



VERNON TENNIS ASSOCIATION (VTA)

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PRESIDENT'S PASSING SHOTS

For those of you who were caught up in evacuation orders, know that we were all thinking about you, and hopefully you got through the White Rock Lake fire without any losses. These have been very trying times for us all but our concerns pale to what you have been through.

Since the last "President's Passing Shots" we have lost one of the founders of the Vernon Tennis Association. Thanks to everyone who attended the Toast to Joe. It was great to see so many there. And those Canadian flags that are flying at Marshall Field are something that Joe took great pleasure in putting up. Hopefully they will continue to fly there for many years to come.

Fabi Fun Team Tournament

A very special thanks to Jackie for setting up the *Fabi Fun Team Tournament* on September 25th. A very special day dedicated to a very special person. Also, a big thanks to Jackie for everything she does to ensure our association runs smoothly. Jackie, your efforts, certainly do not go by unnoticed and are greatly appreciated. If you have not got around to registering for the tournament, please do not wait too long. Tournament information is at the end of this Newsletter.

Where are we now?

Well, we thought it was bad last year with just COVID to contend with. This year started well with some adjustments being made to follow the City's Safe Return to Play, and we all thought things were looking so great. However, the White Rock Lake Fire has certainly impacted more than COVID. With rainouts and air quality ranging from "very unhealthy" to "hazardous", we have lost over 20 days of playing time. Thanks to you all for "hanging in there". It now appears, with the back burning of 3,000 hectares and evacuation alerts and orders being rescinded, our chances of returning to normality are approaching.

Drop-in Opportunities – These are very important to our association. Not everyone wants to play in a league or, because of other commitments, prefers to play at just the drop-ins. However, recently, I have noticed a real drop-off in those coming to the drop-in sessions. If you can, it would be great to see everyone at just one of the drop-in opportunities per week. This way, those not

playing in a league will have the opportunity to play with others. Over to you.

Leagues – This year, we wanted to keep our leagues full, using all four courts. A very special thanks to Kirbey and Brian for all of their hard work. It has not been an easy time. They have both gone above and beyond the role of the coordinator to ensure the courts are full. This year, players were able to play in both leagues; however, we have found that this has filled up the number of courts such that more than four courts were tried. Our 2.5 – 3.0 league was also set up to enable those just starting, those returning to tennis and those who were not at a 3.5 level to enjoy playing with others at their level.

Skills and Drills and the FAST program – What started out well became completely disrupted by the days lost through air quality issues. Next Year, I will be looking to run the programs twice a week over a three-week period. Thanks to everyone who attended. It was great being able to help those just getting underway with their game. Thanks too to Ben Nadler who has been coming out to help on Wednesday nights. **Starting on September 13, skills and drills will function at 7:00 pm.**

Morning Tennis Programs – For those new to the VTA, Vernon Recreation has morning tennis programs running. While the VTA assists Vernon Recreation in ensuring they are functioning, they are not part of the VTA programs. Unfortunately, there is a cut-off for joining these programs even for spares. I am hoping that can be changed for next year as I believe it would be good to have spares be able to sign up during the season.

Ball Machine – A very big thanks to Frits who put in a lot of time to get the ball machine operational once again. All the original Rules for Use of Ball Machine apply to the present situation. The **Rules** are at the end of this Newsletter.

Junior Development

Thanks to Joachim Nierfeld at Predator Ridge, we had very successful sessions of lessons in July for 24 juniors, and a further 24 attended lessons at MacDonald Park. It was pleasing to see some juniors attended both lessons.

A special “Kids’ Team Tennis Day” is planned for Saturday, September 11, from 12:00 to 2:00 pm. This is really just a fun day for the kids, but for those who have learned to play, then they will have the opportunity to do so. For those who have not played before, there will be skill-based activities for them such as “tennis hockey” and “ball machine”. This is just a fun activity for these young players. No, the 5 year-olds will not be using the ball machine.

Team Tennis Program for Juniors -The City has now given us permission to run a Community Team Tennis Program for juniors. This will be run after school Monday to Thursday at Marshall **Field**. Full details will be announced shortly.

Details are now also being finalized to have lessons at Predator from October to December. More Team information about these lessons will be coming out soon.
Enjoy your time on the courts.

Graham Cooper, VTA President

IN MEMORIAM

We say “good bye” to a wonderful friend, a great tennis player, a jack of all tennis trades, a fabulous organizer, a participator in anything tennis, a networker, our number one VTA member, and a Dad (that is for you, Mike).

Rest in Peace, dear Joe Fabi.
You will never be forgotten or replaced.



JOE'S RULES- Written in 2014, still good in 2021, and on- wards....

*It's the day of our tennis—the weather is nice;
The balls we are hitting with laughter and spice.
Then there comes at the warm-up a command and cry,
“Let's get started,” shouts Joe, brand new balls nearby.
Once he assigns who our partners will be,
He takes sides and serves first...Joe's rules, you see.
VTA Newsletter – August 2021*

*“Now friendship's over” is his friendly advice;
A few compliments here and there will suffice!
“If you stay in the back court, I'll do the rest”
And later “get it together”— this isn't our best.
“Love 40... no problem, you turkey, you're toast”
“Watch...I'll get this one, nice shot, Joe” he'll boast
“The ball is way out” and “game's over” he'll say,
And “this isn't Wimbledon, so I'll talk as we play.”
The day has been great - our okanagan's we use,
And now we are thankful...for Joe and his rules!
Your Tennis friends*

Think about contributing to your VTA Newsletter!

The VTA bi-monthly Newsletter is published all year round. We are always looking for interesting ideas, articles, tennis related information to include in the Newsletters, particularly through the winter months. Please feel free to contribute stories and ideas. Send them to vtavernon@gmail.com. We would love to hear from you. (The Editor reserves the right to edit any submissions for appropriate content.)



THE “FABI” FUN TEAM TOURNAMENT SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2021 – 9:00 am.

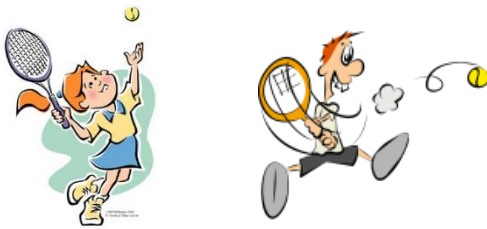
Let's get together for the last 'official' time with our friends and other VTA members. Tennis will continue until the snow flies (and sometimes after that too), but let's celebrate this year with all our members, which we haven't been able to do so far this year.

The answer is a “FABI” FUN Team Tournament on SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25th from 9:00 am. and on. Tennis from 9:00am.- noon, followed by a Hot Dog BBQ. This tournament is open to present VTA members. Spouses or significant others may join as spectators and hecklers (we like that), and for a hot dog lunch following the matches.

As In previous years this tournament will be a Colour Team Tournament. This is how it works:

- Play will be doubles tennis only – no singles – remember the operative word is FUN
- Ideally, we need a minimum of 32 players of all levels – from 1.5 to 4.0.
- The participants will be divided into 4 colour coordinated teams, each team consisting of 4 doubles groups (8 players on each team). A minimal charge of \$5.00/player collected on the day of the tournament to cover balls, and prizes – yes prizes!
- Each team will be assigned a colour. You are asked to wear your colour, and be as creative as you wish. FUN, FUN, FUN – remember.

- > You will play with the same doubles partner who is at, or near, your own level of play for 3 of the 6 rounds.
- > You will play all three other colour teams against players at your own level.
- > You will play for 30 minutes in each round and keep track of the NUMBER OF GAMES YOU AND YOUR PARTNER WON during that 30 mins.
- > There will be 5 minutes in between the 30 min. rounds for the teams to come off the court, and the next teams to enter
- > A whistle will sound at the start and finish of each round. You stop playing at the sound of the whistle – you do not stop at a set, you keep playing and winning as long as you can before the whistle
- > Report your doubles score to the Score Keeper right after coming off the court.
- > Hot Dogs and condiments will be served after the Tournament. You may be asked to bring a side dish or a dessert, but it is not mandatory.
- > And again, this is all for the FUN of it. Those who have participated in previous years know what we mean – please join in the fun too.
- > Please let us know you want to be part of the FUN by emailing vtavernon@gmail.com – remember, we ideally need 32 players to run successfully.



- 5. **SANITIZATION** is the main change.
- 6. Every user **MUST SANITIZE all touch-points on the ball machine, and the ball hoppers, AFTER** use, with the antiseptic cloths provided.
- 7. **Signing the Green Binder** (kept with the Ball Machine in the Fabi Shack), and signing that you have completed sanitization, is your attestation that you have followed all the COVID-19 regulations and have not been in contact with anyone who has the virus. It is also for contact tracing if ever needed, and for keeping a record of who has used the machine in case of an equipment break-down. Thank You. (COVID regulations are outlined on the PROTOCOL page of our VTA website, and included in the Green Binder.)
- 8. The Green Binder contains all the information you may need to operate the machine safely, after your instruction session - it is imperative that you read this information thoroughly, at least the first time you use the Ball Machine.
- 9. Please do not borrow or use the balls in the ball machine for any other purposes. They are to be used for the ball machine only. New balls are never used in the machine. Should there be any abuse or misuse of any VTA equipment, you will no longer have access to it. Please report any equipment problems immediately to Jackie., 778-475-1371.or 250-878-3036 Cell

Revised: September 2, 2021

RULES FOR THE USE OF THE BALL MACHINE

These Rules will be applied and adhered to under all circumstances – no exceptions.

1. The Ball Machine is available to VTA Members only, at no charge.
2. VTA Members **must pre-arrange a day and time to use the Ball Machine,** with Jackie at [778-475-1371](tel:778-475-1371), or [250-878-3036 \(Cell\)](tel:250-878-3036) or vtavernon@gmail.com , so that there are no conflicts in use.
3. You can arrange a time for a maximum of 1 hour playing time, and can be booked a maximum of 2 times per week, but not during VTA reserved court times. The best times are afternoons between noon and 6:00 pm. during the week, or Wednesdays all day. Qualified Coordinators may use the machine during reserved times for instruction or lessons only.
4. **Once you have your date and time,** Jackie will meet you at the Fabi Shack (about 10 minutes before your reserved ball machine time) to take



Gathering on July 24, 2021 at Marshall Courts for a Memorial "TOAST JOE FABI" 1934 - 2021