**NEWSLETTER, AUGUST 2022**

**VERNON TENNIS ASSOCIATION (VTA)**

Website: [www.vernontennis.com](http://www.vernontennis.com)

Email: [vtavernon@gmail.com](mailto:vtavernon@gmail.com)

**WHAT’S MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE PRESIDENT’S PASSING SHOTS??**

**ANSWER: SHOWING OUR APPRECIATION TO ALL OUR MEMBERS AND THEIR SPOUSES.**

**You helped to make an unusually wet and hot season into something we all enjoyed, and everyone improved their game in some way!**

**We thank you for that.**

**Put Saturday, October 1st from 9:00 am. to noon on your Calendar now and plan on attending.**

* Your Board of Directors invites you to participate in a modified “first come, first to play” round of tennis, where everyone gets to play with a varied assortment of other member players (maybe some you have never even met this year).
* Then, of course, we invite you and your guest to partake in an upgraded hamburger and salad (maybe other things too) lunch.
* **No charge to VTA members, just let us know you are planning on attending**. Small $5.00 charge for guest’s lunch.
* **Email** [**vtavernon@gmail.com**](mailto:vtavernon@gmail.com) **to let us know whether you are one or two attending and staying for lunch.**
* If any of our musical VTA members would like to bring their guitar, we would love to eat accompanied by beautiful music – don’t be shy.
* FYI: It certainly would have been more appropriate to have a VTA wind-up in September but, because of other widely attended tournaments in the Valley, we decided to not create any conflicts with any other tennis competitive events.

**TENNIS:** As people arrive on Oct, 1st, your names will be added to a chart until all 4 courts are filled. Anyone who comes after that will also put their name on a court until filled for the next round. A Whistle will sound after 30-35 min. All players will exit the courts and the next groups will go on for the same length of time.

Continued…….

No scores will be kept officially, so the whole idea is to play tennis with fellow members, make lasting partners maybe?, and just socialize and have FUN.

**SEE YOU SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1ST.**

**Now for the**

**PRESIDENT’S PASSING SHOTS**

Tennis is sure alive and well in Vernon with not only our association but the Kal Country Club and Predator Ridge. There are also many groups playing in Vernon that do not belong to any organization plus more and more children are becoming involved in tennis. With the proposed Active Living Centre now front and centre, our association was asked to be part of the committee that gave input in the planning and we certainly put a strong case forward for indoor tennis courts. Unfortunately, our proposal was not considered in the final plan that is currently on the City’s web site as follows:

*Based on comprehensive public engagement, the Active Living Centre Feasibility Study outlined a Preferred Design Option and the associated costs to build and operate the facility. The Preferred Design Option includes:*

* *Aquatic Centre*
  + *50m pool with two movable bulkheads (allows dividing into 3 activity areas or 2 x 25m swim areas)*
  + *Leisure pool that provides water play, warm water fitness / therapy and is fully accessible*
  + *Hot tubs, sauna and steam room*
* *Double gymnasium with multiple sport courts*
* *Activity and program rooms*
* *Fitness Centre with 80 stations*
* *Indoor 150m synthetic walking / running track*

**Drop-in Opportunities –** These are a very important function of our association as they give our members a chance to get out and meet and play with other players. Where possible, players are matched and rotated with other players at their level. If you are not playing in a league or even if you are then please come on down and take part in a drop-in opportunity and get to meet other members.

**Leagues** – This year, we have found our leagues have been very well supported. However, their success had also resulted in a need for more courts. A very big thanks to Brian and Kirbey for organizing the 3.5 and 4.0 leagues and for being creative in providing opportunities for more than 16 regular players to be involved. Unfortunately, our 2.5-3.0 league was not as successful this year; however, players who were involved are still playing on a Friday night. I certainly encourage all other players to join in on Friday nights.

**Skills and Drills and the FAST program** – It was good to see that quite a few players took advantage of these programs. Unfortunately, I have other commitments through September so I am not able to continue them. However, should I get some time to offer some make-up lessons for those who missed a lesson here and there, I will let you know.

**Morning Tennis Programs –** For those new to the VTA, Vernon Rec has morning tennis programs running (Women’s and Men’s Leagues). While the VTA assists Vernon Rec in ensuring they are functioning, they are not part of the VTA programs. I understand that while the programs are at their max for regulars, both groups are still looking for spares.

**Ball Machine –** A very big thanks to Frits and Jackie who put on workshops for our members and also monitoring the ball machine to ensure it is functioning well.

**Junior Development**

This year we had a total of 53 registrations in our junior development programs that ran for two weeks in both July and August. Even more children were signed up but with the hot weather some decided not to take part.

The program actually ran from 8:30 to 12:30 with groups for red ball (5 to 7 year olds), orange ball (8 and 9 year olds) and green dot and regular ball. A very big thanks to Lance Crump, who helped in so many ways to enable the program to run. Thanks also to Charlie McKnight and Mila Golic who assisted with the younger students prior to taking their own lessons. Thanks too to Carol Jenkins. Kathy Jenkins, Sue DeSchipper, Ted Melanson, Stuart McKnight, Donna Hichok, Amber Yawney and Pat Neilson. Without all of this assistance the program would not have been able to run as it did. As in giving lessons I look to have no more than 4 students per instructor.

A junior development program will continue at Predator Ridge through the Fall and Winter. Please check their website should you be interested.

Enjoy your time on the courts.

Graham Cooper

VTA President

## ****VTA SINGLES TENNIS LADDER –**** ****For Ladies and Men****

Please refer to the Website for all the Rules, and format of play. Add your name to the Ladder by contacting Stephen Blaxland at [sman139@hotmail.com](mailto:sman139@hotmail.com) or phone 604-360-6915.

**Additional information from Steve:**

1. Please be aware that if someone is labelled OFF they are either away or injured so please don't challenge them until that is removed. In this case or in the case that someone doesn't have a record yet you can skip over that player when challenging two above you. I think this is also valid if you've been trying to challenge someone above you and they are not responding or has been chronically unavailable (use your discretion and please notify me if this is an issue).

2. For the bottom ranked 3 players you have permission to challenge others within 3 ranks above you in order to increase diversity of matches. Everyone else can challenge 2 ranks above and below.

PLEASE try to enter scores directly on the spreadsheet (if you make a mistake it can always be undone). Here is the link again:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Ekr0fsrsd1KNknr-vpmaDQh6oj19WZ3t1p6so8PdFJM/edit?usp=sharing>

Do let me know if there is any trouble accessing it. You will need the free google sheets app on a smartphone but you should be able to open it directly from the link on a computer.

Contact information is on the tab (bottom left of the spreadsheet).

A reminder to familiarize yourself with the ladder rules on the VTA website: <https://vernontennis.com/vta-singles-tennis-ladder/>

**Rankings as of August 23, 2022**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Rank** | **Name** | **Record** |
| **1** | **Emilio Gonzalez** | **3-0** |
| **2** | **Jerry Reinhardt** | **1-1** |
| **3** | **Mit Upadhyay** | **4-2** |
| **4** | **Ben Johnson** | **OFF** |
| **5** | **Kirbey Lockhart** | **2-2** |
| **6** | **Matt Hill** | **1-0** |
| **7** | **Cliff Winter** | **1-1** |
| **8** | **Akeem Olatunde** | **5-0** |
| **9** | **Stephen Blaxland** | **3-4** |
| **10** | **Brian vBolhuis (off)** | **1-0** |
| **11** | **Graham Cooper** |  |
| **12** | **Dhruv Vaidya** | **4-4** |
| **13** | **Paige Garbutt** | **4-1** |
| **14** | **Brook DesHarnais** | **0-5** |
| **15** | **Derek Rajakumar** |  |
| **16** | **Ross Fedy** | **1-0** |
| **17** | **Cheryl McCargar** | **0-2** |
| **18** | **Alex Sauve** | **0-5** |
| **19** | **Avi Koren** | **2-0** |
| **20** | **Heidi Roos** | **0-2** |
| **21** | **Donna Hichok** | **1-2** |
| **22** | **Stan Vuckovic** |  |

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

The VTA congratulates LEENA BENNETTO on her Silver medal win for Team BC at the 2022 Canada Summer Games in Niagara, Ont. She won 5 of her 6 singles matches, but unfortunately lost to Quebec in her final match.

Some of the present VTA members maybe haven’t heard the name Leena before, but the old time members certainly have. Leena was one of our first junior tennis players back when she was 10/11 years old. Everyone knew then that she was destined to be a champion, and so she is! Leena will be returning to Princeton as a sophomore in September. WAY TO GO LEENA – you are **our** STAR!

**2022 VTA MEMBERSHIPS are REDUCED to**

**50% OFF AS OF AUGUST 1ST.**  **The fee for a** Membership is now **$40/ADULT** for the remainder of the season, on line as always. FYI: your 2022 membership is valid until the AGM in April 2023.

**MEMBERSHIP LISTS ARE AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS BY REQUEST**

**You must have a Membership to participate in any VTA tennis programs, including the Tuesday, Thursday and Friday evening Competitive Leagues, and the Drop-ins. There will be no more Skills & Drills and FAST program for the remainder of the season, however if you need help with any tennis stroke, please ask Graham Cooper if he is on the court, or someone else who you think may help you. Don’t be shy!**

Membership lists are available to members by request Membership Lists are only distributed to VTA Members for the purpose of arranging tennis games with other members. If you wish to have a 2022 Membership List, please contact the Communication Coordinator at: [vtavernon@gmail.com](mailto:vtavernon@gmail.com) All the personal tennis ratings on the list are self-assigned and not official.

Please respect the privacy of all our members by not sharing the list with anyone, and not using it for any other purpose than contacting other VTA Members. Thank you.

**ATTENTION ALL VTA MEMBERS**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1st. from 9:00-noon**

Don’t’ forget to let us know you will be attending the final get together of the season, so we can show our appreciation to you for your year-long support. It will be a fun tennis day, and all free to our members, so please help us make it a really good windup for the season.

Email [vtavernon@gmail.com](mailto:vtavernon@gmail.com) to say you will be there and if you are bringing your spouse or friend. Thank you.

LET’S HAVE A PARTY!!

 