



The Racket

President's Alley by Ben Rose

We are now weeks from opening and I won't bury the "lede" – our target for opening the Club is Saturday, May 14th. We may, of course, be delayed if we continue to get regular rain as we have for most of April. The courts need to be dry and firm for our staff and contractor to finish prepping the surface and lay down the lines. The good news is that we have received all the supplies necessary to prepare the courts for use. Some of you may remember that last year a global shortage of line tape delayed our opening.

Our Manager, Dee Shively, continues to build out our staff. We are pleased that most of our experienced people will be returning. In this issue of *The Racket*, you can learn much more about them and what to expect on the courts and around the grounds when you come out to play.

Our Member Experience Committee (MEC), headed by Maureen Gaudio, has done amazing work to develop a calendar of exciting events for this season. It includes three barbecues, many different types of tournaments, and other fun ways to get on the courts with new partners or opponents. New events include a meet-and-greet women's round robin, a women's 60+ tournament to complement the men's 60+ introduced last year, and a round robin with prospective members. I encourage you to review the MEC's 2022 calendar of LPTA events (see below) and join your fellow members for fun and competition. Please check your morning emails once the Club has opened to find timely information about when and how to sign up for events. You'll usually receive at least two weeks notice.

Lastly, a careful reader of the March 2022 newsletter noticed that our Board of Directors now includes two members who were not on the ballot for last year's election: Nathan Lumpkin and David Schultz. How did this happen, this reader asked? The answer is that the election created two open Board seats when Andy Korn and I were elected as Officers. Under our By-laws, mid-term openings on the Board are filled by the President's nomination and the Board's ratification of the new Directors. I nominated Nathan and David at our January meeting and the Board voted them on. Per our rules, their terms will end with the next election in November 2022.

All the best,

Ben

LPTA President

Around the Grounds with Duncan

“We just need three or four days of dry 70° weather and we’re ready to go,” says Duncan Stephen, LPTA’s grounds and facilities manager. Duncan and his crew have spent the past few months clearing away leaves and other debris from around the property, turning on and testing the watering systems on the courts, scheduling maintenance visits from Muellermist Irrigation Systems, installing sump pumps, and breaking up the compacted surfaces of courts 3-6.

Duncan played tennis on grass as a youngster in England. “I was a pretty good tennis player,” he says, “but the Club has taken my game to a whole new level.” His primary sport, however, remains soccer which he plays three times a week.

“I love this place,” says Duncan, as he leads a visitor around his domain. That may be why he has kept coming back to LPTA for 20 years.

Duncan can always tell when the Har-Tru courts are ready to be laid with fresh standard “green clay” (courts 1 and 2) or Hydroblend (courts 3-6). “When it’s warm and dry, they start to sweat,” he says. “A fog rises off the surface and you can no longer see the fence to the east.” That’s when he calls Midwest Sport Surfaces to finish the courts with the bags of material already stacked in the parking lot and line them with white tape.



Duncan proudly leads his visitor over new paving stones on the walkway and points to the freshly dug drainage ditch that takes rain water to the northwest corner and away from the courts. He says that the 2022 season’s opening on Saturday, May 14th (weather permitting), will introduce members to a new gate and fencing to the north, as well as new net posts on the refurbished courts 1 and 2. In addition, Duncan and his crew will be putting up new windscreens and nets that will contribute to a better playing experience for all.




The Return Game

Club manager Dee Shively, herself an LPTA returnee both as a former member and on staff, has signed a crew of familiar faces for the 2022 season. Angie, Curtis, Dennis, George, Robert, Tom and Zach are all coming back. “Dylan has found a job in web design,” Dee says, “but we are hoping to see him once in a while.”

Joining the staff this season is long-time LPTA member Joe Manning. He has served as LPTA’s president and on the facilities and grounds committee so is very familiar with the Club. In addition to helping Duncan install the sump pumps and complete other pre-season tasks, Joe has been busy writing an employee’s manual and procedures for court maintenance, drawing on Duncan’s and Dee’s years of experience.

Dee is still looking for additional part-time staff. If members have any recommendations, please reach out to her at dnog35@aol.com.

2022 Calendar of LPTA Events

Activity	Dates	Key Contact(s)	Brief Description
New Member Host Program	May/June	Elena Longiotti, Brad Matson	Hosts facilitate a helpful and fun transition for new members into Club social and tennis life
New Member Welcome Event	May 16 @ 5:00 PM	Elena Longiotti, Brad Matson, Deirdre Jameson	Orientation, tennis and social event for new members
Season Opening BBQ	May 22 @ Mid-Day	Tammy Beeler, Karolina Stoioff, LPTA Staff	Social BBQ to kick off the season
Free Rating Sessions	TBD	Marinos (Pro)	Two (2) free sessions early in the season
Women's Travel Teams	Drills Start: May League: June 6 - Aug 1	Jill Silberg	Two (2) women's doubles travel teams that compete on Mondays in the Lake Shore Women's Tennis League; teams also drill during the week
Women's Round Robin w/Social 	June 2, PM	Laura Quandel	Women's round robin with a social component to kick off the season and meet different players
Strength Training	Starts June 2 (season long)	Juliette Goldstein	Every Thursday (8:00-8:30 AM) member-paid class (\$10): <i>Strength Training for Tennis Players</i>
Member Drills	June 5 – Sept 1	Marinos (Pro)	Four (4) 1.5-hour weekly drills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday 4:00-5:30 PM (skill level specific) • Wednesday 11:00-12:30 mid-day • Thursday 6:00-7:30 PM (skill level specific) • Friday 8:00-9:30 AM
Singles Challenge Ladder	Starts June 5 (season long)	Danny Sharp	Opportunity to play competitive singles; ladder sorts players naturally into groups of similar levels
Mixed Doubles League	Starts June 5 (season long)	Maureen Gaudio	Join with a partner and play mixed doubles matches throughout the summer
Men's Doubles Tournament	June 11 & 12	David Schultz	Men's doubles tourney in a round-robin format; winners advance to the 2 nd day of play
TMYL Fundraiser	June 13	Dee Shively (LPTA GM) & TMYL	Todd Martin Youth Leadership (TMYL) fundraiser with tennis pro Todd Martin: Private lessons, members tennis mixer, and social event
Friday Night Mixers	June 17, July 22, Aug 19, Sept 16	Laura Quandel, Lorraine Kaplan	Friday evening of tennis with socialization afterwards
Women's Doubles Tournament	June 25 & 26	Nancy Borzak	Women's doubles tourney in a round-robin format; winners advance to the 2 nd day of play
Wimbledon	July 9 @ 11:00-1:00	Nancy Borzak	Wear your traditional white tennis gear for this one-day tennis event
Mid-Season BBQ	July 14 @ Dusk	Tammy Beeler, Karolina Stoioff, LPTA Staff	Social BBQ to enjoy the summertime
Mixed Doubles Tournament	July 30 & 31	Betsy Berry, Ben Bass	Mixed doubles tourney in a round-robin format where you get a new partner each rotation; winners advance to the 2 nd day of play
Women's Doubles 60+ Tournament 	Sept 7	Nancy Borzak	Fun and social doubles tourney for women 60+ years old; winners advance
Potential New Members w/Members 	Sept 8, PM	Brad Matson	Round robin to engage potential new members on the waitlist
Men's Doubles 60+ Tournament	Sept 14	Joe Tedino, Bob Munson	Fun and social doubles tourney for men 60+ years old; winners advance
Team Tennis	Sept 17 @ 3:00	Ron Davies	Get assigned to a team to compete in Singles, Doubles, and Mixed Doubles during this 1-day event
Season Closing BBQ	Sept 18 @ Mid-Day	Tammy Beeler, Karolina Stoioff, LPTA Staff	Social BBQ to close out the season
Clubwear	Ongoing	Jill Silberg, Kristine Prugh	Feel part of the Club with LPTA swag

Marinos Makes a Comeback

Marinos Loukidis is returning as Club Pro at LPTA for the 2022 season. In addition to running the popular weekly tennis drills included with your membership, he offers private and small-group lessons at reasonable rates to members. Marinos is also available to teach on the public courts at Diversey Tennis Center. His schedule is filling quickly so, if you are interested in lessons, please contact Marinos directly at marinos.loukidis@gmail.com.

Pro's Pointers by Marinos Loukidis

One reason I enjoy writing the Pro's Pointers is the opportunity to hear a player's questions on court and address them in *The Racket*, reaching a larger audience. A recent question was about the right court positioning in the doubles game. When it comes to doubles positioning, there is no "one size fits all" approach. You will often hear me say that tennis is a game of constant adjustments, especially with positioning.

Are you at the net on the receiving end and you know your partner has a weak return of serve? Are you worried that the opposing net player will poach the return? Try starting the point a bit further back to cover the middle of the court and your opponent's volley.

On the other hand, does your partner have a strong return and can consistently place the ball deep, putting pressure on the server? In that case, starting closer to the net and to the middle of the court may earn your team more points in the long run.

Or, are you at the net on the server's end? Is your partner a strong server with solid 1st and 2nd serves? Then being aggressive at the net is a no-brainer. Chances are your opponents will hit a weak service return, maybe even a floater, and you will have time to attack the incoming ball.

Is your partner a weak server? Then move back! Nobody wants to be target practice for the returner. In this case, starting with both players at the baseline might not be a bad idea.

These are some basic scenarios for proper court positioning, but the reality is that it is a very complicated topic. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Here's to a great outdoor season ahead!

Coach Marinos



Member Retention on the Rise

LPTA is welcoming back at least 230 active members this season, according to Audrey Huzenis and Deirdre Jameson, membership co-chairs. Seven members are returning from inactive status following injury or other commitments. Both the number of inactive members (23) and resignations (12) have decreased this year. Memberships remain approximately two-thirds individual members and one-third families.

“We still have more than 40 applicants in the queue.”

“We’ve invited 10 prospective members from our waitlist to join the Club,” say Audrey and Deirdre.

“There continues to be strong interest in joining LPTA. We still have more than 40 applicants in the queue.” The mother and daughter duo hope to see applicants playing at LPTA throughout the summer as guests of their sponsors “as we continue to monitor court usage and membership availability.”

Members can invite a guest to play up to 10 times per season, for a daily guest fee of \$20. Audrey and Deirdre ask current LPTA members to encourage friends and family to apply for membership, the only way to join the waitlist and eventually receive a membership invitation. If you would like to sponsor a prospective member please contact Audrey and Deirdre at info@lptachicago.com.

“We’re excited to report the strong interest in LPTA,” say the membership co-chairs. “Thank you to everyone for your prompt responses throughout the renewal process.”

Ladies: Ready for Team Play?

LPTA’s women’s travel teams begin forming on Sunday, May 1. Signups will be on YourCourts.com. You **must** be available to play at least one home and two away matches to join a team.

The Lake Shore Women’s Tennis League (LSWT), which includes LPTA, changed its rules this year to allow each team a roster of up to 20 members. The Club is fielding only one “A” and one “B” team this season because of the larger rosters. Co-captains of the 2022 “A” team are Jill Silberg and Nancy Hirsch. The “B” team has Audrey Huzenis and Kathryn Brown at the helm.

All league matches are played outdoors on Mondays from June 13 to August 1 (except July 4), beginning at 10:00am. Matches are played to completion as best of three sets. If the first two sets are split, a 10-point tiebreaker determines the winner. LSWT is not a USTA league, but current USTA rules govern all play. A match is cancelled in the case of inclement weather.

Look for a detailed email explaining how to sign up, and other pertinent details such as practice times. Team rosters will be set by LPTA’s tennis pro Marinos Loukidis and general manager Dee Shively.

Tennis Odds and Ends



The International Tennis Hall of Fame is giving you a [vote](#) on deciding what is the most iconic celebration in tennis history, and several other best-of-the-game's memorable moments.

Luigi Serra (1941-2021), an LPTA stalwart, and Tennis Channel's Jon Wertheim were honored with the [Bud Collins Media Award](#) at the 2022 BNP Paribas Open.

Tennis is surging, according to the United States Tennis Association. Participation has increased 27.9% to 22.6 million players nationwide over the past two years. In 2021, there were 3.4 million racquets sold at wholesale, the largest year-end total since 2010.

Naomi Osaka [fueled her comeback](#) in Miami with criticism from her rivals.

American Amanda Anisimova wins [Tie Break Tens](#) on International Women's Day.

Boris Becker, a U.K. resident, has been found [guilty of hiding assets](#), including Wimbledon trophies, under the British Insolvency Act. He could be sentenced to up to seven years in jail.

Cocktail of the Month

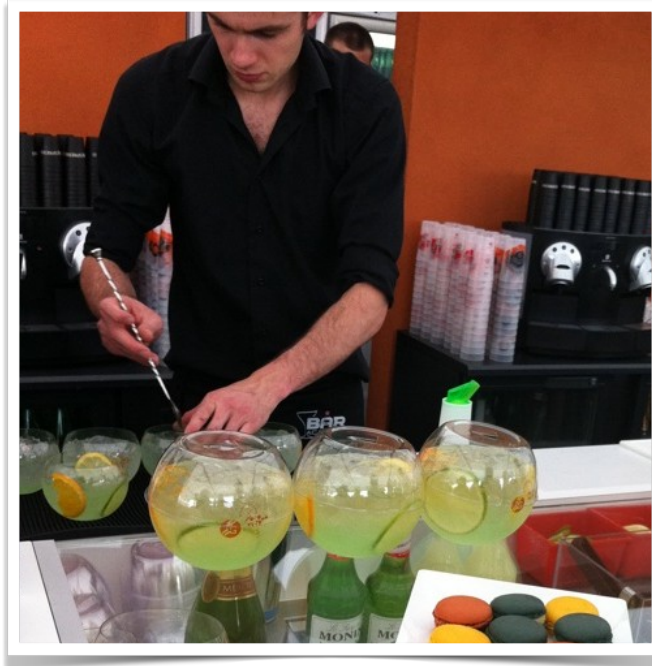
It's no surprise that patrons of the French Open (May 22 – June 5) often enjoy concoctions using bubbly as their base. The Ace Royal infuses champagne with cucumber and basil to freshen up the flavors. Try it in a chilled lowball glass as you enjoy watching tennis on the red clay of Roland Garros from the comfort of your home.

Ingredients:

25 ml. lime juice
25 ml. sugar syrup
5-6 basil leaves
2 slices cucumber
Champagne

Method:

Muddle the basil leaves with sugar syrup and lime juice in the serving glass. Drop in cucumber slices and stir slightly to combine before topping up with the champagne.



REMINDERS

LPTA Communications: The email addresses used to communicate with members are member@yourcourts.com (Club management), info@lptachicago.com (LPTA membership), treasurerlpta@gmail.com (dues and billing). Please make sure you put these in your address book/contact list to prevent Club emails going to your spam folder.

The Racket Submissions Deadline: We welcome submissions from members! The deadline for the next issue (June 2022) is , Friday, June 17th. If you have articles or photos for *The Racket*, please submit them through this [link](#). We are using this form to make sure that we don't miss any emails from you, save our in-boxes and have all of our content together in one place. Thank you!

DISCOUNTS FOR LPTA MEMBERS

[Move Your Feet Sports](#) offers members a 10% discount on tennis and golf youth camps. The weekday series of weekly camps for children 5-13 years of age run from mid-June until late August at the [Diversey Tennis Center](#) public courts adjacent to LPTA, and at the Diversey Driving Range across from our parking lot. LPTA members, their families and friends are eligible for the discount. Robert Owens is the director and head coach of the MYFS program

LPTA Board of Directors

Executive Committee -

President: Ben Rose (Courts & Grounds
Chair and Courts Improvement Lead)
Vice President: Leah Laurie (Staff Liaison)
Treasurer: Andy Korn (Finance Chair)
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Nate Lumpkin
David Schultz
Danny Sharp
Jill Silberg (Women's Teams Liaison)
Jim Stanhaus

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Betsy Berry
Kathryn Brown

Membership Co-Chairs -

Deirdre Jameson
Audrey Huzenis

Club Manager - Dee Shively

Facilities and Grounds - Duncan Stephen

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<http://lptachicago.com/>