

VERNON TENNIS ASSOCIATION (VTA)

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PRESIDENT'S PASSING SHOTS

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone. A time to reflect back on the past year, celebrate and look forward to the coming year. A very special family time.

I look back over the past year with appreciation for everything many have done to provide the tennis opportunities in Vernon. Often the work people do behind the scenes can go by unnoticed or be taken for granted. On behalf of everyone, I'd like to thank all of our board members for their tireless efforts to ensure our programs, facilities, activities and functions run along smoothly. No one person can do it all. I did not want to single out the role of each member but I would be remiss if I did not mention the work that Jackie Labuhn has done behind the scenes to ensure our organization has run smoothly. Thanks Jackie.

Over the past year, we have seen our programs not only continue but grow. Thanks to Wendy Bell, our singles ladder started up this year and has been well received. Our 4.0 league has been very successful thanks to Wendy and Jeremy Bell and Blake MacLeod. I know Mike Kozlowski ran into some frustrations when people did not let him know until the last minute they were not available to play but thanks Mike from us all for keeping the league going. For our beginning players and players at a 3.0 or less level we introduced a league for them. This was very well received. Our skills and drills also assisted many players and it was great to see their progress.

For our junior program we actually had a couple of 4 year olds taking part. Basically, though, the program is geared to players from 5 to 15. In the spring we had 12 registrations; however, that number jumped to 34 in the summer. As you know, Predator Ridge has provided Vernon with a much-needed indoor facility and I am grateful to Joachim Nierfeld who offered the VTA the opportunity to work with Predator Ridge in providing lessons for juniors. Joachim is the regional director for tennis in the Okanagan and it is great he is there to provide us with his expertise.

I have done a count of registrations in tennis activities and clubs in Vernon and actually came up with 496. Last year that number was 375. Of course, there are duplicate registrations here but the bottom line is that tennis in Vernon is alive and well. This number does not

count the number of social groups that are not registered.

So, for next year. I see us continuing along much the same path in providing tennis opportunities for players of all ages and levels. Please do not hang back in offering your assistance as the more people assisting, the better. For example, at present we need a secretary plus we will also be looking for some more help in coordinating the drop-in nights.

Again, a very Merry Christmas to everyone and a Happy New Year.



**Awards Day for the children and their parents who took part in the VTA-Predator Ridge joint venture Tennis Development Program
December 14, 2019**

**YOUNG TENNIS PLAYERS IN PURSUIT
OF THEIR DREAMS**

Below is a complete up-date and record of what two of our Vernonites have been doing: Leena and Ryan Bennetto.

Leena Bennetto has been a member of Tennis Canada Junior Teams on tours across Europe, North and South America, including the World Junior Championships.

A multiple provincial junior champion (U14, U16, U18), Leena has also won an ITF Jr Singles title, 5 ITF Jr Doubles titles and has won several matches in Women's ITF Pro events. Recently, she has competed in the Pan American Jr Championships in Kentucky and reached the quarterfinals of the J3 Ottawa ITF.

After being sidelined with injury for the first half of 2019, Leena's private coach has been Milos Pospisil.

Ryan Bennetto is also attaining excellent success with his tennis. He has competed at several provincial tournaments as well as some ITF Jr events, winning his first match at ITF level at the North Vancouver J4 this fall. Recently, Ryan won the Men's Singles title at the inaugural Predator Ridge Club Championship.

Leena and Ryan can often be seen practicing at Predator Ridge's new tennis facility, Commons Racquet Club.

(Information kindly provided by M. Bennetto)

TOURNAMENTS IN THE VALLEY AND BEYOND

KAMLOOPS TENNIS CLUB SINGH DALIN MEN'S DOUBLES INDOOR November 15-17, 2019

The only two VTA members who participated in this tournament were **Jeremy Bell** and **Joe McFadden**. Jeremy and his partner, West Martin-Patterson (Salmon Arm) won their three matches on Saturday.

Jeremy's partner, West, had to withdraw halfway through the tournament due to a back spasm that worsened after Saturday's matches. West was unable to play Sunday morning!

Joe McFadden partnered with Jaime Staerkle (Kelowna). Joe and Jaimie were 1-3 in their matches which meant a fifth-place finish.

Even though there was a small representation from the VTA, we are always proud of our members who participate in the many Okanagan Valley Tournaments. It is a feather in our cap that we have such dedicated and talented players in Vernon.

Results reported by Wendy Bell

THE COLD NEVER STOPS THE "DIE-HARD" TENNIS PLAYER!

Joe Fabi, his son Mike (visiting from Ontario), and friends Stu, Ron, Karin, Johan, Cathy, Jackie, Linda, and others, do not let minus temperatures deter them from taking advantage of the 2 tennis nets left up during the winter at Marshall field. The last 2019 outdoor tennis match some of these players participated in was on November 27th (the temp. was about -4 and there was a wind). Now that the snow has arrived, it may be awhile

before they get together again, but the hardy souls will not be stopped. . . . Guess who the hardiest soul is?



Joe Fabi, Ron Burton, Karin Schjelderup
(They don't even look cold!)

WHY NOT TRY "TOUCHTENNIS" INSTEAD? IT'S WARM INSIDE



Greater Vernon Recreation is offering **TOUCHTENNIS** at the Priest Valley Gym on Friday from 12:00 until 1:30 pm. It is a drop-in event - \$6.00/time or use your punch-pass card.

Touchtennis will break for the Holidays on December 13th and recommence on Friday, January 3rd, 2020 – see you there!

This is an addictively simple alternative to regular tennis. It's played on a badminton-size court with a mini tennis net, 21" junior tennis racket and foam balls. The game is designed to create long, intense rallies and clever angle play in an attempt to outwit your opponent. Quick reflex actions, gentle touch, and controlled power is quickly recognized in this game. If you wish to see more about the rules of play go to: <http://www.touchtennis.com/gb/rules.php>.

All equipment is supplied. Touch Tennis is good exercise and a great way to retain and sharpen your tennis skills over the winter.

**THINK YOU KNOW YOUR TENNIS TALK?
PERHAPS NOT AS WELL AS CHRIS NORTHEY,
WHO TAKES US THROUGH THE TOP 10 TENNIS
TERMS. (February 2016)**

This article first appeared in Australian Tennis Magazine.

Check out these 10 tennis terms and see if you learn something you didn't know before:

Tennis is a funny old game. People love you one minute and then want to drop you the next; someone is always waiting to shout out your faults; and no matter how nice you are somebody is always taking advantage of you. But listen carefully, as all is not necessarily what it seems on a tennis court. These and many other tennis terms have been used since the game evolved from the French game jeu de palme, the forerunner to tennis in the 18th Century. And although you may hear the occasional scream, shout or outburst on court, the origins of some of the tennis words today may be a little less heated than their usage today or maybe they won't.

So, let's have a look at our list of the top 10 tennis terms and find out how they came into the world of tennis explosively or quietly.

Let's start off with the word:

1. Tennis - We are happy to step onto court and hit a ball over the net with a racquet and play a game called tennis, but what does the word tennis actually mean? There have been several attempts to pinpoint the exact origins of the word tennis, but the closest one seems to derive from tenez the command form of the French verb Tenir, which means to hold. This is what players in 13th century France would shout out before hitting the ball to their opponent when playing the game jeu de palme. It literally meant are you ready to receive me or in other words, I am ready to serve! But if you tried that today on court, you'd probably get a warning from the umpire! So be careful.

2. Stroke - We stroke the ball in tennis and do it with the backhand or the forehand. It's origin as David Studham, the Librarian at the Museum of Sport at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in Melbourne agrees, comes from rowing and industry in the 18th century where the word was used to describe the action of a single pull of an oar on a boat or the movement of a piece of machinery. Pretty harmless then.

3. Let - Anything can happen to interrupt a game of tennis. From a stray pigeon perching on the net to a raucous sneeze from somebody in the crowd or just passing-by. This tennis word is used to tell somebody to replay a point because something or someone has temporarily stopped play. Its origins stem from the Old Saxon word lettian which meant to hinder or prevent something from happening. Lets in the 12th Century were also known as obstacles, so when you hear the word let on a tennis court today, instead of there being a delay due to a herd of stubborn cows blocking an entrance, the interruption to play might just be because somebody was simply just not ready to receive serve.

4. Love - Sometimes there is anything but love on a tennis court especially in the heat of a battle, so why did this word come into the game of tennis? According to

etymologists, the word love is possibly derived from the French word l'oeuf which literally means egg. If we look at the shape of an egg, we can see it resembles zero and therefore came to be used when somebody has no score in tennis. Another possible theory again to do with the word egg is that when somebody has no score in sport people have said in the past that they have egg on their face. So next time when you are 40 love down, remember it's no yolk!

5. Seed - One of the main purposes of any tournament or competition, not just in tennis, is to make sure the best players do not face each other until later on in the competition. This is good for both spectators and the players themselves. According to many linguists this word stems from the word to sow and derives from the world of gardening where small seedlings are scattered at the front of a patch with the larger ones at the back so they do not bump into each other when they are growing.

6. Ace - To hit an unreturnable serve in tennis. The origin of the tennis meaning of this word dates back to around the 18th Century where an Ace in cards meant excellence. However, the idea of producing a perfect shot that cannot be touched seems to stem from World War I terminology where fighter pilots who shot down 10 or more enemy planes were known as 'aces of the air'. So, when tennis players today throw their ball into the air and lock on to their targets trying to ace their opponents, instead of doing it wielding a machine gun they do it with a tennis racquet. A much prettier sight!

7. Volley - This is yet another word which seems to stem from military vocabulary. According to the etymology dictionary, a volley in 1570 meant the firing of a number of guns at the same time. Taking the idea of ammunition flying through the air from both sides of the battle field, the notion of hitting a flying 'ball of ammunition' came into being on the tennis court in around 1819. So next time you stand at the net and get ready to blast your opponent's ball away for a winner remember it is war.

8. Lob - This is a funny word. Literally, as its early meaning derives from the Old English word lobbes which meant clown. And there's no funnier sight to see, than drawing your opponent into the net and lobbing the ball over their head seeing them scramble back after it. Just ask Mansour Bharami who is considered by many to be the ultimate clown of exhibition tennis who likes nothing more than lobbing the ball over famous players' heads.

9. Deuce - If you listen to the pronunciation 'juice' you could forgive yourself for thinking that this word means to be in a 'tight squeeze' at 40 points each. But alas the origins of this tennis word seem to be again from the French language where the term a deux de jeux means to be two points away from the game. Early etymological definitions around 1760 also state though that deuce could mean bad luck or the devil, which if you look at a tough professional tennis match today, could also ring

true, with the loser of the game potentially losing a lot more than just their pride.

10. Grand Slam - And to the last of our top 10 tennis words. According to David Studham a tennis specialist at the Sport Museum in Melbourne this is one of the most incorrectly used tennis terms. When a tennis player wins a major tournament such as Wimbledon, the Australian Open, the US Open or Roland Garros then they are said to have won a Slam. Not a Grand Slam which is often used instead. The origins of the phrase Grand Slam, however, date back to the 1930s when the then famous Jack Crawford, an Australian tennis player was at his best and had just won three of the Slams in the same year and was chasing the US Open. An American journalist by the name of John Kieran wrote in his column that Jack Crawford had 'nearly won something that didn't exist,' a Grand Slam which was a term he borrowed from the card game Bridge. And so, the term Grand Slam was born. The act of winning all four Slams in one year. So, if that question pops up in a pub quiz, you'll do David Studham proud by knowing the correct way to use this mountainous tennis term.

So, there you have it. Tennis is a melting pot of military, French and obscure terms, so if you do happen to experience or hear a fiery moment on court, then maybe the players themselves are not to blame. It might, just might be because of the origins of the words they use.

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.

Racquet stringing

Jeremy Bell 250-503-5489

Tennis Instruction

Graham Cooper 778-808-4067

VTA MEMBERSHIP & RATING INFORMATION

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. Our lists are only as current as the information we receive from you. Tennis Self-Rating charts can be found on our website: www.vermontennis.com or on the TennisBC website: www.tennisbc.org



The VTA Board Members wish you and your family the very best of everything this Holiday Season, and a happy and healthy New Year!

Thank you for your continued support. We hope to see you again in the spring.

Keep checking our website for the bi-monthly Newsletters, the AGM and Spring 2020 membership information.

