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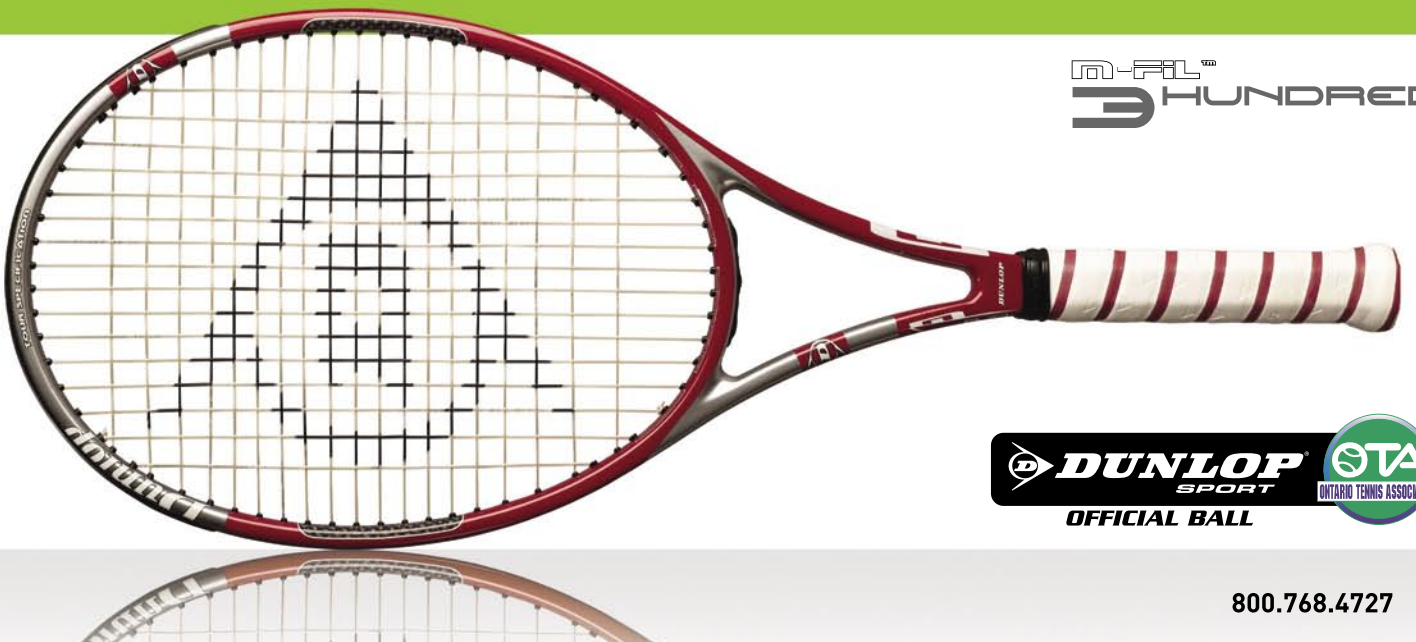


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OTA NEWS

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Ontario Tennis is published three times per year
by the Ontario Tennis Association. It is Canada's
longest-running tennis publication.
— published since 1970.

The Ontario Tennis Association is a proud
member of Tennis Canada and acknowledges
the support of the Ontario Ministry of Health
Promotion.

This magazine is produced to highlight the
people, events and information that foster the
continued interest and development of tennis
at all levels in Ontario.

The views expressed in Ontario Tennis are
not necessarily those of the Ontario Tennis
Association unless stated.

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Canadian Publications Mail Product Sales
Agreement No. 40710521

Community

WORDS BY PAM OLLEY

Community: adjective. Common ownership, liability.

Community: noun. People with common interests living in a particular area

The club where I learnt to play tennis as a pre-teen was organized to have all members share in the running of the club. Before each season opened, a roster was distributed assigning every member a date for taking on the role of court supervision or event helper. In addition, all the ladies were assigned a date for helping prepare teas. There was a clear expectation that every member would volunteer some of their time to the smooth running of the club. Of course, you were never assigned to one of these tasks solo....and as a new member you would always be teamed with a long term member. Through executing your volunteer role, you got to meet other members and became involved in the club. Perhaps because I was introduced to this concept at my first club, I have always assumed that membership carries with it responsibilities beyond those of paying your dues, just as it affords privileges.

Later, when playing in tournaments, all participants were expected to volunteer their time to umpire. Usually the loser of a match was assigned to the following match on the same court, unless another player had volunteered already. There was a generous prize for the player who had done the most umpiring. In this way, every match had an umpire to keep score and overrule any obvious errors, every player became familiar with the rules and how to mark the score and player conduct was generally exemplary.

When I am on a committee or Board, I expect the group to have a clear sense of purpose, to be in existence to accomplish something. As a member, I expect to be encouraged to contribute both at the meeting and outside the meeting. A sense of accomplishment for the group and members seeing their participation as being worthwhile are essential to having an effective committee. To support this, the committee chair must keep the group's focus on the purpose and motivate the members to participate and contribute. The chair should also ensure that the group develops a well understood plan of action with mutually agreed expectations and that there is follow up on progress and recognition of success.

When I look at the state of volunteerism in tennis, I sometimes see situations where, to paraphrase Churchill, never has so much been owed by so many to so few. I see individuals being cajoled into taking on onerous positions of responsibility that they have little hope of fulfilling. I see volunteers who are swamped with too many tasks and no identifiable sources of assistance. I also see people who have high expectations of receiving value or benefits but who have low expectations of what they should contribute in return. It's not surprising that more and more people are rejecting the notion of volunteering to take on responsibilities that at one time were considered to be an honour, like being captain of a team or a member of the executive.

Fortunately there are other examples of club executives and teams who accomplish a great deal and have fun doing it....perhaps their leaders have learnt from the words of Lao Tsu...

"To lead people, walk beside them.....As for the best leaders, the people do not notice their existence. The next best, the people honour and praise. The next, the people fear and the next, the people hate. When the best leader's work is done, the people say "We did it ourselves!"

If we concentrate on developing organizations where community is used as an adjective, hopefully we will build stronger communities, in the meaning of the noun, where tennis is a common interest and endeavour.

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The Benefits of COMMUNITY TENNIS CLUBS

In Ontario we are fortunate to have a highly developed community club system. Community clubs are good for the sport of tennis, the communities in which they operate. They also provide municipalities with an extremely cost effective way of providing facilities for their residents. Although each municipality establishes its own partnership agreement with its community clubs, there are some common benefits from this type of partnership.

In general, Parks and Recreation Department are responsible for the major capital expenditures involved with the building of new tennis courts. e.g. the construction of a base surface, the fencing of facilities, the installation of lights and the provision of clubhouse facilities. Community clubs are usually responsible for the ongoing maintenance and operation of the facility. e.g. resurfacing, nets, windscreens, insurance, maintenance of lights, court supervision, program design and delivery. In return, community clubs have protected access to the facilities that limits usage to the public at large. In some municipalities clubs must provide public access to the courts for a certain number of hours and in others one or two courts of a group may be designated as courts for public access.

Unlike other parks and recreation facilities, most tennis courts do not require regular and frequent maintenance such as grass cutting and line marking. Municipalities may have a good idea how much usage is made of team sport facilities, municipal golf courses and swimming pools, where reservations must be made, fees are substantial or supervision is required. However, they may underestimate tennis court usage. It would be expensive for Parks and Recreation to measure the casual usage of small outdoor tennis facilities or collect user fees other than by an honour system. With a community club on site, the membership and program enrollment numbers

can provide a reasonable way of measuring facility usage. It is probably worthwhile for community club executives to make sure the Parks and Rec department understands just how many local residents make use of the club and its programming and how much benefit the department receives from having a community club on site.

Because community clubs are non-profit organizations with volunteer boards, they are able to provide affordable tennis court usage, supervision and instructional, competitive and social programming for the benefit of members. Clubs need to have the predictable revenue stream that membership fees provide because they have to set funds aside to make sure the facility is properly maintained, courts are resurfaced as needed and that volunteers, staff and the property have appropriate insurance. Clubs need to provide appropriate programming to attract and retain membership. They usually provide a variety of programming and lessons, especially low cost programs for children. Thus the community gets a quality facility and sound programming while the Parks and Recreation department is relieved of the responsibilities of providing day to day maintenance and operating programs.

Active organized tennis clubs operating in a park, particularly those with lights, make the entire park safer for people to use, particularly at night. Community tennis clubs insure their property and operations themselves and often provide court monitors. This minimizes the costs from abuse and vandalism of property.

Community tennis clubs develop volunteerism in the community and provide a social outlet for community members. They provide affordable access to a sport which is safe, healthy and contributes to a healthy lifestyle for all ages. In fact, because tennis clubs support all ages, the membership of tennis clubs in a municipality often



Courts without a community Tennis Club

exceeds that of baseball, football, lacrosse and other team sports that just have youth programming.

Through community tennis clubs, in conjunction with the development opportunities provided through the Ontario Tennis Association and other organizations, members are provided with opportunities to develop as athletes.

Some municipalities provide for affordable indoor tennis facilities either through an arrangement with a community club or local association or through a contract with a tennis business organization..... and these seem to be extremely popular. The North York Winter Tennis Club and the L'Amoureux Indoor Courts have their membership quotas filled long before the winter season starts.

We've all seen tennis courts that are poorly maintained (like the ones in the photo) and how unappealing that can be; we've also seen the courts with chain link fence instead of nets. Clubs that are too heavily tied to the Parks and Rec maintenance budget can have problems getting timely repairs and maintenance too. The well run community club provides a full range of activities at a very affordable rate compared to commercial or private tennis facilities and a year's membership at your community club usually costs less than a day on the golf course or theme park entry fees for the family. Remember your community club membership fee is an investment to make sure you have tennis programming in your neighbourhood, not only for the current year, but to make sure that these facilities are kept in good shape for the future.

If there is no community club on your local courts, you can find out how to form a community club from the OTA. Just contact Jay Neill at 416-514-1103.

OTA Insurance

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FROM POTTRUFF AND SMITH

Club Court Policy

1. If a member is injured during a lesson with a contract pro, employed pro, or outside pro, is the liability of the club covered?

Yes, the club is covered for injuries that happen on the Insured premises. However, in some instances, the pro may not be covered. The club should always ensure that an outside pro carries his/her own liability insurance so that the club's policy is not the first line of defense.

2. If a non-member player is injured at the club in question, is the liability of the club covered?

Yes, the club is covered for injuries that happen on the Insured premises whether the player is a member or not.

3. We lease our club premises from municipality. The municipality wants to be added to our policy as an Additional Insured. Is this a reasonable request?

Yes, this type of request is reasonable and it is very common practice. Since the municipality owns the property it leases to you, it can be held liable for injuries that occur on the property, even though your club occupies the premises. By ensuring that you have proper liability coverage and adding itself as an Additional Insured to your policy, the municipality ensures that its liability is protected without the need to rely on its own policies or financial resources.

4. If a member is injured following the consumption of alcohol at the end of year gala, is the liability of the club covered?

Yes, the Club Court policy includes coverage known as "Host Liquor Liability", which protects the liability of the club if the member is on premises or off premises after leaving the gala. In addition, if the

member causes injury to another person on or off premises due to the alcohol served by the club, the liability of the club is covered. "Host Liquor Liability" covers all alcohol service on premises, not just the year-end gala.

5. If an employee of the club takes his or her own vehicle for club business, such as pick-up and return of supplies or equipment, and is involved in a car accident, causing injuries, is the liability of the club covered?

Injuries to the employee driving the automobile will be covered by that employee's own insurer, by law. However, the club may be liable for injuries the employee causes to others while using the vehicle for club business. In such a case, the club is indeed covered for its liability. The section of the policy that provides this coverage is titled "Non-owned Automobile Liability".

6. Why do we need insurance when the municipality owns the property?

Essentially, there are 3 reasons:

1) According to the Occupier's Liability Act, regardless of who owns a property, any person occupying that property can be jointly or severally liable to injuries sustained by persons while on the property. Therefore, since the club has liability at law, it must carry insurance to protect itself.

2) The municipality that owns the property will make it a requirement of the lease with the club to carry insurance for both the liability of occupying the premises and the physical value of municipal assets. Therefore the club has a contractual responsibility to provide insurance. (See FAQ #3 for the reason why the municipality requires insurance)

3) In addition to the liability exposure, the club is likely to own its own equipment used on premises to operate the club and needs to protect its assets with insurance.

7. Why do we need Director's and Officer's Liability Insurance?

The Directors and Officers of a non-profit organization can be held personally liable under statute and common law for the management or mismanagement of the organization. Director's and Officer's Liability insurance provides protection for this liability.

8. If a terminated employee sued the club for wrongful dismissal, will the club be covered for its liability and/or defense costs?

Yes, the Director's and Officer's Liability insurance program available to OTA members includes "Employment Practices Liability" that indemnifies the club in the event of such a suit. In addition, even if there is no liability assigned to the club, the DandO policy will cover the club's defense costs within the limit of insurance.

ProPac Policy

1. Are my employees and volunteers covered by my ProPac insurance?

Yes, the ProPac Policy covers the Named Professional and any subcontractors, employees or volunteers working on behalf of the Named Professional.

2. Would I be liable for injuries sustained to a student during a lesson and would I be covered for that liability by my ProPac Policy?

It is a very real possibility that the pro may be held solely or jointly liable for injuries to a student during a lesson, practice or match. The ProPac Policy will cover the liability of the pro for these injuries.

What if the people behind these famous quotations had been tennis players?

By Maurice Power

"I think, therefore I am...sure it is 15-all!"

- Rene Descartes

"I want to be alone. I do not want a doubles partner."

- Greta Garbo

"The horror! The horror! To go out on a double fault!"

- Joseph Conrad

"Give me liberty, or give me death. Or at least a consolation round."

-Patrick Henry

"Anatomy is destiny. And with these knees, I think no more tennis for me."

-Sigmund Freud

"Hell is other people...making bad line calls."

- J.P. Sartre

"I have always depended on the kindness of strangers. Did you bring tennis balls?"

- Blanche Dubois in Tennessee William's
Cat on a Hot Tin Roof

"Play it again Sam...it might have caught the line."

Humphrey Bogart in *Casablanca*

"The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation. Especially when they are down 0-5 in games in the second set of a tournament."

Henry David Thoreau

"Blood, sweat and tears. And this is just the warm-up!"

Winston Churchill

"Veni. Vidi. Vici. Ludo parvus in sphaeristerium." (I came. I saw. I conquered. I played a little tennis.)

Julius Caesar

"Now this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning. I think I just got my second wind. Your serve."

Winston Churchill

"When we have matched our rackets to these balls, we will in France, by God's grace, play a set...let's see if we can get through the first round at least."

Shakespeare. *Henry V*

"How can you govern a country that has 246 varieties of cheese... in addition to inventing the illogical scoring system in tennis?"

Charles De Gaulle

"The pleasure is momentary, the position ridiculous, and the expense damnable. That's about all you need to know about tennis."

Lord Chesterfield

"There is no such thing as inner peace. There is only nervousness or death; or being down four games in the third set."

Fran Lebowitz

"You can fool all the people some of the time and some of the people all of the time, but you can't fool all the people all the time. Now, you and I both know that ball was in."

Abraham Lincoln



potere elegante

l'arte nello sport.

KIM CLIJSTERS

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An important factor in any organization being successful in delivering a wide variety of programs is the volunteer. Volunteers share their talent and enthusiasm because they enjoy helping others. Through volunteering, they enhance a community's quality of life while keeping their own body and mind active. In sport, not only is the particular sporting activity healthy but volunteering contributes to the volunteer's well-being. Volunteers make a valuable contribution to any organization.

For the Ontario Tennis Association, this is definitely the case. Volunteers invite people to take up the game of a lifetime, encourage players to reach their potential, organize tennis activities, and operate clubs. Also, partnerships are formed with the local municipalities and organizations to enhance the programs offered to the community. Besides the local programs, volunteers support regional and provincial level programs of the OTA by offering their expertise and time to coordinate events at their club or in their region. In addition, volunteers serve on the regional and provincial boards to provide administration and management of the OTA.

The OTA has been fortunate that, over nearly 100 years, there has been no lack of volunteers to bring tennis to the people of the province of Ontario. The OTA knows that it is important to recognize the contribution of the volunteer. This is emphasized by quoting from our current Strategic Plan where it states that:

The OTA will attract, motivate and retain all types of volunteers through a sound recognition and reward system.

In 2002, the OTA Board approved a recognition program to reward volunteers, namely, the Distinguished Service Award. Each year, a committee selects individuals who have made a conspicuous contribution to tennis in Ontario over a sustained period, a minimum of 5 years, at the provincial or community level.

For the individual to be considered, the

individual must have shown, in at least one of the following areas, that she or he

- a) Has demonstrated an outstanding commitment as an organizer;
- b) Has made a significant contribution to the growth and popularity of the game;
- c) Has contributed to the development of the game by providing leadership;
- d) Has acted as a positive role model for youth;
- e) Has made a significant or ongoing financial contribution; or
- f) Has created a heightened awareness and interest in tennis.

As members of OTA clubs, this is your award to recognize people that you think have met these criteria and are deserving of this award. If you know of such a person, go to our website at www.tennisonario.com, where you will find the full criteria, download the form and submit the completed form to the OTA. There is no deadline so nominations will be received at any time.

This year, we are recognizing two such persons who have made a significant contribution to tennis in the province of Ontario.

Gus Morhart

If you go to Kew Gardens Tennis Club very early in the morning during the first two weeks of July, you will see a distinct large green van parked on the road bearing



an OTA logo. This isn't the OTA van that is used for the Tennis Fair and other events, this is Gus Morhart's own van. Gus will be at the club putting up the signage for the sponsors and the scoreboards, or setting up the mini-tennis or the barbeque or getting the bouquets for the trophy presentations. Gus is the person who makes sure everything is ready for the day and is safely stored away at night.

Gus is a person who has figured out how he can bring his unique skills to make a better world. Gus is very practical, a natural engineer who figures out how to build things. He made the umpire's chairs, singles sticks and score cards for the OTA to use and loan out for tournaments and often uses his van to take them from site to site.

Gus was instrumental in getting The Wall program going. Gus, who helped build the frame to support the wall, knows just how to erect and take down the structure. He also converted an old trailer to transport and store the pieces of the Wall. Now others may have formulated the idea and the OTA marketing managers have arranged the sites and the publicity but Gus is the person who makes sure the Wall is in place on time and taken down. Gus just goes ahead and does things. One day he arranged to have OTA staff help erect the wall at SkyDome, now the Rogers Centre, but when the staff arrived at 5am, Gus had nearly finished doing it on his own.

Gus is also a long time volunteer at the Rogers Cup. He is in charge of transporting players on site and to practice courts and he recruits his own volunteers. But if there's rain and people are needed to squeegee the courts, Gus will be the first to lend an enthusiastic hand. Gus is also the self appointed transportation committee for junior nationals, ferrying players from the airport to their accommodation or the club.

Now if you or I had as little sleep as Gus, we would be touchy and scowling all day - but not Gus. Gus always has a smile for everyone and never has a bad word to say about anyone. Gus is one of those

people who derive great pleasure from being a giver.

Gus believes in random acts of kindness. Whether it be the bowl of candies on the tournament desk, a gift of t-shirts for all the Canadian players in Florida, whether they are on an official team or not, a bottle of his home made wine for the volunteers and staff at the Christmas party, Gus makes sure that everyone feels special.

Gus has a home in Leaside and a place in the Florida Keys where he spends some time each winter, usually taking in the tennis tournaments such as the Orange Bowl at the same time. He shares his good fortune by making his homes available to his tennis friends. He has hosted families like the Dancevics and the Fichmans, well before the youngsters made their names as players.

Most of all, Gus likes to see youngsters get the opportunity to play, enjoy and succeed at tennis. Although Gus was a semi-pro soccer player when he first came to Canada from what is now Croatia, Gus enjoys playing and has had a long affiliation with Leaside and Thorncliffe Park Tennis Clubs.

In fact with Gus, the hardest thing is to figure out how to say thank you. He doesn't like the spotlight. Any gifts he gets are likely to be re-gifted because he is a man of few material needs, though he is partial to very hot, spicy food and very dark chocolate. Maybe the best way to thank him is to follow his lead and figure out ways of how you can bring your talents, skills and time to help foster tennis. Whether it's behind the scenes or in public view, whether it's physical or cerebral, Gus will know that you really care and that will make him happy.

Pam Olley

I first met Pam Olley about 15 years ago when I was Chair of the North York Region of the OTA. When Pam was President, I was Vice President of Finance and Administration and so had first hand experience of Pam's commitment to the OTA. So I can categorically say that the OTA will never sink while Pam is around. While she was OTA President, she may have been the Captain steering the ship,

but when needed, she was one of the rowers! During my years involved with the Ontario Tennis Association, I have seen Pam's commitment to tennis and to the OTA. It is a passion for the game that leads to this commitment.



Pam Olley has been involved with the Ontario Tennis Association for more than 15 years. Before becoming President of the Association, she chaired the OTA Seniors Committee and was Vice President of Marketing and Communications. As Chair of the OTA Seniors Committee, Pam developed a tournament schedule for Seniors and, at the same time, increased the number of tournaments for Seniors. During this time, she also was involved with the planning committee that realigned the structure of the OTA Board.

As President of the OTA, Pam reviewed every aspect of the organization to create an atmosphere in which change could take place. She stressed the role of the Association as being to promote tennis through relationships with volunteers, staff and sponsors. During her presidency, the organization went through several changes including the hiring of an Executive Director. For nearly 10 months, Pam served as Acting Executive Director during the periods when the position was not filled.

Pam has been an active member of the Tennis Canada Board for about six years, where her enthusiasm for tennis in and beyond the province of Ontario has been her dedication. In conjunction with these Tennis Canada responsibilities, Pam

maintains her interest in the OTA as an Honorary Councillor of the Board and as the Editor of the Ontario Tennis magazine and the monthly e-magazine.

Without the leadership and dedication of Pam Olley, the OTA would not have survived its financial distress of the 1990's. The OTA of today is a far cry from what it was in the early 1990's. Pam Olley became President at a time when the association was going through a rough patch. Through her commitment, leadership and hard work, the OTA moved into the 21st century as a vibrant organization of which all members of OTA clubs should be proud.

Even with all this work for the OTA and Tennis Canada, Pam still manages to keep her tennis game sharp. She has represented Canada in International Seniors Tournaments on many occasions. Pam Olley is still one of the rowers of the OTA ship. Even though not the Captain, Pam is there as a senior rower ever present for guidance on the direction to be taken by the Ontario Tennis Association.

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Cardiotennis at Community Clubs

Catalin Codita read about Cardiotennis in Ontario Tennis magazine. He thought the program had great potential and so he signed on to the www.partners.cardiotennis.com web site, studied the material and got his certification and support materials. He started delivering Cardiotennis at Charlottetown Tennis Club in July and hopes to offer the program at other clubs in the area.

It was one of those hot, humid days (when just walking causes you to break into a sweat) when Catalin led his first program. He had six people in his class, one young man and five women, including Diane Weatherby, President of Charlottetown Tennis Club. Getting into the rhythm in the first class requires more explanation, particularly when the group isn't used to wrinkles, such as catching the ball on your racquet, that one of the suggested basic Cardiotennis drills requires. Foam balls were used for the warm up which made it easier for players to have the control needed to maintain the drills. "This is great," said Diane as she came to get water, "I'm feeling it even though we've only had the warm up."

The group then moved onto full court drills with Catalin feeding the balls. At the end of the one hour session, the members had enjoyed the class and all said they would return for the next session. "They

provide this kind of program at other clubs." explained one of the participants, "But it gets boring after a while because they don't vary the drills." Catalin feels the program is very well suited to advanced beginner and intermediate players and he plans to vary the drills week by week to maintain interest. "I like the fact that Cardiotennis allows you to adapt the program to your style and needs," explained Catalin.

On the other side of the city, Alex Benyi signed up for the Cardiotennis program and is running sessions at Appleby Tennis Club in Burlington. Alex had run some tennis fitness programs already and found that people loved them. Using the tools provided through the Cardiotennis program has helped him deliver a more varied and effective program.

It costs nothing to register with Cardiotennis. On approval, Cardiotennis provides your site with a free package of promotional materials,

including a banner and heart rate charts. Tools to enhance a Cardiotennis program, such as music CDs and heart monitors, are also available. Most importantly, the Cardiotennis web site is regularly updated with new drills and ways to keep improving your program.

Both Catalin and Alex have taken advantage of having their programs listed on the www.Cardiotennis.com web site. If you are already running a tennis fitness program or would like to start one, why not take advantage of the free support material and services that Cardiotennis provides by going to www.partners.cardiotennis.com.



Partnering With Schools

BY DANIELLE SMITH PRESIDENT EAST ONTARIO TENNIS ACADEMY

It all started with one little boy at St. Michael Catholic School in Ottawa who asked his teacher, Mr. Ryall, if he could teach him tennis. Of course being a tennis enthusiast, Mr. Ryall was more than pleased to do this. "If you bring your racquet to school, I will teach you at lunch time." From one boy, it soon grew to 20 kids who were in the tennis club, bringing their racquets to school for their daily lesson. When the weather got nicer, they played outside on an imaginary court in the play ground. Danielle Smith, President of

Eastern Ontario Tennis Academy, couldn't believe how they played. "One boy served and the other called fault, then he served again and they played out the point. It was amazing as there were no lines, no court, just the asphalt in a school yard, but it was as if they were playing at Wimbledon." Tennis was their passion.

Danielle approached the school and asked how she could help. The school just wanted the kids to have the opportunity to play on real courts. The principal, Teresa Maloney, was amazing and we (E.O.T.A.)

arranged for the bus, provided the pros and fun and the kids came for a real day of tennis fun. For some, it was the first field trip they had ever had. It certainly was a day to remember.

We knew from this experience that the life skills tennis provided would offer so many kids an experience that would last them forever. The schools program became our passion.

We applied for a community in action fund grant through the Minister of Health Promotion and were successful, receiving

Teaching Tennis 15 Minutes At A Time

MARC IRMAN, TENNIS DIRECTOR THE WATERSIDE SPORTS AND TENNIS CLUB

One of the most refreshing and stimulating experiences in my tennis teaching week takes place every Sunday afternoon from 2pm until 8pm at the Ward's Island Tennis Club. It's here, on one of three tree-lined clay courts, that I teach what I call "Bite Sized Chunks Tennis" - a succession of intense 15 minute one-on-one sessions (\$12 per session).

My clients, a dedicated group of enthusiasts, occupy all age ranges and skill levels. What they have in common is a desire to have fun in relaxing island surroundings minutes by ferry from downtown Toronto and, quickly and affordably, to improve their games. Provided those I teach in these sessions are prepared to practice between each of these mini lessons, my experience is that I can make a world of difference to their games.

The key is to focus on one aspect of their play at a time, using intense repetition to drive my instruction home. On a recent Sunday, Nadia, one of my regulars, simply wanted to learn how to hit a drop shot. It took me about three minutes to demonstrate the basics of the shot. Another 10 minutes to have her hit a hundred balls. And a final two minutes to re-cap. She now has a decent, technically acceptable drop shot which, with practice, will give her a point-stealing stroke option for the rest of her tennis career. She returns for a follow

up in two weeks.

Jimmy Jones is a 76 year old tennis veteran with one of the most radical eastern forehand grips I've ever encountered. He has been playing tennis for over 60 years, so the chances of me successfully changing the habits of a lifetime are virtually non-existent. My approach is to get him to hit the ball earlier, which will give his shot more depth and consistency: 15 dedicated minutes of rapid-fire ball feeding to his forehand once a month is all I need to begin the transformation. He's already starting to crack away a few line-smoking winners.

Then there are the kids, all three of them. Since children generally have the attention span of a gnat, 15 minutes of Bite Sized Chunks Tennis gives me the chance to move them along a bit while making sure that they leave the court wanting to come back for more.

Henner Lofner is a six foot four inch German jock with a 4.5 game and an iffy serve. All I do is get him to toss the ball really high and bang it over the net before it drops too far. "Higher Henner!" is both a cry of encouragement and a nickname. He's getting there.

One of my most challenging pupils is



Mary Margaret, a woman who was afraid of the ball at the net. It's not so much a technical issue; more of a mental one. But my 15 minute sessions seem to be working. Now she's starting to get that hungry look as she gets set for another surefire put-away. After just three sessions, no more fear.

So there you have it. Membership at the Ward's Island Tennis Club is \$150, with no court fees. The setting is enchanting; the clay courts a delight. The ferry takes ten minutes. Everyone hitting over here finds the experience out of the ordinary and huge fun. Bite Sized ChunksTennis is 15 minutes (yes, you can buy a longer time slot if you wish) of genuine accomplishment. It will make an immediate, and material, difference to your game. And by the way, Bite Sized Chunks Tennis makes a great gift!

\$15,000 which provided equipment to 10 schools and helped train the teachers to run the program. Now we are in the process of setting up after-school programs and team tennis. Each school has become a partner with our organization and we work in establishing programs that will benefit the kids and schools using tennis as a vehicle.

The focus is on giving all kids the opportunity to play, break the cycle of poverty by combining education and sport and help fight childhood obesity. It is a winning combination. This year, we have touched

5,000 kids in our school program, trained over 50 teachers and established many lasting partners in the community.

Every school has free 'try' and 'learn' tennis through gym class and after-school programs, and 'play' through a team tennis program. Imagine how terrific it would be to give all kids the opportunity to play.

In order to grow and expand the school program, we are holding a World Team Tennis tournament from September 8-10th for which the McGuinty family is sponsoring a Cup for the winners. We wanted to have a family involved in our tournament

who has served our community by making it a better place to live. The McGuinty family has lived in the south end of the City and has always given back to the community in such positive ways. All money raised for this event will go back to our school programs and we hope to be able to give many more schools and kids the opportunity to play. So enter a Corporate four-member team in this great event - the winners will qualify for the Corporate U.S. Nationals in November. You can go to www.tennisot-tawa.ca for more information.



ROY MANSELL

BY LAWRIE STRONG

Wimbledon is the premier tennis tournament in the world and the Centre Court at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club the most historic location for playing the game. Over the entrance to the Centre Court through which all players must pass is the following inscription from Rudyard Kipling's poem 'If':

"If you can meet with triumph and disaster
And treat those two imposters just the same."

Roy Mansell, a stalwart OTA volunteer for almost 40 years, took this advice very much to heart. He was an extremely even tempered man who had a very deep love for the game and, later in life, was determined to put as much back into tennis as he had received as a young man.

John Roy Mansell was born in England during the First World War. He began playing tennis at the age of thirteen at the Cranston Park Tennis Club in Upminster, a small town east of London. Entering his twenties, he was a solid player and had established himself as a strong member of the Essex County team. Unfortunately the Second World War began just as Roy was entering his prime playing years. Roy enlisted in the Army very soon after the outbreak of the war and served in France, North Africa and Italy. Upon his return to civilian life, he once again took up his love affair with tennis, entering tournaments whenever possible. The highlight of his playing career was undoubtedly competing four times in the Championships at Wimbledon. The first occasion was in 1947 which, for history buffs, was the first year that the men's singles champion (Jack Kramer) wore shorts! While he did not garner a win in any of his singles matches, he did have two first round victories in the gentlemen's doubles.

Roy emigrated from England in 1957, settling in Oakville, Ontario. He got a job working in sales for Sydney Hermant's Safety Supply Company and quickly became engaged in tennis. He played as many tournaments as he could and had considerable success in doubles, winning numerous titles. Bob Bedard recalls winning the 1965 Oakville men's doubles title with Roy defeating Don Fontana and Henri Rochon in the final. Bob describes Roy as an excellent doubles player who hit awkwardly-placed chipped returns and sharply angled volleys. More significantly, though, very soon after his arrival in this country he also became involved as a volunteer, first at the Oakville Club and then at the OTA level.

He quickly became a member of the OTA Council and served as President of the Association in 1961/62, just four years after his arrival here.

Roy joined the Badminton and Racquet Club in Toronto where he remained a long-time member. And somewhere along the way he became a Canadian citizen although some would not have guessed that hearing his very pronounced English accent.

Two quite separate events then led to Roy's most intensive period of volunteer activity. The first was his decision in 1970 to quit his job in sales management and to become the Head Tennis Professional at the Donalda Club in Toronto, a position he held until 1986. This allowed him to devote more time as a volunteer to the administrative aspects of the game. The second was the arrival of Open Tennis. As Tennis Canada and the OTA assumed responsibility for not just the amateur game but also the professional game, the longer-term implications were quite profound. In simple terms, the Associations needed to become far more competent in their administration of all aspects of the game. In the 1970's, though, this general upgrading was necessarily led by the volunteers as the addition of full-time personnel lagged the demand for more professional approaches.

As prize money in tournaments escalated, so too did the need for excellence in officiating, especially chair umpires and line umpires. Roy played a crucial role in this area. As one of only



Roy Mansell(left) with friends

four people qualified as a Stadium Court umpire, he served as President of the Ontario Tennis Umpires Association for many years when it was very much in its infancy; he was also on both the Tennis Canada and OTA Councils as Chair of their Umpires Committees. In a more hands-on capacity, Roy was Chairman of Umpires and Linesmen at numerous Canadian Opens as well as the Rothmans International event held every February in Toronto during most of the 1970's.

But Roy's interest in the regulatory aspects of tennis went beyond on-court officiating. He recognized that tennis universally shared a common governance structure, no matter the level of play. As a consequence, he authored the first and second editions of the Yardstick (1978 and 1984 respectively), which Roy liked to call "the bones of the regulatory corpus". This official Tennis Canada publication was a compilation of the Rules of Tennis, Tournament Regulations, the Code of Conduct and a Code of Ethics for club and recreational players. It also included Officiating Guidelines for those whose interests were with this aspect of the game plus Appendices which contained a wealth of other information on the why and the how. It is also typical of how volunteers worked back then that the Yardstick's cover was designed by Roy's daughter Viki.

For players who could not deal evenly with 'triumph and disaster', Roy was also responsible for introducing Ontario's first disciplinary system, including Reports of Misconduct. So what would Roy think about the latest developments in officiating – the introduction of the instant replay technology, along with a player challenge system? I think he would be very supportive. As a former top competitor, he understood the imperative for the players of getting the calls right.

Roy always had a great personal interest in helping young players reach their full potential so that they could enjoy the game as much as he did. It is not surprising therefore that his second area of significant involvement was Player Development. He chaired the OTA Player Development Committee through the second half of the seventies and served on the national committee at the same time. Then, in 1981, he took over as Chair of the Tennis Canada Player Development Committee. This was time-consuming but rewarding as young Canadians began to make their mark internationally.

Despite these two areas of specific responsibility, Roy also found time to be involved in the general management of both the OTA and Tennis Canada. He returned to the OTA as a Vice President for a number of years and similarly served on the Executive Committee of Tennis Canada. In short, he was the Nominating Committee Chair's dream. He would take on anything that was good for the game he loved; no worries about an inflated ego here.

Roy was also involved for a number of years with the Ontario Teaching Professionals Association and was both a course conductor and a tester in the instructor certifi-

cation programme. And who else but Roy would go to Whitehorse and the Canadian Forces base in Lahr, Germany to give instructor clinics?!

Despite a heavy administrative load, Roy continued playing in veteran events. In 1982, he and Ellis Tarshis took Canada to the final of the Britannia Cup before losing to a strong US team. In 1988, he won the 70 and over men's doubles in the national indoors and in 1988 and 1989 captained Canada's Crawford Cup team.

Roy received Ontario's Outstanding Achievement Award in 1976 and was inducted into the Canadian Tennis Hall of Fame as a Builder in 1994. But this well-deserved recognition does not tell the whole story. As former OTA President Steve Stephens, a long-time friend and colleague, commented "Roy was a man of infinite tennis knowledge hidden under an unassuming manner but enlivened with a caustic tongue, frequently relieved with witty and humorous remarks." Roy was an optimist and he always had a twinkle in his eye. Being a volunteer with Roy was fun and he really did treat triumph and disaster just the same!

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Boys Doubles U16: Thomas Mroziewicz, Cameron Chiang

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Mens Singles O55: Bob Bedard

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Mens Singles O65: Keith Carpenter

Mens Singles O70: William Gee

Mens Singles O75: Austin Macpherson

Mens Singles O80: Mike Koci

Womens Singles Open: Laura Pola

Womens Singles O35: Julie Staples

Womens Singles O40: Catherine Litton

Womens Singles O45: Erin Boynton

Womens Singles O50: Frances Critchley

Womens Singles O55: Frances Critchley

Womens Singles O60: Mary Ann Gaskin

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Womens Doubles O65: Dot Piercy and Jennifer Wilson

The Term, "New Game" Drives Me Crazy

I've been asked many times to write about the "New Game"; the problem is that I haven't been able to locate it. It has been easy to write about "New Rackets". The big tournaments are still played on grass, clay, synthetic surfaces and concrete. The court dimensions remain the same, 19.1 degrees of potential angle from baseline corner to the opposite baseline corner.

I have film of players hitting with an "Open Stance" in the 1950's. In those cases, the players were caught in a poor position. Now, players choose to hit with an "Open stance" because they can use the new equipment to hit hard from the baseline. But in this case, it's the equipment that has changed.

What has changed is the number of players who only go to the net to shake hands. But there were baseliners in the 50's and 60's, but the majority were from countries who only built clay courts. The coaching of the "wrap around the neck" follow-through has caused players to move their center of gravity towards the center of the baseline. In a recent biomechanics study, we found that players who move through the ball on the approach shot are normally nine feet closer to the net than the player who decides to rush the net after rewinding from the long follow-through.

Why have net rushers almost disappeared? Again, it's not the "new Game", it's the new equipment. If a net rusher hits with an "Open" stance, it's difficult to get

to the desired position at the net. To make matters worse, the new equipment hits faster shots, which means the time to get to the net has shortened. Roger Federer can play back, or up, and he's a rare bird in today's tennis world.

In former times, the ball traveled slower, the players moved through the approach shot, and volleying was much easier. Recently, I put one of the new lighter, and powerful, rackets in Pancho Gonzales' hands and he looked at Jack Kramer and said, "Do you think you could ever miss a volley in your life with this racket?"

Watching the French and Wimbledon Championships, I watched player after player win important points at the net, and then back off for long periods camped at the baseline. At Wimbledon, I watched Robert Kendrick win points at the net and had a noose around Nadal's neck, and two points from a giant victory. He elected to not force Nadal to hit a passing shot and to remain on the baseline. Nadal basically owns the baseline and Kendrick eventually came in second.

It's unfortunate that so many coaches have grown up seeing only the baseline game. Now, it's rare to find knowledgeable approach and volley coaches. For example, each person should have quantifiable data on how fast he/she can hit the approach shot and reach the desired net position. Each person should know how, and when, to close at the net to reduce the oppo-

nent's passing shot angle. In today's tennis, I've literally watched players being passed while they were just ahead of the service line. One can pass an elephant at the service line.

Just to make certain that I've seen missed net rushing opportunities by players, I started observing the number of baseline drives that landed inside the service line. I was amazed at how many balls landed short and were perfect opportunities to move through the approach shot to set up perfect volley position. I watched Andre Agassi hit so many brilliant shots and never get to the net. His answer to my question in the interview room was, "Have you seen me volley lately". He's right, he shouldn't be going to the net if he fears the volley, but he also developed a forehand groundstroke weapon that other players only wish they possessed.

In today's game, there are thousands of young players who are geniuses from the baseline. Unfortunately, there are normally only sixty-four, or one hundred and twenty eight, players invited to play in a major tournament. One day, we will all be better at understanding how we can change the electrical signals in our opponent's brain to screw up their strokes and strategy. Perhaps we should listen carefully to Rafael Nadal's psychological destruction of Roger Federer. However, because Roger is a brilliant thinker, I'm betting that he will find the solution to beating Rafael.

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Where the Girls Aren't 2

In the last issue, I dared to ask the question many consider and ponder while never thinking to utter out loud: “Where are all the women tennis pros?” We all agree women are everywhere else in the tennis world, playing professionally, playing for fun, running tennis clubs, playing on teams, walking around in those short skirts at the grocery store after a morning of play.

Why aren't there as many women head pros as there are men? Why aren't there more women teaching other women at tennis clubs? Is there a systemic bias inherent in hiring practices that keeps women out of the loop? Are there not enough opportunities provided to our female pros for career advancement and development to recruit them and keep them? Do clubs treat the tennis pros as commodities, regardless of whether they are men or women? Do we need an affirmative action plan to develop our women pros into top notch coaches with definitive career paths? Who knew I was opening a can of worms with these seemingly ingenuous questions and who knew so many divergent opinions would emerge?

It's funny but whenever I would ask the question about the dearth of women pros teaching, not just in Canada, but in North America, I'd get the same response with slight variations. First would come the silence. Then the wheels would start turning. “There's a woman pro out in Woodbridge and at the ORC they have at least three. What's the name of the one at Blackmore and isn't there one at Mayfair?” Then, satisfied that they'd produced a few names of women pros, they'd change the subject. Sure, the women are out there and I could provide a laundry list of names and clubs where women are teaching tennis but when only 1 in 7 teaching pros are women, that is an imbalance.

Now, I'll admit the 1 in 7 number is an estimate (and some would say that number is overly generous) but because Tennis Canada doesn't keep statistics and the list of women pros on the website can be misleading, we can only guess at the actual ratio of women to men. Some clubs boast they have a healthy number of women on staff; some clubs even claim to have more women than men but many of the female staff are summer students who have the basic instructor credentials to teach at the junior camps and while we are happy these young women are out there, until they make teaching tennis a career, they can only be considered as seasonal, part-time employees.

If we accept there is an imbalance, then we have to ask why it exists and why it persists. It seems clubs all over the city are eager to hire women pros and even more eager to get the women pros coaching. The Boulevard Club, the Toronto Lawn, Waterside, Mayfair all would like to hire women pros, more if they already have women on staff; the OTA is desperate for women coaches to travel with their girls teams. No one seems to think the women can't do the job of



teaching tennis (if they do, they're keeping it to themselves). If so many opportunities are out there, why aren't more women applying for the jobs?

One reason might just be the tough hours. If you're a woman with a young family and are hired to teach the high performance juniors, working before and after the school day can take a toll on family commitments. Working weekends and travelling with your junior team can be an additional stress on your family. If you're a single woman, the hours are no easier when every weekend is spent working. Clearly a commitment to take time away from family and a social life is essential to becoming a successful tennis professional; whether you're a woman, man, married or single, the tennis life requires sacrifices. Some of the more successful women pros are lucky enough to have their kids in the high performance programme, thereby combining their profession with their family commitments. When this solution isn't possible, the tennis career gets put on hold, or abandoned completely.

Luckily when Jean Landy of Timberlane Athletic Club put her tennis career on hold while her children were small, she still managed to get back into the swing of things and now is one of the few women with a Coach 3 level who is also the only woman course facilitator for Tennis Canada. Jean's not just talking the talk—she was #1 in Canada in the under 12 category in her day and brings a wealth of experience to share with the juniors she coaches and the coaches she instructs. What she's had to do to balance and juggle a family life with her tennis career can maybe be described as playing a singles match without a racquet while holding a newborn! In fact, Jean recalls taking her newborn daughter, Robin, to the Provincials in 1995 which was when she realized how difficult it was going to be to balance the life of mother with that of tennis professional. Essential to her success is the support she's received throughout her career. From Bill Knowles at Heron Park in her early days, to the neighbourhood babysitters, to the Timberlane Athletic Club, Jean has the support she needs to achieve this success even while realizing it is always a juggling act that never really gets any easier.

The transition from playing professional to teaching professional can be particularly tough for women players. When all of your former tour mates are settling down, getting married and having

babies, making the commitment to coach up-and-coming junior players can seem anti-climactic after a busy touring career.

For our own Sonya Jeyaseelan, former top 100 player, ball of fire, tennis wunderkind, the transition from playing competitively to coaching competitive juniors is both rewarding and challenging. When she's not hitting balls with the adult players at the Granite Club, Sonya is on the road with the Canadian junior team players. As Sonya knows, the coach isn't just someone who helps you hit the ball. The coach's role extends into sport psychologist, life skills instructor, and mentor. In fact, the coach becomes a surrogate parent, especially when traveling—and like all parents know, when you're being everything for someone else, your own life gets put on hold. Your life becomes so intertwined with your students' lives, and theirs with yours, that the line between professional and student can become blurred and while this is an issue on its own, no one can deny that the lines are often crossed between male coaches and their female players. This is reason enough to encourage more women to coach our girls teams.

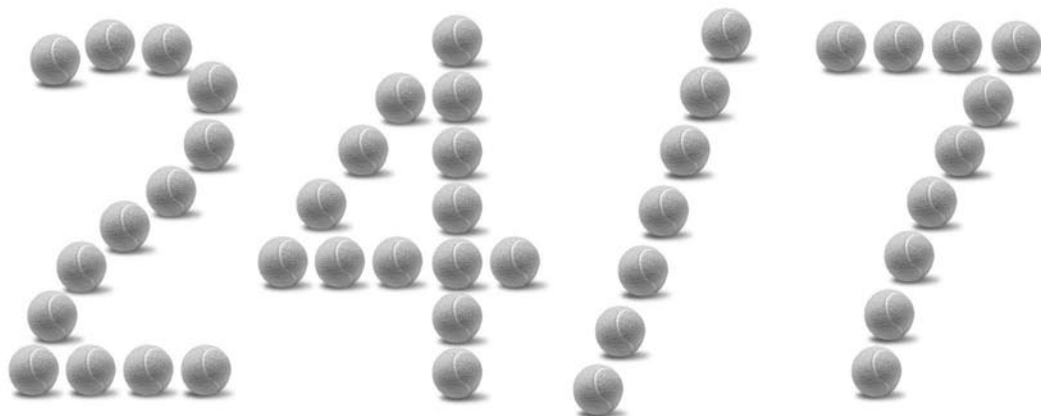
Many successful women tennis professionals have managed to be so successful by finding their niche in the male paradigm that defines the tennis profession. When issues like maternity leave, health benefits and childcare are excluded from employment con-

tracts, the unique issues women face are not addressed and the male paradigm is propagated. No one wants to rock the boat or be the first one to do so.

There is no male conspiracy preventing women from achieving what men achieve—rather, the systemic biases are so deeply ingrained, they've become accepted as the norm. Even the most feminist men sometimes can't see the bigger picture. It's not enough just to hire women pros and hope for the best. Just as the business world has adapted to including women—through affirmative action, job-sharing options, flex time, onsite daycare, recognizing the employee as a long-term investment—so too must the world of tennis professionals.

No other tennis publication has dared to ask these tough questions and if it weren't for the strength of the OTA editorial board, this subject would've been nixed from the line up. Jim Boyce and Pam Olley have shown they are brave enough to open the can of worms, take a good look inside and like forensic scientists, use the evidence to evoke a response. Dave Phillips provided a great deal of well-researched background facts to encourage this discussion in its second outing and also to suggest that this not be the end but the beginning of an ongoing, positive and educational forum.

Your opinions are needed. We invite you to respond!



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Coaching Development: Paying It Forward

COURSE CONDUCTORS

BY DAVID PHILLIPS

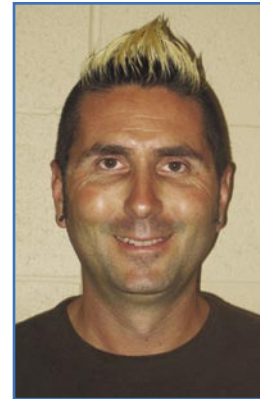
Regardless of whether you are a high performance athlete or just starting out, each of us has been taught by someone, whether a spouse, parent, volunteer or paid professional. For over two decades Tennis Canada and its provincial partners (e.g., O.T.A.) have worked tirelessly, and with great success, to increase the quality and number of certified club coaches and professionals working in our seasonal and year round clubs. But where did our teachers, our club professionals, our national coaches, get their training and education? Who taught our teachers? And why is it that we are more familiar with Federer's coach (or know that he is "in-between" or only has Roche for the Slams) than we are with those who developed and inspired those who inspire us?

In the coming issues of OT, we will take a look at coaching development, from the latest Canadian initiatives to international ITF developments - even to the grass roots of what you can expect from your certified professional. Of course, the best place to begin is with the dedicated team of individuals who deliver our courses and work tirelessly to stay current with the modern game of tennis. They are both the gatekeepers of our world class certification system and ambassadors of the profession, its organized bodies and the game of tennis itself.

So next time you see a Course Facilitator walking by, stop them and ask for their autograph. Or at the very least say hello. They have probably taught someone who influenced someone who led someone who taught you.



Ryan Zeman



Scott Hurtubise



Jay Neill



Mark Rensson



Larry Jurovich



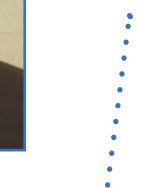
David Phillips



Brian Myers



Jean Landy



Tony Roth: Coach of the Year

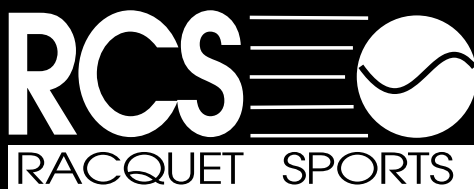
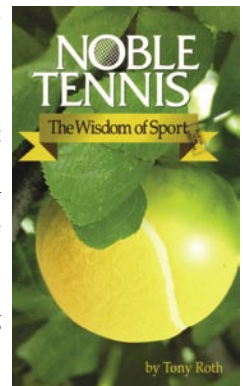
When Tony Roth was named Coach of the Year by the Tennis Professionals Association of Tennis Canada earlier this year, it was a milestone in his long and varied career as a player and teacher. It was also a commendation for the ideas he represents, and this, for him, is 'the most important thing.' Indeed, it seems that Noble Tennis - the title of Tony's book and School - is an idea whose time for recognition has come.

Tony spent more than a decade developing his knowledge and honing his skills in the smaller setting of Kingston, punctuated by international and national tours with Tennis Canada and the Ontario Tennis Association as a coach. He also studied hard during this time to complete an M.A. in Philosophy and his Coach 4 level of certification.

Three years ago, Tony and Ben Etheve-Meek, Assistant Director of the Noble Tennis School, accepted the invitation to join the Ottawa Athletic Club. There they have found 'an ownership and management, a team of teachers, and a lot of players who have delighted in a humanistic and mastery-based approach to the game of tennis.' What's the secret? 'Creating an atmosphere of happiness in striving towards mastery of the great art of tennis, through programs that provide a clear pathway of progress and lessons that are safe, fun and effective.' The response has been quite overwhelming: there are now more than 200 students in the School, ranging from beginner

to international levels of play. The club has resurfaced all its indoor courts and is now planning to resurface its outdoor courts and to reclaim two more indoor courts that were converted to a golf school some 10 years ago. Local and national companies, such as Tommy and Lefebvre and Head/Tyrolia are enthusiastic supporters, and media interest is rapidly growing. This ground-swell has come, 'not from any special gimmicks or complex methods,' says Roth, 'but just from the inherent fun and beauty of the game, taught by enthusiastic and trained teachers, in a wonderful setting.' For more information on Tony and the School, please visit www.ottawaathleticclub.com.

If you would like to purchase a copy of Tony Roth's book Noble Tennis: The Wisdom of Sport you contact author directly by e-mailing at tr@ottawaathleticclub.com. A preview of the book and ordering information is also available at www.apresfou.com.



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Ottawa Tennis and Lawn Bowling Club

125 YEARS "FOREVER YOUNG" CELEBRATION



The Ottawa Tennis Lawn and Bowling Club (OTLBC) started to celebrate its 125th anniversary when the club opened on May 6th, 2006. This special season was launched with a ribbon-cutting ceremony performed by Paul Dewar, local Member of Parliament to follow the family tradition of celebrating other milestone events at the Club. Dewar's mother, Marion Dewar, cut the ribbon to celebrate the Club's 100th anniversary when she was mayor of Ottawa.

On June 3, the OTLBC continued its celebration with a gala evening of fine food, music and a silent auction to raise funds for the OTLBC Facility Renovation Fund. Some of the guests wore tennis vintage sport clothing to add a historical flair to the evening.

A brief history

The current OTLBC was founded as the Ottawa Tennis Club in the fall of 1881 under patronage of then Governor General Lord Lorne. Initially located in what is now Centretown in Ottawa, members played at the Cartier Square Armouries until the first grass courts were ready in 1882. These were located on Elgin St. where Knox Presbyterian Church now stands. In 1888, the club moved to a larger facility beside Cartier Square on Lisgar St. near the Rideau Canal. The land was rented from the military for \$1.00 per year. There were 4 doubles courts and 2 singles courts – all grass.

Tennis was growing much more popular in the closing years of the 19th century. In 1893, the Club had 94 members, all affluent. You had to get past a committee to join and memberships cost \$10 per year. You were also required to purchase one \$10.00 share. Racquets could cost up to \$10 and balls were not cheap either. At a time that the average Canadian worker earned \$400 to \$500 a year, and Club members earned \$1,700.00 per annum, tennis was a sport that only the well to do could afford. The typical person could easily resent tennis players.

In 1894, the Canadian Championships were held at the Club for the first time. The Club's Opens were usually won by Americans. In 1902, the property on Cartier Square was expropriated to construct "The Driveway", and the Club moved to the Glebe, temporarily renting land on the south side of Patterson Avenue between Metcalfe St. and The Driveway. Shortly after, the Royal Ottawa Golf Club began an aggressive membership campaign which resulted in many members switching to golf. The Ottawa Tennis Club reacted by reconstituting itself as the Ottawa Tennis and Lawn Bowling Club to increase the lawn bowling potential. And it worked - lawn bowling became a stabilizing element at the Club for years to come.

In 1906, the Club purchased its fourth location, between Third and Fourth Avenues west of Lyon. The four tennis courts and an eight-rink bowling green were rapidly inadequate to serve the expanding membership, so the Club leased land behind St. Paul's



Sharon and Tony Bernard in Vintage Costume at Forever Young Gala Evening

Methodist Church (now the Glebe Community Centre) and built four additional courts which are still used by the St. James Tennis Club. In 1922, the OTLBC clubhouse was donated to the Church and moved across the street where it still serves as the St. James Clubhouse.

Due to further growth in membership, the OTLBC moved to its present location at 176 Cameron Avenue in Old Ottawa South in 1923.

Club facilities today

The OTLBC has 18 clay courts – one of the largest clay-court facilities in Canada. It also has two bowling greens, an outdoor swimming pool and a clubhouse with a licensed restaurant facility that is open to the public.

Often referred to as your “cottage in the city”, the OTLBC is a great family club with sports camps for kids and swimming for all members on a hot day. It has a vibrant social calendar. The Club attracts all levels of play from beginner to advanced tennis players and lawn bowlers. It also runs a range of programs and clinics to help members meet and connect. Some very high-level tennis tournaments – city-wide, provincial and national – are often held at the Club.

Improvements to the Club

A club doesn't get to be 125 years old without making sure that it's facilities keep up to date with the members needs. As part of the 125th anniversary celebrations more than \$200,000 has been put into upgrading the club facilities.

Early in the season there were renovations to the change rooms and exterior stair way and the building of a deck landing from the club house into childcare area. Two new BBQ's were also added.

A new higher 10 foot fence replaced the old and damaged 8

foot chain link fence on the east property line. For those who have occasionally hit a ball over the fence, this should happen less frequently with the two-foot height extension.

In late September, courts 5 to 12 will be excavated, reconstructed and re-equipped. An automated in-ground irrigation system and trench drains will be installed to improve the playing surface and provide faster drainage after rain.

What Members Say

The OTLBC has a loyal membership as Diane Hasite says "I like the continuity of members. Each year, it is a pleasure to see most of the same players back again along with new members. This provides a warm and friendly atmosphere." It is also the kind of club that encourages its members to become involved. Stan Goldberg explained, "I only started playing tennis six years ago when I joined the OTLBC, as a mature adult. I was amazed and delighted to be accepted by so many much better players at the club. I have become a reasonably good player and now play four times a week. Because of the warm camaraderie at the OTLBC, I have gladly got involved in volunteer work there and have been the coordinator of a Mixed Doubles Round Robin which has grown from 16 players to a regular turnout of 28-30 players." Member Ron Stein summed up the club by saying "I love the friendly atmosphere, the range of options one has of things to do at the club, the sport of tennis and its proximity to the Centre of Ottawa."

With a membership that uses and supports the club so enthusiastically, we expect the OTLBC to thrive and wish it the best for the next 125 years!

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One Week in Jamaica

THE EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME!

BY CANADIAN TENNIS REGGAE BOYZ DANNY DA COSTA (A.K.A. SQUIDS) AND GEOFF BOWER (A.K.A. PINKY), DONALDA Club Tennis Professionals

Some of the world's less fortunate children grow up without adequate role models and direction. They're often not provided with the chance to grow and develop new skills. Instead they grow up destined to live in poverty and without opportunity. For some, the sport of tennis will lead them out of their country to grow and become positive role models for others. Karl Hale, a former Davis Cup Player for Jamaica and Head Professional at the Donalda Club, has taught us many lessons about giving back and trying to make a difference in people's lives.

When Karl mentioned that he wanted to give back to Jamaica and help tennis grow there, Geoff Bower and I were very interested in helping out in any way we could. After all, Karl is the man who

raises over \$100,000 to grow the sport of tennis in Canada with our Daniel Nestor Celebrity Charity event held at the Donalda Club. Karl, along with a tremendous contribution from Doug Coombs and Wilson Canada and the on-going support of the Donalda Club, helped to donate 300 new racquets and 10,000 tennis balls to Jamaica to help grow the game of tennis. In addition, we flew to Jamaica, at our own expense, to donate our time to help improve the quality of coaching in Jamaica by conducting certification courses for teachers (Level 1 basic B Geoff Bower) and instructors (Level 1 advanced B Danny Da Costa).

Jamaican tennis players are for the most part underprivileged. The average tennis player coming out of Jamaica didn't have access to great coaching, proper equipment or practice facilities. The average Jamaican earns less than \$100 US per week, thus relying heavily on the wealthy tourists who visit Jamaica to give them gifts or tips. In fact, nearly 20% of all Jamaicans live under the poverty line. The majority of tennis coaches and players in Jamaica start out as ball boys in large hotels, working for tips and donations. Some are fortunate enough to later become resort coaches, earning a very small salary and receiving gifts from tourists. The most fortunate can get a visa out of Jamaica to work at clubs in Canada and the U.S. but that road is not easily accessible for the majority of Jamaicans.

On June 4th, 2006, we arrived in Montego Bay during a tremendous thundershower. We had never seen rain like that before. Our driver, Mr. Pringle, a very friendly and funny man, took us to our accommodation, a beautiful villa at Silver Sands called



“Summertime”. Along the way, he told us some jokes and stories about Jamaica, while dodging some huge potholes. The majority of the roads were under construction or flooded.

As we approached our accommodation, we were stopped by a man, named Einsley, who told us he was going to be our Jamaican entertainment director - Ya Man! We explained to him what we were doing in Jamaica and our names, Geoff, (otherwise known as Pinky - he gets bright red in the sun) and Danny (also known as Squids - a reference to my Portuguese heritage). Einsley graciously brought us back to our villa, which was donated to us by the President of Tennis Jamaica, Mr. Gore. At the villa, we were greeted by the house staff, Angela and Christine, who made us a great Jamaican dinner of Jerk Chicken, rice and peas, salad and Ting, a Jamaican soft drink. Our villa sat on top of a hill overlooking the Caribbean Sea and had everything we could hope for; a pool, 4 bedrooms, great views and a lush property, thus providing us with the inspiration to have a tremendous week.

We spent the second day of our trip sitting on the terrace watching the rain (someone should have told us it was rainy season) and reviewing and preparing course content. Geoff was to teach school-teachers how to conduct a schools tennis program, he spent the better part of the day learning Jamaican Patois - nuff respect. I was to give the Level 1 advanced tennis course in Ocho Rios and work with experienced players and coaches, some of whom train the top juniors in Jamaica. Like Geoff, I prepared by organizing the training content, making notes and figuring out what Geoff was saying.

As the second night approached, we sat listening to Jamaica's famous son, Bob Marley, and were greeted by Jamaican Tennis Director, Doug Burke. Doug is a very passionate person who grew up with Karl and spent time in Canada, training at All Canadian Tennis Academy (now ACE TENNIS) with his coach, Pierre Lamarche. Doug made us feel comfortable by sharing some of his experiences working with Jamaican tennis coaches and as a tennis player living in Jamaica. After a few hours of talk, we retired to our rooms so we would be fresh for the courses which began the following morning.

The next day we left very early in the morning. Geoff went with Tennis Jamaica's schools program coordinator, Lloyd Johnson, to Aquasol, a theme park with 2 courts located on the beach in Montego Bay, while Doug took Danny to Ocho Rios. The drive was tiring as the rain in the previous days had made the roads very difficult in places. We arrived, a bit late, at Couples San Souci Resort in Ocho Rios, a beautiful lush resort. One of the challenges for Jamaican tennis is the lack of proper facilities for people to play. Outside of the resorts the condition of the courts is generally poor. Although tennis courts can be found in various communities throughout Jamaica, there are very few tennis clubs. The nicest club is Liguanea Club, located in Kingston.

We each had eleven students in our courses. They were eager to learn and share their experiences. My group came from all over; some from Ocho Rios, some from Kingston and others from smaller towns. Geoff's group were mainly local schoolteachers in Montego Bay. Geoff was astonished to learn that the teachers and coaches in his class did not even own their own racquets and that they taught tennis to their students on the school lawn or parking lot as they had no access to tennis courts. The weather began to cooperate with us and the first day's courses were delivered. We spent time reviewing the coaching elements we use in Canada, sharing our experiences and giving examples of how they could improve their coaching and apply them in their everyday lives as tennis coaches and role models to their communities. We made sure they also had the opportunity to learn from and share their own experiences.

Over the next two days, we saw first hand how talented the coaches, teachers and people were in Jamaica. Many commented how great it was to have us there and how much they appreciated what we did for them. For the record, the coaches and teachers did an outstanding job; they were very quick learners. Many are so talented that they will undoubtedly have a great tennis career coaching children and adults in Jamaica and abroad.

On the final day of our courses, both Geoff and I were interviewed by the television and print media. The next day we appeared in the paper and on television, which gave our venture to Jamaica great exposure.

After delivering our 3-day coaching courses, we spent the rest of the week resting and enjoying the weather and the sights and sounds of Jamaica. Our guide, Einsley, and his sidekick Duggy Fresh, a local DJ (DJs are often called Selector's in Jamaica), took



Danny Da Costa and coaches in Ocho Rios

us into town where we hung out with the locals, talked about life in Jamaica, and sampled the great food and entertainment this country offers. We were truly amazed by the dancing and the great Reggae music.

Our final night was spent with friends at a local place called Leroy's, which is situated on the beach. In a truly surreal moment, we were standing listening to a Rastafarian singing some of Bob Marley's classics, the crowd was going wild, people were dancing and having a great time. Geoff and I couldn't believe how great this place was and the experience we had that week. Geoff a.k.a. PINKY, the newly appointed "King of the Dance Hall", exhibited some great dance moves which would make all of the Yoga instructors he has learned from proud! We shared that last night with some of the many friends we made on our trip, knowing full well that in a few months we would return to follow up and reinforce what we had taught and continue donating our time to help improve coaching in Jamaica! Although we are not Jamaican (Geoff likes to think he is), our experiences have left us with a heartfelt connection to the many teachers and coaches who care about growing the game in their communities. The people we met and the friendships we formed made our Jamaican tennis experience one of the most memorable of our lifetimes.

We would like to acknowledge the support and leadership of Karl Hale. Without him and his passion, this initiative would not exist. We would also like to thank the people whose generous contribution brought this to fruition:- Doug Burke and Tennis Jamaica for allowing us the opportunity to work with their coaches and teachers; Mr. Gore and the staff at "Summertime" for allowing us the opportunity to stay at such a beautiful place; Air Jamaica for shipping all the racquets and balls used to assist in the growth of Jamaican Tennis; Ari Novick for his guidance in the preparation of the course material; The Donalda Club, "one of Canada's premier private family oriented country clubs", it is a hidden gem, a great place to work and the support from the tennis section is truly amazing. Last, but not least, Doug Coombs and Wilson Sports, for their continued support of tennis in Canada and abroad.

All About the Grind

BY TOMASZ GRZYB

...I thought to myself, "Why am I taking all this *!@\$ from my Coach?"

I had the privilege of playing 4 years of college tennis at the University of Utah. I just recently finished my 4th year this past Spring 2006. I experienced many highs and lows on the tennis court throughout the years and it is an experience I am grateful for. For junior tennis players thinking about maybe going to the United States on a college tennis scholarship, this article is a look at what you are getting yourself into.

What you do on the tennis court is a reflection of who you are off it. During my first few years of college, I used to be the type of individual who would cut some corners in practice, not run down every ball, not give it my all. I didn't really think that it would matter because it is JUST practice and so long as you are ready to play your matches all is good. You start realizing that if you cut corners on the tennis court, what makes you think you won't do the same in other aspects of your life. Your school work? Your job? There are many kids in Canada whose main goal is to get an athletic scholarship somewhere in the United States. The thing is that there are many kids just like you, in the U.S, Europe, and all the other continents who are vying for the same goal.

The supply of players keeps growing while the demand stays the same. Donovan McNabb, the quarterback for the Philadelphia Eagles, said it best when he was quoted as saying that what keeps him going is the fear that somebody else out there is working harder than him at becoming a better football player.

Collegiate athletics in the U.S is way more serious than what Canada has to offer. Huge sums of money are put into various athletic programs every year and the schools expect results. Collegiate Athletics at major U.S colleges is more than just 2 practices a week and then meeting your teammates for a beer at the

nearest bar. Expect to be practicing 6 days a week, 3 hours a day, with a few fitness sessions in between. It's about pushing yourself and seeing just how far you can go. Like the saying goes, you get out what you put into it.

College tennis teaches you that it does not matter whether you like doing something or not, you've just got to do it. I would tell myself sometimes at practice that I am too tired to go all out. I would make excuses to justify my laziness. I realized that my college coach could not care less whether I was tired or sick or injured. I remember coming to practice one day during my freshman year feeling extremely sick. I could barely walk a few feet without completely running out of breath. I came up to my coach before practice and I asked him, "Coach, I feel really sick, can I not practice today?" I will never forget the expression he gave me when I told him that. He had this look of complete shock on his face. He told me that it did not matter to him whether I was sick. All he cared about was that I had to practice and make myself a better tennis player.

I am sure every former college player has a story similar to mine where they find out pretty fast that the coach has one main goal and that is to win matches. Your health and well-being are low on his list of priorities. In my opinion, I think that is the main reason why there have not been many Canadians who have survived playing all 4 years of college tennis. There is a tendency among coaches in general to be their players' friend. Forget about being their friend. A coach's job is to make their players better athletes. If they can achieve this while being good friends, the better. But do not let friendship be a higher priority than results.

It sounds very negative and pessimistic, but from my experience, that is the case. I have to admit that there were many days

when I thought to myself, "Why am I taking all this *!@\$ from my Coach?" I realized though that my Coach has a job to do and it sometimes means that he has to act a certain way to get things done. Like the saying goes, "It's not personal, it's just business." Sometimes you have to look at it from the Coach's perspective. If he cannot get the job done, there are hundreds of other coaches lining up to take his job.

Who you surround yourself with makes a big difference when it comes to attaining results. I remember one semester I had a fitness coach who would run us hard every chance he could get. Our team would be doing sprints, more sprints, followed by more sprints. I would be the first to admit that doing running drills is something that I do not perform with a lot of passion. The interesting thing is that this fitness coach had a certain aura around him. Every day, he came to work with us and he would bring this crazy intensity with him. It just rubbed off on everybody. His intensity was contagious. After the workout, everyone would be exhausted but you always get this really good feeling about yourself once you challenged yourself and came out on top. Just like in life, you want to keep pushing yourself, finding new limits, testing new boundaries.

College tennis is a great learning experience for those willing to put in the required time and effort. Tennis in the U.S is a lot different than here in Canada. The U.S has more players and tournaments and this in turn creates more competition. For those tennis players looking at trying this route, I just have one thing to say: Be prepared. Go in there and come back with no regrets.

Tomasz Grzyb hails from Ottawa. He was a top junior tennis player in Canada before taking his degree on a tennis scholarship in Utah.

Aces and Winners

BY GAVIN MURPHY

There is more to the short and intense British grass court tennis season than simply the Championships at Wimbledon. Between late May and early July in England, several high profile tournaments featuring both men and women provide tennis fans with world class competition that helps set the stage for the Wimbledon fortnight.

Canada's Gavin Murphy, a tennis player for 30 years and former member of three Ottawa OTA clubs, is a lawyer currently working in London. He is also an accomplished photographer. His photographs have appeared in numerous newspapers and magazines (including Ontario Tennis), and in August of this year an exhibition of his tennis pictures went on display in London. The exhibition, entitled Aces and Winners, includes 14 photographs in both colour and black and white from the 2006 women's British grass court tennis season.

Murphy, currently playing at Holland Park Lawn Tennis Club, says that the run up to Wimbledon provides a unique opportunity to capture the true spirit and essence of grass court tennis.

"While Wimbledon is undoubtedly the highlight of the tennis season in Britain, other tournaments are just as exciting but often overlooked. Aces and Winners gives these matches a well deserved window of exposure."

Included here is a selection of images from Aces and Winners, as well as several other photographs taken by Murphy during the 2006 season. The exhibition runs throughout autumn at Hope's, 81 Rochester Row, Westminster, SW1P 1LJ. Admission is free and limited edition signed prints from the exhibition are available for purchase.



Former world 9 Brenda Schultz McCarthy serving



Vintage Eastbourne



Surbiton ball girl at the ready



Wheelchair tennis challenge at Queen's Club



Tennis Canada Excellence and Distinguished Service Awards.

On Centre Court at the Rogers Cup, Tennis Canada recognized a group of heroes who often go unheralded and unnoticed, but make a world of difference in Canadian tennis. Tennis Canada Excellence Awards and Distinguished Service Award winners included David Ouellet, Dennis Huss, Dean Coburn, Anna Paliivets, Frances Critchley, Hubert Karrasch, Ken Sinclair, Eva Barbiero, Joyce Jones, Helen Schmidt, Fumiko Oguchi-Chen (for her late husband), Philip Bester, Daniel Nestor, Jim Boyce, Malcolm Still, and Sandeep Lal.

OTA Clubs at Rogers Cup

This year OTA clubs were offered the opportunity to get suite tickets for groups of 10 people or more at a reduced rate. Thirteen member clubs, from around the province took advantage of this offer.

Steve Kudjerski of Bridlewood Tennis Club was in the Scarborough Tennis Federation group. "The sight lines are perfect, being sheltered from the elements makes it more comfortable and there are fewer distractions." "We'd like to do it again!" his wife Evelyn added enthusiastically.

Anne Webster of Ontario Racquet Club commented "It's great. The only way to see the game!" In answer to the question if she'd participate next year she replied, "In a minute!"

This program has been so successful that Tennis Canada hopes to add an affordable refreshment program next year designed for groups from clubs.

Watch out for details of next year's special deals for Rogers Cup tickets and suites on the OTA web site, e-magazine and news releases early in 2007.

On behalf of Player Development at the OTA, we would like to thank Tennis Canada & Rogers for sponsoring the 2006 Rogers Rookie Tour. The circuit consisted of 16 tour stops at various clubs throughout the Province, with approximately 500 competitors participating in the Tour. We look forward to another great partnership and season for 2007.

OTA Tiebreaker Dream Challenge

Ontario Tennis Association's Tiebreaker Dream Challenge offers a unique tournament opportunity. Under 10 and under 14 competitors play a one day co-ed mini tournament in July, each match being best of 3 tiebreakers. Both Championship matches become part of the greatest tournament in Canada as they are played out at the Rexall Centre during Rogers Cup! This year's winners are:

Under 10 - Alejandro Tabilo defeated Raheel Manji 2-7, 7-2, 7-2.

Under 14 - Joseph Bomben defeated Daniel Bednarczyk 7-4, 3-7, 7-5.

OTA to Pilot a Year Book

The OTA is planning to produce a Hand Book on a pilot basis starting early in 2007. The Hand Book will be automatically mailed to clubs and registered tournament players.

The handbook will have 3 sections.

1. Review of the Past Year
- listing of provincial champions, top 10 year end rankings and other significant results

- a review of the performance of the association in the past year

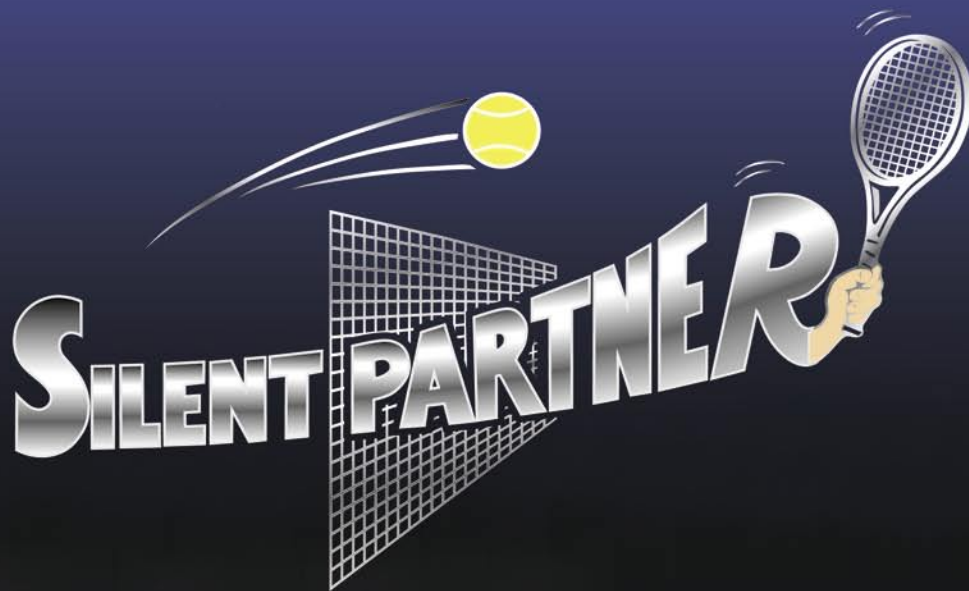
2. Communications Guide

- contact names and numbers
- what information is available on the web site and how to find it
- how to get OTA publications

3. Current Year Preview

- significant dates
- new/changed programs

If you have suggestions as to what information you would like to see in the Hand Book, please contact Pam Olley at pamolley@sympatico.ca.



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