

SSTA Fall 2021 Newsletter



A Note from SSTA's President: Babette Arnoldus

We are finally, somewhat, learning to live with our new normal. At least, we have been able to see each other a bit, but the best part is that we can play doubles again, and our leagues and book bookings are on for this fall season! It has created a lot more work checking everybody's vaccination status. I would like to thank the membership for their cooperation, and Blair and Chris for all their extra work, in order to keep everybody safe and healthy, and our facilities open.

It has been a busy few months on many fronts! We were fortunate enough to be able to have our first social event in many months. The Summer Pizza party was a great event. Thank you to Pete and Marjorie for hosting, Pete for his fantastic 'wiffle' golf extravaganza, to the volunteers, and all the

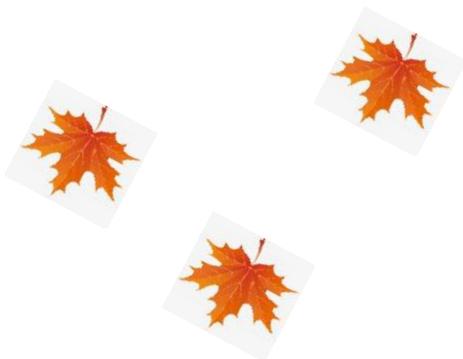
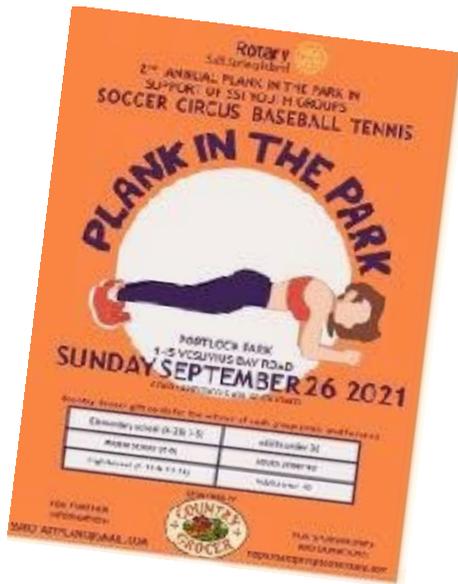
members who attended.



We then had the Plank in the Park, Fall Fair, and our first Season Opener. I would like to thank Janine F-H and Mary Grove for the organizing of SSTA's presence at the Fall Fair, and to all the volunteers.

Summer Picnic In Marjorie and Peter's Apple Orchard.

The Plank in the Park, a fundraiser organized by Rotary, had low attendance, but tennis as “the new kid on the block” made a great impression. We were able to raise \$1,180. for Salt Spring Youth Groups, thanks in large part to a very generous donation from the family of one of our junior tennis players! The total money raised was \$3,224 to be divided between the different sports groups for a total of \$967.07 for SSTA Junior Travel.



Raising the SSTA Flag at the Season Opener

The Season Opener was great success and we raised more money for our junior travel fund with a successful second-hand tennis clothing sale by donation, an initiative that I believe should become a regular event for SSTA. \$150 was raised.



We also offered a fantastic raffle, thanks to all our donors. It was easy to sell tickets. The raffle raised \$675 for a total of \$825 for junior travel. Hopefully, we can keep all this positivity flowing, as we all need it!

The Season Opening also held an inspiring Junior's Exhibition Match featuring: Scott Goddard, Marc Allen (ball boy and up and coming player), and Emily Allen. What a match—they essentially showed how the game can be played.

Hopefully, we can keep all this positivity flowing, as we all need it!



If you have any great ideas, or comments, or complaints, please don't hesitate to contact me at : SSTA.President@shaw.ca

Notice on Indoor Courts—the courts are increasingly dirty. Please do not wear outdoor shoes onto the courts. Change into your tennis shoes in the change room!

From SSTA's Ever Busy Tennis Director—Blair Carley

On The Courts

Summer Play:

Our first Summer Singles Box Leagues finished up at the end of September. Thirty-five participants played in over 100 singles matches over 3 months. Great tennis was played, new friends were made and, though singles play brings the occasional aches and pains, and a lot of grunts and groans, the laughter was the best medicine.

Fall Play

Fall leagues are underway with 11 offerings in a wide variety of colours and flavours.

If you missed signing up for a group you'd like to play with, let Jan, our trusty League Coordinator, know you'd like to be added as a spare at: saltspringtennisleague@gmail.com. Note: You must have provided your proof of vaccination to be eligible to play.

Saturday Drop-In Tennis

New to the game or new to the club? Looking for a safe, friendly, “fun only” social opportunity to play tennis? Saturday morning Drop-In is a perfect way to be introduced to new players and the indoor courts.

From 8:30-10:00 am Saturday mornings, you can drop in once week. All you need is a pair of shoes, a racquet, and \$6.

Ambassador to ease you into playing and finding partners:

If you're one of our newer members and you joined with the idea of getting into, or back into, tennis, meeting people or getting some exercise but Covid put a dent in your introduction to the club, maybe you're now ready to test the waters. Erica Ross will happily arrange to set up an introductory light hit or social game, or a tour of the courts; whatever you need to start the tennis experience you imagined when you signed up. **Please contact our "Ambassador Extraordinaire": Erica Ross at: ericavross@gmail.com**

Upcoming

Hallowe'en Event

An email has already been sent out for this fun event. Just a reminder: the first tournament of our indoor season will be a "fun only" mixed social Hallowe'en themed event called the **Chunk-A-Punkin** Challenge. The event will run on Saturday October 30th from 9:00 to 6:00 pm. There will be lots of tennis, prizes and a fun tennis skills challenge. Players of all ability may join but space will be limited to 12 women and 12 men. **To sign up-Email: SSTA.TennisDirector@shaw.ca**



Winter Leagues:

Watch for the announcement for the winter league offerings coming in December.

Clinics/ Workshops:

1. Darran Wrighton, one of our 3 outstanding club professionals, has been working on a series of adult clinics with coaching on doubles tactics, strategy and fitness. They start the week of October 18th. But he is running these clinics weekly—a great idea, **so if you're interested you can email Darran at: momentumtenniscoaching@gmail.com, and he'll let you know if there are places on that date.**

Darran is running the clinics on Tuesday in the Indoor Courts—offers for up to 3.0 players, 3.5 players and up, then a Fit H.I.T. in the evening—all levels. On Wednesday and Friday at Portlock Park—for Fit H.I.T—all levels. Prices vary according to the number of players. But reasonable. **Check out the schedule and further details at: <https://clubspark.ca/saltstennis/News>**

2. 'Art of Doubles' Workshops with Marjorie Blackwood and Peter Schelling in November.

Lots of fun drills, doubles tactics and point play.

8 players on two courts.

Saturday, November 20th, 1:00 to 3:00 pm., Levels 2.5 and 3.0 rating

****Sunday, November 21st 12:00 to 2:00 pm., Levels 3.0 to 3.5 NB: change in ratings for this workshop**

Cost: \$45 per person per clinic. **Email: marjorieblackwood@msn.com to sign-up. NB Marjorie Blackwood's email incorrectly typed in previous newsletter edition!!**

It is the intention of Marjorie and Pete to offer a series of workshops focusing on doubles play in the new year. Stay tuned.

SSTA's Investor's Representative by Erica Ross

Charitable Tax Receipts Available

All SSTA supporters should know that a donation of \$500.00 or more to our construction debt is always gratefully received, and donors will receive a full charitable tax receipt. Donations below \$500. are also very welcome. However, Tennis Canada will not issue tax receipts for those.

The current construction debt plus 4% interest on our beautiful indoor tennis facility, stands at \$ 331,976.94. If this sounds like a big number it is!

Lots of facility use is key, because all those paid court fees help reduce the debt. So every time you play, you are not only having fun...you are helping, and we thank you.

But donations are a great way to get yourself a nice tax receipt, as well as, to help lower the SSTA debt load.

We especially appreciate your consideration during these days when travel and other treats are not as demanding on your pocketbook.

For details on how to donate: please contact : SSTA.InvestorRep@shaw.ca

Outdoor Maintenance News by Murray Coates

A group of volunteers was able to do a lot of work on the berm recently, removing thistles, blackberries and other assorted weeds. We will have another work party soon to finish the rest of the job. Thanks to Chris Baker and Rich Ballantyne for all their work.

Our long-term plan is to seed some wildflowers, and do some plantings on the berm which will create a need for watering. We hope to have a collection system in place sometime in the next few months. Our intention is do this at no cost to the club. If anyone has a water tank they would like to donate that would be really helpful.

Our shed door recently had a bit of a hinge failure and we were able to do a temporary fix. However the best long term solution would be to install a solid wood door. The size is 30" by 76". If you have one to donate please let us know. We can pick it up.

Please contact Murray Coates at: m.coates@shaw.ca

Coaches Corner

Marjorie Blackwood and Peter Schelling's Adventures

In the meantime, SSTA's other professional coaches were having a bit of an adventure driving their new vehicle through the prairies and over rather curvy and high, and somewhat treacherous mountain passes. However, they made it back safely.....stay tuned to other accounts of adventures with the new vehicle (otherwise named Lucile) along with 'Maggie'.



Darran Wrighton on the Junior's Program

On Saturday, September 4th, seven of SSTA's junior players made the journey up to Comox Valley Tennis Club to participate in a challenge match event. The format was playing singles and doubles—the SSTA team of seven took on fourteen players from the opposition club and continually rotated for the full four hours.

This was a great opportunity on my part to see how the players were progressing from their training sessions over the summer by honing their skills in match play.

After four hours of competition every game won by each team was totalled up on a spreadsheet and unbelievably the score was 106 games each—that's a total of 212 games played equally over 17 sets of tennis!



Congratulations to the following players for such effort and among the journey despite the changeable conditions: *Benny Goeujon, Magnus Kong, Silas Nowell, Lukah Ferguson, Luke Dolensky, Brooks Erikson, Fionn Bryne.*

Many thanks also to the SSTA “Tomorrow’s Champions” fund for supporting some of the costs travel for the coach and the players. My intention is that these type of events will become a regular part of the junior tennis development program.

SSTA’s Presence at the Fall Fair- by Mary Grove

The Fall Fair booth was a group effort put on by numerous energetic volunteers. We had a beautiful tennis themed cake donated by Thrifty’s which was appreciated by visitors to our booth. We had several inquiries regarding memberships and had lots of fun with potential juniors playing with the giant tennis racquet.

Volunteers: Dorothy and Gary MacLellan



Lost and Found by Robyn Huntley

Please remember to check the Lost and Found bin the in the Erica Ross court. There are blankets, water bottles, beautiful backpacks, and clothes. Please also check the coat hooks for jackets and other items. **If not claimed by November 15th—-we will donate to charity.** We will be setting up a table in the Erica Ross court so you can determine if any of these items are yours! Thank you.



Two keys were found on/near the SSTA parking lot on Saturday, October 16th. One is pictured at left and the second key has a black plastic sheath on the top end. Both keys will be left in an envelope in Ross Court for pick-up.

In Recognition of SSTA’s Volunteers

Because the SSTA Tennis Club essentially operates by volunteers, we thought we’d start a section of the newsletter, to acknowledge all the contributions made. If you have interest in volunteering some of your time and being more a part of the club please email Mary Grove at: marygrove@live.com. It’s a great way to meet people—really!

Each newsletter will feature a different group, so please don’t think you’re forgotten!

Since it was recent, we'd like to highlight SSTA's Fall Fair's efforts. The SSTA tennis booth was coordinated by Janine Fernandez-Hayden and Mary Grove. And the following members came out to help:

Tent tennis display: "Past, present and future" - Dave Naphtali

Set up : Rich Ballantyne, Bruce Mc Fadden, Peter G.

Shift volunteers:

Saturday: Claire Gien, Mary G.

Shelly Johnson, Bay Hale

Jody Hawley, Ann Stewart

John LaPointe, Robyn Huntley

Sunday: Nora Wright, Mary G.

Dorothy & Gary MacLellan

Judy & Duane Poliquin (new members)

Beth McDermott (junior parent), Mary G., Take-down:-Beth, M & P. Grove

Then, there is maintenance of the courts both inside and outside:

Indoors: In appreciation to the handy and hardworking foursome who cleaned the mezzanine area: Jane Poulston, Robyn Huntley, Nora Wright, any Mary Grove.

Outdoors: A big thank-you to Murray Coates and his team: Rich Ballantyne and Chris Baker. The area outside of the courts looks so good.

Final Word

Thank you to all the contributors to this newsletter.

2021 was quite the year again. I'm in appreciation of all those who made play possible throughout the year, and the Board's efforts through all the changing rules. Members found a way through — playing outside at the first sign of some warmth- even resorting to playing with snow flakes descending—and then, there were box leagues and block bookings by summer, and now we can meet as the days get chillier and darker- in doubles. I think these past few years amidst the challenges of living through a pandemic—have heightened my awareness that this club is as much about forging good friendships as in playing the game of tennis. As, this is the final opus of the year—I want to wish everyone the best of the season, and here's to a brighter and hopeful 2022! Signing off—Dianne Hayward.

