



**VERNON TENNIS ASSOCIATION (VTA)**

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**PRESIDENT’S PASSING SHOTS**

To say this has been a challenging year is an understatement with the impact of the COVID restrictions and the interruption of our programs due to poor air quality from the White Rock Lake Fire. However, adjustments were made and in all we had a very successful season. A very special thanks to our league organizers, Kirbey Lockhart and Brian vanBolhuis, for their efforts in providing our members the opportunity to play with others at their level. Thanks, also to our coordinators, Alyssa Pembleton, Coral Rosario, Jackie Labuhn and late Joe Fabi for their efforts to ensure our drop-in opportunities ran smoothly. Thanks also to our board members, Jackie Labuhn (Communications), Frits Bakker (Treasurer), Carol Jenkins (Secretary), Mike Koslowski, Ron Burton, Brian vanBolhuis (Directors at Large), and the late Joe Fabi for ensuring our organization ran smoothly. Joe Fabi will always be remembered for his efforts in not only providing tennis opportunities in Vernon, but ensuring all who knew him enjoyed the game. There is a very good reason his VTA# is “1”. Rest in peace, Joe.

**A special “Kids’ Team Tennis Day”** was held on September 11, from 12:00 to 2:00 pm. There were over 50 children from 5-13 years old at Marshall field. It was really just a fun day for the kids. For those who had already learned to play, they had the opportunity to do so. For those who had not played before, there was skill-based activities for them such as “tennis hockey” and “ball machine”. It was just a day to be a fun activity for young tennis players. No, the 5-year-olds did not use the ball machine.

**Team Tennis Program for Juniors** -The City has given the VTA permission to run a Community Team Tennis Program for juniors. This will be run after school Monday to Thursday (days could change) at Marshall Field beginning next spring. Full details will be announced next year in the spring – look for it in our spring Newsletters or on-line.

Graham Cooper, VTA President

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

It was the most beautiful of September days – pleasant temperature, blue, cloudless skies and no wind – what more could we want? Only, that no participants would cancel at the last minute; and guess what – for the first time in about 5 years, we had no need for any spare to fill in at the last moment – definitely a win, win situation, and a wonderful tribute to Joe Fabi, who would have been so surprised.

There were four coloured teams of 8 players each, everyone playing with partners more or less at their own tennis level equivalent. Every player played 3 rounds with each of the other coloured team players. Some great friendships were bonded, and by all the noise, everyone had a good time. A hot dog lunch was served by our volunteer *barbequer and scorekeeper*, Nick Stoneberger and his son, Jack. Thanks so much, guys – a wonderful job.

Now for the most important part, the winners of our tennis tournament were: **THE RED TEAM:**

- Graham Cooper and partner Laura-Lee Locheed
- Brook desHarnais and partner Cheryl McCargar
- Ben Johnson and partner Susan Gouchee
- Frits Bakker and partner Marian Wilson



**The winning RED TEAM, 2021**

Congratulations to your team for a total of 56 games won. We want to see you wear those lovely red Logo hats next season. Other scores were almost as good –



53, 44 and 37. Well done everyone!! More pictures below.



Second place – BLUE TEAM



GREEN TEAM



ORANGE TEAM



Winners of the Most Creative Outfit  
Gary Edwards & Donna Swanson

After a good lunch and some ‘distance’ socializing, it was time to draw for the Lotto ticket – the chance to win up to \$1,000,000! Everyone was given a raffle ticket for the draw – WINNER: MARIAN WILSON. We never heard if she won a million, but she is probably keeping it to herself, eh? And, thanks for a good laugh, Graham, you really got me this time. I owe you one.....

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**OTHER NEWS**

**4.0 LEAGUE FINAL STATS**

A shout-out to some of our 4.0 players who did so well this season in the 4.0 Thursday evenings. GARY EDWARDS seemed to be in first place most of the season, way to go Gary! JERRY REINHART won all three of his matches during the last session – a very difficult thing to do anytime. And, thanks to BARBIE BHARMAL for hanging in there with all the men. Let’s hope more of our ladies join next year. Many thanks to KIRBEY LOCKHART for his excellent organization.

**CELEBRATION OF LIFE**

On October 23, 2021 many of our VTA tennis members attended the Celebration of Life for our beloved friend and tennis player, Joe Fabi (1934-2021). The Schubert Centre’s Emerald Room was awash (literally) with tears of emotions from everyone who attended. Joe’s whole family including grandchildren and great-grandchildren were there to witness Joe’s life from the beginning to end in a delightful power-point presentation, along with memories from his family and those of the VTA, since tennis was such a big part of Joe’s life in Vernon. Both Graham Cooper and Frits Bakker gave humorous anecdotes of Joe’s time in the VTA. Thank you to the Fabi family for a wonderful way to remember our dear friend.