

Cowichan Bounce



South Cowichan Lawn Tennis Club

Tel: 250-746-7282

Email: info@scltc.bc.ca

Website: www.scltc.bc.ca

Autumn - 2009

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE (Maurice Blackhurst)

From feedback from members and guests it seems we enjoyed a successful season. The heavy rolling

Prior to the classic, and then the International reduced substantially those annoying non-bounces, we will continue this rolling again next season.

After the sudden departure of Kerry Chan, we were fortunate to have Art Hobbs a pro from Victoria, he will return next season to run the Junior programs, and offer adult instruction.

The Wimbledon style net posts were used once again on court #1. They were, however in need of repair. Jeff Hunter offered, and has repaired them for next season. Thank you Jeff.

My thanks to all the volunteers who helped around the grounds and especially Al Robinson and his backhoe, Charles Ayers, Peter Wilson, Alan Case, and Paul Doran. We wouldn't have accomplished what we did without them.

Improvements around the parking lot

were made, with cedars and the flower bed (plants by Louise Dwyer) and further improvements are planned for the club entrance area.

While membership and tournament entries were more or less stable from last year the club is only just breaking even. Spending has only been undertaken where necessary and this policy will should continue next season.

Finally, please make every effort to attend the AGM on Sunday October 18th at 2:00 PM in the SCLTC clubhouse.

(Editor's note: The President himself contributed mightily to the grounds keeping, appearing regularly early in the morning to help with the mowing, placing nets and generally directing many essential maintenance tasks. Maurice gave his blood for this effort, having personally taken out a low fence with his legs while riding a mower. For all your efforts Maurice you deserve a large thank you from all of us)

FINANCES (Mel Scott)

We are in the midst of finalizing our fiscal year-end results, and they will reflect both a net income deficit and a small cash flow deficit. Despite this, we still have a bank balance that will be adequate to take us through most of the off-season. A forecast was presented at the recent Board meeting which indicated that we will be required to draw down on our line of credit before next year's fees are received; it also shows that our cash shortfall will not be significant. Given this, we will be instructing our bank to reduce our line of credit from \$50,000 to \$10,000. As discussed in the Spring Bounce, this will substantially relieve the obligation of those generous members who stepped up to guarantee our bank loans.

For 2010 we will need to find ways of generating more revenues or containing costs so we are not faced with another deficit. As Treasurer, it is my opinion that membership fees will have to be increased as part of any deficit elimination plan. This of course will have to be discussed and voted on at our upcoming annual meeting.

TOURNAMENTS (Charles Ayers)

For many years our Grass Court Classic and the VI Grass Court Championship (International) have been very ably run by Cheryl Miller (from Westwood) and assisted by Erika Carter. In addition the Junior Grass Court Championship (now the Biondo Junior) and the open TKO (now known as the Kay Wilson) have been very well taken care of by Sheila and Franco Biondo. We all owe these folk a huge vote of thanks for the

thousands of hours which have gone into ensuring these events ran smoothly and that all involved enjoyed the experience enough to keep returning. Without these tournaments being successful it is no exaggeration to say that Membership Fees would have to double at SCLTC. They are all very hard acts to follow.

However, with the exception of Sheila, times are a-changing. We have sadly lost Franco, and Cheryl and Erika are taking a well deserved rest. In consequence the Board has had to take a much more proactive interest and several of us have stepped up to train as replacements. We are doubly indebted to Cheryl, thank goodness, for providing us with a very comprehensive handbook of instructions to assist in the transition process and in spending many hours in training sessions.

In 2009, the Classic was run primarily by Lynne Cowan and Glenys Wall (both from Nanaimo). The International was mostly handled by Louise Dwyer and myself, while Sheila Biondo (assisted by Diana Jones) continued to handle the Junior and Kay Wilson tournaments. In consequence we have now loosely formed a committee of seven including the above names plus Elaine Baxter (who will organize a pool of volunteers for the Starter Desk). Our initial concept is that the huge workload be spread more thinly over several people and that at least four of us become experienced as Tournament Directors. In this way we will be better able to spell each other off for necessary absences to relieve the constant annual stresses of this work. It is also our future aim that all of our tournaments can be well publicized and standardized so that we can become

better known and respected in the tennis community and player attendance maximized.

If you would like to help the Club in this regard and have an interest in tournaments please contact one of the above to assist. And if you do not normally play in tournaments why not give it a try next year? It is not just about winning, but participating, meeting new players and gaining valuable experience. Doubles partners can be provided, consolation events are offered and the TKO guarantees three matches no matter what. Thank you for your support.

TENNIS CANADA COMMUNITY CHAMPION

Tennis BC contacted us regarding possible individuals who would be interested in helping to start tennis programs in schools in the Cowichan Valley area. If anyone has an interest there is more information on the Tennis Canada website www.tenniscanada.ca and click on Community Tennis for a full description of what this is all about.

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES

At the General Meeting on October 18th the Board is proposing the following by law change:

Pursuant to By-law Part 4, Meetings of Members, General, #17 of the By-laws of South Cowichan Lawn Tennis Club, to change the current wording from:

“Twenty members personally present and entitled to vote shall form a quorum” to:

“Those members personally present and entitled to vote shall form a quorum”

The purpose of the proposed amendment is to avoid the annual need for the Board to literally round up quorum of 20. (last year the meeting was delayed while members were phoned after the 2pm starting time so we could assemble a quorum.)

This will not change the Boards responsibility to make sure all issues of substance are presented to all voting members and notices of AGM's will continue to be publicized as required by the by-laws.

The proposed change will require a quorum as presently stipulated in the by-laws and will be voted on at the AGM on October 18th. (provided we have a quorum of course.)

2009 SCLTC Board

President: Maurice Blackhurst
(250) 416-1628, mblackhurst@telus.net

Treasurer: Mel Scott
(250) 748-6909, melscottis@shaw.ca

Secretary: Louise Dwyer
(250) 701-0367, ldwyer@shaw.ca

Peter Wilson – In-house tournaments –
(250) 748-2415

Charles Ayers – Bar/Boutique
(250) 748-4810, chayers@shaw.ca

Pat Miller – Clubhouse
(250) 743-6623, gandpmiller@shaw.ca

Alan Case – Bounce, Silent Auction
(250) 743-4095

alancase@shaw.ca

Lynne Cowan – North Island

(250) 753-8422, lcowan@shaw.ca

Len Roy – S. Island

(250) 595-7495, lendianne@shaw.ca

Groundsman: Martin Parry (250) 246-4413, Cell: (250) 246-8197

EDITOR'S BITS AND PIECES (Alan Case}

1. A special thanks to Louise Dwyer for doing such a great job on the gardens around the clubhouse. They never looked better and many people said so.

2. ARBUTUS RIDGE TENNIS OFFER
Arbutus Ridge Golf Club is offering a half hour court time free when presented with a coupon. The only conditions are one coupon per booking, no photocopies and they are not applicable to block bookings. Coupons will be available to pick up at the clubhouse and at the AGM. This is another good reason to attend the AGM

3. There was some wine left from the tournaments that will be sold at cost at the AGM.

4. Improvements planned for next year, finances permitting, include a new roof for the equipment shed, repairs to the starters stand, an entrance structure with a weather protected notice board and benches attached to the fence between Courts 4 and 7. The latter is to

prevent interference with sprinkler heads.

5. May everyone have a happy tennis winter, where ever you play and we will look forward to seeing you all next spring.