

VERNON TENNIS ASSOCIATION (VTA)

Website - www.vernontennis.com

Email – vtavernon@gmail.com



PRESIDENT’S PASSING SHOTS

Exciting times. I keep seeing the tennis opportunities in Vernon continue to grow for all caliber of players. A person behind the scenes and ensuring everything is running along so well is Jackie Labuhn. Thanks, Jackie for everything you are doing.

Our 4.0+ league continues to thrive thanks to the efforts of Jeremy and Wendy Bell and Blake MacLeod, while Mike Kozlowsky has ensured our 3.5 league is doing well. Thanks to you all. If you have just joined the VTA and want to take part in one of the leagues, please contact one of the organizers. Check the Adult Program page on our website.

Thanks to Wendy Bell for setting up the Singles Tennis Ladder, which so far has 19 players registered. See article later in the Newsletter. Thanks also to our VTA members who work with Vernon Rec. to ensure we have morning leagues and social tennis.

EXTRA SUPPORT FOR OUR 3.0 AND BEGINNING ADULT TENNIS PLAYERS

For our players, who are 3.0 or less, we have been holding the FAST (Tennis Canada) program for beginning players and Level 2 for experienced players. It has sure been great to see these players develop their skills. However, tennis is much more than getting a few lessons. It is playing the game. It is good to play against players at your own level or a little above or below. This is why we have now set up a Friday evening 2.0-3.0 league for those players who consider themselves at a 3.0 level or less. If you are just new to the game, please sign up (see the information on the website). You will be in good company as the players on the lower numbered courts will be at the same level as you. To further help you, we will be running skills and drills sessions on Monday evenings. Please sign up for them. You have to start somewhere and we are here to help you.

OUR JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

We are proud to offer the Tennis Canada Program to the junior players. Last year we had 18 registrations. This year, combining our spring and summer registrations, that number has climbed to 46. At times we had 12 in a session. Twelve children, ages 4 to 7 and large numbers in other age groups would have been impossible for me to instruct without assistance

from the parents and Carol Jenkins, Donna Stevens, Peter Jones, Johnny Tran, my wife Olwen and her friend Joan McFarlane. The last two people don't play tennis but they knew I was in a spot, so they came to the courts to help. A very big thanks to you all.

Where to from here? I don't believe we can develop a junior program by just having week-long lessons for our young players in the spring and summer. I am hoping to provide the opportunity for our young players to be playing for a much longer period of time. I am truly amazed with how quickly many of our young players developed their skills. A four-year-old rallying a ball, five and six-year old's able to play the game, a fourteen-year old who could well fit into our 3.0 league but has had only five lessons. Yes, I was sure impressed and excited with the approach, attitude and obvious love of tennis these young players showed. Stay tuned.

Many of our VTA players have entered tournaments in and around the Okanagan Valley. The results are covered in this newsletter. Congratulations to you all. It is great to meet and play against players in other clubs. Good luck to those who have entered the 55+ Games in Kelowna. I know Joe Fabi won't mind me mentioning that he has entered. Joe will be one of the oldest players there.....85 years young.

Enjoy your time on the courts.
Graham Cooper, President

REMEMBER CANADA DAY! MONDAY JULY 1st

The Ladies Fun Competitive Tennis League (a Vernon Parks and Recreation program) certainly never forget Canada Day. This year was no exception.....



THE VTA HAS STARTED A NEW SINGLES TENNIS LADDER

The Vernon Tennis Association has organized a Singles Ladder, which started the week of July 23rd. This provides an opportunity for those players interested in competing in singles matches to be ranked according to their results.



The VTA Ladder is gender-neutral. Ladder matches are "best of 3 sets" with 7-point tiebreakers being played at 6-6. A 10-point super tiebreaker is used should there be the need for a deciding third set. Matches are arranged at a mutually convenient time and location. Ladder matches cannot take place during VTA reserved times at Marshall Fields unless the court is not being used.

Results are sent out weekly and posted on the VTA website – "VTA Singles Tennis Ladder". The updated ladder is also posted at the Fabi Shack every Thursday evening.

All players interested in participating in the VTA Singles Ladder should please e-mail the following information to Wendy Bell at jerwenbell@yahoo.com

Name

Contact information to be used for ladder matches (phone and email)

Playing level

It is always be the responsibility of players to organize their own matches and to send results **by e-mail** to Wendy. The opportunity for new members (or those who missed this start-up date) to sign on will still be there. New names will likely be added to the bottom unless tournament experience or level dictates otherwise.

Climb the ladder to your tennis success!

VTA MEMBERS' "FUN" TEAM TOURNAMENT RESULTS – June 22, 2019

Our 11th Annual VTA Members' Fun Team Tournament took place on **Saturday, June 22nd**. The weather was perfect, the tennis inspiring, and lunch unequalled. Thirty-two players took part and 8-10 spectators came to cheer on the teams. We thank Wendy and Jeremy VTA Newsletter August 2019

Bell for keeping the rounds of tennis moving along smoothly and tabulating the resulting scores.

COLOURS was the theme again this year. Our 4 teams were **RED**, **GREEN**, **BLUE** & **ORANGE**. Each team consisted of 8 players ranging from 2.0 to 4.0 playing levels.

We congratulate the **ORANGE TEAM** who won the tournament with a score of 66 points. Team members:

Ben Johnson	Frits Bakker
Karin Schjelderup	Myron Hocevar
Carol Jenkins	Joe Fabi
Pamela Kaneda	Ted Melanson

All our members take the colour theme seriously, but some more than others. It is a tradition with this tournament to recognize the most creative/original outfit(s). Creativity plus showed up this year! See below (we may be censored for this picture, but hope you get a laugh out of it, we did.). Thank you to Bonnie who never ceases to amaze us!



No names, please. By the way, the bums are not real, thank goodness!

More superlatives rained down on this particular tournament. Meal time saw a large line-up. Joe McFadden provided tasty pulled pork sandwiches which were really appreciated by the participants and spectators alike. A big thank you to all those who brought salads and desserts to share. There is always more than enough food for everyone.

A special thank you to the 9 or 10 adult players who formed the "C" and "D" division on our teams of eight. They have all been taking the FAST or L2 lessons from Graham Cooper. Wow! have they progressed in their tennis. There was a distinct rise in number of games won from the first to sixth round! Way to go – keep up the good work, and of course, thank you, Graham for all the hours you have put in teaching.



Orange Team – Winners!

L to R – Ted Melanson, Joe Fabi, Carol Jenkins, Ben Johnson, Frits Bakker, Myron Hocesvar, Karin Schjelderup, Pamela Kaneda



Dale Nagy – what a shot!



Everyone is a winner when the food line begins!



GREENWOOD CUP DOUBLES TOURNAMENT
Lakeshore Tennis Club, Summerland
June 14-17, 2019

Four of our VTA members participated in the Greenwood Cup in the Men’s “A” Doubles: Jason Shumay, Jerry Reinhardt, Joe McFadden and Jeremy Bell. They had one match against each other in the “A” Doubles Round Robin. Joe and Jeremy won 6-1, 6-2 in that match-up.

- 2019 Greenwood Cup Champions - **Jeremy Bell and Joe McFadden (VTA)**
- Runners Up: Henry Slizek and Evan Parliament (Lakeshore Tennis Club, Summerland)



Joe McFadden and Jeremy Bell
 Greenwood Cup Champions



(L to R) Joe McFadden, Jeremy Bell, Jerry Reinhardt and Jason Shumay – all VTA members in the Greenwood Cup - WAY TO GO VTA!



Men's "A" Doubles Winners & Runner-ups (left to right) West Martin-Patterson (Salmon Arm), Jeremy Bell (Vernon), Ken Cheung (Kelowna), Sean Seidman (Kelowna)

**KALAMALKA COUNTRY CLUB – CANADA DAY
OPEN, JUNE 29 – JULY 1, 2019**

The Canada Day Tennis Tournament hosted by the Kalamalka Club had sixteen VTA members participating in the various categories. Congratulations to all who supported this local tournament. It was great to see so many of our members competing in the tournament as well as cheering from the sidelines. Several of our members played in singles, doubles and mixed. This year, VTA members made up eight of the teams in the Men's A Doubles!

VTA Members playing in the Canada Day Tournament: Jeremy Bell, David Claeys, Graham Cooper, James Cotter, Gary Edwards, Daryl Flindt, Ben Johnson, Kirbey Lockhart, Derek Lord, Blake MacLeod, Joe McFadden, Pat Nielson, Alex Ostrovsky, Jerry Reinhardt, Jason Shumay, Pat Stich.



Ben Johnson (Vernon) in action with an approach shot. Kalamalka Canada Day Open

Jeremy Bell and West Martin-Patterson (Salmon Arm) successfully defended their Men's "A" Doubles title. Kirbey Lockhart was a Finalist in the Men's B Singles event.

**PREDATOR RIDGE – MIXED DOUBLES
TOURNAMENT – AUGUST 2- 4, 2019**

Predator Ridge put on their first ever Mixed Doubles Tournament the weekend of August 2-4. They used the new indoor facilities as well as the two outdoor courts.

Winners of the "A" Mixed Doubles were **Meryl Ogden (Kal Club) and Cal Benazic (Kelowna)**

The VTA had six of their own members participating in the "B" division, and they were divided into 3 round-robin boxes: **Pat Neilson & John Neilson**; **Faith Quintillan & Steve Somers (Palm Springs)**; **Ben Johnson & Shannon Monssen**; **Gary Edwards & Wendi Varley**; **Blake McLeod & Nicole Henry**; and **Barbie Bharmal & Shahzad Bharmal**.

Winners of the "B" Mixed Doubles round robin were **Barbie Bharmal (VTA) and Shahzad Bharmal**. Way to go both of you!

We are so proud of our VTA tennis players. One, two, or all of them always seem to get into the winners' circle, no matter what tournament they participate in.

**KAMLOOPS SUNSHINE OPEN
AUGUST 9-11, 2019**

After great Friday and Saturday matches, unfortunately all games were rained out on Sunday. Of the matches that were completed, our VTA members, as usual, did extremely well. The participants were:

- **Jeremy Bell** – Men's "A" Doubles (with West Martin-Patterson of Salmon Arm), and "A" Singles (won all his matches played)
- **Joe McFadden** – Men's "A" Doubles (with Jon Widing), and Mixed "B" Doubles (with Lisa Martin-Patterson of Salmon Arm)
- **Jon Widing** – Men's "A" Doubles with Joe McFadden

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 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. A new remote control has been purchased, so please treat it kindly and make sure you do not take it home in your pocket. Thank you.

NOTE to members: Please do not add balls to the machine as we only use 'gently used' balls. 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 for the ball machine, please leave them in their container and place in the bin on the court fence labelled "Used Balls"**. Thank you.

The VTA has purchased a new light-weight ball retriever – *Kollectaball*. An email on its usage and storage was sent to all our tennis members by separate email.



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.

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

REMEMBER, if you change your phone number or email address let Jackie Labuhn, Communication Coordinator, know as soon as you can, so we can continue to keep in contact with you - vtavernon@gmail.com . Thank you.

RATING INFORMATION: All VTA members rate themselves. The Tennis Rating you entered on your

registration form when you joined is what we use as your rating on our Membership List.

Our lists are only as current as the information we receive from you. Tennis Self-Rating charts can be found on the TennisBC website: www.tennisbc.org or on the VTA bulletin board at Marshall field.

DO YOU EVER WONDER IF THE COURTS ARE WET and whether you should come out to play?



The VTA is in the process of installing a camera and weather information at the Marshall Field courts. Thank you to Mikey Arce for taking on this project. However, until this is installed, using the cameras at the Vernon Regional Airport is a good way to see if the courts are as wet or dry. Check it out.

Check the airport for a wet runway!

The nearby airport has cameras that switch every 10 minutes. You can see them on their website. Visit www.vernon.ca then click Roads and Transportation, click Airport (on left), click Runway 23 live feed, Click VIEW Runway 23 East Camera. I recommend you check out the airport pics on a rainy day and a dry day to note the difference.

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
250-503-5489

TENNIS INSTRUCTION & COACHING

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