



BASELINE BULLETIN

Winter 2017

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Goodbye 2016 and Hello New Year!

The Davis Tennis Board was extremely busy last year and our hard work paid off. Five new courts went in at the high school and not withstanding some bumps in the asphalt, things are looking up for the complex. No longer does it take hours and a legion of workers with leaf blowers, towels and squeegees to ready them for league play after a rain storm. Equally as exciting, the Walnut courts received much needed attention to the seismic cracks that defined that complex. I'm happy to say its reputation improved after its facelift which produced a change in color and more forgiving surface speed. And most importantly, it has become a much safer place to play the sport we all love.

The other deteriorated courts at the high school are in our sights for the New Year and the board will direct its efforts toward either replacing or refurbishing the remaining courts at the complex. DTC board members will continue to work with the City to hopefully bring much needed repairs to the two-court complexes in town and address a long-term solution to the Walnut complex.

The first Yolo Team Tennis tournament took place last fall where 8 teams played in a one day face-off among cheering teammates until only two teams were left standing in each division. Congratulations to team *The Two Generations* who won Division A (Ranked 3.5-4.5) and team *Double Trouble* who beat all others to take Division B (Ranked 3.0-3.5). The club received such positive feedback on the tournament that we are planning a second one before it gets too hot in May or too wet in October.

I want to give a special thanks to the long-serving board members who are stepping down this year. Frans DeWaard, our Secretary, kept diligent and detailed minutes at our meetings. He kept us on track and made sure we addressed each proposal, project and idea through to completion. He will be missed but not forgotten. Chris Dewees, our Treasurer extraordinaire, will be leaving our board family BUT not before showing his replacement the ropes. Chris has agreed to mentor the new treasurer until that person feels he or she can take over for him. Thank you Chris, for being the money manager and for working with the City though trying times to ensure our records were in order every year. I can't complete the list without giving a big thanks to Veronica Dunn who donated the precious little free time she had to organizing the club's tennis socials and bringing us the new t-shirts. So, though Frans, Chris and Veronica will be hard to replace we must find someone to fill each of their board positions. Please read more about the board positions in this newsletter and volunteer to help out your club.

--Kelli O'Neill, President, Davis Tennis Club

Annual Membership Meeting and Board Elections — all are welcome to attend!
Wed, Feb 1st, 6 pm at the Clubhouse

SATA Spring season online team registration by captains, Jan 20 - 29

USTA 40+ League play Jan 2 – Mar 26

SATA spring interclub play Feb 25 - May 21

Remember to renew your membership for 2017

Go to <http://www.davistennisclub.org/membership>



THE DTC BOARD NEEDS YOU!!

The club needs to fill the following 3 positions for 2017/18. **These are key positions and we can't operate as a non-profit board without filling them.** Each position is for 2 years. Here is a brief description of each position.

Secretary: takes minutes and prepares minutes for board approval, tracks open and closed action items, modifies club documents as requested by the board. The board can train the new secretary as needed.

Treasurer: maintains records for the two checking accounts and presents a monthly report at board meetings, sends bookkeeping information to the DTC accountant for tax and non-profit status, maintains insurance information with the City of Davis. Current treasurer Chris will train the new treasurer.

Social Director: organizes tennis social events such as round-robins, youth tennis clinics and club tournaments, coordinates publicity and sponsorships for events, promotes new events that bring the community and tennis together in Yolo County. Attends monthly meetings.

Don't be shy! Contact Grace Vaughn, at graceevaughn@gmail.com (530) 848-1261 if you are interested in a board position. All questions you have are welcome. **The election of new board members will take place at the club's annual meeting on Feb. 1, 2017.**

Boys High School Team Repeats Section Title



Boys' coach Dale Hersch reports that the Davis High Boys Blue Devils won their back-to-back section title by defeating Jesuit 7-2. This makes 8 section titles since 2004. Davis also competed in the CIF High School NorCal quarter-finals but lost in the first round. The team graduated half of its top 6 players, but still possesses a very deep squad, led by a talented senior class. Look for Davis to battle a tough Jesuit team for the title in 2017.

Girls High School Team News

Coach Sally Hosley reports that the DHS Girls' Tennis team had a successful season. We came in second place in the Delta League, but unfortunately lost in the section quarters. This year we had a very cohesive team with all the players supporting each other and working hard. Our number one player, Lillian Okamoto, moved here in the fall from Hawaii. Her dedication to the sport earned her the Delta Player of the Year title. She was our league champion and went on to become the singles section finalist. We are already gearing up for next season!

Special Olympics

It's been a busy year on the tennis courts! Last spring, our stellar TEAM Davis tennis team competed at a very high level. With the help of many kind-hearted DTC members, we were able to host the Nor Cal Special Olympics tournament in May. Thanks to everyone who helped keep score and shag balls. In June, over 12 of our athletes were selected to compete in the Summer Games at UCD. We were proud to have all of our athletes medal. You can view photos from the Special Olympics [here!](#)



Men's Interclub News

Hot racquets in USTA leagues

The Davis Tennis Club was represented by 15 players in the 55+ 8.0 USTA Summer league. The format was three doubles matches, and our top player was Peter Williams. We won some matches, and lost some matches in a very strong league. The top two teams in our Sacramento League ended up playing for the NorCal sectional championship.

This Fall the DTC jumped into the 8.5 Combo Doubles League in the USTA; this also was a strong league of 12 teams. Our top player was Joe Sorenson; if we play that league again, we would benefit from more 4.5 rated players on our team. Perhaps we need to recruit some UCD club players.

Respect the Mackerels

The Respectable Mackerels continue to be the standard-bearers for Davis tennis in the tough, Sunday morning 6 singles/3 doubles team format. Captained by Steve Asercion and his cocap John Walter, the Macks had 4 of 5 fall season match outcomes determined by only a single line, and had at least one 3-setter during each match.



Fun fact: Guess who is GQ's Most Stylish Man of 2016, owner of 88 singles career titles? <http://www.gq.com/story/most-stylish-man-of-2016-showdown-winner>

Women's Interclub News

A triple double

Three Davis Tennis Club weekday doubles teams competing in the Sacramento Area Tennis Association celebrated the end of the fall season at Donna Reed's home on December 1st! In addition to potluck items, players brought food and gift donations for the STEAC holiday program. The three teams were Aces Wild, captained by Joanne Crosta and Peggy Leander; Party at the Net, captained by Peggy Leander and Margo Roeckl; and Davis Double Shots, captained by Suzanne Mikesell and Mary Davis. Party at the Net came in first in their division with 6 wins, 1 loss, and 2 wins in the playoffs! Aces Wild and Double Shots had 4 wins and



Newly formed MS Hits Team Hits the Spot!

The Davis MS Hits SATA women's 6.5 doubles team went undefeated this fall season. The MS Hits, captained by Margo Roeckl and Sue Shepps, is a newly formed team designed to partner developing athletes with higher rated players. This combination provided a forum for players to advance their skills with the help and guidance of more experienced mentors. The success of the team was due in large part to efforts and dedication of athletes seeking to hone their skills who practiced and played hard all season long and built on the team's success in the spring where the MS Hits had only one loss for an overall record on the year of 13-1.

Wednesday Wegulars Hover Above Benthic Zone

The 3.5 Wegulars singles-doubles team had a sinking feeling in our overall league standings, but nonetheless we had many competitive and fun matches and rotated 9 players in the singles lines. If you want to test your singles skills in league play please join us! We may also try to put together a Tuesday 4.0 singles-doubles team for Spring 2017.

Aces Gone Wild

'Twas a fall season of fun for Aces Wild, DTC's Thursday morning SATA women's 7.0 doubles team. Our roster of 19 players vied against three other SATA teams, competing against each club three times over the course of the season. We placed third this time around with a 4 and 5 record, tying Johnson Ranch but being edged out in individual matches won. Congratulations to Margo Roeckl and Sue Shepps for their 3-0 records. —Joanne Crosta, captain

New team Kiss My Ace makes playoffs

Sue Shepp's debuted a new 7.5 doubles team this fall. The KMA's exceeded their expectations and finished second in regular season play and qualified for the playoffs, where they lost to the Serrano Ladies.



Snoopy in Space?



The Snoopy Slammers, a 40+ womens USTA team, has boldly gone where no other DTC women's team has gone before – the District Championships! Led by captain Janine Carlson (a USTA captain since 2009 with almost 20 teams under her tutelage) and strategist extraordinaire co-captain Margo Roeckl, the team made it to the post season with a 7-3 record, taking first place in their division. In the two post season single elimination matches against Broadstone and Gold River, the team swept all three lines to advance to the District Championships. Although the team did not advance beyond Districts they were able to post some wins and have some very competitive matches with teams from the Bay Area. Congrats to all athletes for a truly stellar season!

SATA League information

The new SATA registration procedures enacted in 2016 worked smoothly for our Davis leagues. Captains register teams online and players pay to sign up for the team. Here are some useful links to note for the 2017 SATA seasons.

Important interclub dates for 2017:

<http://sactennis.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/SATA-Interclub-Calendar-2017.pdf>

Information about spring leagues:

<http://sactennis.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Spring-2017-Regular-League-Announcement.pdf>

League types offered in spring:

<http://sactennis.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Leagues-Offered-Spring-2017.pdf>

Remember that you have to be a DTC member to play on any Davis SATA or USTA team.

Women's flex group play

Joanne Brennan has again volunteered to organize women players for some small-group singles and doubles matches just for fun and practice. Participants decide upon their own playing schedules. The singles "Winter Squash" groups just finished play and the women are organized for some upcoming doubles action. Participants' skill levels have ranged from 2.5 to 4.0 and group play is scaled to the players' ratings. If you are interested in becoming involved in these local flex groups, contact Joanne at jolaw67@sbcglobal.net.

Winter reminders

Please be kind to our court squeegees. Don't step on them and remember to hang them up on the fence to dry.

If the swimming pool is being used, please access the bathrooms through the poolside doors. Remember to always shut the outer doors to the bathrooms.

Volleys
TENNIS SHOP

Volleys Tennis Shop at 231 G Street is gearing up for the new season. January brings new apparel, new shoes, new racquets, and new fun! We're excited about the new Wilson Blade and Pro Staff, Head Speed and Instinct, and Babolat Pure Strike racquets – no matter your playing style, new advances in racquet technology will refine your game. Try them, or any of our racquets, with a \$25 demo deposit, which



gives you 30 days to try as many as you like, then have the deposit applied to your new racquet purchase.

January is also an excellent time to restring your current racquet while your playing time is limited by the cold and wet weather. String loses tension over time and creates a trampoline effect, so those balls you were hitting right at the baseline may be flying out of bounds now. A general rule of thumb? Restring your racquet during the year as many times as you play a week: play twice a week = restring twice a year. **Special DTC string promo! Bring in this article and get 10% off Luxilon 4G or Dunlop Black Widow, or get 20% off Kirschbaum Pro Line II 17g, Max Power Rough 16g, and Spiky Shark 16g!**

In Memory of Gene Sakai, ambassador for Davis community tennis



Our dear friend, Gene Sakai, passed away in December. Gene welcomed so many of us to the tennis courts with genuine kindness and encouragement. On drop-in days, it can be scary to try out your tennis game with people you don't know well, but Gene had a special way of facilitating player match-ups to make sure everyone had a great time.

You may go to: <http://bit.ly/2iKJDJ3> to leave your personal remembrances. Here are a few from some players who knew Gene for a long time.

From Myrna Epstein: I met Gene Sakai about 20 years ago when I arrived as a newcomer to the Davis tennis courts. He was commonly playing tennis on weekends and, although it wasn't expected, he would often pause his play to welcome and introduce all newcomers, many times sitting out a game to allow the newcomer to join in. I thought he was the Mayor of DTC!

I didn't play often with Gene then but he always acknowledged me and others with a soft wave and welcome. One morning about 10 years ago, Gene called me at home. He heard I was willing to play tennis in the very early mornings and he started new medications so could not play in the heat of the summer anymore. Thus started our decade long weekly singles match that lasted until the week before Gene died.

I was shocked and saddened by Gene's sudden passing. He was unique in his gentleness and respectful nature. He was generous with his time if anyone needed help. I, and all of the Davis tennis community, will sorely miss our gentle friend Gene.

From George Haver: Gene Sakai was a person who welcomed everyone who came out to the Community Courts. Cordial, friendly, skillful, tactful and welcoming are words that come to my mind as I remember Gene. He had a cagey tennis game, knew the court geometry in an instinctive way, and could put some wicked spin on the ball. I know he will be remembered with great love by all who knew him.

From past president Barry Markman: Many years ago when I started playing tennis again in Davis I stumbled upon the weekend drop in at the old high school tennis courts. A gentle, kind and friendly gentleman named Gene welcomed me and introduced me to other players. He took me off to the side and under the guise of helping him warm up, craftily assessed my skill level which was less than optimal at that time. He made sure that I was incorporated in to a group of other players at my skill level. Of course, I always wanted to play with the better players. Gene in his own inimitable way would have nothing of this. Whenever I would manipulate myself to the courts where the better players were playing, (a frequent and current event to this day) he would ask me to help him warm up or work on some aspect of his game and then reinsert me where I belonged.

Eventually, I came up with a new plan to play with the better players, and started coming early before Gene would show up and start warming up with them. They would always allow me to play with them, however as soon as Gene showed up, he would ask me to help him warm up and before I knew it I was back in the minor leagues.

Over the years, my skill level improved in part because of the extra time Gene spent with me helping me attempt to develop a defense to his crafty backhand. (I must admit, that I am still lacking in this regard). As my relationship with the Davis tennis community grew, I became involved in matters involving the Davis tennis club and helped with many others to ensure the new courts were put back in after the old courts were torn down. I started participating in the board meetings, by observation. This was back in the days when we all met at the building where Mark Otten's offices were. Gene was always quietly listening and taking notes as the current secretary for life of the Davis tennis club.



Gene continued to make me feel a part of our club and community with his presence and actions. His practice of unconditional inclusivity in words and actions brought me closer to our club until I became an actual board member and treasurer for life; (until I tricked Chris into taking over for me).

One day about 10 years ago, I was fortunate enough to be in the right place at the right time. I was part of a team of Davis tennis club members who helped intervene and give Gene the assistance he needed to ensure that we would all another 10 years of having him in our lives and us in his life. By that time, Gene was ready to pass on his duties as the mayor of the Davis tennis club, and our board took on this role, assigning board members to facilitate the drop in that Gene had nurtured for so many years, as intermittent honorary mayors of the DTC.

I was fortunate enough to be a part of that transition, and I am grateful for the lessons in life Gene shared with me. It has been a privilege and honor to be a part of Gene's life. His presence will be missed by me, and most of you. His memory will live on in our thoughts and actions.



If you would like to make a donation in Gene's memory, his family has listed 2 organizations:

- Davis Tennis Club, PO Box 376, Davis, CA 95617
- Walnut Grove Buddhist Church, PO Box 336, Walnut Grove, CA 95690

