

SSTA Newsletter February 2021



Club News

1. From the Board

Happy New Year everyone! And welcome to your new website. Thank you for embracing what we think is a very positive step toward reducing workload for volunteers, and for making it easier for everyone to book courts, renew memberships, and stay apprised of club news. As of January 10th, 170 members had renewed their memberships – a new record! The board thanks Mike Chin for the many hours he spent doing research, setting up, and guiding us through the process of switching to the new site.

Please bookmark the new site; it's where you will find club-related news and updates. You'll see a reduction in the number of emails sent by the club.

Unfortunately doubles play is still not allowed. But the courts are open for singles play and for lessons, which you can arrange by contacting any of the coaches; their contact information is on the website under "Coaching". If you have not been rated lately, now is the time to do it. When leagues resume, you'll need a formal rating in order to play in one of the rated leagues.

2. Remembering

INA CURRAN

Known to some as "Hurricane Ina", this long-time SSTA member is remembered for her energetic and competitive enthusiasm in club tournaments and social events, as well as for her off-court fun and sociability. She and tennis partner, Peter Lamb, shared many years of mixed doubles successes. With her husband of 60 years, she was often seen biking and walking on the island and spending time on their sailboat.



She enjoyed a full and creative life.



3. Continuing Education

On Saturday January 23 ten members participated in a Red Cross Emergency First Aid course at the Hart Bradley Hall. Chantelle, of [Force of Nature First Aid](#), was our competent and effective instructor.

Thanks to all of the participants for spending a Saturday in order to benefit our association and the greater community. Special thanks to Keiko Taylor for organizing the day.

And everyone appreciated SS Tennis Association's readiness to support our efforts by paying for the hall rental and the refreshments.



The First Aid kit and the AED machine are now in the breezeway between the courts for more central access.

We are also installing WIFI to the courts and a telephone which will be placed by the First Aid equipment for emergencies.

4. On the chance you didn't know - our club boasts TWO Hall of Famers



In addition to our much-loved and famous Pro, Marjorie Blackwood . . .

Bob Moffatt was the leader of Tennis Canada for 16 years. He oversaw the construction of the world-class stadium that Rogers Cup in Toronto calls home, completed in 2004, as well as the renovations to its counterpart at Jarry Park in Montreal. He also helped secure new title sponsors when Imperial Tobacco was no longer legally allowed to sponsor sporting events.

Justine Henin, who was on hand in Toronto, was part of the ceremony and awarded Moffatt a plaque to commemorate his name being added to the Canadian Tennis Hall of Fame.

Bob, with his wife Pat and their black Labrador Jessie, now reside quietly on SS enjoying a bucolic life away from the limelight. And yes, officially he is a member of our club.

5. Outdoor Maintenance News

Our new maintenance shed was completed in December by Murray Coates and is providing storage for all of our outdoor equipment including 2 rakes, a shovel and the wheelbarrow. The shed was built using donated materials and labour at a cost to the club of around one hundred dollars.

If anyone has a **hoe to donate**, it will help with some drainage issues on the parking lot. We are still hopeful about getting an open top culvert on the access road at some point.



Our Christmas holly on the vintage shed racquets will be coming down soon. We would like to put up some **decorations for Valentine's Day**, so please be in touch with ideas.

We are also looking for **donated plants for the berm**.

Please contact Murray Coates about all things related to outdoor maintenance: 250.537.8527 or m.coates@shaw.ca



6. SSTA getting well-deserved attention

In 2 places lately:

First - A tennis enthusiast and coach at the Oak Bay Rec Centre, Ed Bakker, has written an history of tennis on the Island and is in the process of submitting it to Wikipedia. There is a mention of Salt Spring Island:

There were many early accounts of Salt Spring Island players rowing to South Cowichan for competition. The Salt Spring Island Club at Harbour House was first referenced in the local paper in 1919. Other island Tennis locations were referenced as early as 1905 on Mayne Island.

And – Tennis BC mentioned us in their newsletter: [Click here and scroll down](#)

7. From your membership coordinator

While SSTA membership remains open, there are restrictions in place due to Covid that impact court use.

The SSTA Board continues to closely monitor the evolving situation, and, as necessary, modify club operations to adapt to the changing circumstances. Protecting the health and well-being of all of our club members remains our top priority.

We look forward to resuming full court operations when we are able to, as dictated by provincial policy. In the meantime, please direct all membership correspondence (questions, enquiries, suggestions, comments) to info@saltspringtennis.ca; we will look forward to talking with you!



Coaches' Corner



From Pete Schelling:

February String Special

Head Lynx, a monofilament string that is made for control and touch. It also has the durability for the aggressive player. 17 gauge in either yellow or black colour. \$35.00

Singles Play not your style?

Use the one-on-one opportunity to train!

Not everybody wants to play singles. Running around a singles court is hard work for many people.

So instead of actually playing singles in the single court, why not try playing half court games on the diagonal?

Or doing drills, such as cross court consistency and control work. Or have one player at the net and one at the baseline for volley/ groundstroke control? You can always work on serve and returns.

You can get a great workout without running the full width of the singles court.

If anyone is interested in some drilling ideas just email: peteschelling@gmail.com

From Marjorie Blackwood:

Centre Court Junior Tennis Update

Despite Covid restrictions and challenges, Piers Zdan ran 23 hours of junior programming ranging from Red Ball to Regulation Ball, ages 6 - 16 in the fall session. This winter, due to stricter rules, 19 pods of self-organized groups are continuing on with their tennis, which is approximately 50 young players. We are seeing a welcome increase in the number of girls playing tennis this fall/winter. We will wait to see what Dr. Bonnie and the province suggest for safe sports in the spring and will continue on with a number of programs then.



Piers Zdan, Centre Court Head Coach to Leave Salt Spring

We are sad to hear Piers is moving on after close to a year on the island with us.

Piers' excellent work with the juniors has brought the program to another level, and it has been a pleasure for Peter and me to work with him and see the body of coaching knowledge he possesses. Piers has also been a key coach to a number of our avid adult players and delivered both group and private lessons to great effect.

We are disappointed that due to Covid precautions, we were unable to show Piers the usual social energy and events that our club is famous for, and that we look forward to again. We say goodbye to Piers in mid-March, and our best wishes for him and Shawna as he moves toward a career change in life.

We will soon be posting a job opening for Piers' position with Tennis Canada and circulate it through the BC tennis community.

Have Your Say

This is where we include personal/creative content submitted by members

Watch what a couple of your fellow members did to ring in the new year:

click → [Polar dipping 2021](#)

As always, the SSTA thanks all the volunteers who contribute to our club.

That's it for this edition. Next one in May.

Hearty thanks to Erica Ross, Mafalda Hoogerdyk, Christina Marshall, Keiko Taylor, Bay Hale, Murray Coates, Markus Wenzel, and the Coaches for contributing content.

