Kingston Tennis Club with drizzle and winter-like conditions. The clubhouse served as a welcome shelter between matches, with students playing ping pong to pass the time. Twenty-two schools from five regions competed at EOSSAA. Smiths Falls won the team championship. Cole Osborne of Bayridge and Christina Yun of Kingston Collegiate claimed the Senior Singles titles at EOSSAA. Cole Osborne went on to win the gold medal for Senior Boys Singles at the provincial tournament (OFSAA) held at the Rexall Centre at York University in Toronto in early June.



KTC - A Welcoming Place for All

KTC was home for a few weeks in late-Spring for a duck who set up residence by the bleacher at Court 3. The lucky duck lead the good life, with an umbrella to shade him from the heat of the sun and a water dish providing refreshment.



Tennis Pro - Gary Orpana

Gary Orpana joined us in June as our club pro. A tennis player for 40 years, his professional background is varied, having practiced as a veterinarian before switching careers nine years ago to gain his Ontario Tennis Association qualifications as a tennis pro. In addition to teaching tennis, another interest is wood-turning; this has been met with critical acclaim and his work is sold in art galleries in the Quinte region. Sports, art, and medicine all provide insights and skills that Gary uses to help our members improve their tennis game. He is teaching the popular Shot-of-the-Week clinics and also offering private and semi-private lessons. He incorporates a ball machine into his lessons, which feeds balls consistently and allows him to stand beside the student and provide immediate feedback on style and technique. To arrange a lesson, Gary can be contacted directly at gary_orpana@kingstontennisclub.com.



Tennis Socials Begin

Many new members attended the first tennis social of the season, held on Friday, May 17, of the Victoria Day weekend. Games of Mixed Doubles followed by an Italian-theme meal provided opportunities for players of all skill levels to mix and meet.



Our second social was held on Friday, June 28 of the Canada Day weekend with a theme of Caribbean-Wimbledon fusion. Due to all-day rain, the Wimbledon aspect (ie. playing tennis in all-white clothing) didn't evenuate but we did enjoy the Caribbean-theme meal that was followed by strawberries and cream for dessert, prepared by our social director, Claire Tremblay, with the assistance of Elena Personova. The skies cleared long enough to enjoy dinner on the deck followed by games of darts and ping pong upstairs in the clubhouse.

Mark your calendars for our next social - Friday, July 26.



Tennis in the News - John McFarlane

Kingstonian John McFarlane was inducted this year into the Kingston & District Sports Hall of Fame as a builder of tennis. In addition to being a successful player (3 Ontario championships, 9 Kingston Tennis Club titles, 5 Jack Campbell Invitational Tennis Tournament championships, 8 club championships at The Landings, and an Ontario Mixed Doubles championship with his wife, Joan), he coached the Queen's Men's and Women's teams, the Canadian National junior team, and the Team Ontario junior team. John has been Technical Director for the Ontario Tennis Association, and was the Chair of Queen's Athletics and Recreation. He retired in 2006 after 29 years of employment at Queen's.

Finger Lakes Cycling Trip by Bud Nelson

June 6-9 saw Bud Nelson, Claire Tremblay, and France Couture, along with former members Larry & Jackie Wark, plus Dave Ballantyne (a co-worker of Bud's) switch their racquets for bikes and head to the Finger Lakes area of New York State. Despite ominous weather reports for that weekend, it turned out to be ideal for biking and hiking (Watkins Glen Gorge), with little actual rain during the daytime and overcast conditions. Daily trips averaged 75km in hilly terrain, with some fast downhill runs: the top speed on Bud's mountain bike was 66km/hr ... almost as fast as his serve! Post-ride afternoons and evenings were enjoyed at local establishments and the motel deck. All agreed that it was a 9 out of 10 - only because we had to abandon Claire in Penn Yan, after her fourth flat tire (a total of 6 for the group) and nowhere left to buy spares. Maybe again next year!



KTC History by Paula Loh

I recently mentioned to one of my elderly neighbours that I was beginning to research the history of the Kingston Tennis Club. She then told me that she had been a KTC president in the 1950s and had coached John McFarlane when he was a junior. Commenting on her own playing ability, Elaine Bryans (nee Fildes) said that she was a "pretty good tennis player in her day". Another neighbour told me afterwards that she had been more than good - she had been national champion! Following up with Elaine, I learned that she was the No.1-ranked female tennis player in Canada in 1947 and the No.2 ranked singles player in both 1949 and 1950, competing in what was then known as the Canadian Championships and is now the Rogers Cup.

Elaine, who also teamed-up with Patricia Macken to become the top-ranked doubles team in the country, qualified for the U.S. national championships three straight years beginning in 1947. She was inducted as an athlete into the McGill Hall of Fame in 2006.

Elaine came to Kingston in 1951 as a Queen's PhysEd instructor and coached the university's tennis teams. She was part of the fight to save KTC from being sold as real estate, since the club had fallen on hard times due to the effects of the war on membership. In the 1940s, men were overseas and women were not free to go play tennis; people were putting their efforts into the Red Cross and other war-related aspects. A mutually-beneficial arrangement was made to sell the club to Queen's in 1953 (see Spring 2013 newsletter) to enable operations to continue.

Member Contributions

Thank you to members who have recently donated furniture and fixtures to the club: loveseat (Mark and Marie Ready), area rug (Sarah Barry), and a bike rack (anonymous donor) newly-installed by Tim Emmons, husband of Rhonda. If anyone knows who donated the bike rack and they have another one, we would appreciate a second one to accommodate all of our cyclists! Also, thank you to Rick Donaldson for making several trips with his truck to remove brush and debris from the KTC property.



Infrastructure

If you were at the club in early Spring, you may have noticed the many shingles that had blown off the **roof** and were lying on Court 1. Water was starting to leak into the clubhouse, necessitating the prompt partial replacement of the roof on the south and east sides of the clubhouse.

Court 1 was also showing signs of deterioration, with areas of paint worn away and creating slippery conditions when transitioning from areas with full traction to those with less traction. A vigorous power-washing by Leo Scully was followed by professional repainting of the play surface. Thanks to Erling Armson for coordinating repairs to the roof and court.

NOTE: **Carpet pieces** are still needed. They are great for mopping up puddles left by our now-frequent rain showers. Heavy-duty carpet pieces with high absorption are sought (see existing pieces hanging at the side of Court 7 for an example). If you have some, please bring them in or arrange for pickup.

Mixed Doubles Tournament, June 14 - 16

This year's tournament was well-attended, with 18 teams of all ages and skill levels participating. Favourable weather on the Friday evening and Saturday of the tournament enabled all preliminary matches to be played, with rain on the Sunday causing the final matches of each flight to be rescheduled. A sunny Tuesday saw the three-set final won in the tie-breaker by Danny Purdon and Lesley Furter in a tight match against Len Guttenberger and Judy Karpinsky. Memorable moments included the deflection of a potentially-damaging volley by the third ball in Len's pocket, and the changeup to Australian formation by Danny and Lesley for a point in the tie-breaker designed to confuse the returner, with Lesley positioned in front of Danny as he served. Thank you to our tournament organizer, steward Jennifer Karmally, for a job well-done.

Coming up next is the **Men's and Women's Doubles Tournament** on July 12-14. Members of all skill levels are encouraged to participate. If you need a partner, let the stewards know and they will try to find one for you. You are guaranteed 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. The entry fee is \$15 per person, which includes a BBQ on the Saturday evening.



Jennifer Karmally



NOTE: More photographs from the tournament will be posted to the website soon.



Judy Karpinsky, Len Guttenberger, Lesley Furter, Danny Purdon



Sarah Madison, Tim Dewailly



Sam Faris has a quiet moment

Following the flight C final match, the real game begins - Ping Pong Tennis - between Sunil Chaudhry and Bud Nelson.



Violeta Jost