

VERNON TENNIS ASSOCIATION (VTA)

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PRESIDENT'S PASSING SHOTS

2020 has sure been a year to either remember or forget. Whatever way you want to look at it.

Earlier this year, with the uncertainty of the coronavirus, our Board made the decision not to hold any programs or activities. At the beginning of July, the City also came forward with procedures, protocols and restrictions for those wishing to reserve time on the City courts. I communicated with the City to the middle of July but found that any proposal that was submitted would have to be approved by Vernon, Coldstream and the RDNO. I don't know how long that approval would have taken. Should we have received approval we would then have needed to see how many members we had and what programs we could set up. One more wrinkle was that we would need to give the City at least 2 weeks' notice for any bookings. Frankly, with time running out, I could not see starting up any programs or activities, at the earliest, until mid-August, so I did not proceed with any further inquiries with the City.

So where to from here?

I am already looking forward to 2021. I look at the purpose of our association and one of the points is as follows:

The Association will offer professional tennis instruction, tournament play, and league competition to its membership, residents of Greater Vernon, and the surrounding area, as a means of enhancing Community relations in general.

I see our association as certainly fulfilling a need in our community. In 2019, we had three leagues going along with three drop-in times a week when players could swing by and know someone would be there to play. We also had a singles ladder underway for those keen to develop their singles game. While we have two very fine tennis clubs in our area, I see tennis growing and see our association in the unique position of being able to provide the structure needed for a full development of our sport. In Vernon, in 2018, there were 375 registrations in tennis activities in Vernon and area. In 2019, that number had grown to 496. In our club alone we had over 20 new people sign up for either the beginner programs or skills and drills. Our summer youth lessons had 34 young players sign up.

So again, where to from here?

I see not only running our programs of 2019 but personally, I am hopeful we might be able to add a club tournament for players in a 2.0 to 3.0, 3.5 and 4.0+ categories. You though, will hopefully have additional ideas as to what you would like to see. Be ready to let the Board members know.

Finally, a special thanks to our board members; Joe Fabi, Wendy Bell, Jeremy Bell, Carol Jenkins, Mike Kozlowski, Paul Boyko, Ron Burton, Frits Bakker and Jackie Labuhn. I purposely left Jackie as the last one to thank as I want everyone to recognize the work she does behind the scenes to keep us linked as a club with Tennis BC, ensuring we are registered as a Society, looking after our insurance and so the list goes on. Without her knowledge and guidance, I don't know where we might be.



A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone. A very special family time. Stay up until at least midnight on December 31 and make sure we are done with 2020. I can't wait until 2021 is here.

JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

This year, the coronavirus certainly impacted on planned activities regarding our junior development program. As our association was not running any programs this year and with the uncertainty associated with the procedures of an individual booking court time for the lessons in Vernon, I put everything on hold.

When I discussed the situation with Joachim Nierfeld at Predator Ridge, he suggested that I run a program there. Many thanks to Joachim as without his support, there would not have been a junior development program in Vernon this year.

I was truly amazed with the response I had for the Fall program. There was no advertising, but in short order, I had 35 children enrolled and a further 25 on a waiting list.

With the present restrictions regarding sports, there will not be winter lessons at Predator Ridge. Hopefully however, when the spring arrives, things will be

different. I am hopeful that I will once again be able to start up the lessons.

Further, I really cannot see just giving lessons without a goal in mind. I am hoping to work with the parents to provide a structure whereby the juniors not only play each other on a regular basis, but also enter tournaments at their age level. Actually, for 2020, I had hoped to run 3 Rogers Rookie Tour Tournaments but the coronavirus put a stop to that. As soon as I am able, I once again plan to get these tournaments underway.

Graham Cooper

Last year in the December Newsletter we had pictures with the heading “the cold never stops the “die-hard” tennis player” – **what a difference a year makes!**

NOVEMBER 2020 TENNIS DIARY
MARSHALL FIELD*

Submitted by Carol Jenkins, who has played tennis outdoors every day but 2, during November

MONDAY NOV. 2	Temp. 9 C - Baseball game on adjacent diamonds
THURSDAY NOV. 5	Temp. 12 C - Wind gales 40 k/hr. Tricky
MONDAY NOV. 9	Temp. 2 C - Scraped ice from court before playing
THURSDAY NOV. 12	Temp. 4 C - X-country skiers outside courts
NOV. 16 – NOV. 26	Clear and dry each tennis day
MONDAY DEC. 1	Temp. 4 C - Beautiful blue sky and sunshine, almost unheard of in December!

*ONLY 2 DAYS MISSED BECAUSE OF WEATHER
* TOO BAD THERE'S ONLY 2 NETS UP!

WHY NOT TRY “TOUCHTENNIS”?
IT'S WARM INSIDE

Greater Vernon Recreation is offering **TOUCHTENNIS** at the Priest Valley Gym on Friday from **1:00 until 2:30 pm**. It is a drop-in event - \$6.00/time or use your punch-pass card.

If the COVID-19 restrictions allow Touchtennis to proceed in January 2021, the new time of 1:00 to 2:30 pm will be in place. Presently Touchtennis is postponed due to the pandemic and will remain that way until further notice. Once OK'd, you can sign up on-line or pay the reception office at the swimming pool entrance before entering the gym. Thank you.

Touchtennis is an addictively simple alternative to regular tennis. It's played on a badminton-size court with a mini tennis net, 21" tennis racket and 3" diameter 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.

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) 306-3113

Tennis Instruction

Graham Cooper 778-808-4067



Wear a mask. Please be aware of those around you. Keep yourself and others safe and healthy. Thanks!



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 throughout this unusual year. We hope to be able to run a “normal” tennis club again in the spring. Please continue to check our website for the bi-monthly Newsletters, the AGM and Spring 2021 membership information.