

VERNON TENNIS ASSOCIATION (VTA)

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PRESIDENT'S PASSING SHOTS

A Happy New Year to you all. Our organization is now entering into its second decade and I see us continuing to build on what has been accomplished over the past 10 years. I have had the opportunity to look over many of the initiatives that have been worked on over this period so what I am proposing will be nothing new.

Firstly, thanks to all of those who last year stepped up to make sure all of our activities were so successful. Your efforts are certainly appreciated by all.

Our leagues have proven to be very popular and our drop-in programs have been well received. These programs will certainly continue to be the backbone of our club.

Last year, we had skills and drills sessions on Fridays at the beginning of the year and while they were popular, we will be making some changes so they will be more effective. Our programs will now follow the adult Tennis Canada programs with emphasis on those just starting. Levels programs will be used for those who wish to improve their level of play. The allocated time slots for these programs will not interfere with the evening sessions we already have in place. Full details will be coming out sometime in April closer to the start of our season.

Some of our members have also been working with Vernon Parks and Recreation to set up morning leagues for both women and men plus morning mixed social tennis. Many thanks to these people for the work they are doing. This year the men's morning league will be expanded from two to four courts. Check with Vernon Parks and Recreation "Active Living" booklet when it comes out at the end of February for the full details and registration procedures.

One area I am looking to rejuvenate is our junior program. I am looking to expand this program to players from 5 to 15-year old's. I will be offering to hold both lessons and team tennis in the spring, a summer camp and team tennis in the Fall. How will all of this happen? I am presently finalizing the details but I will certainly be asking for your assistance in promoting our programs and will also need some help. My aim will be to provide the opportunity for the youth in our community to enjoy tennis at a reasonable cost.

Predator Ridge now has a bubble on two of their courts. We have been trying to work out an arrangement with them so our members could use their courts during the indoor season. Unfortunately, so far, we have not been successful in setting anything up. We will keep trying and if an arrangement can be made, we will certainly let you know.

This September, the 55+ Games will be in Kelowna so those of you who have reached the ripe old age of 55 or more may wish to participate in this tournament.

Again, this year, we will continue to push for more courts at Marshall. I appreciate there have been ongoing presentations from our club for the past 10 years or more; however, we certainly need these courts as our membership and programs grow.

I am sure looking forward to another great year for our club, but please remember that this is your club. What would you like to see? Please let the members of our Board know. Contact: www.vernontennis.com

Graham Cooper
President

PUT THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

VTA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Please try to attend the Vernon Tennis Association
Annual General Meeting on:

TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2019 AT 7:00 PM

at the
Toyota Indoor Sports Centre
Okanagan Landing Rd., Vernon

Attending the meeting is the best way to find out what is happening with the VTA and tennis in Vernon and area. Your help is needed as a *participating member*. You can have a direct impact on tennis in Vernon. We welcome your input. **Your 2018 VTA Membership is valid until after the April 2019 AGM – you are a voting member.** 2019 Memberships will be available after the AGM.

Condolences

**REST IN PEACE, MARGRET,
WE WILL MISS YOU!**

On Friday, January 25, 2019 one of our long-time VTA Members, friend and tennis player, Margret Schmidt passed away. Margret will be remembered fondly by any VTA Member from 2008 on, for her unforgettable courage on the tennis court, never giving up on a point, and never thinking she cannot reach for a shot. Margret was one of the VTA's staunchest supporters and never missed a tennis function or event. She always supplied our events with delicious baked goods from her German background, and special secret recipe cakes to one lucky member. She partnered with Joe Fabi in the 2017 55+ Games held in Vernon. They won Bronze medals in the 80+ category! No one ever doubted their win for a minute.

*Our sincere condolences go to Margret's husband, Peter, and to all her family.
RIP Margret, we love you.*

WINTER TENNIS ANYONE?

There may be some new covered tennis courts in the area, but VTA players are ready to go on their own wonderful snow-free courts right here at Marshall Field.

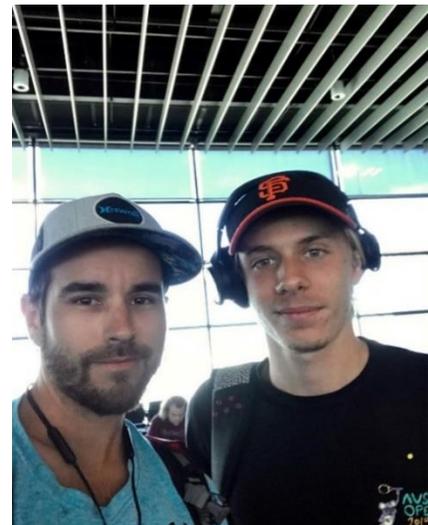


There's nothing like tennis in January in Vernon, eh. Frits Bakker, Jackie Labuhn, Stu Pike and Linda Weberg – look at that blue sky and bluer court!

AUSTRALIAN OPEN TENNIS

January 12-27, 2019
Melbourne, Australia

Lucky Paul Boyko, VTA Treasurer, got to go to Melbourne for a week during the AO. We will let Paul tell you his stories when you see him in the spring, but for the time being, he took some great photos.



Paul Boyko having a word with Dennis Shapovalov at the airport before returning home from the Australian Open



From Right – Joe Fabi and Margret Schmidt
55+ Games – Vernon, 2017



Australian Open – January 12-27, 2019
 Nicholas Kyrgios (on left) vs Milos Raonic
 (thanks for the great pictures, Paul)

DON'T FORGET TO ATTEND THE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2019 – 7:00 pm.

YOUR PRESENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

- President: Graham Cooper - graham_cooper@shaw.ca
- V. President: Position to be filled – are you the one??
- Secretary: Susan Gouchee
- Treasurer: Paul Boyko
- Facilities Coord: Joe Fabi
- Directors at Large: Mike Kozlowski, Ron Burton and Wendy Bell
- Communications & Membership Coordinator: Jackie Labuhn - vtavernon@gmail.com or website www.vernontennis.com

THINKING ABOUT GETTING THAT RACQUET RE-STRUNG

The conventional 'rule of thumb' is to restring as often per year as you play per week, but no less often than twice per year. It won't hurt your racquet to restring less often, but your strings might lose their responsiveness

The following people are listed as tennis associated resources available in the area. The VTA does not endorse any tennis resource. It is up to individuals to request qualifications:

Racquet stringing

Jeremy Bell 250-503-5489

Tennis Instruction & Coaching

Murray Bennetto
 250-306-6476

Pro./Coach/Instructor

bennetto@shaw.ca

Cost: \$50/hr. Private Lesson

Remember when.....



Tennis at the Kalamalka Club, Coldstream
 Circa – 1909

STAN SMITH'S TENNIS CLASS

(Reprinted from the *Tim Bits Magazine* and submitted by Joe Fabi)

DOUBLES SERVICE RETURNS: When returning the serve, early preparation is crucial - that serve is coming at you very fast and you don't have time for elaborate motions when hitting the ball.

It's important to get your racket back early when returning the serve. If you watch the ball as soon as it leaves the server's hand, you can get a jump on your return preparation.

(Stanley Roger Smith is a former world No. 1 American tennis player and two-time Grand Slam singles champion who also, with his partner Bob Lutz, formed one of the most successful doubles teams of all time. Together, they won many major titles all over the world.)