

SSTA 2021 SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Club News

Here's to better times ... there is so much hope on the horizon for those of us that have been longing for a return to indoor doubles, and group coaching, as well as the potential for fall league play.

BC's Phased Re-Start Plan and It's Possible Impact on Tennis

In anticipation of BC's Step Two in the phased re-start plan, the Salt Spring Tennis Association anticipates the following easing of court restrictions potentially as early as June 15th, 2021. This may allow for the following:

1. Players from different households can play indoor and outdoor singles and doubles tennis together.
2. Indoor group coaching to resume.
3. Safety protocols and physical distancing measures to remain in place.

Stay Tuned at :<https://clubspark.ca/saltspringtennis/News>

Further general information on BC's steps on easing of restrictions can be found at: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/info/restrictions>

N.B In fact, the Club Spark News feed is an exceptional source of all things happening for and in our Club. So check it out —much in this newsletter, about block bookings, 'blow by blow recounts of the 'So Be It Spring Team Singles Tournament' —(light reading for bedtime), and summer single box leagues are already posted!



Read all about it! Read all about it..... all that is on offer for summer tennis!

The board is encouraging SSTA members who enjoy singles to continue to use the indoor courts during the summer. This not only helps the club financially but leaves more outdoor courts for doubles play. To promote singles and even potentially doubles play, read below on the programs and rates.

Announcing Summer Indoor Court Fees—Effective June 19th, 2021

If you tire of the blaring sun in your eyes, the heat, and the wind blowing your well-placed ball elsewhere (?) at Portlock Park—maybe consider booking the indoor courts. Read below on the rate defying fees:

1. Prime -time hours are 9 am - 8 pm daily. But rates for these hours will drop from \$14/half hour to \$7/ half hour for the summer.
2. Non-prime time hours are 6-9 am and 8-11 pm daily. Rates for these hours will remain at \$6/half hour throughout the summer.

Reminder - Summer Singles Box League - Deadline to Register - June 10

For those who have rediscovered the joys or challenges of chasing down the ball while madly running around the court —there are good things on offer for singles play this summer:

'To help promote a club atmosphere and help members find singles players at a similar level, SSTA will be introducing a Singles Box League for the summer period. The Single Box Leagues will start on the weekend of June 26th and go throughout the summer. Box Leagues set you up with players within the club of a similar level, and give you a set schedule of games to play within the group and track results' Blair Carley.

To sign up for the Singles Box Leagues and get a detailed description of how the league will be structured: **contact Blair Carley by emailing: SSTA.TennisDirector@shaw.ca.**

Please include your name, telephone number, preferred days and times to play, and your Tennis Canada rating (or best guess) in the email.

Summer Block Bookings

1. Singles Block Bookings will be available for the summer, starting June 25th.

Contact Blair Carley by emailing: SSTA.TennisDirector@shaw.ca, stating your name, telephone number and desired day and time. The deadline is June 10th which is rapidly approaching.

2. Doubles Block Bookings—-Stay tuned!!!! They are dependent on the rulings on June 15, 2021. The deadline for bookings would be approximately 7 to 10 days after June 15th. And start dates, likely in early July— for a 10 to 12 week block booking session.

Blair will try and accommodate your preferred day and time but he may have to make adjustments for conflict among bookings.



‘And what a tournament it was ...’The So-Be-It Spring Team Singles Tournament- in-Slow-Motion’

The ‘So-Be-It Spring’ Team Singles Tournament. 28 players of all ages and abilities were divided into 4 teams. Each week they played an opponent of equal ability from another team in a singles pro-set (first to 8 games) trying to win match points for their team. We got an 83-year-old woman playing 12-year-old boys, mothers playing sons, and many other match-ups between SSTA members who met each other for the first time. In many cases, players were discovering (and re-discovering) the joys and challenges of vigorous singles play. These eager enthusiasts were on the indoor courts Wednesday, Friday and Sunday evenings for 6 weeks until this past May long weekend:

<https://clubspark.ca/saltspringtennis/News/a28c2909-c53f-4bc8-bfa0-ff52ac84a765>

Tournament Wrap — — Parsed from Blair Carley, Club Tennis Director

‘It was a nail biting final with the Blue’s ahead-heading into the final week but then..., as luck would have it, the schedule had the top 2 teams in the standings, Team Blue and Team Yellow, facing each other for their remaining 7 matches. The other 7 matches had Team Green and Team White battling it out for third spot. The stage for the tournament finale and the deciding match featuring, wouldn’t you know it, a battle between mother and son. Blue’s Elle Wild definitely came out on top in the trash-talking contest but the match on the court saw Team Yellow’s Max Wild triumph, sealing the tournament overall victory for the Yellow squad.

Each Team Yellow team member receives, as a prize, a free 90 minute indoor court booking for the time and date of their choice valid until August 31st, 2021. (Just email SSTA.TennisDirector@shaw.ca when you’re ready to cash in your prize).

Congratulations to all the participants. We managed to have a great event despite the pesky covid restrictions with lots of laughter, great team spirit, some terrific tennis, and the meeting of new friends and playing partners. Good Playing All!’ Blair Carley.



Max’s Wild’s photo of his mother titled: ‘Blue Down’



Darran Wrighton, a new member of SSTA's coaching team, has lots planned for summer.....let's get out and support him.

Reminder of the Junior Coaching Summer Program.

'The focus of these sessions will be to learn the basics of serving, rallying and scoring in a fun and social environment under the guidance of a Tennis Canada Certified Coach'.



Week 1: July 5th – 9th
 Week 2: July 12th – 16th
 Week 3: July 19th – 23rd
 Week 4: July 26th – 30th
 Week 5: August 9th – 13th
 Week 6: August 16th – 20th
 Week 7: August 23rd -27th
 Week 8: August 30th – 3rd September

AGES	DAYS	PROGRAM	TIME
6/7/8 YEARS OLD	MONDAY TO FRIDAY	RED BALL TENNIS	10.00 -11.00 AM
8/9 YEARS OLD	MONDAY / WEDNESDAY / FRIDAY	ORANGE BALL TENNIS	11.00AM – 12.00PM
10 /11YEARS OLD	TUESDAY / THURSDAY	GREEN BALL TENNIS	11.00AM – 12.00PM

PRICE PER SESSION - \$15.00

ALL SESSIONS ARE HELD AT PORTLOCK PARK

BOOK YOUR PLACE BY EMAIL @

momentumtenniscoaching@gmail.com

Momentum Tennis—Darran Wrighton would like to look into the possibilities of running some group adult lessons at Portlock Park in the evenings or mid-mornings in the near future.

DARRAN WRIGHTON
 MOMENTUM TENNIS COACHING
 250 – 883 – 4588

There will be 3 types of sessions available:

Coach and Play—technical and tactical coaching sessions involving play-based situations. The session is a mixture of live ball and basket drills for those players looking to improve their gameplay—great for those looking to gain an advantage in match situations.

Cardio Tennis—basket drills and live ball exercises designed to keep participants continually moving—the emphasis is on hitting lots of balls in a social session that is promoting every participant in taking as many steps as possible within the session to help improve their health and fitness as well as having fun.

Fit-H-I-T (High Intensity Tennis)—this session is purely a basket drilling session for those looking to keep fit and hone their strokes with an hour of continual drills —a great workout for all levels of players.

If you are interested in these proposed sessions, please feel free to email me, and then I can look at the viability of booking courts and running these types of programs throughout the year.

Darran's e mail is: momentumtenniscoaching@gmail.com



Coaches Corner – Invaluable Tips and Tactics ...



From Darran Wrightonon Tactics.....perhaps something we all ignore, and maybe shouldn't on our journey to tennis greatness.

If you've by any chance read my philosophy of tennis in 'The Special Edition' — it states my belief that players are well served by also focusing on tactics in addition to techniques. Here are some tactics by which to improve your game - irrespective of how well you hit and control the ball (technique), improvements can always be made through using some basic tactics:

1. Get the ball over the net and in the court! You only need to hit the ball one more time than your opponent- more points are won through opponents' errors rather than our own winners!
2. Hit the ball into space - make your opponent move - make them work for every point - it's harder to play when you're constantly moving as well as being physically tired.
3. Use your strengths against your opponent's weakness- the majority of players don't enjoy hitting backhands - how can you use your strongest shot (normally forehand) to hit towards their least favourite shot.
4. Make sure you recover after every shot - i.e try not to stand and watch the result of your shot - try and move back to the middle of the court after each shot and try and anticipate your opponent's next shot direction.

Employing some of the above concepts in your game can take the focus away from trying to hit the perfect shot each time you strike the ball, and hopefully make your tennis more enjoyable through the joy of playing the game itself rather than trying to just link together a series of shots.





Rajsic Classic Update by Peter Schelling

Unfortunately for the second year in a row, the popular Rajsic Classic has been cancelled due to Covid restrictions.

The May long weekend event is a senior doubles round robin tournament which raised a substantial amount of money that went to supporting junior tennis.

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 Pete Schelling with the help of Roy's wife, Margaret Benmore, decided to host the tournament with all monies raised going to help juniors.

We look forward to running this important event again when restrictions have lifted.



A Note from Marjorie Blackwood on Singles Play

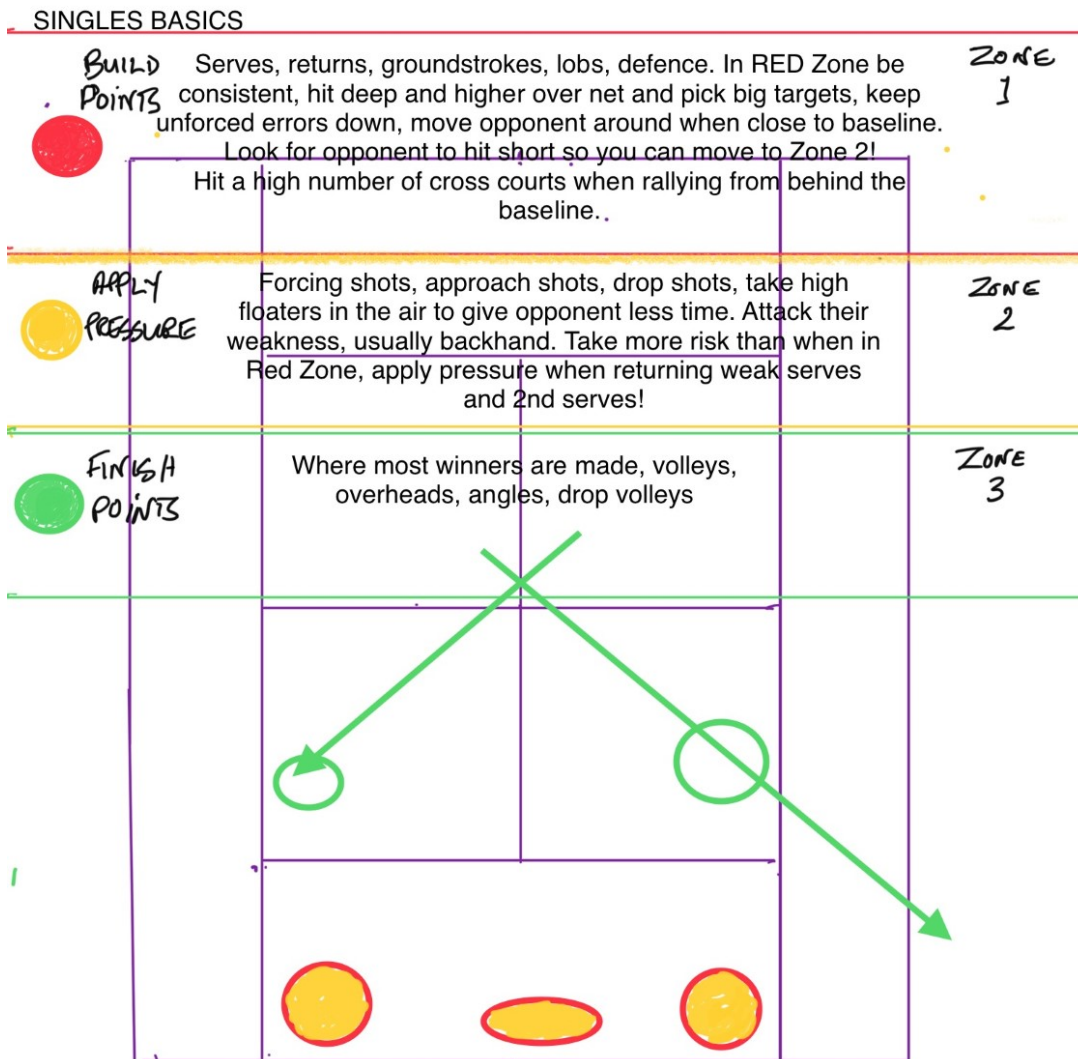
During this Covid year it has been great to see so many members out on court playing singles, getting fitter, and working on your games! The Team singles tournament organized by Blair Carley has been a real success, and will be followed up by a singles box league and more play in the summer.

Later, when health protocols allow, Pete and I will be running a couple of singles sessions that people can sign up for, and we will use the following illustrated court graphic as a template for some fun demos on basic tactics and game styles for singles.



From Marjorie Blackwood....check out this basic court graphic below

– showing the **3 Zones** of play on the court, and the intentions and shots that are used in those Zones.
Which Zone are you most comfortable in, and which ones are you not crazy about? ie: if you are parked behind the baseline in **Zone 1**, are you able to read and react to short shots from your opponent?



In Appreciation

If you noticed the tidy, and cleaned-up look in front of and between the indoor-tennis courts, this is solely due to two avid gardeners, as well as keen tennis players, Colette Hale and Flora Bovis.



Helping Your Club

Just a reminder, there are ways you can help the club financially, such as:

1. Our community funding is ending for the Thrifty's Smile Card program. Please load your cards up ASAP and we encourage you to use them a lot before the end of June to get the last of Thrifty's 5% return offer for SSTA.
2. "Return It" has an SSTA account. If you ask to direct your bottle-return change to SSTA, it raises funds for your club. Thank you - every little bit counts.

Chit Chat

Looking for players or spares: Ben Neufield is available at: 250-537-9575

Addendum: Thank you for taking a glance.

Signing off until the next Club Newsletter-September, 2021.

