



Newsletter



President's Message

Greetings fellow club members and a belated welcome to another season of summer tennis!

This past April, a survey covering all aspects of the club was sent to current members. This survey was an initiative of Bill Sherifali, a new member of the board. It is fitting that such an exercise be done at this time as having celebrated the 100th anniversary last year, it is useful for board and management to look at the club

with a fresh perspective. The results of the survey were mainly positive and the comments and suggestions, both favourable and critical will help the club to improve.

As this is likely my last opportunity to address members in this designated space, I'll use it to give a brief review of what has been accomplished by the board beginning September 2011, when I was elected president, to the present.

In 2011, the club had reached possibly its lowest point where finances were concerned. Though a full slate of nine directors was elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in September of that year, the overwhelming task of getting the club back on track took its toll on the directors. By the end of February 2012 only four remained. Countless volunteer hours and a determination to get the job done resulted in this "downsized" board being able to report an amazing turnaround in the finances at the 2012 AGM. This accomplishment was no fluke as the profitability has continued to this day. This critical turnaround however, was only the first step in the reorganization of operational practices and overall improvement of the club in all

aspects, a work which is ongoing to the present day. With some money to work with, the full board elected in September 2012 began the task of prioritising and setting into motion the much needed repairs and refurbishment to the club facilities and grounds.

The har-tru courts were the first to receive attention. In the spring of 2013 they were completely overhauled because they were in such poor condition. Other major projects followed - the men and women locker rooms which weren't on the 'to do' list but a flood late in 2013 made them a priority (though this was covered by the club's insurer), replacement of all the outdoor courts lights with compatible new ballasts, upgrading of electrical output, refurbishment of both main floor wash rooms, a new HVAC unit for the bubble, new outdoor benches and tables, a long-awaited sprinkler system, a new cement porch, refurbishment of the main floor lounge and kitchen with new appliances and a permanent covered walkway (still under construction) – all of them necessary or long overdue. Close to \$250,000 has been spent on these improvements over the past five years and that sum does not include the repairs that have been covered mostly by the Trillium Fund which provided for new exit

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emergency doors and a rotating door for the bubble, and roof repairs to the clubhouse.

Every refurbishment project and purchases of any kind were scrutinized and discussed thoroughly by the board before giving the green light. This had to be so as available money earned from year to year was limited and repairs, endless. Even supposedly 'minor' projects were problematic because nearly all involved unforeseen complications due to the clubhouse being built in 1968 when building codes were less strict than those today. Another aspect of the club's rehabilitation included re-establishing cordial relations with the University of Waterloo and the City of Waterloo. While no system will ever be perfect or executed perfectly, the number of complaints has lessened appreciably and the club's grounds and facilities are much better now than they have been for quite some time.

With many of the urgent issues now taken care of, the repaving of the parking lot, repairing the practice wall and the feasibility of putting up net curtains to prevent balls from lessons straying to the adjoining court have now been moved to the front burner. Work on the parking lot, the practice wall and the installation of fire safety doors in the upstairs

lounge are all due to begin soon. The board recently looked into the cost of replacing new lights for the indoor courts but estimates have ruled it out for at least another two years.

The overall satisfactory/very good ratings which the facilities, staff and most aspects of the club received in the survey validate the work that has been accomplished by the board working in close collaboration with manager, Helen McArdle who was hired in December 2012. The addition of other competent and caring staff and the work and cooperation of the coaches have contributed to the club now being a much more efficient and financially stable organization from that of five years ago.

This coming September, the last three members who joined the board between 2012 -2015 and one elected last year, are retiring. These vacancies need to be filled with good people because the club needs a strong board to oversee its affairs and to lend assistance and support to management and staff. If you would like to be part of this worthwhile endeavour please contact any board member to let us know of your interest.

Finally, sincere thanks to the wonderful and generous

volunteers for their various contributions over the years, the loyal members and staff who remained with the club through thick and thin, and the University of Waterloo Students Club for their generous donations these past five years. Thanks to Sally (Kemp) for taking on extra responsibilities for the three months in 2011 when we operated without a manager, and Helen McArdle for volunteering to help with club operations during those months also. Sally was invaluable in mentoring the new manager hired in January 2012 and then again to Helen at the end of that year. Special thanks to those board members who performed other duties in addition to their board responsibilities. Kudos to all the members involved in last year's 100th planning activities and the members who spent many hours sprucing up the grounds and clubhouse. A special mention to my family for their understanding and tolerance of my absences of mind and presence during these past years. The club has been very lucky with those who have served it and may that luck continue.

Best wishes to all.

Pat Craton
President
board@waterlootennis.com



Newsletter

Manager's Message



As I sit here watching history being made as Milos Raonic becomes the first male Canadian player to reach the finals of a Grand Slam, I'm reflecting on how lucky I am to be part of the tennis community.

This year we've continued to focus on making the clubhouse and the courts safer, cleaner and better for you.

Chris Krokoszynski has been busy. Some of the things he's accomplished are making benches for the outdoor courts, added hooks on the light standards for bags and towels and levelled the entry into the courts.

Andrew Gillard is using the knowledge he learnt from taking a clay court maintenance course to ensure that the court maintenance crew are doing everything they can to keep the clay courts in tip-top shape. Lots of members have let me know how much better the courts are playing with the extra brushing that they are

getting. So many thanks to those of you who have embraced our new system of sweeping and lining the courts before you play! We've also washed the indoor courts and will be doing this again before the start of the indoor season.

After many years of looking after our flowers, Christel Weber has passed the torch to Julie Zwarych. Christel is still helping and together they have added that extra touch to make the grounds pretty.

We've had a long delay in getting the walkway finished as the City of Waterloo building department shut down work on the walkway when it discovered that the contractor we hired had not gotten a building permit for the work. They have since asked the contractor for extra drawings before they will grant a building permit.

We have also tried to make sure that we have tennis programming that suits every age and level of player. Our coaching staff, Kye Allen, Ned Lazoja, Mike Ratcliff, Robert Rotaru and led by our Head Pro, Gary Winter provide group and private lessons that are highly successful. For the juniors, we have introduced a new under 7 and under 12 Elite program to complement our successful junior lesson

program. We're hosting internal as well as OTA junior tournaments to give our young tennis players competitive challenges. During July and August our coaches and assistants have been running fun summer camps. Registration in this year's camps is already higher than last year as we will be seeing over 200 campers enjoy the program this year. Our adult classes are also very popular, proving it's never too late to learn or improve your game.

In addition to our annual club championships and other regular events we've added some fun, social and competitive events to our calendar. Rudy Gatzke, Dennis Huss and Andrew Gillard are captaining a team of 55+ seniors who compete against three other clubs on a weekly basis. Andrew Gillard also volunteers to run a round robin on Monday afternoons. With it being an Olympic year we're holding an Olympic Racquet Triathlon on August 6. I can't wait to see what countries we'll have represented!

Helen McArdle
Manager
helen@waterlootennis.com

COACH'S CORNER

With
Gary Winter
Head Tennis Pro

Club Dubs

Although you wouldn't know it by watching tennis on TV, doubles is by far the most common format for recreational or club-level tennis.

In this article, I will use the Play Tennis ratings to look at the various playing characteristics through the most common playing levels from 2.5 - 4.5.

For a breakdown of the Tennis Canada's Play Tennis rating guidelines, click on this link: <http://www.tenniscanada.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Self-Rating-Guide-English.pdf> or google "play tennis rating guide," and you will get some other useful links, such as the NTRP's Stroke-by-Stroke Rubric, that are worth looking at.

There are often differences in someone's rating level in doubles play versus singles play. This is because doubles requires more specialty skills (such as lobs, drop shots and angles) that are not employed as much or at all in singles play. There are also the added dimensions of more net play and teamwork in doubles.

At Any Level....

When reading through the levels, keep in mind that at any level,

effective doubles is made up of minimizing unforced errors (most easily done by giving yourself a margin-of-error over the net; see the Fall 2015 Coach's Corner), hitting to targets (i.e. placement over power), getting more first serves in play and trusting and communicating with your partner.

It is helpful to keep in mind that at most levels court coverage is seen as both players primarily being responsible for their own side of the court. Many recreational and club players see the primary doubles formation as one player up covering the net area (inside the service line) across the court and the other player back covering the baseline. On the whole, this does not make sense given that the doubles court is nine feet wider than the singles court. When you play sides in doubles you make the court coverage easier as you are essentially covering a width of eighteen feet (half the width) rather than thirty six feet.

Poaching

There are times when the net player will cut across the middle of the court to "poach" a ball. This is a very aggressive, higher-risk tactic and should be done when you are capable of finishing a point with an aggressive volley. Keep in mind that poaching is optional. A ball that can be poached does not mean that your partner can not get to it. If the net player lets it go, the back player will still be able to play the ball. After all, doubles is a team game. The net player does not have to do it all. It does make sense for the net player to go after balls that land



short (inside the service line) on their partner's side, as the net player will likely be closer and able to get there faster.

Where are you comfortable?

When you have a doubles pair of differing levels, the weaker player should decide where they are most comfortable playing. If they are not comfortable at the net, they do not need to be there and it is OK to be at the baseline.

2.5

At this level, players are beginning to play some doubles. While groundstrokes and serves will have some consistency, volleys will be weak. Because of this, stay back on the baseline and focus on covering your side, moving forward to retrieve balls that land short. The biggest challenge in this formation is deciding who will take balls that are hit to the middle of the court between you and your partner. This is where communication comes in.

As much as you want to develop your volleying skills at this level, it is not necessary to be at the net (i.e. inside the service line) to play doubles. Staying back also gets you comfortable with playing beside your partner, which many recreational players are challenged by.

3.0

You will likely set up in the “traditional” starting formation of the server’s partner at the net and the receiver’s partner at the service line. These starting positions are not a requirement. Although the server has to comply with the rules for the serving position (behind the baseline between the centre mark and doubles side line) the other three players can set up wherever they want.

In fact, you will often see a variety of starting positions in professional level matches. Sometimes the returner’s partner will back up to the baseline for a strong first serve so they are not in a vulnerable location if their partner has a weak return.

Remember that starting positions are just that, your position at the start of the point. As a point unfolds you might move in or need to back up or even switch sides if the ball is lobbed over your head. We often see doubles as a less active game than singles, but that is mostly because the players at this level and below do not yet know how to move to be in the best tactical position as a point unfolds.

3.5

This is the level where you can get some big disparities between technical skills. Some 3.5 level players have hard serves. Some are good volleyers and have good overheads. However, finishing points at the net is still a weakness for most 3.5 players. One of the most effective tactics for neutralizing an effective net player is to lob over them. Returning the serve down the line (right at the net player) will make them think twice about poaching. As always, hitting targets through the use of

consistent groundstrokes and volleys is the key. Learning how to volley from the mid-court area (just behind the service line) is also useful, as you are not always able to get into the net area. Developing lobs and drop shots becomes important as well.

4.0

At this level, tactics and teamwork are definitely key. 4.0 players usually have dependable serves and groundstrokes and can play aggressively at the net. One of the Play Rating descriptions at this level is “not yet playing good percentage tennis.” More so than in singles play, doubles players at this level need to be steady and dependable. Getting a high number of first serves in helps your partner at the net to be more effective. Put yourself in their shoes, what do you feel like when your partner misses their first serve? You are less effective at the net if the returner is able to attack a second serve.

Good percentage tennis means recognizing the strengths and weaknesses of the other team and keeping the ball away from their strengths and hitting to their weakness.

4.5

This is the level where net play definitely rules. The server’s partner is actively looking to poach a return-of-serve or any weak ball that passes through the centre of the court. The server will often be following their serve to the net. The serving team will discuss where the serve should be going and whether the net player will be poaching. Signals are often used. On a second serve, the returner will be going to the net behind their return.

As much as this can be done at lower levels, the speed and

COACH’S CORNER

With

Gary Winter

Head Tennis Pro

decision making that these tactics require take time to develop. Even very experienced players will sometimes guess wrong and give their opponents an easy opening. More aggressive net play requires quick reflexes and anticipation. Overheads are very strong, so lobbing has to be very good or smashes will end points quickly.

The most important thing to remember in doubles is that it is a team game. As obvious as this is, many people play doubles with a singles mind set. Trust your partner. Talk to each other. Mistakes will be made. Fun will be had.

Gary Winter
Head Pro

gary@waterlootennis.com



WINTER & SPRING ACTIVITIES



**Kick off the New Year
Women's Daytime Mixer**



Top 3 Scorers
3rd - Bonnie Trites-Beal, 1st - Betsy Yu, 2nd - Okjin Kim



Family Fun Day



Club Cleanup Day Volunteers

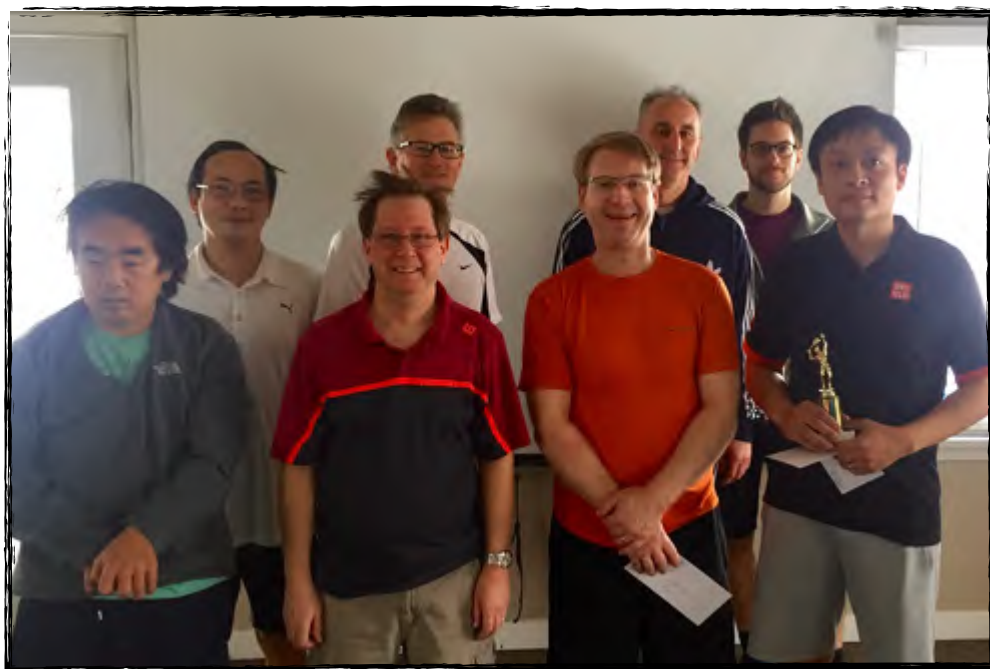


Spring into Summer Mixer



**Draw prize winners of lessons with Mike
Phylis Fisksen & Janine Heider**

Winter Tournament Results



“G’day Mate” Men’s Singles Tournament Participants

Back row L-R: Minh Lam, Mark Carlin, Miro Jovkovic, Remi Gagnon

Front row L-R: Nobuki Matsui, Greg Knight, Staffan Hagberg (Finalist) Bob Ho (Champion)



Mixed Doubles Tournament Participants

Winter Tournament Results



L-R
Women's Doubles "A" Champions
Kristyn Clairmont & Rosemary Erb



L-R
Women's Doubles "A" Finalists
Yvonne Pezzack & Joan Bradich



Men's Doubles "A"
L-R: Bob Ho & Nick White (champions)
Tom Nguyen & Joe Tran (finalists)



Men's Doubles "B"
L-R: Markus Lenizky & Darren Deng (champions)
Doug Caverly & George Pepall (finalists)



Mixed Doubles "A"
L-R: Helen McArdle & Nick White (champions)
Bob Ho & Michelle Rogers (finalists)



Mixed Doubles "B"
L-R: Nobuki Matsui & Tina Niu (champions)
Darya Speyer & Jonathan Kofman (finalists)

Spring Ladder

Twenty three players have been playing throughout the Winter/Spring on the Singles Ladder. Congrats to Adrian Decsei for winning the Spring Singles Ladder with 257 points and to Scott Kirkwood for being the most active player.



With a racquet that big it's no wonder Adrian won!

Summer Ladder

The Summer Singles adult ladder is up and running. This is a great and easy way to set up singles matches with a number of different members within the club.

You must sign up for a free Courtside Canada account to play on the ladder.

There is a \$5 registration fee to join the ladder.

Current Standings of Summer Ladder

| | |
|-----|-------------------|
| 185 | Marek Gwozdz |
| 174 | Alex Siuda |
| 170 | Hiep Vuong |
| 160 | Andrzej Przepiora |
| 139 | Mike Minh Nghiem |
| 122 | Juan Roman |
| 113 | Ryan Zhou |
| 100 | Ryan Haggarty |
| 99 | Martha D'Agostino |
| 95 | Remi Gagnon |
| 88 | Michelle Rogers |
| 81 | Randy Smart |
| 79 | Hugh Mellow |
| 74 | James Southworth |
| 73 | Scott Kirkwood |
| 72 | Dilan De Zoysa |
| 71 | Scott Page |
| 68 | Chris Bruni |
| 66 | Gregory Knight |
| 58 | Jordan Howard |
| 57 | John Roman |
| 54 | Marko Milanovic |
| 49 | Adam Reed |
| 48 | Ryan Hummel |
| 45 | Julie Zwarych |
| 38 | Ed Palmer |
| 30 | Abdul Raheem |
| 25 | Ian McCormick |
| 25 | Chris Ziegler |
| 22 | Bill Sherifali |
| 15 | Joshua White |
| 13 | Edward D'Agostino |
| 4 | gordon hunt |
| 0 | Peter Henhoeffer |
| 0 | Jonathan Kofman |

SUMMER COMPETITION



Congrats to Robert Rotaru, one of our coaches, for winning the London Italian Open tournament at the Hunt Club in June.



Congrats to club members John Murray and Dave Rowat for their wins at the Donald International Tennis Federation Seniors event. John won the 45+ event and Dave won the 35+ event.

OTA Provincials

Nine club members competed in the Ontario Tennis Association's Senior Provincial Tournament in July. They were Pat Babcock, Doug Caverly, John Ferland, Andrew Gillard, John Murray, Dave Rowat, Ed Twardus, Guido Weber and Gary Winter. At the end of the tournament WTC members had won five 1st place trophies! Those who brought home the hardware were: Dave Rowat (35+ Singles), John Murray (45+ Singles), Pat Babcock (60+ Doubles), Guido Weber (75+ Singles & Doubles)!

BOARD POSITIONS OPEN!

There will be four vacancies on the Board this coming September as board members will be retiring.

These positions need to be filled so we are looking for interested candidates to join the board. If you would like to be involved in having a say in the way the club is run or in shaping its future then joining the board is the way to go. Please contact any board member to let us know of your interest or send an email to board@waterlootennis.com. The Board will nominate the candidates for election.

Additional nominations for election to the Board may also be made by any five (5) members over the age of 18, provided that the nomination is in writing, accepted by the nominee and delivered to the Manager not less than five (5) days before the Annual General Meeting (AGM). These nominations will be added to the names presented by the Nominating Committee and an election conducted by ballot will be held at the AGM in September.

The Club needs You!

COURTS *plus* OPEN MIXED DOUBLES TOURNAMENT



The early birds that had to play at eight o'clock.
Good thing we had coffee and breakfast breads
ready for them when they arrived!



'C' Draw

Back row: Chris Edwards (owner of Courts Plus),
L to R: Champions - Gordon Hunt & Okjin Kim,
Finalists - Mary Sheppard & Andrzej Przepiora



'B' Draw

L to R: Chris Edwards (owner of Courts Plus),
Champions - Suzanne Edwards & Alex Costea,
Finalists - Kenzie Arnott & Arnold Ganzou



'A' Draw

L to R: Chris Edwards (owner of Courts Plus),
Champions - Sungmin Yoon & Mandolin Bartling,
Finalists - Samer Ghazi & Ay-ling Wang



Breakfast at Wimbledon



Cooking up a smashing breakfast!



Volunteers

Betsy Yu, Violet Tikov, Mike Ratcliff, Remi Gagnon and Andrew Gillard



Woodies & Whites Mixer



Recognition for Mike Ratcliff

For those of you who attended the WTC's 100th Anniversary Gala last fall in the Bubble, you will remember that Mike Ratcliff, one of our tennis professionals, received special recognition, along with other club members.

I had been wondering for some time if there was any other recognition, and discovered that Tennis Canada offered a number of awards. One such award, called the "TPA Service to the Game Award" is presented annually to a certified member / professional, who "has provided significant leadership, excellence and dedication to tennis in Canada over an extended period of time". This person must have "demonstrated a commitment to the promotion and growth of tennis". I felt that Mike would make an excellent candidate.



Our club archive provided some background information on Mike's early years in England, where he was a top junior, winning both Singles and Doubles Titles. After arriving in Canada he worked for a number of years at clubs in Toronto and Montreal. In 1993 he arrived at the Waterloo Tennis Club.

As a WTC member for the last 14 years, I have taken lessons with him, and have always admired his professionalism, knowledge, humour and personal interest. Mike inspires many club members with his teaching and enthusiasm, and has provided many connections for new members so that they can join groups or leagues. I asked a small number of members, both young and old, to send me their personal comments on how Mike's teaching has influenced them.

I submitted the application, with information on Mike's background and samples of personal endorsements. Unfortunately, Mike did not win the award, but a number of us met with him recently to tell him about the nomination and to express our sincere support and appreciation of his efforts. We feel very lucky to have him at our club!

Submitted by Pam Krokoszynski



Waterloo Inter-Urban Team Report

The Inter-Urban league, a competitive but also social league is an annual event played by clubs in the region. The competition provides an opportunity for our more accomplished players to compete against and meet players from other clubs.

This time-honoured competition began as early as 1938 and evolved over the years. The present format of men, women and mixed doubles played every Tuesday evenings from mid-May to mid-August has been in place for the past 50 years. It is the only competitive club team activity that all club members, including the pros, can participate as long as they meet the required level of play. Though the number of teams participating in the league has dwindled over the years, it is now quality rather than quantity and there are rarely easy matches.

In a time of increasing difficulty for clubs to field enough players, or volunteers to captain their teams, this year our club has bucked that trend by forming another team to accommodate players interested in Inter Urban play. Besides the two teams annually representing WTC, the new team, the Waterloo United Students and Club (WUSC) composed of 15 members, of whom two-thirds are club members, made its debut in the top division. They have brought a different look to the competition and everyone has benefitted, not least the league.

This year five captains have been introduced to help with overseeing our two main club teams – Pat Babcock, Jen Vasic, Mary Ruehlicke, Kelvin Hui and Bao Lam and Helen McArdle for WUSC. The members of the new team remain separate from the other two teams. I coordinate the three teams so that we can continue using the system that makes the best use of our players. Mike Ratcliff, our senior pro, continues to provide invaluable service in helping to assess the players at tryouts which take place before the start of the season.

This year the regular season ended July 12 with the playoffs starting July 26. Playoffs take the form of 'home' and 'away' matches with the scores combined to decide the winner. The finals of the playoffs for both divisions are scheduled for August 9 and 16 so here's hoping that we will still be in action on those days. There is great tennis to watch every Tuesday evening so come on out and be entertained while supporting our teams.

This year 39 men and women represented WTC in Div 1, Div 2 and WUSC. They are:

WTC: Pat Babcock, Matt Buckley, Martha D'Agostino, Chris Edwards, Suzanne Edwards, Shirley Fenton, Constantine Grantcharov, Bob Ho, Lisa Hoffman, Kelvin Hui, Ryan Hummel, Scott Kirkwood, Bao Lam, Jeannette Lam, Nancy Lee Ledgley, John Lintzeris, Ann MacMillan, Ying Lui, Marija Milic, Filbert Nghiem, Tom Nguyen, Steve Nieboer, Yvonne Pezzack, Joanne Raymond, Mary Ruehlicke, Alex Siuda, Jen Vasic, Nick White, Sue Yagi.

WUSC: Club Members: Kenzie Arnott, Rosemary Erb, Dawn Gutscher, Ilir Lazoja, Markus Lenizky, Helen McArdle, Kenrik Ng, Michelle Rogers, Christina Wang, Joe Zeng. **University Members:** Manasi Guggali, Adam Hunter, Kamil Ladhani, Noah Matsui, Saifullah Shoaib.

Pat Craton

WTC and WUSC Teams Coordinator

Players from all four Division 1 Inter-Urban teams: Cutten Fields, Northfield, Waterloo & WUSC, competing at the Waterloo Tennis Club.



Seniors Interclub League

The Waterloo Tennis Club entered a team into the Seniors Interclub League that originated a few years ago in Ancaster, Ontario. There are four teams in this league, Rosedale, Ancaster, Port Dover and Waterloo.

Our first scheduled match was in Waterloo on May 31 and we learned just how strong some of the other clubs are that play in this league. The team has been improving since day one and has won their last two matches! Presently we have 11 men and 10 women on the team.

We hope you'll come out and cheer on the team when we play our home matches on Tuesdays at 11:30 am. More information about the league as well as the schedule can be found on the club website and on the bulletin board in the clubhouse.

Our expectations are small but our hearts are big.

Team list:

Men: Chris Edwards, Rick Zilinskas, Hugh Mellow, Doug Caverly, Norm Scott, Jim Findlater, Juan Roman, Dave Hebel, Andrew Gillard, Dennis Huss and Rudy Gatzke.

Ladies: Mary Liz Hearn, Joanne Raymond, Elizabeth Huss, Jeanette LeDuke, Suzanne Edwards, Jaya Vandey, Mary Sheppard, Roberta Garcia, Carmen Miron and Christel Weber.

submitted by Rudy Gatzke, Dennis Huss and Andrew Gillard (captains)

husscon@msn.com



**Olympics
Racquet Triathlon**
Saturday Aug 6

Pickleball

Signup in teams of four (two men & two women) and pick the country you'll be representing.

Badminton

Tennis

\$10 per person

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Singles Club Championships
Aug 12-14

Doubles Club Championships
Aug 27 & 28

Mixed Doubles Championships
Sep 10 & 11

Guaranteed 3 matches
lunch included on Saturday
\$20/person
Signup on Bulletin Board

Dave's Excellent Adventure

Dave Rowat, club member and former pro here at the Waterloo Tennis Club, had the experience of a lifetime this past spring. He was a member of the Canadian National Senior Team that traveled to Umag, Croatia for two weeks in May for the World Senior Team Championships. He participated in the 35 and over age category. Dave also participated in the World Individual Championships which followed the Team event.



Dave and his team mates, all from Quebec, arrived in Umag a week beforehand to acclimatize themselves to local conditions which included adjusting to the slow red clay surface. The team's first match in the round robin portion was against Australia winning 3-0 with Dave contributing to the win with a doubles victory. They followed this win with another 3-0 victory this time over South Africa. Fortunes were reversed the following day with a loss against France 1-2. In the elimination round Canada came up against the USA for 9th place. A tough loss to the Americans put them in 10th position which is where the team finished out of 18 teams.



Dave's next event was the individual championships where he was the 27th seed. Dave received a bye in the first round and his second round opponent was from South Africa. Dave dropped the first set 4-6 but turned the match right around to win the next two sets easily. His next round opponent was from Italy against whom Dave played consistent tennis to win in straight sets. His next match, against another Italian resulted in a loss even though Dave had a great start jumping to a 2-0 lead. It was a great run in Croatia and Dave was happy with the team results and making the quarter finals of the individual event. This was much more than he expected as he thought his stay would only be for a few days but had to keep extending it with every victory.

Dave considers his debut representing Canada a successful one and it has provided him with a great experience and memories of a lifetime. He would like to thank club pro Mike Ratcliff for helping his game to improve with some insightful changes, and also fellow club member John Murray, his 'sparring' partner with whom he trains regularly and who encouraged Dave to pursue the opportunity.

Submitted by Dave Rowat and edited by Pat Craton

Editor's note: John Murray represented Canada at the World Championships in the 45 and over age category in 2015.



Dave Rowat (3rd from left) with his team mates.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



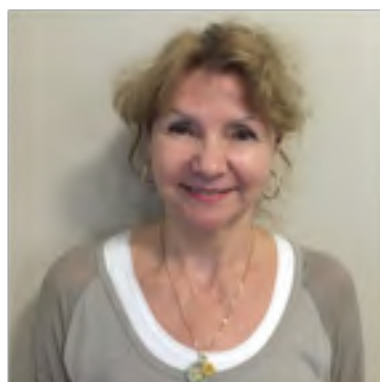
Pat Craton
President



David John
Vice President



Mike Nghiem
Treasurer



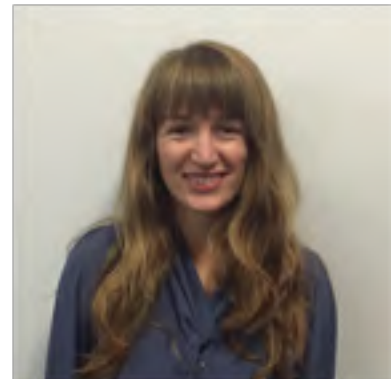
Suzanne Edwards
Secretary



Tom Nguyen
Director



Bill Sherifali
Director



Jen Vasic
Director

SURVEY RESPONSE

The overall response to the survey sent out in early April was very encouraging for board and management. The first positive sign was the 33% response, a high number where surveys are concerned. As to be expected, there were critical comments, most of them offered constructively. While hearing praise was uplifting, thoughtful criticisms were welcomed too. The following are some of the comments/suggestions that needed answers so I thought it would be useful to address them here as the information provided may interest all members.

Staff:

- Overall, members were happy with the service but certain areas still need improvement such as better service in the upstairs lounge at busy times, staff not familiar enough with club programs, upcoming events and club members. As nearly all staff are part-time and work certain shifts, it takes longer for them to become familiar with all the business of the club. This is not an excuse rather an explanation. Management and staff, however, will be making efforts to improve in these areas.
- Members were pleased with the improved organization of club events and activities and the friendly service of manager, staff and coaches. Credit for that belongs to our Manager for overseeing these improvements and she sets a good example for friendliness and approachability to her staff. It is heartening that her continuing efforts to improve the club all round are appreciated by members.

Facilities:

- Parking lot and practice wall - work on both of these are due to begin soon. The decision to repave the parking lot was delayed until the board heard for sure that the road leading up to it would not be closed off.
- Lack of available parking space during evening hours – inspired by a suggestion made in the survey, Helen has come up with a plan to ease the congestion which will be implemented in the Fall.
- Parking spaces taken up with cars on non-WTC business – three staff members now have the authority to issue tickets to drivers of cars illegally parked there.
- Upgrade to men's change room – though it received a facelift three years ago it'll be one of the many areas that will be revisited in order of priority as it could do with a more cheery ambience.
- Build a permanent building for indoor courts – The indoor courts belong to the University of Waterloo so we can't build a permanent structure over them without their permission. The land on which these courts sit on is leased to the University by the City.
- Pave the lower parking lot – that, too, doesn't belong to the club; it's the property and responsibility of the City of Waterloo.

Programs and Club hours:

- Most respondents were content with the number of events and round robins currently being offered but there is still an unhappiness regarding court availability during the prime time hours 4-9 p.m. This has been a perennial problem and it is not restricted to our club only. Efforts were made four years ago to revamp the court scheduling to accommodate lessons and members' needs in as fair manner as possible and it is now much improved. The fact is there are only six courts and they are not enough to satisfy the demands. Still, we will be looking at this area again to see what can be done, including opening the club earlier to see if doing so will shift some of the prime time demands to this slot.

Miscellaneous items

- Several comments were made regarding having a code of conduct/court etiquette policy available and enforced! The club already has these policies in writing and displayed but it is up to members to observe the rules of courtesy and fair play (no deliberate cheating). Short of verbal abuse or

physically threatening behaviour, the club cannot be expected to intervene or police the play on court.

- ① Monthly e-mails were primarily to remind members of upcoming events to boost participation and not meant to be full reports of club activities that have taken place. The Newsletter (long version with printed hard copies as well as e-mail version) is supposed to do that. We may need to reassess their functions.
- ① A suggestion was made that information on upcoming issues and projects the board is working on be advertised so that any member with an interest or knowledge of the topic will be able to offer advice and ideas for the board to consider. It is a good policy to keep members updated on club affairs and the board will endeavour to post news of current projects on a monthly basis starting next September/October. The focus of the President's message in this issue is the first step in this direction as it brings members up to date with what has been done the last five years and what's currently taking place.
- ① Food service - would be a great addition but we do not have the resources to accommodate the strict regulations for handling food required to operate on a commercial basis. It is an idea worth exploring in the near future.
- ① Fees - the club is in no position to offer free indoor courts in the summer. The summer is a vulnerable time for the club because there are no fees, save for round-robins and special events, for the outdoor courts. That means a big drop in income compared to winter. Utilities for the bubble will still need to be paid. Ditto to lowering the court fees during slow hours. There are periods when the courts are vacant but they don't remain so for long. The club already charges less per hour for non-prime time in the winter and a reduced price for members in the summer.
- ① Due to increased usage by members and club programs, round robins, popular as they are cannot have all courts given over to them as in the past; providing the balls for round robins help the club financially and it removes the confusion of whose tennis balls will be used and who gets to take them home when you do pay for them. The used balls are donated to our teaching programs so it benefits the club all round. It is a small price to pay to ensure the financial health of the club.

What members are most pleased with:

- ① Facilities and the continuing improvements
- ① Staff
- ① Round robins
- ① Junior programs
- ① Availability of seasonal memberships
- ① Online booking accessibility
- ① Social ambience

The results have provided encouragement and a well-deserved measure of satisfaction to those who oversee and manage the club but best of all, they will be used to make the club a better place. While the members of the board and manager contributed suggestions to add to the survey, the ideas and efforts were nearly all Bill Sherifali's. Our sincere thanks to him. Thanks also to all who participated in the survey and for offering helpful suggestions and reminders.

Pat Craton

President

Tennis Tour Ontario – Fall 2015

I'm not sure where the idea came from last fall, a sense of adventure, lack of anything better to do, but Dananthi and I set out to take a tennis tour of our bit of Ontario. The idea was to seek out tennis courts on a drive that would take in the towns along Hwy 6, north up to Owen Sound and over to Southampton. I figured half an hour drive, a little tennis; see the leaves, another half an hour drive and a little more tennis and so on till back home by dark. I quickly scoured Google Maps for courts in Fergus, Mt Forest and Durham and didn't actually come up with too much but we had lots of optimism and quickly set off.

I remembered some courts close by in Maryhill but it proved to be the day's first disappointment as they had already been converted to hockey rinks for the winter. No problem. We set off again for Fergus where I had spotted a set of courts right on the main street. Half way there we were distracted by signs in the county advertising the local recreation area in Elmira and hoping to make things better; we tried somewhat vainly to follow signs to sports nirvana. A bit of here and there eventually got us to the fields but no courts again. These people don't know what they're missing. We're now 0 – 2 but as everyone knows, sets go up to 6. The Fergus courts were easy to find but despite my subtle hints about empty courts going to waste, all we got were directions to the public courts over on the south east side of town, at the Sportplex. No problem finding the courts just 2 minutes away but it's a rollercoaster of emotions. The courts usually cost money but then they are free on Sunday. Today is Sunday so yes? No, they were locked last week and closed for the season. The trip is not looking so good now. At least the leaves are out in full colour. We head north, glaring at the Fergus club as we pass and try Arthur. Too small for tennis courts it seems. We're 0 – 4 and Federer would be chuckling to himself at this point.

Next is Mount Forest where a tip by the cashier at Tim Horton's finally strikes pay dirt and we end up at the high school on the north east side of town. The courts are just a tad exposed to the elements and although it's sunny and warm(ish), a prairie wind has struck up and I have to belt balls to Dananthi as hard as I could while she tries to tap them inside the baseline. Still it's a nice court and nobody else is around.



We last a half hour there and then took our wind-burnt faces north to Durham. We get distracted by quaintness in Durham and check out the main street and the local, tiny art gallery on George St.



The reservoir area is nice and for no reason I follow George St further east and by some miracle we come across a brand new set of tennis courts, just carved out of the woods. The wind is being knocked back by the trees so we get in some good play. On the next court are a father and son and we chat with them when we leave. They're from the Toronto area and are visiting relatives. The son is about 12 and plays OTA events. The future of Canadian tennis must be good if we can run across good talent in towns like this.

We mess about by the lake some more and head north to Owen Sound. It's the biggest town in the area and surely we can even up the score there. We grab a bite to eat in the historic Coach Inn. Nobody seems to care about history in Owen Sound because the place is deserted except for one old codger who high tails it as soon as we walk in. We think the lunch there was good but we can't really remember now. Why not give them the benefit of the doubt and call it a great lunch. They could use the business. Distractions again came up in the form of the Tom Thomson Art Gallery. Well done



and admission is by donation. That fits my budget. Where else can you see a famous artist's paintings and his shaving mug for a dollar?

I hadn't found a single Owen Sound court on Google Maps but we got local directions to Harrison Park. After blundering about the park for 20 minutes we found the courts. They were empty and we had the best tennis of the day. The park is close to the base of the escarpment and with trees all around, the wind didn't have a chance. A gaggle of little girls gathered at Dananthi's end of the court and supplied encouragement like "Oh, almost" when the balls didn't go where intended. We're happily 2 – 4 now. The park is great and has literally something for everyone in a very efficiently packed space. We decided to keep going to Southampton and exited Owen Sound southwards from the park and then distraction came again in the form of Inglis Falls. We had to go and it was worth it even with the low water levels of Fall. We walked across the bridge at the top of the falls and down the platforms on the side, with spray swirling up and the roar of the falls in our ears.



The sun was getting low now so we made the executive decision to make for Sauble Beach and turn the one day outing into two days. We made it to the beach and hoped to see the green flash of the setting sun but not that day. The sun drifted oh so slowly down and then total darkness hit. The beach community was still half open for the most part and we got the last beaver tail of the year, found an open motel and then literally stumbled around in the dark until we found the last open restaurant. I guess tourist dollars are needed to pay for street lighting.

The restaurant was packing up their Thanksgiving dinner buffet and could only offer chicken wings and beer. Ok by us but many left seeming to prefer starvation. Next day we were up bright and early and found a better restaurant for breakfast next door (where were you last night?). Off to the Sauble Beach courts on the north end of the beach. Signs said that a donation to play was required but somehow we couldn't seem to find anyone to accept our envelope stuffed with John Eh MacDonalds or Ben Franklins or whatever. I like the court there. It's been improved from the old days when I spent my summers at the family cottage in Sauble and the sand hills both protect from the wind and keep the heat in on cooler days.



Next it was down the coast to Southampton which I've heard is the tennis centre of south western but then kind of north Ontario. I'd spotted three different courts on Google and we headed to the biggest one. Lots of people playing and we watched for a while then headed to the beach for a walk. Back at the courts, people had left and a close reading of the signs gave us the go ahead to play for free after Labour Day. So we hit the courts with me taking the downwind side again. Lots of fun and nice courts; sunny and still warm enough to be outdoors. We finally packed in the tennis and started a meandering trip home through places like Paisley and Hanover, stopping wherever distractions came up in the form of very out of the way art galleries and ice cream shops. Perhaps come spring we'll try again with a trip along the north shore of Lake Erie. We've got the score tied up at 4 – 4 now and the momentum is with us.

Submitted by Adam Arnott



Youngwon Kim won the finals of the Junior Boys Club Tournament over Luke Young.
Angela Bebel won the Junior Girls Club Tournament.

Junior News



One of our Elite Under 7 players, Dominik Kunalic got to meet his idol Novak Djokovic at Rogers Cup. Look at that smile!



The WTC team won the Tennis Rocks Junior Team event for the second year in a row. The event was held at the Tennis Canada site where the Rogers Cup is played. Some of the juniors got to play on the stadium court. Thank you to all the parents and to Ned Lazoja for supervising the team.

Team Members were:

Under 10

Sava Uncianschi, Filip Radulovic,
Andrei Caragea, Lev Sherifali

Under 12

Sebastian Tiriba, Luka Radulovic,
Kalista Ho, Agnes Hekler, Thea Bozsitz



Junior News



Progressive Tournament

Sunday, May 22nd was a great day of Progressive play in the bubble. The club's junior program for 5 - 12 year olds is based on the Progressive court size and ball progression. Progressive tennis is comprised of half court (red ball), three-quarter court (orange ball) and full court (green dot ball) games. Most of the juniors who are now training in the U12 Elite program got their start with Progressive lessons at the club.

The club's Head Pro Gary Winter and coach Kye Allen supervised the event in which players in all three of the Progressive formats were competing at the same time on the six indoor courts.

It was a fantastic day of tennis, giving our juniors a taste of friendly, competitive play. Thank you to the parents who helped.

Half Court

1st: Isaac Tatsis
2nd: Nolan Carson
3rd: Luna Barajas Espinosa

Three-Quarter Court

1st: Elise Reed
2nd: Annabelle Ganesco

Full Court

1st: Shaurya Santhosh
2nd: Thea Bozsitz



Junior News

High School Tennis Championships

Congratulations to all the players from the club competing for their high schools in recent WCSSAA and OFSAA competitions.

Jack Witzel and his partner won the Junior Boys Doubles at WCSSAA.

Christina Wang and her partner came in third in the Girls Doubles at OFSAA

Field Westbroek and his partner competed in the Open Mixed Doubles at OFSAA



Many of the kids in the Gold training program led by coaches Gary Winter and Kye Allen play for their high school tennis teams.

Left to Right:

Kye Allen, Christina Wang, Jessie Bauer, Sarah Helsby, Nicki Aye, Youngwon Kim, Jack Witzel, Spencer Tully, Luke Young, Gary Winter



March Break Camp with Erik Pohls



Aldiana & Luka competed in the Little Mo Tournament in Florida



Canadian Contingent at the Little Mo Tournament



Sava (front row second from left) won the Flight B

OTA U10 Champions Tournament

In February six of our Elite juniors, Lev, Filip, Sava, Andrei, Mihailo and Carla competed in the OTA U10 Champions Tournament. Coaches, Kye and Ned also came to Toronto to support the team.

The team had some very strong results:

Sava won the Flight B Championship. Filip made it to the Quarter Finals in Flight A – losing to the Flight A winner. Lev lost to the Flight C Champion giving the winner his toughest match. Andrei made it to the Quarter Finals in Flight C.