



NIAGARA TENNIS NEWS

JULY 25, 2010

Hello Tennis Friends!

What an amazing week ... champions crowned and more champions yet to be crowned. Despite some very difficult weather, a total of 60 members participated in our two doubles tournaments this week ... quite an accomplishment for our little club. Heck, that would be an accomplishment for ANY club.

Men's B Tournament Finals on Monday

Tournament week kicked off with early round play for the Men's B Doubles Tournament on Monday. Trophy sponsor Kevan O'Connor was on site to see some of the games and found himself captivated by the play of Cec Browne. It happens that Cec and his partner Ross Robinson were involved in a make-up match earlier today with John Wall and Ray Cutts. The match teetered back and forth to a score of 7 games all before Cec made the winning shot to take the tiebreak at 7-5. Cec, you are an inspiration!

Final rounds of the tournament are scheduled for tomorrow (Monday ... spectators are very welcome!

5:00 Quarter-final match in the Federer Flight:

Mayo Ridesic & Roland Adams vs Ray Cutts & John Wall

6:00 Semi-final matches in the Championship Flight (for the James & Kevan O'Connor Trophy):

(1) Dominic Ventresca & Patrick MacNeill vs John Christie & Henry Goerzen

(2) Ralph Mellanby & Neil Cuthbertson vs Larry Mantle & Richard Berti

Semi-final matches in the Nadal Flight:

(1) Wayne Vent & Ian Waddell vs Don Chambers & Terry Francis

(2) Ross Robinson & Cec Browne vs John Tiessen & Flory Massi

6:45 (approx) Semi-final matches in the Federer Flight:

(1) Rob Mackenzie & Jim Caldwell vs Peter Marchesseau & Phil Landray

(2) Larry Young & Harv Bussey vs Winner of 5:00 match

Challenge matches may be played between the losers of the semi-final matches.

7:30 (approx) Finals of all three flights.

Thanks to Wayne Vent and Palatine Hills Winery, and also to Pam's Pro Shop, for joining with James & Kevan O'Connor to supply prizes for the tournament. An awards ceremony will follow the final matches.

And special thanks to Irene Chambers for looking after all the refreshments and snacks.

Ladies Doubles Championships

Congratulations to all the players who braved the hot-hot humid-humid conditions on Saturday! It was a real challenge to keep a grip dry enough to maintain feel on the racquet, and to keep enough water going in to replace all that was being sweated out. But everyone did remarkably well, and produced terrific tennis matches as well.

Highlight matches of the early rounds included a marathon between Pat Ridesic & Gillian Mellanby and Sylvia & Sally Christie. Sally has played little tennis recently, but certainly showed that she has played a lot during earlier years. In the same section of the draw, Susan Browne & Marlene McCarthy came from behind to push Lynne McKay & Gillian Venturi to a tiebreak, eventually winning it 7-3.

In the Rookie Draw, three teams were strong enough to have competed in the main event ... where they surely will be solid competitors next season. First place went to Amy Weiner & Deb Albert; 2nd place to Rhonda McMillan & Margaret Hobbs; 3rd place to Susan Vriens & Pat Odey. Just one game separated them in each instance. Special thanks to Shawna Macfarlane for her steadfast encouragement for all players in this group, and for making it possible for women (and men) in Niagara-on-the-Lake to discover tennis and make it a wonderful part of the rest of their lives.

The finalists for the championship flight and the Lailey Trophy were determined when Nancy Berkhout & Charlene Juras defeated Susan Browne & Marlene McCarthy, while Lil Cohen & Bonnie Sartor defeated Anne Robinson & Sarah Chapman-Jay by the slimmest of margins, 8-6 in a tiebreak.

The finalists for the B flight, the Niagara Motors Trophy and the Wonderful Red Shirt, were determined when Patricia Campbell & Linda Telford prevailed over Sylvia & Sally Christie, while Lynne McKay & Gillian Venturi had a close match with Carmen Bowron & Karen Tribble.

This concluded Saturday's schedule of games, so it was time to sit down to a well-earned festive lunch generously sponsored by Pat Henry and the Irish Tea Room. The tables had been attractively prepared by Juliette Chapman, and things were well under control in the kitchen thanks to Bev Lees and Pat Bryan.

There was rain all around us as we sang Happy Birthday to Anne Robinson with beautiful cupcakes prepared by Sarah Chapman-Jay ... cupcakes which disappeared rapidly alongside delicious peaches and ice cream. Additional peaches decorated the tables and were happily taken home by the players ... all thanks to Jim Juras and Juras Farms.

That left us with the question : what would Sunday bring? The first answer was another rain deluge around 6:00am and a marked drop in temperatures. It stayed cloudy all morning, but the skies cleared just in time for the final matches to start at 1:00 under bright blue skies ... a perfect July afternoon.

An appreciative audience of spectators enjoyed two really well-played matches. On both courts, the first set was long and the scores close. But in both cases, the victors went from strength to strength in the second set. Teamwork seemed to make the difference. Nancy and Charlene were equally confident with either player at the net and were comfortable with both moving forward. Patricia and Linda had very solid court coverage, with Patricia's strong baseline game and Linda's very effective net play. The match point shot was a sharply angled overhead of which any tennis player would be proud!

Special thanks to Pam's Pro Shop and Babolat for two lovely prizes in the championship flight, and to Dave Dick and Niagara Motors for prizes in the B flight.

Thanks to Miranda Juras for serving the champagne at the awards reception, and to Susan Browne for a scrumptious apple cake from Willow Bakery ... not a crumb was left.



Nancy Berkhout & Charlene Juras



Patricia Campbell & Linda Telford



The Rookie Division, most of whom had played little or no tennis a year ago: Deb, Amy, Nancy, Chris, Rhonda, Margaret, Pat O, Brenda P, Brenda S, Susan V.

Right: Tournament Director Janice Schachtschneider congratulates winners Deb Albert and Amy Weiner.



Players in the First Round Matches: Mary Ann, Sally, Sylvia, Carmen, Marion, Marlene W, Pat R, Ellen, Gillian M, Susan W, Linda, Patricia, Karen, Marlene M, Susan B, Dorothy.



The Finalists: Nancy, Charlene, Patricia, Linda, Lynne, Gillian, Bonnie, Lil



Bev



Juliette



Janice, making a special presentation to Marion Briston and Marlene Walther.



Carmen and Karen : good lunch!



Happy Birthday to the beautiful Anne Robinson!



Wonderful peaches, Charlene!

The Story of the Red Shirt

Chapter One

When we asked Dave Dick for support from Niagara Motors for our tennis event last season, he answered “of course” without hesitation. But at the time, he was a man who was understandably distracted : among other things, he had received a letter from GM saying they wanted to close the franchise, and he was working very hard to bring the Internationale BaccaLaureate program to NDSS.

But he still wanted to support tennis ... so the message went through the chain of command : “prizes needed” and we returned later to pick up a bag containing the prizes.

The Niagara Motors Trophy is for Ladies ‘B’ Doubles, so the recipients will always be two women. In the bag was a men’s shirt, size XL, bright red. Yes, Dave was understandably distracted.

But it was still a worthy prize, given in good faith. So when the Red Shirt was presented to winners Gillian Venturi and Sarah Chapman-Jay, they received it with smiles of appreciation along with their surprise. They also agreed to bring it back this year to be passed on to the next winners ... but with some personal touches added.



Chapter Two

Vittorio Venturi likes to watch Formula One racing on TV. Passing through during one race, Gillian noticed that the models/dancers attached to the Ferrari racing team were wearing cute red dresses - the same red as the shirt! The dresses had little flounces on the bottom ... hmmm, that could improve our shirt.

One thing led to another ... find some fabric, sew on a flounce ... find some sequins, sew on the trim ... give the back some shape, give the front some shape ... add the signatures of the winners. And suddenly the shirt was transformed into the Wonderful Red Shirt.



Chapter Three

The Wonderful Red Shirt was the centerpiece of our tournament this weekend. It represents everything that is wonderful about tennis, about our tennis friendships, about competition, about Niagara-on-the-Lake, about Niagara Motors and about Gillian Venturi. So now the torch has been passed to new winners who will bring back the shirt next year ... but with some personal touches added.

There is a rumor that Charlene Juras is trying to pump up ticket sales for the yearend party on October 15th by saying that someone

will appear at the party dressed in the Wonderful Red Shirt, but that could not be confirmed as of press time.



There's much more that was going to be included in this issue, but it's past bed time and this is already over-long.

Watch for more in a special mid-week edition of Niagara Tennis News on Tuesday.

Best regards,

Rosemary Goodwin

on behalf of,

Don Chambers

Sarah Chapman-Jay

John Christie

Charlene Juras

Phil Landray

Peter Marchesseau

Ralph Mellanby

Janice Schachtschneider

Elizabeth Vinassac

Irene Wall

www.tennisniagara.com