



The Racket

President's Alley

We are four weeks into the 2023 season, and I hope you were able to come out and play at the Club during the amazing initial streak of good weather. Coupled with great weather, our dedicated LPTA staff make it possible for all of us to play every day. Please join me in thanking all of them - Dee, Angie, George, Duncan, Jack, Adam, Curtis, Kendall, Aidan and Tom - for their hard work and commitment. While good weather comes and goes, our staff comes to work every day ready to provide the best possible playing experience to all LPTA members and Diversey Tennis Center (DTC) clients.

As you all know, Dee is serving as Interim Manager but she has asked that this be her last season in a management role. Together we have asked George and Angie to take on more responsibilities and they have really risen to the challenge. George now oversees day-to-day operations and Angie is responsible for communications, events, and additional administrative duties. They are doing a terrific job and have kept things running very smoothly.

Our Welcome BBQ was a huge success with 150 members and guests filling the courts and grounds. Thank you to Jill Silberg, our Membership Experience Committee (MEC) Chair, and her team of volunteers: Betsy Berry, Nancy Borzak, Ron Davies, Rush Howell, Audrey Huzenis, Marjie Killeen and Brad Matson. The MEC has planned many more great events for all of us to look forward to this year.

Finally, now that the four DTC public courts have been renovated, our facilities are in truly great shape, perhaps the best ever. We have already noticed that the recovery time after rain for the renovated courts is much quicker than before. While the courts tend to be soft (producing some annoying bounces) early in the season, they will firm up soon. You may have also noticed that all of the windscreens, nets and dividers have been replaced over the past year. Our next anticipated facilities improvement is a refresh of the locker rooms. The Board has approved a plan to improve them. We are awaiting sign-off from the Park District but hope to start work later this season.

See you on the courts!

All the best,

Ben

Ben Rose, LPTA President

LPTA Membership Remains Healthy, as Does Interest in Joining

LPTA is pleased to welcome back 227 active members this season, according to Audrey Huzenis and Deirdre Jameson, membership co-chairs. Five members are returning from inactive status following injury or other commitments.

Both the number of inactive members (32) and resignations (18) are slightly higher than last year due to post-COVID summer commitments, relocations, and aging out of playing tennis. Memberships remain approximately one-third families and two-thirds individual members.

“We’ve invited 23 new members to join the Club this year,” say Audrey and Deirdre. “And we still have more than 50 applicants in the queue.”

Many applicants on the waitlist are eager to join LPTA, and hope to play during this season as guests of their sponsors as LPTA continues to monitor court usage and membership availability. Additionally, the mother and daughter duo expect to receive about 20 new applications throughout the summer.

Members can invite a guest to play up to 10 times per season, for a daily guest fee of \$20. 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.”



Rush Howell (l-r), membership co-chairs Deirdre Jameson and Audrey Huzenis, and new member Erin Goldsmith at the registration table for the New Members Welcome evening on Monday, May 15th.

Erin, joining Rush as a family member, recently picked up tennis after having played soccer and lacrosse in high school and college. She is the proud mother of two young boys “who seem to dislike soccer” but who she hopes will love tennis one day. Erin looks forward to meeting and playing with members this summer.

On New Members night, Erin and 17 other participants received information about the Club, parking passes and a swag bag, signed waivers, and enjoyed playing 12-point tiebreakers, organized by LPTA pro Raul, in a social setting.

A list of new and reactivated members, their sponsors and ambassadors who will help them find games and feel at home at LPTA, is on the following page. Contact information for all members can be found in the online [LPTA Directory](#).

New and Returning LPTA Members for 2023

Jane Bertolini, sponsor Brad Matson, ambassador Brenda Sussna, singles/doubles.
Debbie Bridges, sponsor Lorraine Kaplan, ambassador Maureen Gaudio, singles/doubles.
Robert Bridges, sponsor Lorraine Kaplan, ambassador Len Gaudio, singles/doubles.
Mary Carter, sponsor Carol Wetmore, ambassador Edna Weiss, doubles.
Melanee Cooper, sponsor Anne Haas, ambassador Kathryn Brown, singles/doubles.
Sandra D'Arco, sponsor Joe Tedino, ambassador Jacqui Chatz, singles/doubles.
Melissa Erke, sponsors Guy and Anat Rowling, ambassador Renee Salomon, singles/doubles.
Kenneth Erke, sponsors Guy and Anat Rowling, ambassador John Salomon, singles/doubles.
Dylan Drooger, sponsor Colleen Sichrovsky, singles.
Nancy Gaspadarek, sponsor Emily Emmerman, ambassador Juliette Goldstein, doubles.
Erin Goldsmith, Rush Howell family, ambassador Cecil Booth, singles/doubles.
Kathryn Hyer, sponsor Nancy Garfein, ambassador Jane Goodman, singles/doubles.
John Jennings, sponsor Rich Parisi, ambassador Jim Nelson, singles/doubles.
Mia Lim, Tim Wichman family, singles/doubles.
Melanie Liss, sponsor Emily Emmerman, ambassador Marjie Killeen, singles/doubles.
David Louis, sponsor David Whitney, ambassador Brad Matson, singles/doubles.
Elizabeth McConville, David Dring family, ambassador Jenn Hockema, singles/doubles.
Tamar Newberger, Andrew Shapiro family, sponsor Jenny Friedes, ambassador Pascale Kichler, singles/doubles.
Maria Pimentel, sponsor David Schultz, ambassador Laura Quandel, singles/doubles.
Laura Semba, returning, Patrick Tosetti family, ambassador Tammy Beeler.
Andrew Shapiro, Tamar Newberger family, sponsor Jenny Friedes, ambassador Tom Kichler, singles/doubles.
Colleen Sichrovsky, returning, ambassador Leah Laurie, doubles.
Lisa Thompson, returning, ambassador Betsy Berry, doubles.
Larry Weiner, sponsor and ambassador Robert Munson, singles/doubles.



Debbie Bridges (above) sets up to drive her forehand on New Members night. Debbie and her husband Bob have lived in Lincoln Park for more than 25 years. They have two adult daughters who currently live and work in New York City. Bob grew up playing tennis recreationally and Debbie has more recently taken up the sport. They both enjoy playing singles as well as doubles. During the winter, they play at Midtown Athletic Club.

2023 Season Off to a Lively Start with Live Ball Games

Fine weather brought LPTA members and guests out in force for the season's opening picnic on Saturday, June 3rd. In addition to food and beverages provided by Bacino's, and a live DJ's beats, there were a demo and three rounds of Live Ball games organized by tennis pros Raul Esquerra, Joe Shmigelsky and Jeroen Stedehouder. Pictured right (l-r) are members Bhu Velan and Brad Matson, working the point set up by pro Raul.



Above, left (l-r), Jeff Elegant and Elliot Greenberg take front row seats with other members and their guests to enjoy the action. Above (l-r) are Barbara Johnson and Bev Gilmore. Left (l-r) are Chris and Lynne Peckham, Nancy and Don Borzak, and Ben Bass.

LPTA Travel Teams Take Their First Two Matches

LPTA's two women's travel teams each won their first two matches of the season, which runs through July 31st.

Members of the "A" team, under the leadership of co-captains Audrey Huzenis and Nancy Hirsch, are Caroline Chambers, Candy Cleland, Gia Devenyi, Emily Emmerman, Susan Frank, Nancy Gaspadarek, Juliette Goldstein, Rocio Hoerr, Lorraine Kaplan, Marjie Killeen, Danielle Loevy, Suzanne LoSasso, Lynne Peckham, Kristine Prugh, Colleen Sichrovsky, Jill Silberg, Audrey Stovall, Liz Vadas, and Stacey Zontini.

The "B" team, led by co-captains Kathryn Brown and Pam Wyne, includes Tamara Beeler, Betsy Berry, Cecil Booth, Debbie Bridges, Jacqui Chatz, Sandra D'Arco, Jan Elegant, Patti Farago, Leah Laurie, Pascale Kichler, Erin Malley, Susan Quandel, Renee Salomon, Lisa Thompson, Annette Vitek, Edna Weiss, and Betty White.

Right, members of the "B" team and supporters celebrate winning their first match, especially the "bagel" (6-0, 6-0) brought home on court 2 by Erin Malley and Betty White. Under Bacino's umbrella (l-r) are Betty White, Nancy Garfien, Jacqui Chatz, co-captain Kathryn Brown, Betsy Berry, Erin Malley, Jan Elegant, and the "A" team's Audrey Stovall.



The "A" team played their first match at Bannockburn, winning on two of three courts. All smiles, above (l-r), are teammates Nancy Hirsch (co-captain), Suzanne LoSasso, Rocio Hoerr, Audrey Huzenis, Caroline Chambers, and Lynne Peckham.



An Evening of Camaraderie for LPTA Women



Twenty-four members turned out for the 2023 LPTA Women's Round Robin and Social event on Wednesday, June 14th. Organized by Marjie Killeen, with the help of Jill Silberg, the 90 minutes of tennis were followed by a social hour, catered by Bacino's and featuring a variety of delicious pizzas consumed at tables set up on the lawn by the Club's staff.

Caroline Vickrey (far right) and partner Ann Greenberg move into the court in the first of four rounds of tennis, including two rounds of no-add doubles, a round of 3-on-3 that called for aggressive poaching, and another of 6-on-6 demanding good ground strokes and team work.



MEC June Update

LPTA's Membership Experience Committee reports that 56 members signed up for the **Men's Doubles Tournament**, which started playing its early rounds on Saturday, June 10th, but postponed Sunday's play because of rain. The **Mixed Doubles League** is underway with 70 participants, divided into three divisions, ready to play for fun and bragging rights throughout the summer. **L.P.T.A. Team Tennis** kicks off Friday, June 23rd. Lorraine Kaplan, Jeff Elegant, Gary Silberg and Audrey Huzenis are the captains of the four teams playing once a month in this season-long event.

Member Drills Survey coming at the end of June: Drills were revamped this season in response to last year's survey. Now we want to know what you think. In addition to an online survey there will be a hard copy available at the clubhouse in order to maximize member access and participation. Based upon your feedback, we will modify drills to enhance member experience.

Coming in July: **Women's Doubles Tournament**, Saturday, July 15th, and Sunday, July 16th. **Mid-Season Picnic**, Sunday, July 23rd, featuring a DJ, Cardio Tennis, Stringing Seminar by Andy Korn, and food from Poochie's.

Save-the-date: Our **Inaugural Member/Guest Tournament** is slated for Friday, September 22nd, and Saturday, September 23rd. Reach out to your friends and family now for a partner. Friday, 1:00 - 7:00 PM, everyone will play and enjoy dinner together. Saturday, 12 noon - 3:30 PM, all participants play. Light snacks will be provided, and everyone is welcome to stay and enjoy the finals, 3:30 - 5:00 PM.

Out and About



Kathryn Brown sports a new cap at this year's Roland Garros in Paris.

Pretty as a Picture



Thanks go to Bev Gilmore who, with Lexy Kasvin and staff member Adam, made the Club grounds look so beautiful this season.

Tennis Odds and Ends



Coach of both Maria Sharapova and Serena Williams in their formative years tells who he thinks had the makings to be the [best](#).

2023 French Open tested AI to help tennis stars screen out threats and harassment from [cyberbullies](#).

Why are so many pro players [backing off against the serve](#) on clay?

Clay calls for different footwork and [different foot wear](#).

Wimbledon partners with [London Wildlife Trust](#) to enhance biodiversity and ecology across the All England Lawn Tennis Club sites.

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.

[ProAm Tennis](#) in Naples, Florida, “Your One Stop Tennis & Pickleball Shop,” offers members a 10% discount on all items, except tennis balls, plus free shipping on orders over \$75. Use code **LPTA10** to claim your discount.

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 (July 2023) is Friday, June 30. 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!

LPTA Board of Directors

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