



SEPTEMBER 29 2011

NIAGARA TENNIS NEWS

Hello Tennis Friends,

It's been over five months since we started writing to you about this 2011 season. There's been a great deal of tennis played in that time ... many friendships forged ... a boatload of great memories. This edition of *Niagara Tennis News* reports on the final events of the season. Subsequent editions will bring you some summary reports and reflections, along with the start of plans for the 2012 season.

But don't put away your racquets and your shoes! The weather next week looks fair indeed and there's lots of autumn tennis yet to be played. Best times of the day are between 11am and 3pm, but you're sure to find players on the courts at other times as well.

FRIDAY NIGHT DOUBLES

We call it Couples Night ... or Open Doubles Night ... or Mixed Doubles Night. Each applies to a certain extent. Each attempts to capture some characteristic of the program. While we set aside Mondays as Men's Night, and Wednesdays as Ladies Night, the intention is for Friday evenings to be open to both genders with Mixed Doubles being the predominant game.

Accordingly, it's a great evening out for Couples. But also for individual members who enjoy playing Mixed Doubles as a change of pace from regular doubles. And if we end up with odd numbers, we're not averse to putting all sorts of combinations on the court ... whatever works. Flexibility rules!

Whatever you choose to call it, there's no doubt it's a program that resonates with the players. At the start of the season, there were more than 50 members who indicated an interest in Friday evening play. This immediately led to a two-start-time structure, with players coming either at 6:00 or at 7:30 according to what was convenient. It also developed quickly into a social evening, with many players staying beyond the games on the court for time together in the pavilion.

The culmination of all this fun and friendship came on Friday September 14th, with a grand finale competition organized by Charlene Juras and Gary Inkster, and followed by a wonderful party hosted by Jackie and Dennis Donnelly.

At the conclusion of round-robin play, followed by knockout competition, medals were awarded to :

Gold : Linda Telford and Scott McGregor
Silver : Marilyn Francis and Johannes Lackner
Bronze: Charlene Juras and Peter Marchesseau

It seemed to be a good strategy to start slowly in the medal matches. Linda and Scott fell behind 0-3 to Marilyn and Johannes, but then surged ahead to win 6-3. Charlene and Peter also faced 0-3 behind Patricia Campbell and Terry Francis before storming through to win 6-4. Mixed Doubles is a lot of fun!

Birthday greetings were sung at the party for Richard Berti, Jackie Donnelly and Anna O'Neill. Special thanks go to Heidi and Perry Johnson for help in providing REST pizzas to supplement Jackie's bountiful table.



Photos by Dorothy Booth

Clockwise from top left:

- *Scott McGregor and Linda Telford*
- *Marilyn Francis and Johannes Lackner*
- *the whole gang at Casa Donnelly*
- *the birthday kids: Richard, Jackie, Anna*
- *Charlene Juras and Peter Marchesseau.*

THE PENGUIN TOURNAMENT BY TANGO BOUTIQUE

The Tango-sponsored battle for the Penguin Trophy continued on September 14. This was the final event for the regular Ladies Night program and had been interrupted by winds and rain after the first round of play on September 7.

Paula Lepp and Sarah Chapman-Jay emerged as the winners, but had to withstand strong challenges from excellent teams. Among the honorable mentions were the pairings of Helen Ferley & Terri Dick, Bonnie Sartor & Amy Weiner, Sheila Krause & Pat Ridesic.



Paula and Sarah advanced to the final match with the winners of the first round: Kay Ashwood and Sylvia Christie. This match was scheduled for September 28 at 5:00 and, sad to say, was again met with rains. For the time being at least, the outcome was declared a draw and the prizes of gift certificates for Tango Boutiques were divided four ways. The players, however, were not so easily deterred from their game and have scheduled a match for Tuesday October 4 at 5:00. Let's hope the conditions are favorable.



Front: Terri Dick, Patricia Campbell, Dorothy Booth, Karen Berti, Sheila Krause, Helen Ferley

Back: Janice Schachtschneider, Patricia Ridesic, Elisabeth Lackner, Amy Weiner, Bonnie Sartor, Deb Robert, Carmen Bowron, Marilyn Francis, Paula Lepp, Sarah Chapman-Jay



Left: Joint holders of this year's Penguin Trophy (unless they decide otherwise): Sylvia Christie, Paula Lepp, Sarah Chapman-Jay, Kay Ashwood

Above: Janice Schachtschneider was the winner of the lucky draw prize, a gift from event sponsor Judy Sokoloski of Tango Boutiques. Sheila Krause helped Janice adjust the lovely shawl.

MEET YOUR FELLOW MEMBERS

That's Denis Davicino in the photo below on the left. Five months ago, on April 30th, club registrar Janice Schachtschneider drew Denis' name from among all those who had helped the club by sending in their registrations early. It's taken all this time to catch up with him to present his appreciation prize. Denis has been nursing a tender shoulder that has kept him off the courts, but we hope he'll be fit for regular play by next season. No one loves tennis more than Denis!



On the right is Ken Smith, known for a love of coffee and for taking absolutely wonderful photographs. His action photos have been a big hit in *Niagara Tennis News* and have helped tennis get valuable coverage in the *Niagara Advance*.

You can see many more of Ken's great photos by checking out

[**NOTL tennis - Mixed Doubles 2011**](#)



MONDAY IS MEN'S NIGHT

The courts have been filled each week for Men's Night, with coordinator Larry Mantle reporting average attendance of 16.2 players. Larry has done a great job of keeping records for the group, such that we can report a Men's Night Top Ten. These are the players who not only played the most games, but also had the best winning percentage in those games:

1. Terry Francis	6. Rob MacKenzie
2. Alan Briston	7. Jim Thackray
3. Flory Massi	8. Larry Mantle
4. Peter Marchesseau	9. Jerry Kanters
5. Enzo Mancuso	10. Gary Inkster

As always, the Men's Night group insists their season-end party will have a Christmas flavor. These diehards will play as long as there's no snow on the ground!

It's time to look for a new Men's Night Coordinator as Larry is moving on to become our Website Guru. He feels it would be helpful to have a group of two or three members to take on the tasks of keeping Men's Night lively and fun. So don't be shy : this is the time to step forward and announce your willingness to help, either to Larry Mantle or to club president Ian Waddell. Thanks to Larry for a great season and a job well done!



Martin Quick returns the ball while partner Peter Marchesseau guards the net. Phil Landray and Jim Thackray are ready for the return.

Below, Rob MacKenzie plays a backhand crosscourt to Jim Caldwell, while his partner Andy Knauer watches. Jim's partner is Michael Ottywill.



AROUND THE TENNIS WORLD ... WITH PETER BURWASH INTERNATIONAL

Sometimes you just get lucky. It's lucky for me that my husband met tennis professional Peter Burwash over 40 years ago and encouraged him to start a tennis management company. That company, best known as PBI, is now the most successful and celebrated tennis management company in the world, and its annual gathering of teaching pros is a highlight of each year for Don and for me. The event took us to Naples Grande Resort in Naples Florida last week and put us in the inspiring company of these terrific teachers and managers. If a tennis vacation is in your winter plans, check them out on the website www.pbitennis.com ... you can't go wrong with a PBI location! Also on the website, you'll find their beautiful magazine, loaded with coaching tips. You can even order a copy to be sent to you.



It was also inspiring to be in the company of Jeanne Moutoussamy-Ashe. For my generation, her husband Arthur Ashe was more than a stadium at the US Open ... he was a tennis star of heroic proportion and a great humanitarian. Jeanne has just produced a collection of her photographs of Arthur Ashe, which appears at the US Open and also in book form. It was remarkable to be reminded of the challenging times in which he played. The world has changed a lot, but more is needed. I now have a new mantra: *Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.*

LOBS AND DROPSHOTS

Lost and Found Department : A racquet belonging to Ross Robinson was picked up on the courts sometime during the week of September 12-18. It has gone missing again. If you've come upon a racquet and are waiting to find an owner, please contact Ross to see if there's a match.

Righting some wrongs : Over the course of the season, the journalism can get a bit shaky from time to time. Two errors that we know of are crying out to be corrected.

The first occurred in the report of our inter-club match in Grimsby, where - during the first round of play - a sterling win for Niagara-on-the-Lake was scored by the pairing of Gary Inkster and Jim Thackray. The account in the July 11 edition of NTN mistakenly credited the win to another duo. Way to go, Gary and Jim!

And the second occurred in the report of the Ladies Night midsummer party. In our August 10 edition of NTN, the evening's pizza was credited to the wrong supplier. It was, in fact, delivered to the tennis courts by Martin Mazza, proprietor of Italian Pizza and Subs located across from the banks in Virgil. It was delicious, Martin!

*Best regards,
Rosemary Goodwin*

*on behalf of your Volunteer Committee : Ian Waddell, John Christie, Janice Schachtschneider,
Liz Vinassac, Charlene Juras, Sarah Chapman-Jay, Larry Mantle, Peter Marchesseau.*

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