

March 2025 Newsletter



Club Members and Friends

Winter Season Wrap Up!

Salt Spring Tennis Association was a hub of activity over the past few months in spite of the winter cold, darkness and the absence of our fortunate playmates who were gone to sunnier climates! This issue includes the exciting launch of our new member onboarding program, a youth tennis update, photos from Superbowl Sunday and plenty of gratitude for our members. Enjoy!

Photos and videos are welcome for future issues:

news@saltspringtennis.ca

Alicia Herbert, Newsletter Volunteer

Save the Dates:

March 28, 29 and 30th - First quarterly ATP Challenge where pairs compete with others of similar levels adding up points through to the end of December.

April 1st - Mad Hatters Tea Party (see the poster at the end of the newsletter)

April 22nd - SSTA AGM at the Sailing Club

Volunteering:

These roles are currently vacant. If you are able to help, please contact: volunteercoordinator@saltspringtennis

- Volunteer and Membership Coordinators
- Various tasks around our facility, see below
- Event helpers, youth tennis helpers



Karen Hudson and Randy Gray showed up at the Super Bowl Sunday tournament dressed for the part and ready to have some fun!

See below for the story and photos!

Association News:

From our President:

We rapidly approach our April 22nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the Sailing Club. I will do my best to make this a desirable event that you will want to attend. We are lowering the quorum, but we do need a FULL quorum to accomplish our business!

As some of you know, there are changes to the Board. Blair Carley stepped down from Tennis Director in January. Michael Berendt took over from Blair. Bay Hale stepped down as Vice President and we are currently talking to a possible replacement. Also, our irreplaceable David Naphtali is stepping down after years as Secretary and Lorna Kerr is stepping into this role. Donna Wrigley will stay on one more year as Treasurer. Dave will take over as League Coordinator from Humberto Marthino, who has done a fabulous job the last several years. All these changes will be ratified at our AGM.

I would also like to thank Mouats and Dave Toynbee for the use of their boardroom for our SSTA meetings. I must mention again, we still need a Volunteer Coordinator and a Membership Coordinator. We would like members to consider these positions but also to share with us suggestions of members who would be a good fit and interested in volunteering this way for the Club. We cannot run the Club at a low cost without all our wonderful volunteers!

I will continue as President for another year, as we need a little more time to accomplish what we intended. As I always said, my mandate was to “simplify” the accounting by introducing an accounting program and eventually transitioning to a (paid) bookkeeper. In spite of all the volunteer hours put into this by our ITF Treasurer Donna Wrigley, we still need one more year to accomplish this. We are also moving forward with debt repayment on the ITF and are looking forward to our new chapter and plans for outdoor courts with the SSI Golf Club. Our finances are solid, and it appears we can accelerate our debt repayment, but for all the details on this exciting news, please attend the AGM. Looking forward to seeing you all there!

Babette Arnoldus – SSTA President

“The spring session was my last time coordinating the leagues. I’ve done it for 3 years, and have enjoyed the challenge. Thank you to everyone for putting up with my repeated emails and to all those who have played and spared. It’s great to see new members joining the club and the leagues! Tennis is a great sport and we have a terrific club! I want to wish Dave all the best as the new coordinator. I know that he will do a terrific job! - Humberto”

Tribute to Dave Blizzard - A Valued Club Builder and Friend

Sadly, Dave Blizzard recently lost his valiant 7-year battle with prostate cancer.

In 2013, after retiring from a big career in Canadian and international energy, Dave, Carolyn and daughter Emily moved here from Calgary. Little did we know how lucky this would be for the SSTA! Dave became indispensable to the inner workings of our club and was so much fun on the tennis court.

For years he served on the Executive, managing financials for the indoor courts, organizing leagues and block bookings and creating a system for the club to track court usage. Dave's level-headed advice on important issues was indispensable. Despite some difficult years of cancer treatment, Dave continued key background Board support right up until his last few weeks.

He loved board games, but he really loved tennis. Early on, Dave quickly made a group of close tennis friends. Originally, he even kept statistics on every game, to help bring out the best in all his groups. His great sense of humour made him popular with everyone.

Anyone who played with Dave fondly remembers his regular first serve recitation of...the year, month, day and time, ending with, "Play Ball"! (In his early Montreal days, he keenly played slow pitch, before adopting tennis as his major sport). Dave was deadly at the net with very fast reactions, and his joy was palpable, making it fun for all. A valued member of his tennis groups, he will be missed but never forgotten.

Our heartfelt sympathies go out to all his family.



Dave Blizzard

Super Bowl Sunday

We thank Dave Naphtali and his tournament team for a very fun and successful 2nd Annual Super Bowl Tennis Tournament. 16 players battled it out on the courts on Sunday, February 9th. Decked out in green, the Eagles narrowly edged out the Chiefs 16 - 14, (mirroring, once again, the victor if not the margin of victory in the actual football game).



Clockwise from upper left:
Karen Hudson, Humberto Martinho, Murray Coates and Alicia Herbert. Anne and John Stewart. Cathy Patel snapping a pic for the newsletter of Murray Coates, Annemarie Linders, Pat Coates and Humberto Martinho

First SSTA New Member Event

On Sunday, February 16th from 1:00 to 3:00 pm, new members were welcomed at an orientation event. A poster was shared depicting SSTA play opportunities. Pete Schelling ran drills, Humberto Martinho explained leagues, Barb Freitas described drop-in tennis and Blair Carley ran a ball machine orientation. New member orientation was also an opportunity for Chris Marshall to explain to new members to learn how SSTA operates and to understand the volunteer commitment and opportunities.

This event is to become a regular club initiative, and we will share details about upcoming events as they become available. A coordinator/ambassador team is needed to support these events in the future. Please contact volunteercoordinator@saltspringtennis if you are interested in helping.



Alex Sujavak, Sergii Vozniak, Eli Feng, Pete Schelling, Kevin Gilmore, Maoz Bouskila and Yan Feng

More from the New Member Event:



Vivianne Ellington, Yan Feng, Eli Feng, Blair Carley and Sergii Vosniak

Did you know - that Marjorie Blackwood is a member of the Tennis Canada Hall of Fame, a former Top 50 WTA player, 3-time Canadian Champion, 2-time Wimbledon doubles quarter-finalist, 13 professional tournament title holder, and Former Manager/Director of the Whistler Racquet Club? For info on private/group lessons and rates for adults and juniors, contact Marjorie at marjorieblackwood@msn.com or 604-905-9327. Email is preferable.

Operational Report from Michael Gooblar

A Big Welcome to new Operations Teams volunteers!

- Jian Hui Cheng has volunteered to monitor the 2 dehumidifiers. This is essential because if they don't work we are at risk of court damage and moisture.
- Thank you Doug & Clare Copland for volunteering to monitor doors. This is important - Some have had issues with the Ross Court door, and Elliot rolling gate.

Volunteers still needed:

- One or two volunteers to monitor clocks. For example, change the clocks when there's an annual time change, and replace batteries occasionally.
- A few volunteers to take recycling to the depot or to take garbage to Laurie's about every couple weeks. Disposal receipts compensated.
- The Court Cleaning Team can always use more volunteers. The more volunteers, the fewer times per year each volunteer needs to do the job.

Some examples of what the Operations Teams accomplished in the last month:

- Ross Door lock pad fixed and is being monitored. Outside lights and court light reset after power outage and DST change. Ross carpet replaced. Ross net repaired. Reset pro closet heater. Purchased new parking lot light.
- Ross shoe change thermostat went offline a couple times, possibly from people touching it (although it's locked) or power outage (although none of the other thermostats were affected). Will continue to monitor. Sent balls to recycling.
- Every week our fearless team gets rid of that ball fuzz and other court debris. Ever played shortly after the courts have been cleaned? Now there's a pleasure!!
- Thank you Johnny for making sure the shoe change rooms and washrooms are in order and clean. Johnny makes sure we never run out of toilet paper and supplies.

We are looking for some landscaping donations such as plants and ornamental grasses, in addition to some volunteers to help with watering.

If you can help, please contact Murray Coates (m.coates@shaw.ca)



MAD HATTERS SPRING TEA PARTY
APRIL 1, 2025
2:30-5

**Youngsters welcome too
Snacks & Libations Provided**

**At Margaret Benmore's
2113-135 Brinkworthy
Park at the club house**

*brought to you by **Liz Anderson**
SSTA Senior and Retired Members Representative
[2rainbow@telus.net
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