

2004.

KINGSTON TENNIS CLUB

1924 - 2004
CELEBRATING 80 YEARS!



P.O. Box 621
Kingston, ON K7L 4X1
(613) 542-2467

SPRING NEWSLETTER

2004 marks an historic year for the KTC. It was back in 1924, when Big Bill Tilden ruled the tennis world in his white flannels, that a group of local tennis enthusiasts got together and formed the Kingston Tennis Club, which officially opened on June 28, 1924 on what is now the field of Winston Churchill School. There are no known pictures from that first year -- but there was much enthusiasm for the new club, evidenced by a "Tennis Tips" column in the British Whig, and Treadgold's Sporting Goods ads promoting "Lawn Tennis -- the better game for everyone" and offering tennis racquets starting at 50 cents!

In 1927 the club purchased a parcel of land one block to the west -- for \$1,100! -- and moved to the site we still occupy to this day. Racquet (and real estate) prices have risen dramatically, and white flannels have all but disappeared, but our beautiful seven-court facility is still going strong. In the spirit of the original founders --

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

Your new 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 the community atmosphere and healthy exercise.
- promoting tennis -- "the sport of a lifetime", attracting new players and raising the overall interest and participation in recreational tennis.
- encouraging and supporting the development of tennis skills for players at all ages and levels of ability.
- continually upgrading and improving our facilities, including 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.

THE CLUB IS ITS MEMBERS

To achieve all of this, we need your help and support. Our club is only as strong as its membership. If you want the KTC to survive and thrive, we urge you -- members and former members alike -- to join, to encourage your friends to join at our new reduced rates.

The KTC has experienced various ups and downs in its long history, and while the present situation is not yet a crisis, membership has been in decline for the past three years, and last season it reached a 30-year low. To reverse this trend, we have slashed membership rates, reintroduced the popular Early Bird Specials, and are committed to doing everything we can to upgrade and improve the courts, the clubhouse, and the grounds -- while maintaining our excellent programs.

Obviously, these rate cuts are a gamble. Your support will decide whether they're worth it.

It's your club. It's up to you.

EARLY BIRD IS BACK!

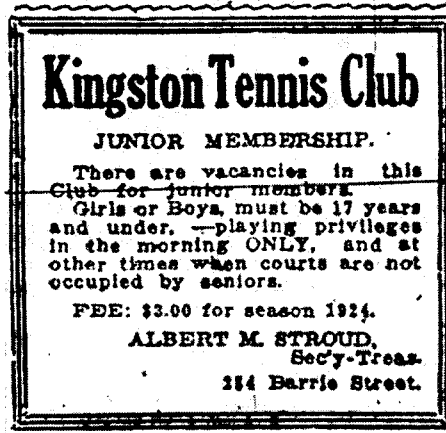
A number of you who responded to last year's questionnaire indicated (for a variety of reasons) that the membership rates were too high, particularly for those who can only play once or twice a week. Well, we can't go back to that first summer, when a junior membership was \$3.00! -- (see the Whig ad from 1924) -- but we did listen.

As you'll see from the enclosed application form, the popular **Early Bird Discount** is back. As well, there has been a significant **reduction in rates** across the board, including some dramatic cuts. The Student rate, for example, has been slashed from \$250 to \$150 (Early Bird) in an attempt to attract more younger members.

We also hope this will make family memberships (reduced from \$600 to \$480) more attractive again. Our goal is to attract a larger and even more enthusiastic membership, of all ages, and return the club to a vibrant level of activity that gives it a great feel of community. In particular, we invite former members who have enjoyed the club in the past, to consider re-joining. Think about the cost of dinner and a movie, or an evening at a professional sporting event, or a round of golf, and it's plain to see how far your money goes when you take advantage of our extended Spring-Summer-Fall season at the KTC.

The Early Bird deadline is **April 16**. There will be **no exceptions**, except for brand new members, who may

join at the Early Bird rate at any time. So if you agree that these new rates are a bargain, send in your application form soon and avoid disappointment.



How times have changed!! Ad in the British Daily Whig, from our first summer -- 1924.



COURT 7 -- FINALLY BACK IN ACTION

As we all know, Court 7 has been out of commission for two full summers, and something of an eyesore. Thanks to the initiative of last year's executive in obtaining an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant of \$15,000, the court has now been re-paved. A new playing surface will be applied as soon as the temperature permits -- by mid-May we hope. The project turned out to be far more costly than expected (\$35,000!), but with its sheltered location, we expect this will become a court of choice and will certainly improve court availability for members.

Wimbledon champ Fred Perry paid two visits to the KTC in the 80's and personally gave clinics for lucky members. Here, he helps out a young Nicky Myslivecek.

Bookmark Our New Website!

www.kingstontennisclub.com

Building on the work of Steve Hart, Igor Kozin (with some help, we suspect, from Elena) has created a snazzy new and substantially upgraded KTC web site. The site, which is continually updated, has all the latest news and information about the KTC's programs and

events, membership and camp information and application forms, even the local weather report!

Pay a visit and see for yourself. We think you'll be impressed.

Old logos never die!



AN ANNIVERSARY REQUEST

To mark our 80th year, Gill Turnbull is gathering together as much information about our early years as possible. If you have any old photos, interesting articles, or other KTC memorabilia that you would be willing to donate or lend to us, please contact Gill at 549-8092 or gillyt@kos.net.

APRIL and MAY EVENTS

SPRING CLEANUP -- SAT. APRIL 17, 10:30 am

Bring a rake (and a racquet) and help get the leaves and winter debris off the courts and then play some tennis. The more the merrier (and faster.) We'll supply the coffee and donuts. (Rain date -- April 24.)

OPENING DAY -- APRIL 24

OPENING GALA -- MAY 8

Free clinics, round robins, prizes, program registration, BBQ and more!!

MIXED SINGLES LEAGUE -- First Round Starts May 16

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

stewards.

DOUBLES LEAGUES -- Begin May 17

We offer a variety of popular 6:30pm leagues. Mondays are for the more competitive players, Wednesdays are for those at an intermediate level, and informal drop-in doubles for everyone returns to Fridays.

MORNING DOUBLES

Morning tennis is popular with many members (not all!) and this is a new idea we'd like to try. It would be similar to Friday evening drop-in doubles. Just turn up and a game will be arranged. We're thinking of trying **Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 8:30-10:30am** to start.

FIRST SOCIAL -- THURS., MAY 20

Our redoubtable social director Gill

Turnbull is back from Wimbledon and ready to try some new ideas.



An Early Social— B.D. - 'before deck'

JUNIOR CAMP AND PROGRAMS



Juniors will be pleased to hear that **Josh Lewis** is returning as director of the highly popular Junior Tennis and Sports Camp. Josh's friendly and unassuming manner and natural abilities make him an ideal teacher and role model for young players. There will be 10 one-week sessions beginning June 28 and running throughout July and August for kids aged five to 17 years. Options include partial and full day camps (including golf at the Landings.) Check our web site for all the details and registration forms. For those who want an earlier start, Josh is also planning to offer a series of junior group lessons in May and June

Camp Kids Rock !!!

A BANNER YEAR?

While we have no wish to commercialize the KTC's charmingly non-commercial atmosphere, we are considering offering space for a few appropriate advertising banners or signs inside or outside the club. If you think this might be of interest to you or your organization, please discuss it with Irina Gusarova.

City Sports

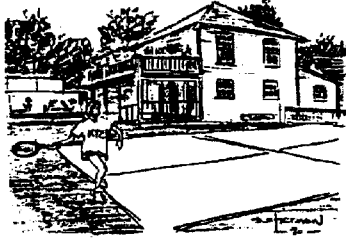
offers us a generous 15% discount. Just tell them you're a KTC member.

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, and be prepared to perform tasks such as weeding, mowing, and the general up-keep of the courts and clubhouse. They should also be outgoing, and enjoy meeting new people and interacting with 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 before March 31.

PAINT FOR FUN AND FITNESS!

As is abundantly clear, the clubhouse is in dire need of sprucing up. The pergola over the deck needs to be rebuilt, the upper doors don't shut properly, the lounge floor needs repair and refinishing, the



change rooms are, well, basic. Some of this work may require professionals, but if you have ideas or can lend a hand with any of these items, please talk to Jan or Bud.

One thing we would like to organize that non-professionals can definitely help with is a **Paint the Clubhouse Bee** or, more accurately, a **Scrape and Prime and Paint the Clubhouse Bee**. A gang of people with scrapers and brushes and few hours to spare can accomplish miracles. And as Tom Sawyer (or was it Huck Finn?) said -- painting can be very satisfying. If you would like to see a better looking clubhouse -- and who wouldn't -- watch for an announcement of the date in May. Also, there is a box on the application form for **voluntary donations** specifically earmarked for clubhouse paint and improvements, if you'd care to help out.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The List Goes On ... and On ...

The garden and shrubbery around the entranceway could certainly be made more inviting, if there are gardeners who would like to take this on.

The practice wall is showing signs of wear and tear along the top. Anyone capable of doing some mortar work?

The KTC "history" board upstairs has fallen woefully out of date. A volunteer is needed to bring it up to date.

If you would like to help with any of the above, please let us 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 make a note of them with your application form.** We'll do our best to act on them.

Special thank-yous:

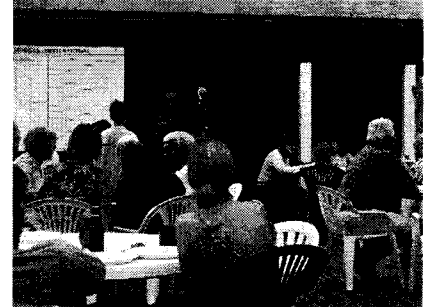
To **Slavo Steklac** for donating a computer for the office, to **Peter Girard** for giving us a futon-couch for the upstairs lounge, and to **Sarah Jackson** of Kerry Associates, who's providing us with her promotional and marketing expertise on a volunteer basis.

We would like to acknowledge the valuable contribution of Tony Roth to our club. Above all, we express our sincere gratitude to **Dave** and **Mary Reid** for their years of dedicated work on behalf of the KTC.

A BIG THANK-YOU TO OUR 2003 AUCTION DONORS!

Although the 2003 auction wasn't on the grand scale of previous years, it was again an enjoyable event and well supported. Special thanks to the indefatigable Mary Reid, once again the driving force and spirit behind it.

Dave Corrigan 'acts' as auctioneer



VOLUNTEER EXECUTIVE

Bud Nelson (President)
Doug Bowie (Vice-President)
Elena Personova (Secretary)
Nancy Langevin (Treasurer)
Lesley Furter (Advertising & Promotion)
Irina Gusarova (Fundraising)
Igor Kozin (Computer Support)
Jan Myslivecek (Infrastructure)
Neil Neasmith (Stewards Supervisor)
Gill Turnbull (Social Director)

Casa Bella	Pyke Farms	Tom Newton
Cooke's Olde World	Sir Gawain	Valerie Dalton
Shop	This, That & Everything	Dave Reid
Country Depot	Thousand Islands Play-	Patricia Reid
Curry Original	house	Ameena Jaffer
Curry Village	Bette Torrible	Sarah Barry
Darbar Restaurant	Doug Bowie	Mr. & Mrs. S. George
Frontenac Club Inn	George Clark	Lawrence Choy
Grizzly Grill	Gill Turnbull	Mary Jean McIntyre
Kingston Police & Police	Jan Myslivecek	Mrs. Helene Corcoran
Association	Justin McHenry	Chris Barber (The Land-
Le Chien Noir Bistro	Kate Alty	ings Racquet & Fitness)
Levac Supply Limited	Lisa Coates	Jack Pearson
Merry Maids	John and Virginia	Mrs. J.H.A. Pearson
Midmagic Farm	Gordon	Jim Martin
Olden Green Ltd.	Rob Cooper	

Contact us at:
ktc@kingstontennisclub.com

(613) 542-2467 (after April 24)



**IT LOOKS LIKE AN EARLY SPRING!
 TELL YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT US!
 SEE YOU ON THE COURTS!**