



The Racket

President's Alley

Recently you may have noticed dozens of happy kids in large group lessons on the HydroCourts and wondered what was going on. They were participants in one of the Chicago Park District's summer camps. Part of LPTA's unique relationship with the Park District includes the commitment and obligation to support programs that bring tennis to the broader community. We consider it part of our mission to promote the joy of tennis to those in our community who might not otherwise be exposed to it.

This commitment is part of our contract with the Park District. A quick summary of our agreement is that we pay annual rent to the Park District for both the Diversey courts and the parking area. Six courts are designated for member use and four courts are designated for public use. LPTA is responsible for operating and maintenance costs for all 10 courts. These costs are partially offset by the revenue from the public courts, the balance is covered by member dues.

In addition to those basic responsibilities, our contract requires us to offer and support various types of community programming. Dee is our point person with the Park District for scheduling and supporting these various programs, and she does a great job of balancing the needs of the members with those of the programs. In addition to Park District camp programs, we are involved with Chicago-area TOPS (Tennis Opportunity Program), Move Your Feet Sports, the Chicago District Tennis Association (part of USTA), and Chicago Sport and Social. In short, LPTA is more than a tennis club. It is a true partner with the City of Chicago to broaden interest in and enjoyment of tennis.

Hope to see you out there,

Ben Rose

Ben Rose, LPTA President

It's Not Over Yet

We're more than half way through LPTA's 2022 season, but there are several great ongoing events and still more to come in September. Read the morning emails to learn when signups are posted on YourCourts.



The inaugural **Singles Invitational**, with brackets organized by David Burciaga and Mike Gentile, got off to a great start. Twenty-one of the Club's best singles players completed their first-round matches in record time. Pictured here, Rush Howell (right) scored the W against Tom Groos to move on to the second round. Staff make sure that courts are in pristine condition for match play.

Also new this season, the **Simply Smashing 60+ Women's Tournament** is scheduled for Wednesday, September 7, 3:00 - 6:00pm. Organized by the too-young-to-contend duo of Lynne Peckham and Julie Oslan, the doubles event still had a few spots available as *The Racket* "went to press."

Men's 60+ Sizzling Sexagenarians Tournament returns on the afternoon of Wednesday, September 14. Joe Tedino and Robert Munson are the volunteer leads for the 2nd coming of this "you're only as old as you feel" doubles event.

The final **Friday Night Mixer** of the 2022 season takes place on September 16. Lorraine Kaplan and Laura Quandel run a fun evening of tennis,

followed by socializing at Bacino's, our welcoming neighborhood watering hole.

An afternoon of **Team Tennis** is back on Saturday, September 17. Ron Davies is organizing the mixed up doubles and singles competition this season.

The **End-of-Season BBQ** takes place on Sunday, September 18, well before the season ends, but it crowns the calendar of the Club's Member Experience Committee, headed by Maureen Gaudio. Tammy Beeler and Karolina Stioff are the volunteer leads for this event, featuring tracks by DJ Charles Wright and food from Poochies. Several tournament finals will be played throughout the day.

Mixed Doubles League Goes Long

The second and final round of LPTA's 2022 Mixed Doubles League challenge matches ends on September 10. Three flights have been playing pro sets (best of 8 games) morning, noon and night since the beginning of the season.

Some pairs have stepped up to the challenge by going even further. In the first round, Nathan Lumpkin and Karolina Stoiuff, pictured here, won two best-of-three-sets matches in a doubleheader against Danielle Loevy and Craig Palmer (7-5, 2-6, 6-4), followed immediately by Brenda Sussna and David Schultz (6-3, 6-3).

The top two pairs from each flight will face off to determine their flight's champions. The dates of the finals will be announced later in the season.



LPTA at Chicago Men's Challenger



Randee Saturno (left), Juliette Goldstein and Susan Quandel met Fernando Verdasco at the Chicago Men's Challenger hosted by XS Tennis, August 8-14, on the South Side. Juliette supports the XS Tennis and Education Foundation (XSTEF), which provides Chicago's underserved youth with a community-based tennis and academic enrichment program.

Since 2005, XSTEF has sent 47 local youth to Division 1 schools with tennis scholarships. It serves nearly 3,000 students annually through its in-school programs, bringing tennis into CPS schools in at-risk communities, as well as offering after-school and summer camp programs. XSTEF provides full scholarships to CHA residents and income-based scholarships to everyone.

In Attendance...

Andy Korn (left) and Ben Bass came close to getting their hands on the prize at the US Open. Several LPTA members made the trip to New York to enjoy the tennis and participate in the sport's farewell to future Hall of Famer Serena Williams.



Lori Kleiman (left, above and right) and husband Andy Korn took in the action at both the Southern & Western in Cincinnati and New York's final slam of the season.



Women's Doubles Teams Toast a Successful Season



Members of LPTA's women's travel teams came together for an evening of round-robin tennis, followed by dinner at Bacino's on Monday, August 15. Both teams finished the 2022 season solidly in the middle of their respective flights.



The B team just can't get enough of each other

Members met up for a second celebratory dinner at the Diversey Yacht Club on Thursday, August 25. As part of the fun, crowns were awarded to players who exhibited particularly winning ways in their matches this season.

Tennis Odds and Ends



In a sport that involves so much precision, tennis players often overlook [The Toss](#).

Everything Serena Williams has been the focus of coverage since the announcement of the GOAT's retirement, overshadowing that of American tennis stalwart [Sam Querrey](#).

Kim Clijsters succeeds Stan Smith as [Honorary President of the International Tennis Hall of Fame](#). She will be working with fellow tennis legends Gigi Fernandez, recently named to the ITHF Board, and ITHF CEO Todd Martin.

[Luxury stay during the U.S. Open](#) benefits Sloan Stephens Foundation.

[Jersey Mike's Subs supports USTA Foundation](#), helping under-resourced kids across the nation with 20% of sales September 10-11, 2022.

A thought for the end of the season: [Paws Chicago](#), the Midwest's largest no-kill pet shelter, welcomes donations of gently used tennis balls, as does [XS Tennis](#) on the South Side.

Cocktail of the Month

Honey Deuce, the iconic cocktail of the US Open, can be enjoyed frozen at home. This icy, refreshing take on a raspberry lemonade features a honeydew ball garnish that resembles tennis balls.

Ingredients:

- 1 1/4 oz Vodka
- 3 oz Fresh Lemonade
- 1/2 oz Chambord
- 3 Honeydew Melon Balls

Preparation:

In a blender, combine liquid ingredients with ice and mix well. Pour into a highball glass and garnish with fresh melon balls on a toothpick. Your serve!



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 (October 2022) is Friday, September 23. 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!

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