



The Racket

Overall member satisfaction held at 90%!



Survey Underscores Club’s Advantages

Survey results show positive member feedback

The overall value of an LPTA membership continues strong, according to the results of the 2021 end-of-season survey. Satisfaction held at a healthy 90% despite the difficulties presented by the ongoing pandemic.

“Love the staff, the courts and playing in a beautiful surround,” said one of the 115 respondents, nearly half of active members. The survey’s 20 questions were designed to give the Club’s Board of Directors a detailed profile of the membership, the overall member experience, as well as program participation and satisfaction.

The results were presented at the January meeting by Board member and Member Experience Committee (MEC) Chairperson Maureen Gaudio.

“The MEC is actively using the survey results to plan a fantastic 2022 season,” said Gaudio, “with refined and expanded programs and activities. When possible, we will rejuvenate LPTA’s social aspects that we’ve all missed.”

Another respondent said the Club provides a “continuity of my regular game, camaraderie, relationships, [an] ongoing healthy option during Covid era.”

Survey highlights include:

- Capital improvements have produced an increased satisfaction with the quality of both courts and facilities.
- Members report playing more often with no perceived strain on court availability. Roughly half the members continue to play 2-3 times per week, but 32% now play 4 or more times per week, up from 25% in 2018.
- Doubles is the game of choice, with 72% playing only or mostly doubles, and just 4% exclusively singles.
- Weekly drills continue to attract about half the membership.
- About 20% of members played in weekend/1-day tournaments and were very satisfied with the experience.
- Members continue to be satisfied with all pro-related tennis programs.
- Satisfaction with member behavior, staff courtesy and professionalism, and the feeling of inclusion at the Club is at an all-time high.
- About one-third of members attended a Covid-conscious BBQ, while 84% are interested in continuing the “catered” approach.
- Members continue to be highly satisfied with communication from the Board, the newsletter and the morning emails.
- About 30% of members are 56-65 years old, up from 16% in 2018.
- New members are very pleased (93%) with their experience, though 20% say it’s hard to find games.
- All members continue to appreciate the “value” of their membership, with just 4% saying it’s “too expensive.”
- More members are “very likely” to renew their LPTA membership (only 6% are unlikely to renew), reflecting a very positive Club experience.

**The Club provides a
“continuity of my
regular game,
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- Member survey

Click [here](#) for a complete report of the findings.

President's Alley by Ben Rose

As I write this, I am gazing at the Club from my new home on Lakeview Avenue, and my anticipation for outdoor tennis is growing fast. This year's first issue of *The Racket* is further evidence that we are getting ever closer to our season opening.

LPTA is governed by member volunteers together with its great staff, led by Club Manager Dee Shively, so I thought I'd use this space to share some of the things the Board is discussing. Let me start by restating the high-level objectives that continue to guide the Board:

- Ensure that LPTA stays on firm financial footing, providing for a stable and viable future.
- Maintain and improve our facilities, including courts, clubhouse and landscaping.
- Enhance our member experience both on and off the court, through court availability, tournaments, ladders, and other fun events and activities.

The most noticeable changes for 2022 should be improved play on Courts 1 & 2 and new paver walkways. That said, we are also discussing ways to adapt our operations and events as COVID restrictions ease. For example, we are hoping to find safe and practical ways to upgrade the snacks and beverages we can offer at the club. In addition, our staff and the Member Experience Committee (MEC) are hard at work planning the details of our events calendar. We are still looking for volunteer coordinators for a few events, so if you have an interest in helping to run an event, please contact MEC Chairperson Maureen Gaudio at gelmgaudio@gmail.com.

One of the biggest changes over the past few years has been the massive interest from potential new members. As a result, for the first time we have a waiting list of prospective members. We are looking at ways to involve and engage potential members without creating capacity issues, until we can expand our roster of active members.

In sum, LPTA's future is bright. You should have received your renewal letter and invoice last week and it would be very helpful if you can respond promptly so that we can get accurate numbers on returning members before we consider anyone on the waitlist.

I look forward to seeing all of you on the courts soon, and to meeting the members that I don't already know.

All the best,

Ben

LPTA President

LPTA DUES DEADLINE - MARCH 21st

Please renew or reactivate your LPTA membership no later than Monday, March 21, 2022. Late payments will incur a \$100 late fee. You should have already received an email with your personalized invoice and payment instructions. If you did not receive an invoice or have questions about your dues payment, please contact the Club's treasurer, Andy Korn, at treasurerlpta@gmail.com. For all other membership questions, please contact Audrey Huzenis and Deirdre Jameson, LPTA membership co-chairs, at info@lptachicago.com.

Members Keep Games Going During Off Season



Sandy Feinglass (from left), Ron Willis, Robert Fisher and Stan Martin at Tam Tennis Club in Niles.



Susan Quandel (from left), Kathryn Brown, Nancy Kosobud and Tammy Beeler at EBC.



Gary and Jill Silberg play on grass at the Desert Mountain Club in Scottsdale.



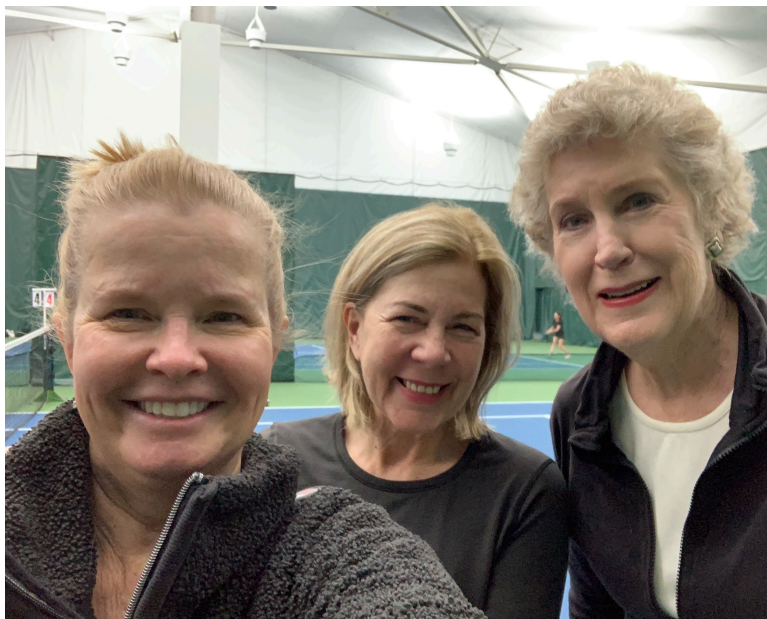
Randee Saturno (from left), Ron Emmerman and daughter-in-law Emily Emmerman at Florida's Club Longboat.



David Schultz (left) and Gary Silberg enjoy a game at Scottsdale's Desert Mountain.



Lucy Barnes (from left), Betsy Berry, Robert Fisher, Leah Laurie, Joe Tedino and Sandy Feinglass pause play for a photo op at Tam Tennis Courts in Niles.



Kathryn Brown (from left), Tammy Beeler and Carol Wetmore at the East Bank Club.



Susan Quandel (left) and Kathryn Brown at the East Bank Club.

Pro's Pointers by Marinos Loukidis

With the Club's opening coming up, it's a good time to touch on the subject of self-confidence. A definition of confidence that I personally like defines confidence as the perceived probability of success when facing an opponent. This is typically based on historical data of your performance and an initial estimation of your opponent's strengths and weaknesses.

It will be problematic if your past performance makes you doubt yourself because you haven't been able to consistently produce good shots. It will also be problematic if you warm up against your opponent and you realize their shots are better than yours. Typically, you will start hitting off the back foot or move backwards and hit off balance. You will play tight and either "hit short" or slow down your stroke, leave your follow through incomplete and sail your shots!

"...maybe that shot down the line will look more appealing than it is realistically."

On the other hand, it is not hard to fall into the trap of overconfidence! The popular expression is "never underestimate your opponent," to which I will add "and never overestimate yourself." Over estimating yourself or believing you are better than you are can also lead to many mistakes. You

will often make wrong decisions when it comes to the location of your next shot - maybe that shot down the line will look more appealing than it is realistically. Maybe you will stop focusing on your movement and court positioning and be late for your shots. Or simply hit harder than you need to finish the point.

As you can tell, managing and balancing your confidence is an art and often separates the good players from the true superstars of the game. Many articles have been written on the topic of how to increase your confidence but we would need several pages to list all the approaches. If I may give you one piece of advice, it is to be your own coach. You wouldn't want your coach to tell you, "That was a bad shot," so don't say it to yourself. Speak to yourself positively (internally if you prefer) and provide a combination of upbeat and strategic comments on how to tackle the challenge presented on the other side of the net.

Practice hard against players who show you your weaknesses. Work on those weaknesses and have a plan. This will instantly make you feel confident and positive! Last but not least, if you have an important match, put on your favorite tennis outfit that makes you feel like a real Pro! If you look and feel good, you will play well!

Cheers and Happy 2022 Clay Season!

Coach Marinos



Tennis Odds and Ends

Diversity Down Under - Seven of the eight quarterfinalists in the Boys' Singles (18-and-under) at the 2022 Australian Open were from different nations. Only the U.S. contributed two, including champion Bruno Kuzuhara. The eight girls in the quarters of their draw were all from different nations, including Croatian champion Petra Marcinko who triumphed over American Liv Hovde.

Are you kidding me? The kerfuffle surrounding Novak Djokovic's vaccination status at the Melbourne event produced a host of social media jokes and memes, none better than one submitted by LPTA Treasurer Andy Korn: Besides Rod Laver, what is Australian tennis most known for?... Returning Serbs!

John Isner set another [endurance record in Dallas](#).

World's [oldest tennis player](#) hunkers down in Ukraine.

Top [10 wealthiest athletes](#) include Roger Federer.

Ash Barty plans for another major event in 2022 - [her wedding](#).

Tennis overtakes football as the [worst behaved sport of 2022](#).

Rafael Nadal, born June 3, 1986, is both the youngest player to win Acapulco at 18 (2004), and the oldest at 35 (2022).

Cocktail of the Month

Sipsmith of London is the drinks sponsor of the BNP Paribas Open at Indian Wells, March 7-20, the annual California tournament that hosts the crème de la crème of tennis. One of their recipes is the Sloe Royale, a British take on the classic Kir Royale. Using Sloe Gin, it's a sure-fire winner at any cocktail party.

Ingredients:

One part Sipsmith Sloe Gin
Champagne or Prosecco
A twist of lemon peel

Method:

Add the gin to a chilled flute
Top with Champagne or Prosecco
and lemon peel



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 (May 2022) is Friday, April 22nd. 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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Immediate Past President: Rande Saturno
(Chicago Park District Liaison)

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Kathryn Brown

Membership Co-Chairs -

Deirdre Jameson
Audrey Huzenis

Club Manager - Dee Shively

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