

Kingston Tennis Club

Spring 2015



45 Napier Street

P.O. Box 621

Kingston ON K7L 4X1

613.542.2467

www.kingstontennisclub.com



President's Message - Paula Loh

Welcome to the fast-approaching 2015 tennis season. Returning members may take advantage of the early-bird membership rates until April 3; regular rates apply after this date.

The KTC volunteer board has been meeting regularly since November to plan the 2015 season, continuing with our goals to improve services and to build a stronger sense of community. Our club relies on labour that is volunteered by its diverse membership to perform management functions and contribute to its efficient operation. Volunteer labour is a key factor to maintaining the low membership fees that benefit all members; please help out in any way you can to make our club a better

place for all. It is also a great way to meet new friends who play tennis!

Spring Cleanup will be on Saturday, April 11, at 10:30am, followed two weeks later by our *Junior Open House*, scheduled for our opening day, Saturday, April 25, from 11am-2pm.

Our *Mixed Singles Ladder* and *Doubles Ladder* will start up as of May 1, and we will again offer a weekly *Doubles League* geared towards people who are new to Doubles strategy or seeking to improve their skills in a non-competitive environment. For junior members, John Sylvester will supervise free *after-school drop-in sessions* in May & June and the *Junior Ladder* will also start in June.

Members of all skill levels are encouraged to participate in our first tournament of the season, Mixed Doubles, to be held on the weekend of June 12-14. If you need a partner, ask around at the Friday evening tennis socials or give your name to the stewards for their assistance. The club tournaments provide fun, experience, and the opportunity to meet new people.

Planning continues on our major infrastructure project. We are saving funds to finance the project, and members who have ideas for sources of additional funds (and the energy to implement them) are encouraged to contact me. An overview of the project follows.

2015 Volunteer Executive Board

Paula Loh - President
David Stocks - VP, Staffing Coordinator
Chloe Wilson - Secretary
Taco Meuter - Treasurer, Web Editor
Rick Donaldson - Infrastructure
Bud Nelson - Membership, IT, Past President
Claire Tremblay - Social Coordinator
John Sylvester - Junior Development
Isabelle Pollock - Newsletter Editor

Standing (l. to r.):
John Sylvester,
David Stocks,
Isabelle Pollock,
Bud Nelson, Rick
Donaldson and
Taco Meuter

Seated (l. to r.):
Chloe Wilson,
Paula Loh and
Claire Tremblay



Treasurer's Report - *Taco Meuter*

Looking ahead after several successful years, capped last year by becoming debt-free four years ahead of schedule, we hope to continue our healthy membership numbers and popular tennis camps in 2015, while making progress towards our infrastructure project. The plan is to add a court to our current seven and widen four existing courts, install lights on two more courts for increased evening play, and build a new clubhouse.

While we had intended to begin the project this year, procedural changes at the Trillium foundation from whom we hope to receive a

meaningful grant, have reduced the likelihood that they would be able to process our application in time for our desired October building start. They don't provide these grants retrospectively.

In addition to retaining our option to apply for the Trillium grant, delaying the project has a second advantage: the possibility to further build up our capital reserve; on the other hand construction costs are also likely to increase.

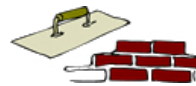
The project's preliminary "soft" costs (consulting, surveying, etc.) will now be spread out over the 2015 and 2016 Financial Years, and

perhaps early 2017. Apart from these reduced soft costs in 2015, we anticipate only a slight increase in operational expenses in the coming year, barring a brutal winter's surprises. We will pay for the soft costs out of cash flow, and as a result we expect to end the year with increased cash reserves.

Everything good is worth waiting for, so if that involves a few grey hairs ... that's life, too!



KTC Infrastructure Project - *Paula Loh*



In November 2012 the membership passed the following motion to:

Demolish the existing clubhouse structure in order to construct an additional tennis court between Court 1 and Court 7; the new clubhouse is to be built within the space currently occupied by the front lawn adjacent to Court 3.

We formed an Infrastructure Committee to guide the process and a Finance & Risk Committee to oversee the funding aspects.

In November 2014, we contracted with Michael Preston, an architectural technologist, to design our new clubhouse. Mike has been meeting regularly with members of the Infrastructure Committee and we have reviewed several iterations of the design. We are planning to construct a two-storey clubhouse with decks on both floors and lots of windows facing the courts. The main floor will include: a service counter with snack bar, a small lounge, change rooms with washrooms and showers, and a barrier-free washroom. The second

floor will have a multipurpose room that can be used by the junior summer campers for their lunches and shelter from rain, in addition to hosting meetings, and a variety of social activities; a simple kitchen for storing and serving food for functions; and an office. There will also be storage and utility areas on both floors.

The project began with plans to build a new clubhouse, and then evolved to include the construction of an eighth court. It now includes the installation of lights for Courts 2 & 3, and the widening of Courts 2 & 3 to bring the distance between them to regulation size. The property is narrower at the north end than at the south end, and the space occupied by the current clubhouse is smaller than the space needed for a tennis court. The construction of an eighth court in its place will necessitate the widening of this area and the subsequent relocation of net posts and repainting of Courts 1 & 7. The hitting wall will be relocated, and several fences removed and replaced as part of construction.

In 2012, the costs of the project were unknown and the scope unspecified. Since then, we have received several estimates on the cost per square foot for the clubhouse construction and budget quotes from four general contractors for the infrastructure portion of the work. We will not know the total cost until the final design is tendered for construction, but we are currently working with a budget of approximately \$1.3 million.

Our plan is to have all construction completed over the winter months to minimize the disruption to the club's operations in the following season, so presently construction cannot begin prior to Fall 2016 due to the Trillium Grant timeline. The silver lining to the delay is that we can increase our financial reserves during this time and extend further consideration to the design process. We had originally planned to present the final clubhouse design to members by late spring, but this date has now been deferred by several months.

Social Events - Claire Tremblay

Welcome back tennis players! Let's hope that Spring arrives quickly and melts the snow and ice off the courts.

Our first social event will be on Friday May 15th (Victoria Day weekend) with monthly events planned throughout the summer. These monthly socials start with round robin matches from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., followed by a delicious dinner. The meal needs to be pre-ordered and paid for by 3 p.m. of the Thursday. New adult members are welcome with a free meal at the first social; all other members pay \$12.00.



You may bring your own alcoholic or non-alcoholic beverage of choice to enjoy with your meal. These social events are meant to be fun and bring members together and we stress the non-competitive nature of them! So all skill levels are encouraged to join in. In addition, we will invite Larry from Racquet Science to partake in a "Demo Event". We will contact a few other tennis clubs to see how they feel about joining us one evening and plan to stage a Hopman Cup-style event, details to follow.

Anyone willing to help in any capacity for these fun times are asked to contact Claire, a.k.a. Clarapova, at clarisetr@hotmail.com

P.S. Hoping to see a number of new and continuing members dropping in at the Open House Saturday May 2 between 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Infrastructure - Rick Donaldson

The 2015 season is almost upon us. The Spring cleanup day is scheduled for Saturday, April 11th (rain date is Sunday April 12th). Please mark these dates on your calendar!

We will have some leaf cleanup because the leaves continued to fall after the November cleanup. In addition, we will need to put up the windscreens and nets. Hopefully, some nets will already be up depending on the snow.

There will be lots of small jobs to do. If you have at your disposal, please bring along rakes, shears and/or pruners. We will also need a couple of ladders to help put up the windscreens.



In the past we have had the support of the same 30-35 members and while their efforts are certainly deeply appreciated, it would be great to have some new faces helping out. So come on out and recruit your doubles partner, ladder opponent, friends, etc. The more the merrier! This is your club! If you are a new member, come on out and participate and meet some of your fellow club members.

The day starts at 10:30 a.m. and work is usually finished by 2 p.m. Coffee and donuts will be available. Often some games of tennis break out, so make sure to bring your racket.

Looking forward to a great 2015 season!



Leagues and Ladders - Bud Nelson

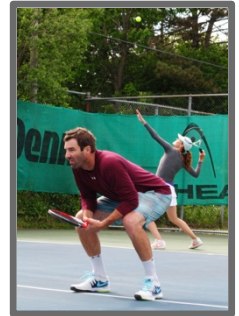
The **Singles Ladder** will restart May 1. As is customary, any players who have re-signed up from last year will go into the initial re-pool, based on their ranking at the end of August; any changes in rankings that took place after that time, do not count in the restart rankings because members' playing schedule tends to change dramatically once September rolls around. The initial player list will be randomly re-pooled by groups of fifteen players just prior to May. All newcomers, after that point, will then be placed at the bottom of the pooled group they would have been in, based on their last ranking. Any new members to the club/ladder need to receive an initial ranking, and no new members are ever ranked higher than 25. A word of wisdom: do not rush to sign up onto the Ladder if your initial early-season availability won't allow you to play the minimum of two matches per month.



Alternatively, if there are any times during the season (e.g. vacation, injury) that may prevent you from attaining this minimum requirement during any given calendar month, simply advise a steward that you want to be temporarily delisted OR listed as 'Temporarily Out'. This is a basic courtesy to other players, so they know not to waste time contacting you for a match, while you're 'indisposed'. Those who take advantage of this feature may also avoid a ranking delist/demotion penalty, which, to some, is a painful experience, also called the "There are players that I can beat ranked above me!" syndrome. For anyone that is not familiar with the Ladder rules, the stewards can print or email you a copy, upon request.



Last year was the maiden year for the **Doubles Ladder**. Because it is still in its formative stage, the August-end rankings will be used as the starting point without a re-pool. The overall pace of scheduling four players for Doubles matches is slower than for Singles, AND players are allowed to participate in up to three partnerships on this ladder, therefore the calendar month minimum per team is just one match; those who favour doubles can get their fill in this league.



In 2014 the **Junior Ladder** was introduced and got off to a slow start. It will receive a 're-boot' around the first weekend in June. Due to school, it will start with Saturday afternoon sessions, in which the steward will arrange 'on the fly' matches for those that arrive to play. Initial matches will be short until true rankings become established. Once July arrives, additional challenge games (similar to Adult Ladder) can be arranged outside of the Saturday sessions. More information about this ladder will be available closer to June.

Bud Nelson will be coordinating the Singles, Doubles and Junior Ladders for the 2015 season.

Upcoming Events

Leisure Showcase - Saturday March 28, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Portsmouth Olympic Harbour. *Come visit the KTC booth!*

Early Bird Membership Deadline - Friday April 3

Spring Cleanup Day - Saturday April 11. Starting at 10:30 a.m. *Rain date: Sunday April 12.*

KTC Opening Day - Saturday April 25. *The club officially opens and stewards will be on duty.*

Junior Open House - Saturday April 25, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. *Free for kids from 5-17, members and non-members. Mini- and full-court games, BBQ. Ontario Tennis Association representative on site as part of their "Raise the Net - Kids' Tennis" program. [Raindate: Sunday, April 26]*

Adult Open House - Saturday May 2, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. *Bring your friends and racquet. Free clinics, round robin games, program registration, BBQ and more!*

Junior Drop-Ins - Tue & Thu, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m., May & June. *The after school drop-in sessions will be continuing for junior members. You are welcome to bring a friend who is a non-member for an introduction to the club.*

Club Social - Friday May 15. Starting at 5:30 p.m. *Free for new adult members. Sign up with the stewards. Further details to follow.*

Mixed Doubles Tournament - June 12-14. *Further details to follow.*