

**SENIORS TENNIS ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTH SHORE, Inc. 1988**
c/o Delbrook Community Centre
600 West Queens Road
North Vancouver, B.C. V7N 2L3

ISSUE NUMBER 80

NOVEMBER 2010

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

John H. Kennedy

Once upon a time . . . a couple of years ago to be exact, towards the end of our 2009 AGM, John Boston stood up and wondered out loud why we couldn't get better access to the Grant Connell Tennis Centre (GCTC). After all, he noted, since STANS was instrumental in bringing that place into the world, surely we could hope to get some kind of preferential treatment when it comes to booking courts. His initiative was received with enthusiasm and supported when Bob Hardman and Brian Cooper put up their hands and offered to join John in approaching the Grant Connell people to try to make something happen.

John, Bob and Brian broke the ice for us but were unable to persuade staff at GCTC to make room for us. Brian Cooper, nothing if not determined, decided to go the next step and approach senior staff at the North Vancouver Recreation Commission (NVRC). He enlisted the support of our program director Ian Dirom and yours truly and set up a meeting with the Manager, Recreation and Community Services at the Rec Commission. We had a good meeting and took advantage of the opportunity to outline the history of STANS and its relationship with the GCTC. Nevertheless, they decided that the Recreation Commission could not find a way to support our request for block booking. That took us to the end of August 2009.

Fast forward to spring 2010. Some STANS members who were also members of the North Vancouver Tennis Society (NVTS), the advisory body to the Rec Commission on matters affecting tennis in our community and more specifically, matters involving the GCTC, arranged to have some research done on the usage of the courts in the 7am-9am period. Their research showed that there was indeed unused capacity at GCTC in the early mornings. To make a long story short, the NVTS decided to throw its support behind our request for block booking of space at GCTC. The end result is that we have a block booking through the end of

December on Wednesdays and Fridays from 7am-9am and we hope to extend that booking through the end of the winter indoor season. This is as they say, a win-win for everyone. STANS members get guaranteed access to courts and there are still courts available for other users. GCTC improves its utilization of the courts and earns good money in the process and most importantly, a group of seniors get to live the expression "early to bed, early to rise, makes a person healthy, wealthy and wise".

On behalf of all STANS members, I want to thank John Boston, Bob Hardman, Brian Cooper, Ivor Bennett, John Bishop, Elmer Helm, Norm Brown, Ian Dirom, all the members of the NVTS board, the Recreation Commission staff and Trish Holme and Tom Walker for their support of STANS and of tennis for seniors in our community.

CHRISTMAS TENNIS SOCIAL

The Christmas Social and Round-Robin will take place at the Grant Connell Tennis Centre (280 Lloyd Ave.) on **Sunday, December 12, 2010**. All STANS members are cordially invited to attend, whether or not you want to play tennis that evening. There'll be food and music and it's a wonderful opportunity to socialize.

Time: **7:30 pm: Registration**
8:00 pm - 10:00 pm: Play
10:00 pm +: Socialize

Cost: **\$10.00 for players**
\$4.00 for party only

We are only able to accommodate 40 players; the first 20 men and 20 women to register will play.

Please tell us if you are coming by calling Ian Dirom or emailing him at seniorstennis@yahoo.com on or before **December 5th**.

Non-players are welcome to join us. There'll be lots of friendly people, the finger food is always delicious and we'd be delighted to see you there. Refreshments provided by STANS.

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NEW MEMBERS

Our Membership Chairman, Will Phillips has advised us of the following new members for 2010:

Doris Austin

Diane Coombs

Robin Heringa

Paul Keogh

Pari Koch

Variath Kutty

Ron McLean

Audrey Parsons

Judy Skolsky

Pamela & Per Shur Hendriksen

Maureen Valdes

Welcome to STANS . . . and if you or any reader of this newsletter knows people who play tennis, we would love to welcome them as new members. Call or write any member of your Executive and we'll send a membership application form. And don't forget that you can find our website at www.seniorstennis.ca

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL JANUARY 2011-DECEMBER 2011

It's that time again! A membership registration form for the 2011 calendar year is included with this newsletter. All members wishing to continue their membership are asked to complete the form and sign and mail it, together with the \$15.00 per person fee, to the address shown on the form. Please do this as soon as possible before the end of December. Your support is much appreciated.



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GRANTS TO YOUNG PLAYERS - AN UPDATE

The young players who have received grants from us this year are charging along in their tennis careers and we thought we'd bring you up to date on their progress.

Stacy Fung won the doubles title in the U14 National Championships in August. She won the U14 singles event at the Thanksgiving Harvest Classic, held at Grant Connell in October. She is currently the #1 ranked U14 player in B.C. and is training hard to improve her singles play for the U14 championships this coming spring at Hollyburn Country Club.

Filip Peliwo, who is a member of Tennis Canada's National Training Centre (NTC) program, won the boys singles title in October at the Pan American Closed ITF Championships in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Seeded twelfth in the draw, Peliwo dropped only 6 games in his last two matches en route to the title including a 6-0, 6-3 victory over American Shane Vinsant in the final. The win is Peliwo's second title of the year. The 16-year-old also lead Canada to a second place finish, its best ever showing at the Junior Davis Cup Finals in Mexico.

All of the coaches have expressed their appreciation to STANS members for their continuing and generous support of these young players.

NORTH VANCOUVER TENNIS SOCIETY c/o Grant Connell Tennis Centre 280 Lloyd Avenue, NV, BC V7P 3H3

All STANS members are invited to join and support the NVTS in promoting and advocating for tennis development in North Vanc. We enjoy our access to North Vancouver's public tennis courts and the Grant Connell Tennis Centre! By becoming a member (for a mere \$5 annual fee), you will have your say in the evolution of tennis in our community. We're keeping our fingers crossed that 2011 will see the successful conclusion to the proposal for additional new courts at Grant Connell Tennis Centre. Should you wish to join the Tennis Society, a membership application is available by writing to the STANS executive at seniorstennis@yahoo.com or you can reach us by mail at the address at the top of this article.

MEMORIALS

STANS members were saddened to learn that several long-time members had died and we offer our condolences to their families and friends.

Betty Bishop prepared the following tribute to **Eileen Wooding**:

On September 10, 2010, Eileen Wooding passed away and we lost a valuable member of our tennis community. Eileen led a very full and active life and tennis was only one of her many interests. She had a love of learning and some of you might have known her through the book club she established or the French class she attended. She truly qualified for the title of "multi-tasker" as there were few pursuits she didn't try ranging from music to sports. Eileen was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother and we extend our sympathy and condolences to Brian and the family.



Harry Pryke also died in September and Gerry Sugiyama sent these comments:

To Harry Pryke, tennis was a chance to play. To play was to be young again and be back in the schoolyard with his chums, carefree as a breeze. To squeeze out more play Harry transferred play to Arizona during the Vancouver rainy season.

To be young again? Harry and I were in our 80s for quite some time. How time flies in the later years! He joked that I was one year older than he until Harry's birthday: then we were the same (cursed) age for a short while-until my



next birthday. When we played doubles and Harry and I were two of the foursome, we told the others that Harry and I do not wish to team together.

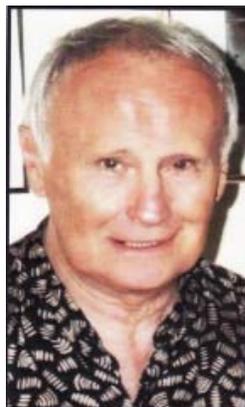
"Look guys, our ages total 171 years and we have to defend 36 feet. We can manage 12."

Returning from Arizona, he hand delivered oranges to me wherever I happened to be. He wanted nothing in return. Janet enjoyed them and I often joked with Harry that she ate up all the oranges that he brought back for his tennis-playing friend!

Harry, Chris Nielsen and I played on Friday, a day like many others, beautiful at Ambleside. Harry remarked to me as we parted that day that the tennis season might be over as so few were showing up to play. He would be leaving for Arizona again. His Alzheimer stricken wife is no worry being under full care. Harry without sentimentality often spoke of her, making it quite clear to me that she only fleetingly recognised him as the lifelong companion as he stood in front of her. He seemed unperturbed as he told me this. But the oranges, the giving, begged otherwise. On Wednesday, no Harry. Harry had passed away.



Kal Opre was a former member of the STANS Executive and Bob Young has written the following:



Kal Opre, a STANS member for many years, passed away October 19 at the age of 86. He was a funny guy who possessed a great sense of humour and was a popular member of our club. He enjoyed the years he was able to play tennis, as well as the camaraderie, which is a part of being a STANS member. He lived an adventurous life and was multi-talented, especially in the

arts. He was a gifted painter and sculptor. He will be sorely missed.



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INDOOR TENNIS AT THE GRANT CONNELL TENNIS CENTRE

STANS has booked the GCTC for the early morning indoor tennis Wednesdays and Fridays. The fall session is underway and the winter season begins in the first week in January.

We warm up from 7:00 am 'till 7:15 am, then play three 35-minute segments until 9:00 am.

All the regular spots are already filled, but we're always looking for spares and it's a great way to begin the day!

So, if you are interested in joining our early morning group, please call Ian Dirom or email him at seniorstennis@yahoo.com.



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PHOTOGRAPHY

From time to time at STANS events, you may notice one or more photographers taking photos. Some of those photos will appear in STANS Newsletters and on the website. If for any reason you don't want your photograph taken, please let the photographer know and we will respect your wishes.



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B.C. SENIORS GAMES 2010

This year the 23rd BC Seniors Games were held September 15-18, hosted jointly by the Comox Valley and Campbell River. We offer our congratulations to STANS members Elmer Helm, who brought home 3 Gold Medals in Singles, Men's and Mixed Doubles in the 80+ age category; and Wolfgang Sollors, who won gold in both Men's and Mixed doubles in the 65-69 age category.

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PICNIC AND ROUND-ROBIN

Our annual picnic and round robin was held on August 11 and was another success... it didn't rain this time. The Brenda Sacre trophy was presented to Laurette Huff and many prizes were handed out. Our thanks go to Ian Dirom and to his assistants who came together under his leadership to make the day's events go smoothly and to feed the ravenous crowd on time and on budget. Around 60 people came to enjoy the day, players and non-players alike. It was great to see everyone having a good time and enjoying some good tennis in good company.



Photo Gallery

