



BASELINE BULLETIN

Fall 2013

Volume 5, Issue 4

Schedule of Events Fall 2013

2nd and 4th Saturdays—Drop-in Tennis from 9 a.m. to noon at Davis Community Courts. All are welcome.

1st Wednesdays —DTC Board Meeting begins at 6 p.m. at Clubhouse.

Oct. 29-30—Delta Valley Conference Girls Singles and Doubles Competition 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Community Courts

Nov. 15--Fall SATA Season ends

Nov. 16-17--Projected Final SATA Junior Grand Prix in Sacramento

Dec. 7—Winter Flex registration opens; closes Dec. 21

Jan. 4—Winter Flex Season begins

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

DTC Board Elections

The fall issue of Baseline Bulletin contains several updates by DTC board members on issues impacting our club that range from city court maintenance to volunteer efforts to teach and promote tennis in our schools . There is still much work to be done and your continued support as members of the Davis Tennis Club is appreciated in advance.

I am approaching the final quarter of my two-year term as president of the Davis Tennis Club. I consider it an honor to have been allowed to serve in this position. The hard work and dedication of my fellow board members has been so much appreciated, and has been essential in ensuring our continued success as a Community Tennis Club.

I look forward to working with our nominating committee to come up with a slate of board members to present to our membership and be elected and or re-elected at our upcoming annual meeting. I anticipate this occurring in January of 2014. One of these positions, the fund-raising director, has gone unfilled this past year. In the coming months and years, the person who is willing to take on these duties will be an important part of the upcoming improvement projects for the tennis courts in our community. I remain hopeful that one of you will step up and express an interest in this.

To all of you, have fun and keep playing the game.

--Barry L. Markman, President, Davis Tennis Club



Saturday Drop-in Action

Join new players and old friends for drop-in tennis hosted by DTC on the second and fourth Saturday of each month.



DETERIORATING CITY COURTS NEED REPAIR

As the DTC board's liaison to the City of Davis, I have been in contact with city personnel to discuss and work on tennis court conditions and improvements that could be made in the future. The members of the Board surveyed the condition of the two-court complexes around Davis, took photos and sent descriptions to the City of Davis. What we found confirmed what members of our tennis community already know. Many of the courts are deteriorating from lack of maintenance. What we hope is that the city will step up its care of these courts. We will be discussing as a Board what contributions we as a club can make to improve the situation.

The City of Davis has completed a geotechnical investigation of the Walnut Park 6-court complex (See photo right). The fundamental finding is that the courts will need to be rebuilt; the question is where the funding will come from. The project is tied to a proposal to build a permanent restroom facility to serve the courts and the park.

The possibility of USTA grant funding up to 20 percent of the project cost could help get the work funded. We'll stay in contact with the city and continue to lobby for the rebuilding of the courts.

The possibility of bleachers being placed on the west side of Community Courts Nos. 1 and 4 has been discussed with the athletic director of Davis High School, and it looks like that will be done in the Summer of 2014. These bleachers will come from the visiting side bleachers of the football stadium as new stands are constructed.

George Haver,
DTC City Liaison



It all started with...

Board member Frans DeWaard photographed the bore hole work and wisecracked that "there seems to be some bony fragments...Maybe some remnants of ice age tennis players?" That opened the door to the fastest quips on the courts.

Jack Jonas: Better run some DNA—may find clues to some of the tennis players we haven't seen on the courts for a LONG time.

Dennis Anderson—Bony fragments? Have we found Jimmy Hoffa? Alert the media.

Carolyn Teragawa—Unexpected gopher activity.

Janine Carlson—We could start a new sport that combines tennis and golf! Hole in one!!!

Chris DeWees—These may be old Mackerel (his team name) bones or the remains of our ill-fated USTA Super Senior team.

USTA Update

The USTA 3.5 Women's 18-plus team this year had a long season of great tennis. With a roster of 22 women and 14 matches we ended the season 2-12 (thankfully in spot No.

13 and not the bottom of the pack). Unfortunately, we were unable to recruit enough 3.0 or 4.0 players for respective 6.5 or 7.5 combo teams for the fall. We are looking forward to more USTA challenges in 2014.—Janine Carlson, captain





JUNIOR RACQUETS NEEDED FOR TENNIS IN THE SCHOOLS

During the last school season, DTC Board member and tennis instructor Jeff Chale began weekly visits to Davis elementary schools where he taught tennis to first through sixth graders as part of each school's P.E. program. In any given week, anywhere from 10 to 40 students participated in the sessions. Jeff donated his time, personally organized the classes and scraped together racquets from various sources and provided balls. He believes strongly that introducing tennis to kids at this age and getting them excited about the game is essential to the success of any tennis programs in the future.

Donate Your Child's Old Racquet

Jeff is again organizing and volunteering his time to promote tennis in the schools and will begin the program this school year in mid-October. This is where our DTC members can play a role. If you have any junior racquets your children have outgrown please donate them to Jeff's program. In describing the program, Jeff said the racquets he currently uses are adult size, many in poor condition and very difficult for small children to handle. Properly sized racquets would greatly enhance the students' experience and a donation of these as well as a portable net and practice balls would be put to excellent use and go a long way toward promoting interest in the sport. Racquets may be dropped off at Volleys or given to any board member.

BLUE DEVIL SEASON UPDATE

The Davis High Girls' tennis team is doing well. Our record is 8 and 3 overall and 3 for 3 in league matches. Our roster is strong and our doubles teams are coming together nicely. Davis High is excited to

host the Delta Valley Conference singles and doubles competition Oct. 29-30. The matches will begin both days at 9 a.m. and will conclude around 4 p.m.

Sally
DHS

Hosley,
Girls' Coach

DTC TENNIS SOCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Friends, food and tennis were the recipe for fun at the DTC Social in late September. Volleys co-owner Dave Brooks (lower left) brought the store's collection of demo racquets for members and guests to try out. After the workout on the courts



members replenished their carbs with a (un?) healthy dose of pizza.



SATA NEWS

High School Teams Benefit From SATA Community Projects

We held a very successful Fall Kickoff at Laguna Creek in early September, just prior to the start of the fall season. These events are so popular that we have a waiting list of players who want to participate. We're thinking it might be a good idea to hold at least two of these a year. Would Davis be interested in hosting? We use the profits to fund small stipends for underserved high school tennis teams in our SATA area. We collect gently used clothing, shoes, bags and tennis racquets and donate to players who otherwise would not have the proper gear for playing.



We also have a small group of people in SATA who will visit these teams during their practices to hit with the newer players and give them some of our tennis knowledge. If anyone in the Davis club is interested in hitting with these young people, please contact: Paula Goldstein pkgold@gmail.com.



Annual SATA Membership Meeting

We will be holding our annual membership meeting at Rollingwood Racquet Club in Fair Oaks on Nov. 12 at 6 p.m. The main reason for the meeting is to elect a new Board (only 3 positions are open each year). Your representative (me) will be voting, so if you have an opinion, please let me know. There will be an eblast a couple of weeks before the election introducing the candidates.

The meeting is also to discuss possible changes and modifications to our organization that will help improve our product. If you have any suggestions for improvement or growth for SATA, please let me know and it will be added to the agenda.

Carol Rose
cbrose@omsoft.com

Davis Winners in Junior Grand Prix

Junior players competed in the recent SATA Junior Grand Prix in Davis with several local players taking first in their respective divisions. Among the Davis winners were: Boys 18-Bob Li; Boys 16-Tioga Benner; Girls 16-Lauren Duan; Boys 14-Cooper Hosley; Boys 18 Doubles-Spiller and Lucio. For a complete listing of division standings, visit sactennis.org.



The Final Word is a feature of the Northern California USTA website where USTA Director of Officials Richard Kaufman answers questions from members. Here is reprinted his explanation on calling lets.

Question: If your hat falls off during play of a point, do you automatically lose the point; or do you continue play?

KAUFMAN: In an officiated match, a let is called by the umpire if your hat falls off, a ball comes out of your pocket, a towel falls from your side, etc. If something like that happens again then the player loses the point. In an un-officiated match, only the opposing player may call a let immediately. If the opposing player continues the point then NO let can be called.



Davis Tennis Comes Full Circle Through DTC Head Pro Dale Hersch

In 1996, junior tennis in Davis attracted few young players and was a fading presence. Dale Hersch, DTC head pro and director of the Davis Tennis Academy, recalls taking over a program that was lucky to have 75 participants over the course of a summer. Nearly 20 years later much has changed. Now summer camps overseen by Dale and his DTA teaching pros easily count 75 players each week while junior players train through his tennis academy.

Dale's connection to junior tennis in Davis started long before his tenure as head pro began. Dale grew up in Davis and his father, Paul, served as DTC president in the 1970s. Together with his wife, Millie, he introduced Dale to the game at a young age while also supporting his interest in other sports that included baseball and soccer. Dale recalled playing in his first tournament in a 12-and-under division that also included Daryl Lee, former UC Davis head tennis coach, with both making it to the semi-finals. Reflecting on those experiences, Dale appreciates that he was able to play multiple sports rather than specializing in one as many younger players do today. He said, "I got to be a kid."



The "kid" though was a talented athlete. As a student at Davis High in the early '80s, he gained the top spot on the tennis team and again played No. 1 in both singles and doubles at San Francisco State where he earned his bachelor's in 1987. After college, he was accomplished enough to play professional team tennis in Germany where he also taught. In the United States and Germany, he saw tennis as it peaked in popularity. In the states, he grew up in an era when American players dominated the game. In Germany, interest in tennis was rabid with Boris Becker and Steffi Graf both ranked No. 1 in the world. He observed that "today, tennis would be over the top here if Federer or Nadal were American."

Once he was back in Davis, Dale considered grad school but first he needed a job. He got one as assistant tennis pro at Pinnacle Fitness. "I really liked it," he said, and apparently Pinnacle Fitness liked him because within five months he was head pro. When the business was sold, Dale applied for the head pro job at DTC. The year 1996 was momentous. "I got the job, bought a house and married." Dale and his wife, Brandy, have two children, Conner, 12, and Natalie, 7.

"I said I'd give the job five years and see what happens. It just kept getting better," he said. "I wanted to stay in Davis, raise my kids here. I knew it was an interesting and great opportunity."

He lauds the efforts of the DTC organization for promoting tennis in the community which he said has helped his program. "Now there are people involved who are interested in keeping tennis in Davis thriving. They get out there and promote it...Everything is a lot more together."

In addition to his position as DTC's head pro, he works extensively with young players through his Davis Tennis Academy, a year-round program for boys and girls of all ages. "The objective is to introduce players to tennis, keep them interested in the game and help them improve. It's got to be fun," he said. As coach of the DHS boys' team, Dale emphasizes the team aspect of the sport. "I've had great kids over the years." They have also played well, going to section finals every year.

When Paul and Millie Hersch introduced their young son Dale to tennis on public courts more than 40 years ago it was impossible to know the integral role he would later play. Who knows? Perhaps the next young player Dale introduces to the sport will help ensure the future of community tennis in Davis.

--Joanne Crosta, Baseline Editor

