



KINGSTON TENNIS CLUB

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September 2012

Storm Damage to Courts 1 & 6

The high winds that swept through Kingston on Saturday, September 8 downed the limbs of two trees, resulting in damage to the fences and the closing of Courts 1 and 6. KTC President, Igor Kozin, and Treasurer, Taco Meuter, arrived with a chainsaw on Sunday morning and began removing the large limbs. The courts were reopened by Sunday afternoon, with the fences awaiting substantial repairs.



Fall Cleanup Volunteers Needed

This year's Fall cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, November 17 at 10:30am. Please set aside some time on this day to work with your fellow members to prepare the clubhouse and the grounds for the upcoming winter season. Activities include raking and bagging leaves (bags provided, please bring a rake), taking down windcreens, moving the deck furniture and BBQs into storage, and a cleanup of the office area and changerooms. Many hands make light work!

Club Mascots

A family of raccoons set up their home beneath the deck in early June. Alyssa, the steward on duty, had a close encounter with the four babies as they climbed the stairs to the second floor to make a court booking early one morning. A three-pronged approach was taken by Erling Armson (Infrastructure) and new members Erling Alstrup and Bartley McClelland to redirect the critters back downstairs by waving tennis racquets at them before the anxious mother was able to join them from her position on the deck. The family was safely relocated over the following days with the help of a local animal control company.



Photo re-enactment featuring new member, Erling Alstrup. No animals were harmed in the taking of this photograph!

Volunteer Executive Board

During the tennis season, members see the friendly faces of the summer students who fill the paid positions of club stewards and operate the desk upstairs at the clubhouse. However, what many members are unaware of is the valuable work that is contributed behind-the-scenes by the many members of the volunteer executive board.

There are 11 members on the board, all with varied backgrounds to contribute to the efficient operation of the club.

What follows is an insider's look at the positions of 4 of these board members: Taco Meuter (Treasurer), Erling Armson (Infrastructure), Anees Karmally (Vice President), and Bud Nelson (Membership & Leagues Coordinator).

In addition to their specific duties, all board members attend regular meetings hosted at board members' homes to discuss ongoing issues. These lively discussions are interspersed with numerous email exchanges on topics that arise between meetings.

Head Steward, Sam Faris, is in his sixth year as an employee at KTC. He offers the opinion that, "The club is running better and better every year; it's becoming more professional. This year is the best executive [board] yet."

Let's see what next year's executive board can accomplish!



Taco Meuter

Taco Meuter's day job is operating his family's manufacturing and retail business, Kingcord Hammocks, located in Lansdowne. He has held the position of KTC treasurer for the past three years. His duties include tracking the daily financial operations of the club in season, generating annual financial statements, and providing information on the club's financial position at the regular board meetings. He is in regular email contact with the stewards as questions arise regarding member transactions. He also maintains the club's website and has taken on the task of drafting corporate bylaws for the KTC and is serving as our main contact for the initial planning of the clubhouse expansion. Taco is a keen Doubles player and can be found on Sunday afternoons playing in the 'Supavance' Doubles sessions. A reluctant convert to Singles play, he joined the Singles Ladder this season and is now pleasantly surprised to find that he enjoys it!



Erling Armson

Erling Armson can be found signing up landowners to 25-year agreements to partner in wetland conservation projects in his role as wildlife biologist for the non-profit organization, Ducks Unlimited. He has been responsible for the KTC infrastructure for the past three seasons. The rapidly degrading clubhouse facilities placed him in the dubious position of being contacted by the club staff almost every day last season as new problems continually surfaced. Fortunately, this season has been kinder to him and he has focused on planned upgrades such as coordinating the annual spring cleanup, painting the deck and practice wall, planning with Anees (vice president) on the refurbishment of the fences around and between the courts, and drilling down to China to replace the centre anchor for the net for Court 1. Once the new clubhouse is in place, Erling plans on stringing up one of Taco's hammocks for some relaxation time at the club!



Anees Karmally

Anees Karmally is a former competitive badminton player at the provincial level and worked for a local security company until his knees wore out a couple of years ago. He is now slowly recovering his mobility following corrective surgery and can be found most days checking in with the stewards on the daily operations of the club. He serves as the staff supervisor, overseeing the hiring and training of the stewards in the spring, and is the first person contacted by the stewards if there are any problems at the club. Now in his second year as vice-president, Anees helps out wherever he is needed, overseeing contractors doing work on site, assisting with the tournaments, and organizing the Friday night drop-in Doubles. He is also involved in the preliminary planning of the clubhouse project.



Bud Nelson

Bud Nelson is an information technology specialist at Hotel Dieu Hospital. He has served as a long-time member of the KTC executive board, first as president and then as director of infrastructure for several years. Most recently, he has held the position of Membership & Leagues Coordinator. Utilizing his computer knowledge, Bud has set up and maintains the databases used by the club for storing and accessing information on membership and the leagues. He can be found at the club on most days, either playing tennis or checking on operations. He is an accomplished tennis player and an enthusiastic supporter of the Singles Ladder, registering most games that he plays as ladder games.

AGM — Thu. October 18 @ 7:30pm

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is open to all members and will be held at the clubhouse.

The agenda will include a review of this year's operations and the financial statements, approval of the revised corporate by-laws, the election of next year's volunteer Executive Board, and a

mandate from the membership regarding the direction to follow for the proposed construction of a new clubhouse.

All members are encouraged to attend and to have their voices heard! Refreshments will follow the conclusion of the meeting.

2011-2012 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)

Singles Ladder

Play continues on the Singles Ladder until Thanksgiving, but the rankings as of Labour Day will be the ones used to seed the ladder for next season.

Monogrammed t-shirts (courtesy of Racquet Science) were awarded to three players who showed exemplary performances. They were:

Neil Neasmith is the **Comeback Player of the Year**. After years of not playing in the Singles League and having double knee replacements, Neil was back in the ladder this year, giving out his own brand of tennis 'lessons'. He started playing in the ladder in the 60's and is now in the low 20's. Many of us can say that we are members of the "Neil Neasmith Comeback Club"!

Do Won Park receives the **Participation** award. He is a new member who started in the 80's and steadily played his way to position 21, often playing several ladder games per week.

The **Most Improved Player** needs some prior years playing at KTC in order to make a comparison. This year's winner is Len Guttenberger who, although he didn't start as low as some others, did climb through the top third of the ladder into the top 10 this year.

A successful Singles Ladder requires participation and these



Len Guttenberger, Neil Neasmith, Do Won Park

winners all demonstrated their interest in playing matches from the outset, whether winning or losing. Honourable mentions in this regard also go to Rick Donaldson, Paula Loh, Bud Nelson, Luis Saez, and Dave Stocks.

Longest stay at #1 was held by Sam Faris. France Couture is currently the highest ranked of all ladies at position 13.

Club Pros

Club pro, Jennifer Williams, finished the season early to move to Edmonton in preparation for attending nursing school in the Fall. The Friday Night Social on July 27 was used to thank Jen for her significant contributions to KTC over the past three seasons.

Assistant pro, Michael Stych, will continue to offer lessons until mid-October while pursuing his studies at Queen's towards his second year in Engineering.



KTC members celebrate with Jennifer Williams (centre) at the July 27 Tennis Social

Ontario Over-65 Winners

Several players from KTC competed in the Senior Provincial and National Tennis Championships that were held this summer. The games are held every two years in rotating locations. This year the Provincials were in Brampton, Ontario, and the Nationals took place in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia.



Lawrence Choy, Jim Muzzin

Lawrence Choy and Jim Muzzin paired up to win the Over-65 category at the Provincials in mid-August. The two-day tournament followed a round-robin format for the eight teams competing in this category.

John Brown and Peter Watson formed



John Brown, Peter Watson

a partnership to compete in the Over-75 category, placing fifth overall. The \$165 entry fee paid by the players included accommodation and all tournament expenses.

Two years ago, Lawrence partnered with Martin Arh to win the Over-55 category at the Provincials, which qualified them to compete in the Nationals this year. However, Martin was unable to attend and Lawrence played with Peter Watson (aged 81!) as a replacement partner. The \$180 fees for the four-day National tournament were in addition to all expenses, making the trip to Cape Breton a big financial commitment for the players.



Michael Stych, Sam Faris

2012 Club Tournament Results

Mixed Doubles - Larischa de Wet & Michael Stych

(Finalists: Sam Faris & Paige Ready)

Ladies Doubles - Ginette Blais & Kathy Lawton

(Finalists: Caroline Davies & Clare Gordon)

Mens Doubles - Andrew Nearing & James Nearing

(Finalists: Bud Nelson & Michael Stych)

Ladies Singles - Paige Ready (Finalist: France Couture)

Mens Singles - Michael Stych (Finalist: Sam Faris)



Paige Ready, France Couture



Michael Stych, Larischa DeWet, Paige Ready, Sam Faris

James Nearing, Andrew Nearing, Michael Stych, Bud Nelson



Kathy Lawton, Ginette Blais

