

# SSTA Spring 2022 Newsletter



## A Message from your SSTA President—Babette Arnoldus

As we are slowly moving toward Spring, with longer and hopefully warmer days, we have so much to look forward to! Read all that is on offer below, from Blair Carley, SSTA's Tennis Director and our coaches.

The last few years were complicated with Covid, but thankfully, a very good year for both the SSTA and the Indoor Tennis facilities. Despite all the restrictions over the past year and more, so many of us found that tennis was a wonderful respite, and a relatively safe sport to play during a pandemic.

We are very fortunate that we have our indoor tennis facilities, and that we have been able to play during Covid but it has also made a lot more work for many people. I'd especially like to thank everyone on the Board of Directors and the entire membership for ensuring we continue to operate within safe conditions. I want to recognize, particularly, Blair Carley, SSTA's Tennis Director, Bay Hale, SSTA's Vice President, and Chris Marshall, SSTA's Communications Director, for all the work they did on checking vaccine statuses of our members and kept us all feeling more save, as a result. On a personal note, I would like to thank the entire membership for the support it has shown toward the Board of Directors and to me personally, as your President.

**Although, mandates are changing rapidly, it is now more than ever, our personal responsibility to make sure we are healthy when we play! Please do not play if you are not 100%. We can't let our guard down just yet!!**



**SSTA, was fortunate to welcome an excess of 50 new members last year!** As your President, I am delighted to welcome all of you, to our Club. It is wonderful to see new faces and new enthusiastic members on the courts. And hopefully, we will see you at the upcoming social functions and tournaments.

The courts have been busy, with leagues, block bookings, leisure play, and workshops/clinics! Not to mention the two wonderful tournaments organized by our Tennis Director, Blair Carley, who is doing double duty as Tournament Director( hint: we need volunteers to organize tournaments). Blair and our two Social Directors, Dave Naphthali and Loraine Clark plus many enthusiastic volunteers, organized a Halloween and Winter social event, both brilliantly run.

And thanks to Pete Schelling, one of our coaches, for setting up a fun skill test with prizes at our Winter Social Event that showed us that there is always room for improvement!

Darran Wrighton, one of SSTA's coaches, has been working very hard. He has managed to grow the Junior Program tremendously, and make tennis a wonderful option as a youth sport on Salt Spring Island.

As well, Darran Wrighton has started a whole series of adult programming which have been well received.

## 2022 Annual Meeting

We'd like to thank Peter Parker, Treasurer, Dave Naphthali and Loraine Clark, Social Directors, and Eduard Andringa, Operations Director for their time and dedication to the Club. Although, we are sad to see them go, at the same time, this creates a great opportunity for members that would like to contribute and offer their skills to the Club. **At this time, I would like to invite our membership to consider standing for the following Board positions:•1. Treasurer 2. Social Director 3. Operations Director.**

**For further information, and for job descriptions, please contact me at: [SSTA.President@shaw.ca](mailto:SSTA.President@shaw.ca)**

Please be patient for my response as I'm hoping, I will be overwhelmed by inquiries!!!! The process is that once you've submitted your name, you will be put in contact with our nomination committee. They will officially put you on the ballot, and a vote will be taken at the upcoming SSTA Annual General Meeting.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank Mary Grove who has been the Club's Volunteer Coordinator for several years. This is not a particularly easy job but Mary was able to encourage more members to give of their time, and contribute to the Club. Mary is resigning from this role, and so we are looking for another member to fulfill this role. Any interest, please contact me as above.

**SSTA Annual General Meeting to be  
held Wednesday, April 13th  
@ 6 pm  
Lion's Hall**

**Details to follow via email.**

## Opportunities to Play! by Blair Carley, SSTA Tennis Director

Fingers crossed, we are seeing a little light at the end of a long dark tunnel both literally, as winter recedes, and figuratively, as covid restrictions are relaxed if only slightly and tentatively. And, as usual, there will be plenty of opportunities to hit a tennis ball.

What if you're new to the club, new to the game or haven't played in decades?

We'll be offering another session of our new Novice League run by coach Pete on Thursday nights from 6:30-8:00 pm starting in April. This is a fun, gentle 6-week session for anyone who is picking up a racquet for the first time or the first time in a long time. Pete will take you through the basics of the game from how to hold your racquet and hit the ball properly to volleying and doubles play. It's a great way to learn or relearn the game and Pete makes it safe and great fun.

Sign up by emailing: [saltspringtennisleague@gmail.com](mailto:saltspringtennisleague@gmail.com)

If you want to just "dip your toe" into the game and the club, and try it once or twice to see how you feel, we've got a couple of options for you.

**Saturday Drop-In** (every Saturday morning from 8:30-10:00 am on the indoor courts) offers a social, rotation-style, any-ability game for everyone. Just "drop-in" (with indoor shoes and \$6). You'll find them welcoming and fun!

Questions? Contact Claire at: [cgs@learningtolearn.ca](mailto:cgs@learningtolearn.ca)

Or, if you'd like an introduction to the courts with just a fun, social game organized for you (or you and a friend) on your own schedule, you can contact our club's version of the **Welcome Wagon, Erica Ross**. She'll put together a foursome on a day and time of your choice, book the court and even supply the balls and equipment.

You can reach Erica at [ericavross@gmail.com](mailto:ericavross@gmail.com) or 250-537-5422.

## For New and...Not So New Players

You should have received by now your email invitation to sign up for the Spring Session of Leagues. We're offering our usual slate of popular, 12-week mixed, women's, men's and team leagues beginning the week of April 4<sup>th</sup>. The sign-up deadline was March 12<sup>th</sup>.

We'll be taking Block Booking requests, as usual, after the league schedule is in place. Watch for the notices.

If you've got suggestions for new league ideas, send them along any time to [ssta.TennisDirector@shaw.ca](mailto:ssta.TennisDirector@shaw.ca) or give them a think, and watch for our league survey coming this summer.

Then, there is our 3 wonderful professional coaches:

**Darran Wrighton** ([momentumtenniscoaching@gmail.com](mailto:momentumtenniscoaching@gmail.com)),



**Marjorie Blackwood ([marjorieblackwood@msn.com](mailto:marjorieblackwood@msn.com)) and Pete Schelling ([peteschelling@gmail.com](mailto:peteschelling@gmail.com)). See below for workshops being offered in March and April.**

And, if your fingers are still crossed, cross your toes too, and hope that Dr. Bonnie and outdoor weather collaborate to allow us to run our traditional series of outdoor Tournaments as well as our InterClub schedule at Portlock Park starting in April.

### **Rajsic Classic to Return in May, 2022.**

Peter Schelling and Blair Carley are pleased to announce the popular Rajsic Classic will be returning this May. The event was named after Roy Rajsic who was a popular member of the Club and a huge supporter of Junior tennis. After Roy's passing, Club Pro, Peter Schelling with the help of Roy's Wife, Margaret Benmore, decided to host this tournament. We look forward to running this important event again. Look for notices by email and posts on Club Spark.

Play Well!

### **Art of Doubles Workshops with Marjorie and Pete: Part 2**



We're offering spring clinics to continue to evolve our doubles tactics, drills, and play. Come join us on court and work your doubles with two of Canada's top doubles coaches! We will have fun, and improve our individual and team skills in a friendly atmosphere together.

**Demos, drills, tactical frameworks for doubles-Sunday's, March 20 and 27th. You should have received an email about these workshops. The workshops details are posted on Club Spark under News. <https://clubspark.ca/saltspringtennis/News/38bae44e-82d0-4c8a-9b74-b9adb90acd63>**

All sessions in March are \$45. per person, based on 4 per court, 8 players on two courts.



## April Workshops by Marjorie Blackwood

Marjorie is also offering three workshops in April targeting specific theme- April 3 and the 10th. Workshops will focus on one element of the game with lots of repetition. We will utilize the ball machine at times, and play points to finish each session. A great way to get your groove and feel the ball on the racquet.

All sessions are \$30. per person/ 4-6 players.

**For both March and April, workshops, please email : [marjorieblackwood@msn.com](mailto:marjorieblackwood@msn.com). Pairs and groups of four that would like to work together are encouraged to sign up together. More information on Club Spark under News.**

## Updates and Important Tips by Darran Wrighton, of Momentum Tennis Coaching

The Winter Term of coaching has been surprisingly busy. We have many new junior members joining us thanks to the school's program that is supported through the Tomorrow's Champions fund.

Our youngest players are now 5 years old and there are over 100 junior members at the moment.

Coaching sessions were also held for the adults as well and there were 3 groups running over the winter season.

There are now two 3.0 and above sessions on Tuesday and Thursdays as well as a 3.5 and above session running on Tuesdays, these were well attended, and it's great to see the improvements carrying on over into the tennis leagues.

The winter term also saw the start of the Junior Leagues with 8 players battling it out each week to have the highest total number of games and the highest games per week average over the term, the league is predominantly doubles and the quality of tennis is very high.

**Information on the Spring Break Holiday coaching program for juniors was sent out by email to all members on March 3rd. Look on Club Spark under News for further information.**

**The Spring Break Holiday coaching program for adults has also been posted to our news site: <https://clubspark.ca/saltspingtennis/News/38bae44e-82d0-4c8a-9b74-b9adb90acd63>**

**There will also be a continuation of the adult clinics throughout the spring. Watch for the emails and postings in Club Spark under news.**

It's been great to see so many people playing throughout the winter months. I hope to move some sessions onto the outdoor courts come the summer.





## Important Tips from Darran Wrighton

One of the aspects that can be improved on from all the sessions, I have run this year is that people are often getting stuck in the “swamp” that is the area between the baseline and the service line.

There is a greater need for players to start watching the trajectory of the incoming ball and move backwards to the baseline after each shot – the amount of free points given away that I see in coaching sessions and leagues from people volleying the ball from near the baseline is a big part of the difference between a 3.0 player moving towards a higher level of play.

I am aware that people mostly volley from inside the baseline as they are trying to keep the rally going but they are not allowing the other player to see that they are making errors and learn from that error.

I’ve seen many a league game where a team is 40-0 up then end up being back at deuce because they have chosen to keep the ball in play when it is going out.

My suggestion is to get used to hitting the ball and then being ready to run forwards or backwards according to the trajectory of the incoming ball, the height at which it crosses the net will give you an indication as to which way you should be moving.

This will help each players reception skills and improve their court positioning immensely.

## Winter Social 2021

### Lorraine Clark and Dave Naphtali - Social Event Coordinators



Photographs courtesy of John de Bruyn.

<https://clubspark.ca/saltspringtennis/News/af7ed416-e860-4e9d-a5c2-52208993ff7c>

For the first time in what seems like a long time, the club held a seasonal social event on December 4th, 2021- organized by David Naphtali, and supported by a number of volunteers.

The Tennis Centre was decorated for the season by the skillful hand of our president Babette Arnoldus with a Xmas tree lit up between the courts. The viewing galleries were stocked with holiday treats and a tennis bistro was in place to enhance the social atmosphere.

Santas, reindeer and elves graced the courts for a social round of tennis.

### Humberto Martinho

The evening was topped off by Pete Schelling's naughty or nice games.

The prize ticket for the Country Grocer Turkey was drawn for Anne Stewart.

Just under 50 participants enjoyed a social afternoon to kick off the holiday season.

A special thanks goes to our Secret Santa, Barb Freitas.

Appreciation to the many volunteers that contributed to this fun end of year event:

Barb Freitas - registration and Secret Santa  
Lorna Kerr - registration and prize tickets  
Jean Southgate - general help and bar  
John de Bruyn - photos and bar service  
Murray Coates - drop-in social tennis coordinator  
Humberto Martinho - drop-in social tennis coordinator  
David Youngson- drop-in social tennis coordinator  
Babette Arnoldus - food, decorations and bistro  
Tim Dubois—decorations and bistro set-up.  
Peter Parker - food, drink, turkey pickup and delivery  
Rebecca Chidley - bar, food and goodies  
Glynis Finer - food and goodies station  
Christina Marshall - food and goodies station  
Rebecca Chidley - bar, food and goodies & Marnie Naphtali - food bank and gifts



## Salt Spring Tennis Outdoor Maintenance by Murray Coates

### Past and Future Activities

The outdoor maintenance program was originally initiated to deal with parking lot and grounds issues with the guideline that minimal funds would be available from club sources. Some small amounts were provided for the purchase of gravel and various other items but all other expenditures have been sourced through donations. We have also had substantial labor contributions from volunteers as well as gifts of material items.

The following activities have been undertaken by the outdoor maintenance group:

1. Removal of broom, blackberry plants, thistles, grass, and other weeds from the berm, and access road ditches. This was accomplished with volunteers using personal equipment and volunteer contributed fuel. Some assistance was also provided by golf course maintenance staff (equipment, waste hauling etc.) At least six work parties were involved.
2. The cedar hedge row was pruned
3. Pot hole filling is ongoing from the club's stock of purchased gravel
4. A flag pole was erected on the grounds. We have a stock of flags all of which were donated including the SSTA flag, Canada flag, BC flag, flag of Scotland, flag of Ireland, Christmas flag, Valentines flag. The flag pole was donated as was the hardware to install it.(estimated value \$300)
5. Volunteers have landscaped the front corner bed and are maintaining it.
6. Volunteers have donated the 3 half barrels in the gravelled area along with the soil and spring bulbs which will soon be in bloom. A club member will also be providing three palm tree plants (estimated value of barrels, bulbs and palm seedlings \$400)
7. A maintenance equipment shed was constructed with donated material and a minor amount of cash by volunteers. (I prefabricated the building off site) (estimated value \$2500)
8. A donor has provided a supply of wild flower seeds which will be planted around the barrel area in the spring.
9. Assistance was provided to help install the internet cable through the west wall of the Elliot court
10. The Elliot court door was repaired.
11. Snow clearing and ice control activities were carried out as needed during the recent storms
12. The entry doors were painted in club colours by volunteers

We thank all our volunteers and donors. If you would like to assist with outdoor maintenance please contact: [info@saltspringtennis.com](mailto:info@saltspringtennis.com) We expect to have another yard work party in April.





## Future Activities- Water Collection System

In order to maintain the plantings in the corner bed, the barrels, as well as other berm plantings (as may be donated), we would like to install a modest water collection and holding system. Initial capacity will be 550 gallons based on two IBC totes. These will be stacked on a timber frame and plumbed to fit standard garden hoses. Water will be distributed by gravity.

The plan is to catch roof water from the downspout adjacent to the shed. The estimated cost for a catchment system will be around \$600. We will run a fund raiser and accept donations to cover the costs of the water collection system.

The budget would include:

- Totes including transportation to Salt Spring- \$240.
- Plumbing and hoses- \$100.
- Paint- \$75.
- Downspout diverter—\$100.

## The Fire Wood Fund Raiser

With wood from Dave Naphtali, and with the able assistance of Murray Coates, Humberto Martinho, Randy Grey and Peter Parker, several cords of wood were split, loaded and delivered. So far \$600. has been raised but there is hope another several hundred dollars can be raised.

**Peter Parker and Murray Coates, part of the firewood fund raiser crew.**

**Additional photos:**



<https://clubspark.ca/saltspringtennis/News/af7ed416-e860-4e9d-a5c2-52208993ff7c>

## In Appreciation of the SSTA Bathroom and Shoe Changing Area

### Cleaning Crew Volunteers

A volunteer job often unrecognized and thankless but critical to the maintenance of the court areas in addition to providing a clean and tidy environment for all! The bathroom crew led by Kim Ballantyne, organizer extraordinaire, cleaned the shoe changing area and bathrooms every week.

The cleaning crew consisted of : Rebecca Chidley, Kitty Martinho, Robyn Huntley, Cathy Patel, Diana Sanderson, Mary Grove and Dianne Hayward.

**But changes are afoot—the SSTA has decided to undergo a 12 week trial period in which a professional cleaner has been hired.**

**“We’d like to extend a warm welcome to SoRa Deans who will soon start at SSTA as our cleaner. SoRa will work cleaning the Ross and Elliot Court waiting rooms and mezzanine areas and will report to the Operations Director. Welcome to SoRa.” from the SSTA Board of Directors.**

**Other unacknowledged volunteers—in appreciation of Robyn Huntley for managing Lost and Found. And to Mary Richardson for setting up and managing the tennis ball recycle program.**

### SSTA’s New Lending Library

**by Dave Naphtali**



You may have noticed a new bookshelf in the Erica Ross Court at the Indoor Courts. The bookshelf was constructed and installed by Murray Coates, and now holds donated publications on the game of tennis.

The books were donated by Peter Lam, Murray and Jan Coates, Erica and Colin Ross and Dave and Marnie Naphtali.

The books are free for you to borrow and read at home or just browse while you’re waiting for to play.

Each book has a label as follows: “This book belongs to Salt Spring Tennis Association Lending Library. Please return to the bookshelf at the Tennis Courts when you have finished reading.”

if you wish to donate books, contact the:  
**[SSTA.secretary@shaw.ca](mailto:SSTA.secretary@shaw.ca)**

P.S. Every time I check, the number of books keeps growing.

**That's it for another newsletter! Here's a big welcome to spring and lots of opportunities to play.  
Thank you to all the contributors and the editor superb—'Chris Marshall'**

**Over and out until the Summer Newsletter.**

**Dianne Hayward**

