



# NIAGARA TENNIS NEWS

August 30 2010

Hello Tennis Friends!

A writer once said that “summer afternoon” was one of the happiest phrases in the English language. On Saturday, you would have found many tennis players to agree with you. This was the scene as the players convened for the 40th anniversary playing of the Mixed Doubles Championships ...



One of the interesting things about the tournament was that many of the players hadn't had other opportunities to meet each other throughout the season. With patterns of play being what they are, it's not easy to meet a diverse cross-section of members ... but there certainly were many new acquaintances made in this event. Thanks to all the players for exhibiting such a high standard of sportsmanship as well as competitive spirit.

Long remembered will be the saga of Laura & Scott McGregor, who won three rounds in come-from-behind fashion, each ending in a tiebreak, before they lost in the A Flight championship match to the very strong team of Nancy Berkhout & Brian McVanel.

Also of note were matches in the B Flight consolation, which featured three players who are new to tennis as of last season. Rhonda McMillan & Ken Smith are both in their second year of tennis, as is Flory Massi. Flory teamed with Mary Pohorly to win the final match over Richard & Monica Berti.

The B Flight competition turned into a battle of wills as the heat of the day and the strenuous playing schedule took its toll. Congratulations to Susan Browne & Max Bade, who prevailed over Susan Werner & Ross Robinson in the last match of the day. The sponsor of the Roy Page Trophy was on hand to present the prize to the winners. Roy was president of our Club in 1990 and 1991, and was instrumental in getting

things started on the building of the tennis pavilion. Roy was a noted tennis player for many years, and didn't retire from playing until after his 85th birthday. It was great to have him with us!

The A Flight consolation draw was won by Sarah Chapman-Jay & Terry Francis, one of seven teams in the tournament who were introduced to their partners at the start of the day's proceedings. Liz Vinassac & Ian Waddell were the finalists.

Players enjoyed snacks throughout the day thanks to baking by Gillian Venturi and Maria Joanovic, and all the cooks combined their talents to make a wonderful potluck dinner.

Special thanks to our title sponsors, and also to Pam's Pro Shop which supplied a bountiful prize table. Palatine Hills Estate Winery and Peller Estates Winery also contributed prizes.



*A Flight Finalists : Nancy Berkhout, Brian McVanel, Laura McGregor, Scott McGregor*



*B Flight Finalists: Max Bade, Susan Browne, Susan Werner, Ross Robinson*



*A Flight consolation: Terry Francis, Sarah Chapman-Jay, Liz Vinassac, Ian Waddell*



*B Flight consolation: Richard & Monica Berti, Mary Pohorly, Flory Massi*



Rhonda McMillan provided expert pouring service for the champagne toast at the Awards Ceremony.

Jeff Joanovic and Gillian Venturi seeing eye-to-eye. She reports that he stretches to 5'20".



Roy Hunt presenting his trophy to Susan Browne and Max Bade.



Our good looking draw sheets are compliments of Patrick MacNeill, Director of Corporate Development for Quartek Group Inc. The company provides engineering, architecture and planning services. Thank you, Patrick!

Vittorio Venturi



These are just a few of the wonderful action photographs taken by Ken Smith on Saturday. We hope to share many more with you in future issues of NTN.



Charlene Juras

Scott McGregor



Patricia Campbell & Ray Cutts

Liz Vinassac



## Q & A

**Question** I'm interested in getting involved in Inter-Club play. How would I go about this?

**Answer** It happens that the Welland Tennis Club has a wonderful tennis professional by the name of Dave Boland. Dave has very kindly extended to us an offer to facilitate the forming of teams or groups for all sorts of Inter-Club play between our club and theirs. In addition, Bob Pride, the Games Coordinator at the Grimsby Tennis Club, has made a similar offer.

The starting point is an invitation from a group here in Niagara-on-the-Lake to host a visiting group of players from another club. A group can be any member or members with an interest in such an endeavor. Details that need to be established include : how many players? male, female or both? level of play? day and time of the proposed event?

Once those details are set up, the invitation can be extended to the chosen club (or to both). It often takes a considerable amount of back and forth to make the final arrangements, but persistence pays off. If the event is successful and enjoyed by all concerned, there's a good chance that a reciprocal invitation will be received.

So far this year, events have been organized and invitations extended to groups from the Welland TC by Gillian Venturi (women's doubles) and by Pat Young (mixed doubles). Could we have more next year? If you're willing to organize a group and plan an event, you could be next!

# Those Singles Round-Robins

It sure was nice to see Ron Davis at the club on Saturday! Ron has been suffering as assortment of injuries this summer and out of action on the courts ... he's greatly missed.

But that hasn't stopped him from contributing as the organizer of the Men's Singles Round Robins. Ron took his inspiration for this year's format from the World Cup in June, so players worked their way through preliminary pools then advanced to a final round.

Congratulations to Bernard Sauter, who defeated Chado Brcis in the final match. Chado said : "Benny taught me what steady consistent tennis can be like. And I couldn't have lost to a nicer guy." [Benny has since suffered a knee

injury (not tennis related) and is awaiting word of a possible surgery. We wish him a good recovery!]

The singles round robins have been a great addition to the club, facilitating a lot of members getting to know each other.

The Women's Singles Round Robins are organized by Sarah Chapman-Jay. The original group has worked itself down to the final stages, and a second group was established earlier this month "by popular demand".

Anne Robinson sent this report of a one and a half hour match between herself and Shirley Rednall played yesterday: "10-game pro-set and they're off : 1-0, 3-1, 5-1, 5-5, 7-5, 7-7, 9-8, 9-10 ! How exciting!"

It's huge fun to play singles. You get to hit every ball yourself and you make a special bond with the person who's suffering right along with you every step of the way.

Many thanks to Ron and Sarah for bringing us this great program!



Ron Davis



Bernard Sauter

Watch for a special edition of Niagara Tennis News later this week with reports and photos from the wrap-ups of the Junior Program.

Best regards,

Rosemary Goodwin

on behalf of,  
Don Chambers

Sarah Chapman-Jay

John Christie

Charlene Juras

Peter Marchesseau

Janice Schachtschneider

Elizabeth Vinassac

Irene Wall

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