



VERNON TENNIS ASSOCIATION (VTA)

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PRESIDENT'S PASSING SHOTS

Hi Everyone,
Well it has been quite the year and everything is looking up.

Last year I did a count on the number of registrations in tennis programs and activities in Vernon and came up with 375. This year I ran the count again and could not believe the number had increased to 481. This does not include those who have their own social groups going or those who just go out and hit the ball with a friend. Tennis is very much alive and well in our community but it would not be without the efforts of so many to get the programs set up and running.

Predator Ridge is now well underway with their two covered courts plus the three indoor Salmon Arm courts will soon be in full operation. Congratulations to both organizations for providing great tennis opportunities over the Fall and Winter.

For our organization, this year has been really great and very big thanks to those who have provided the tennis opportunities for all levels of play. Our 4.0 league not only provides the opportunity for our top players to get together to play against others at their level but also provides the opportunity for those up and comers to refine their skills to enable them to join this group. Thanks Wendy Bell, Jeremy Bell and Blake McLeod for enabling this opportunity for our top players.

Our 3.5 league has also been very successful with many thanks to Mike Kozlowski for his tireless efforts to ensure it functions smoothly. I know on some occasions it has been frustrating for Mike when players notified him late that they could not play but somehow Mike always pulled it together. This league is essential for not only players at this level but also for those who are still developing their tennis skills and are looking to move to the 4.0 group.

This year we started our 2.0 to 3.0 league. This has also been very successful as it has filled the gap by providing opportunities for those players at this level. Some were just returning to tennis and others were just starting. By playing with others at their own level, players are building their confidence and enjoying the game. Some have now moved on to the 3.5 level.

This year the singles ladder was introduced and was very successful. A big thanks Wendy Bell for your work in this area. Your efforts were very much appreciated. This year eight players from the Vernon area took part in the 55+ Games in Kelowna. Four were from the VTA. No medals were gained by our players but it was it was great to see them taking part.

Congratulations also to those who played 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 or at a Level 2, we ran the Tennis Canada FAST program and Level 2 Clinics. These were very well received. It was great to see many of these players involved in the 2.0 to 3.0 league. Next year we are looking to run similar programs.

Thank you to our Board members for their guidance and particularly to Jackie Labuhn for looking after our association registrations, communications and web site plus also working with Paul Boyko to look after our finances. Thanks also to Paul for keeping track of our financial situation. Thanks too to Frits Bakker, Mike Kozlowski and Joe Fabi for being on our Infrastructure and Maintenance Committee. A lot is done behind the scenes from looking to expand our storage shed, meeting with the City, repairing the ball machine, mending nets and so the list goes on. Thanks also to Wendy Bell for looking after our publicity. Our organization runs smoothly but it takes a good many people to ensure it does.

This year has been a great year for us. It has been a privilege being your president. Should you have some ideas that will help develop tennis in our community please let a board member know or better still become a board member.

Graham Cooper, President



TUESDAY/THURSDAY/FRIDAY
3.5, 4.0+ and 2.0-3.0 LEAGUE TENNIS

Tuesday 3.5 Evening and Thursday 4.0+ Leagues had their final matches on October 1st and 3rd respectively. 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. Brian van Bolhuis has offered to run the Tuesday league while Mike recovers from a back operation. We wish you well Mike and hope for a speedy recovery.

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, Jeremy or Graham know or contact them through our email: vtavernon@gmail.com

VTA JUNIOR TENNIS PROGRAM

April through August, 2019

We are now in the 10th year of our junior program that is set up for 5 to 15-year old's.

For a good many years, the VTA has run lessons for the youth in Vernon during the summer. Vernon Recreation has also run some spring and summer sessions.

This year we took a slightly different approach. In the spring, we ran an after-school program. While it was well received, we had just 12 registrations. This summer, however, the registrations tripled to 36. It was certainly great to see. Our instructor, Graham Cooper, quickly realized that he needed assistance and put out the call for help...and help came. A very special thanks to Carol Jenkins, Jackie Labuhn, Donna Stevens, Johnny Tran and some non-members Olwen Cooper, Joan McFarlane, Doreen Loseth and Angel Loseth. Without your assistance, the VTA junior development program and the Pacific Sport Community Program, Xplore SportZ, would not have run. The junior players were then given the opportunity to meet and play some tennis during the summer.

This Fall, Graham Cooper is offering tennis lessons for the junior players at Predator Ridge. Except for the 5 to 7 year-old group all of the age groups are full with some children on a waiting list.

Next year, Graham is looking to develop further tennis opportunities for our youth in Vernon. Stay tuned.

NEW VTA SINGLES LADDER FOR ALL PLAYERS

Wendy Bell put together a Singles Tennis Ladder for our VTA players who particularly like to play singles and wish to compete against other VTA members of the same or better caliber.

The VTA Singles Ladder started up midway through the season on July 23, 2019. As of September 30, a total of 34 ladder matches have been played. Some enthusiastic participants are still arranging matches outdoors, weather-permitting. Those ladder participants who are able to organize indoor matches over the winter, are welcome to make the matches "official" and report their scores for ladder inclusion.

Thank you, Wendy, for all your hard work, and the excellent reporting of the matches and the movement of players on the ladder. As of the publication of this Newsletter, the ladder participants stand as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Jeremy Bell | 10. Johnny Tran |
| 2. Louis Chuffart | 11. Willy Raine |
| 3. Jon Widing | 12. Cliff Winter |
| 4. Jerry Reinhardt | 13. Peter Evans |
| 5. Ricardo Leiva | 14. Graham Cooper |
| 6. James Cotter | 15. Bob Annand |
| 7. Kirbey Lockhart | 16. Sarah Kennedy |
| 8. Blake MacLeod | 17. Alexandre Sauve |
| 9. Ben Johnson | 18. Mitchell Cousins |

Report scores of matches over the winter to Wendy Bell at jerwenbell@yahoo.com

55+ BC SENIOR GAMES
Kelowna, September 10-15, 2019

The 55+ BC Senior Games were held in Kelowna this year. Even though the venue was close to home, not too many tennis players from the VTA took advantage of this opportunity. However, those who did, had a great time. Congratulations go to Kelowna for putting on a world-class event with over 3000 competitors in about 28 different sports activities.

Vernon Tennis Association members participating in the Games were:

Ron Burton/Chad Craigen - Men's 65-69 Doubles
Joe Fabi/Graham Cooper - Men's 75-79 Doubles
Graham Cooper - Men's 75-79 Men's Singles

No medals were brought home, but the competition was fierce and our men fought hard. WAY to go, guys!



(VTA Tournament Reporters: Wendy Bell and Ben Johnson)

LAKE COUNTRY DOUBLES TOURNAMENT
September 28-29, 2019

The Lake Country Tennis Club held their second annual “end of summer” Open Doubles Tournament Sept 28, 29. Conditions were very unseasonably cold and windy but the tennis players were a hearty bunch. The competition was a round robin format with playoffs at the end. “A” class and “B” class were combined in this tournament. The results were: **(VTA members in bold)**

Open Class Men's Doubles

1. Winners: West Martin-Patterson and partner Robin Wiens of Salmon Arm
2. Runners-up: **Jeremy Bell** and **Michael Luangsiripanya** of Vernon
3. **Ben Johnson** and Nigel Roberts
4. Ray Crampton and **Blake McLeod** of Vernon

Open Class Mixed Doubles

1. Winners: **Jeremy Bell and Wendy Bell** of Vernon
2. Runners-up: West Martin-Patterson and Lisa Martin-Patterson of Salmon Arm

This was a very tight tough battle in extremely frigid windy conditions. With the Bells narrowly winning with scores of first set: 7-6 (tiebreak 12-10). The Bells came up with some solid play to save two set points on two separate occasions in the first set. Second set was 6-3 where Jeremy closed out the match with a winning lob over the Martin-Pattersons’ heads!.

3. Third Position: Ray Crampton and Leah Crampton of Vernon

Ladies Doubles

1. Winners: Mother and daughter duo of Marnie Perrier and Casey Perrier of Lake Country
2. Runners-up: Leah Crampton and Lisa Martin-Patterson

All the players would like to thank Marnie Perrier for all her hard work putting on and organizing such an outstanding tournament.



Jeremy & Wendy Bell (left in the pic.) - Mixed Doubles Champions against West Martin-Patterson and Lisa Martin-Patterson of Salmon Arm

SUNSHINE OPEN, KAMLOOPS, B.C.
August 10 & 11, 2019

Unfortunately, this very popular tournament was rained out! VTA members who played in the uncompleted tournament were **Jeremy Bell, Jon Widing, and Joe McFadden**. Guess we have to wait until next year.

KOOTENAY OPEN, NELSON, B.C.
August 23-25, 2019

Results for our VTA members who participated in this tournament:

1. Winners “A” Mixed Doubles - Jeremy and Wendy Bell
2. Jeremy participated in a men's exhibition doubles match with Jamie Tanner as his partner vs Sam Stinson and Matt Martin (Nelson Club Pro.)



Wendy and Jeremy Bell – Mixed Doubles Champions - Nelson Tennis Club



Sam Stinson, Matt Martin, Jamie Tanner and Jeremy Bell – exhibition match Nelson Tennis Club

SALMON ARM LABOUR DAY TOURNAMENT
August 31-September 2, 2019

Results for VTA members participating in this tournament:

Runners-Up in 'A' Doubles - **Jeremy Bell & West Martin-Patterson** (Salmon Arm)

Louis Chuffart, Consolation Winner in Men's 'A' Singles

Other VTA players participating in this tournament:
 Gary Edwards, Graham Cooper, Blake MacLeod, and Alexandre Sauve



Jeremy Bell, West Martin-Patterson, Justin Friesen (16), Thomas Friesen (14) Salmon Arm Tennis Club

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 qualification.

RACQUET STRINGING

Jeremy Bell
 250-503-5489

jeremybell_1@msn.com

TENNIS INSTRUCTION & COACHING

Murray Bennetto
 250-306-6476

Pro/Coach/Instructor
bennetto@shaw.ca
 Cost: \$50/hr. Private Lesson