

## **VERNON TENNIS ASSOCIATION (VTA)**

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### **PRESIDENT'S PASSING SHOTS**

Recently, I decided to try to get a count on the number of registrations during 2018 in all tennis programs, lessons and clubs in Greater Vernon. I was really surprised to find the number was 375. However, this does not include those involved in the informal morning groups at Paddlewheel, Polson and Kal Secondary and elsewhere. Tennis is sure alive and well in our community.

Did you know that Predator Ridge now has four courts plus will have two of them covered this fall? Also, I hear Salmon Arm indoor courts will either be ready this winter or next fall. Congratulations to both communities.

This year has sure been a great year for our association. On behalf of us all a very big thanks to Blake McLeod, Wendy Bell, Jeremy Bell and Mike Kozlowski for coordinating our very successful league programs. Thanks also to our coordinators Joe Fabi, and Marsha White and others for setting up the drop-in nights, and Myron Hocesvar and Jackie Labuhn for Saturday mornings.

You are undoubtedly aware of the wind screens that are now in place. Thanks to Marsha for applying to the 55+ Games Legacy Fund to get the funding and to Joe for liaising with Vernon Public Works. Thanks also to Vernon Public Works for covering the extra cost and having them installed.

Eight players from our area participated in the 55+ Games in Cranbrook. To take a look at the tennis photos go to [www.55plusgames.ca](http://www.55plusgames.ca), click on the two dots in the top right-hand corner. This will bring you to Flickr. Click on "Albums" then scroll down three rows to tennis.

Congratulations also to those who have taken place in local tournaments. While it is certainly great to win it is also important just to take part and meet players from other clubs. If you did not take part in a tournament this year, sign up next year and enjoy the experience. It sure has been great to see the improvement of so many of our players over the past year.

For those just starting off in tennis, this year we tried our "Skills and Drills" program on a Friday night. While we

were pleased with it, next year we will again run a similar program through to the summer. We will, though, make a couple of changes so as to more closely follow the Tennis Canada program plus we will use the ball machine.

Thank you to our Board members for their guidance and particularly to Wendy Bell for looking after the publicity, to Susan Gouchée for taking the minutes and to Jackie Labuhn for looking after our association registrations, communications and also working with Paul Boyko to look after our finances...and of course, thanks to Paul.

Thanks to Marsha White for all of her efforts behind the scenes. Marsha, while we know you are in the process of selling your house, we are secretly glad that so far you have not had a buyer. Seriously, though, thank you for everything you have done and when you finally do move you are sure going to be missed.

It has been a privilege being your president. I do encourage you to put forward your suggestions as to what you would like to see happen to develop tennis in our community. I'm already looking forward to next year.

Graham Cooper, President

### **PRESENTATION AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF 55+ GAMES LEGACY FUNDING**

At the VTA September 19<sup>th</sup> Season-end Wind-up Tennis and Get-together a special presentation was done to acknowledge the 55+ Games Legacy Fund.

Diana Williamson of the 55+ B.C. Games Legacy Committee, along with Gary Davidson, 55+ BC Games (Vernon) Tennis, presented a special plaque recognizing the generous grant which allowed the installation of the much-needed windscreens at the Marshall Field Courts. VTA Board Members, Marsha White and Joe Fabi were acknowledged for their role in making this happen. White spearheaded the application process while Fabi coordinated the purchase of the screens from Tomko Sports and the installation thereof with the City of Vernon.

After many months of communication and coordination, it was exciting that the eventual windscreen installation

coincided with Fabi's 84th birthday! The plaque was affixed to the Marshall Field backboard to acknowledge the VTA's gratitude to the Legacy Committee as well as the contributions of Joe Fabi and Marsha White who, over many years, have both made a longstanding impact on the growth of tennis in our community.

After the presentation, 30+ VTA members and guests enjoyed doubles tennis with different partners, some never having played together before. Also enjoyed were snacks and appetizers supplied by VTA and our members. Especially appreciated was the hot apple cider to ward off the chill as the evening progressed. A generous donation of two \$30 scratch and win lottery tickets were offered in a reverse raffle. Winners were Frits Bakker and Roy White. Unfortunately, none of the scratches yielded the \$1,000,000+ prize, but the anticipation was very much in evidence!

Members are advised to check the VTA website for changes in the reserved tennis times for the remainder of October.

***Thank you to all our members for the great 2018 tennis season. Keep in touch through our bi-monthly Newsletters over the winter. We will see you all again at the AGM in April. Have an active and healthy winter season.***

**Presentation 55+ Games Legacy Funding for Windscreens – Marshall Field Courts**



Graham Cooper, Joe Fabi, Marsha White, Diana Williamson (55+ Legacy Committee), and Gary Davidson (2017 Tennis Rep. for Zone 5)

**TUESDAY/THURSDAY  
3.5 and 4.0+ LEAGUE TENNIS**

Tuesday 3.5 Evening League had their final matches on September 25<sup>th</sup>. The Thursday 4.0+ Evening League has decided to continue to play while the weather permits. In fact, Mike K. has said Tuesday is also open for play anytime if you wish to get a group together.

Both the 3.5+ League on Tuesday evening and the 4.0+ League on Thursday evening at 7 p.m. were a tremendous success. Leagues ran 16 full-time players with another 6-7 players acting as spares when needed.

A special *Thank You* to Mike Kozlowski and Blake McLeod for their organizational abilities in running successful programs. Also *Thank You* to Jeremy and Wendy Bell for their assistance to Blake in distributing the rosters for the 4.0+ league so efficiently.

Please think about the 2019 season. If you are interested in running one of the existing programs, or any tennis program during VTA time, please let us know.

We are always looking for enthusiastic people to assist and help out. No job is too difficult; if you enjoyed the program this year, think about helping out next year – Let Mike or Blake know or contact [vtavernon@gmail.com](mailto:vtavernon@gmail.com)

**VTA JUNIOR TENNIS PROGRAM**

July and August, 2018

We are now in the 9<sup>th</sup> year of our junior program that is set up for 6 to 12-year old's. Many thanks to Jackie Labuhn for looking after the registrations.

Graham Cooper has taken on the role of instructor but without the assistance of Carol Jenkins and Susan Gouchée the program simply could not run. Thanks to all. Our program is the latest from Tennis Canada and is based on skill development and variety of tennis activities that are geared to the ages



of the players. It has been very well received by both the parents and players. All ready some of the 6-year old's can rally, while the older children are playing games. It is amazing to see how quickly the children pick up the sport of tennis, a game that can last a life-time. Fun and exciting times for all! Graham Cooper - reporting

## RESULTS FROM TOURNAMENTS IN THE VALLEY AND BEYOND

### LAKE COUNTRY LABOR DAY TOURNAMENT September 1-2, 2018

The Lake Country tennis club stepped up to fill the void left by the Vernon Kalamalka Country club not hosting a Labor Day weekend tournament anymore. The inaugural tournament was a resounding success with a total of 26 doubles teams coming from Summerland to Salmon Arm and beyond taking part in the 2-day event. The competition was very stiff and many players who took part in 2 events (mixed doubles and men's or ladies doubles) played 10 or more matches over the two days in the round robin format making for a very busy weekend for the players.

The VTA had 8 of its best competing: Ray Crampton, Leah Crampton, David Claeys, Gary Edwards, Ben Johnson, Shannon Marsh, Blake McLeod, and Nicole Charney. Thanks to all for supporting the tournament!

#### Open class Men's doubles

1. Mike and Joel DePfyffer (Kelowna)
2. Genadiy Selivanov and Arthur Bakx (Kelowna)
3. Blake McLeod and David Claeys (VTA)
4. Ray Crampton and Gary Edwards (VTA)

#### Ladies Doubles

1. Dawna Denotter and Deb McGregor (Kelowna)
2. Marnie Parrier and Dineka Vandeburgt (Lake Country)
3. Leah Crampton (VTA) and Lisa Martin-Patterson

#### Mixed Doubles

1. West Martin-Patterson and Lisa Martin-Patterson (Salmon Arm)
2. Kees Denotter and Dawna Denotter (Kelowna)
3. Shannon Marsh (VTA) and Dinesh Baludinesh (Kelowna)
4. Ben Johnson (VTA) and Shannon Monssen (Lake Country)

All the players would like to thank Marnie Perrier of Lake Country for all her hard work putting on and organizing such an outstanding tournament; and thanks to the generous prize sponsors: Blind Tiger Winery, Intrigue Winery, Turtle Bay Liquor Merchants and Big White ski club. Marnie and Lake Country tennis club hopes to put this on again next year Labor Day weekend, so see you there!

Thank you to Ben Johnson for his reporting.



#### Going for the Bronze!

Left to right - David Claeys, Blake McLeod, Ray Crampton, Gary Edwards

### MIELE TEAM TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS AT PREDATOR RIDGE

The Miele Team Tennis Event is a TennisBC ITF sanctioned tournament. It is a Province-wide tournament which invites each region (or tennis club) in BC to submit a team of players to compete first in playoffs with other teams from their region. Playoffs for the Okanagan Region were held in June at the Lakeview Tennis Club in West Kelowna.

Categories are as follows:

- Men: 3.0, 3.5 and 4.0, format is one singles and two doubles per match.
- Women: 3.0, 3.5 and 4.0, format is three doubles per match.
- The minimum number of players per men's team is 5. and the minimum number of players per women's team is 6.
- It is recommended that teams carry an extra player in case of injury.

The winning team at each level in each region qualifies for the Provincial Championship.

This year the provincials were scheduled to be held as follows:

Men: To be played August 17-19, 2018 at Predator Ridge in Vernon, B.C.

***NOTE: Unfortunately, due to heavy smoke from wildfires in the Vernon area on that weekend, the***

**whole tournament was relocated to Global Racquet & Fitness facility in Kelowna.**

Women: Were played August 10-12, 2018 at Bear Mountain in Victoria, B.C.

**A little VTA background information re: the VTA and the Miele Tournament:** In 2015 the Vernon Tennis Association put together a men's team to compete in the Okanagan Miele Team Playoffs held in Kelowna. The VTA team won the Okanagan playoffs and went to the Championships which were held in Whistler that year. Our team won all their tennis matches, but unfortunately were awarded Silver instead of Gold because of a player substitution (due to an injury) that was not allowed once the match commenced. We are still so proud of that team!

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**BC 55+ GAMES – SEPTEMBER 11-15, 2018**  
**KIMBERLEY/CRANBROOK AREA**

The VTA had several members participating in this year's 55+ Games being held in the Kimberley/Cranbrook area. In doubles competition: VTA members Ron Burton and partner, and Joe Fabi and partner Graham Cooper. Also playing: Rubin Weins, Ted Malenson, Diane and Wilf Steeves (all play in the Vernon Parks & Rec. morning tennis program at Marshall Field. Results:

**SILVER MEDAL:** Diane Steeves (55-60) Ladies Doubles  
Wilf Steeves (60-64) Men's Doubles  
(Diane and Wilf both play in the Vernon Parks & Rec. Tennis programs, but not with VTA)

**BRONZE MEDAL:** Joe Fabi (75-79) Mixed Doubles  
Ron Burton (60-64) Men's Doubles



(on left) Graham Cooper and Joe Fabi finishing their Men's Doubles Match



**Receiving the Bronze Medal in Mixed Doubles**  
Joe Fabi (far right) and partner, Lynette Collins

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**BALL MACHINE AVAILABLE**

**REMINDER:** Your VTA Membership includes free use of the ball machine. Check with a Board member or Jackie Labuhn 778-475-1371 or [vtavernon@gmail.com](mailto:vtavernon@gmail.com) for instruction on its use. The ball machine may be used any time when court #1 is free, or before, and after VTA reserved court times. Please record your use in the green binder next to the machine. Thank you.

**NOTE to members:** Please do not add balls to the machine as we only use 'gently used' balls (not new balls because the fluff accumulates on the rollers). However, if you find a very soft or damaged ball in the hopper, please discard it in the trash. If you wish to donate 'gently used' balls, please leave them in their container and place in the bin on the court fence labelled "Used Balls". Thank you.



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**VTA MEMBERSHIP & RATING INFORMATION**

**VTA Membership Lists** are only distributed to VTA Members, upon request, for the purpose of arranging tennis games with other members. Please contact Jackie Labuhn at [vtavernon@gmail.com](mailto:vtavernon@gmail.com) .

Please respect the privacy of our members by not sharing the list with anyone other than VTA Members. Thank you.

**REMEMBER, to let Jackie Labuhn, Communication Coordinator, know if you change your phone number or email address.**

**THINKING ABOUT GETTING THAT RACQUET RE-STRUNG**  
**OR**  
**TAKING SOME TENNIS LESSONS**

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 of these resources. It is up to individuals to request qualifications.

**Racquet stringing**

Jeremy Bell                      [jeremybell\\_1@msn.com](mailto:jeremybell_1@msn.com)  
250-503-5489

**Tennis Instruction & Coaching**

Murray Bennetto              Pro/Coach/Instructor  
250-306-6476                      [bennetto@shaw.ca](mailto:bennetto@shaw.ca)  
Cost: \$50/hr. Private Lesson

Ricardo Leiva                      Coach/Instructor  
250-308-4588                      [ricardoalbertaleiva@gmail.com](mailto:ricardoalbertaleiva@gmail.com)



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**NEWS FLASH**



September 28, 2018

Our very own VTA member David Scarlatescu and his partner/Mom, Beatrice Weir, participated in the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Dancing with the Stars on September 28, 2018 in Vernon.

The massive fundraiser took place on Friday, with proceeds going towards the North Okanagan Hospice Society. It's the single biggest fundraiser of the year for the NOHS. This year 10 pairs competed to win the title, but more importantly, they fundraised for NOHS along the way.



The Very Multi-Talented Pair – way to go David and Beatrice!