



The Racket

President's Alley

Here we are, already at the midpoint between Wimbledon and the U.S. Open, and halfway through our own season as well. But there are still many weeks left to enjoy the Club, either through scheduled events, drills or self-arranged games.

Those of you who attended our Mid-Season BBQ know that it was a fun night with perfect weather and lots of tennis, food and music. We had 89 people sign up and 89 people showed up, likely making this the first Club event ever without no-shows! This is great news because no-shows have been an issue in the past and the Board has focused on it this year. Our tennis events are usually space-limited and require specific numbers to work so when someone registers and then doesn't show up, the event suffers. Furthermore, most of our events have a waiting list, so no-shows take spots away from other members. Obviously, there are times when "life intervenes" and it's not possible to attend an event as planned. In those cases, all we ask is that you notify the organizer so we can offer your spot to someone else in a timely fashion.

In the case of BBQs or other social events, no-shows cause us to incur unnecessary expense since we pay our vendors based on anticipated head count. For our opening BBQ this season, no-shows cost the Club \$800 and this is why we've started charging those who do not cancel in advance. LPTA, unlike many other clubs, offers events without charge to members. Keeping our head counts accurate helps us control costs so that we can keep doing so going forward.

Please mark your calendars for our Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 6 at 5pm. Though I hope the City's Covid numbers improve by then, we've decided again to have the meeting via Zoom as we have for the past two years. I hope to see you there.

All the best,

Ben Rose

Ben Rose, LPTA President

Fun and Feasting at the Club's Mid-Season BBQ

Eighty-nine members turned out and spread out around the grounds on Thursday, July 14, for the Mid-Season BBQ. It was Bastille Day, so tennis attire was de rigueur for those who wanted to get in a game. Bacino's provided the food and a cash bar, while custom LPTA cookies topped off the festivities. DJ Charles Wright kept everything bouncing right along.



Women's Doubles Semifinalists Finish Strong



Semifinalists (l to r) Randee Saturno, Stacey Zontini, Lorraine Kaplan, Sandy Wang, Betty White, Caroline Vickrey, Emily Emmerman and Marjie Killeen battled wet weather, approaching darkness and each other for bragging rights on Wednesday, July 23. Pairings for the finals were determined by a drawing because “third and fourth-place were tied,” said tournament organizer Nancy Borzak. “It was great tennis, and so close.” Sandy and Stacey will face off against Caroline and Marjie on Sunday, September 18, the day of the season’s final BBQ.

LPTA Hosts TOP Youths and Families

The Club will once again welcome young people from the Chicago-based Tennis Opportunity Program (TOP) for their annual picnic on Saturday, August 6. TOP awards tennis scholarships to economically disadvantaged juniors. LPTA member Bonnie Serra and her family have been involved for many years with this all-volunteer organization funded solely through donations and grants. Over the past 25 years, 90% of TOP’s seniors have received tennis and/or academic scholarships from prestigious colleges and universities, and they’ve gone on to productive careers.

These juniors are rarely together on the court, often training and competing alone. They will be on Courts 3-6, 5-7 pm, with members of TOP’s board of directors leading drills and round-robin play. A pizza picnic will follow. All LPTA members are welcome to come out to meet the TOP juniors and their families. [Click here to learn more about TOP.](#)

Smart Doubles in the Mix

Sixteen men and 16 women turned out for the 2022 edition of LPTA's Mixed Doubles Tournament, organized by Ben Bass and Betsy Berry. The round-robin format featuring four flights on Saturday, July 30, resulted in eight semifinalists who played for bragging rights on Sunday, July 31.

Coming through are Elliot Greenberg and Lorraine Kaplan who will take on Nathan Lumpkin and Nancy Hirsch in a best of three sets finals match on Sunday, September 18, before the end-of-season BBQ.



Making the semifinals lineup were (l to r) Nancy Hirsch, Elliot Greenberg, Nathan Lumpkin, Lorraine Kaplan, Jim Nelson, Laura Quandel, Robert Munson and Emily Emmerman. Nathan's daughter and Lorraine's pooch were among the many enthusiastic spectators.

Spirited Teams - Now It's Time to Party

The two LPTA teams competing in the Lakeshore Women's Tennis League secured their spots in their respective flights for next season. The "A" team, under the leadership of co-captains Jill Silberg and Nancy Hirsch, swept Glenview Ladies Tennis Club in straight sets on all three courts to finish with a 3-3 record. One match was rained out.

"We finished very respectfully in the middle of our flight," said Jill. "Congratulations to all on a fun and successful season."

The "B" team placed 4th out of six teams. "We had to play the top two teams twice this season," said co-captain Kathryn Brown. "That affected our overall results. Our team's success was really balanced. More than two-thirds of our players racked up wins."

To mark the end of the travel league's 2022 season, the Club's teams will play together in a round-robin event on Monday, August 15, followed by dinner at Bacino's.



LPTA's "B" team celebrated their mid-season successes at the home of Pam Wyne, a new member of the Club. Enjoying Pam's rooftop terrace and camaraderie are (l to r) Sandra Silver, also a new member, Anna Baldwin, Lexy Kasvin, Barbara Johnson, Susan Quandel with Anna's new baby, hostess Pam, co-captain Audrey Huzenis, Betty White and Jane Miller, both new members, Renee Salomon, Tammy Beeler, co-captain Kathryn Brown, and Nancy Garfien.

Game Point

Cryptogram by Ben Bass

GVU HJLIB'K JIBUKG GUDDZK OJQLG ZK MG UDPIMDB'K

VMWSGJD OJQLG SMIMOU. VUDLT FZZZ SIMTUB JD ZG.*

I have been writing puzzles for the *New York Times* since April 2020, when the newsprint puzzle page expanded due to the coronavirus pandemic. Puzzle editor Will Shortz, an old friend who was already familiar with my comedy and puzzle writing, generously thought of me for the opportunity.

He emailed to ask if I wanted the gig. I certainly did, and I joined the newspaper as one of three new puzzle writers. Now I submit jokes and trivia items every week, Will chooses the ones he likes, and we scramble them into puzzles called cryptograms. My puzzles appear in the Arts section next to the crossword every Tuesday and Thursday (but not online).

A cryptogram is a simple substitution cipher where every letter stands in for another letter. So, every Q in the puzzle might really be an A, every K a B, etc. The solver's job is to decode it, generally starting with the shorter words (e. g. a one-letter word is probably A or I) and using punctuation, letter frequency, word endings and letter patterns.

A cryptogram is a simple substitution cipher where every letter stands in for another letter.

A few of my tennis-themed submissions have gotten into the paper. Here is one example for *The Racket*, which we are publishing with the express written consent of former Crawfordsville, Indiana high school tennis player Will Shortz. This puzzle ran in the *New York Times* on January 28, 2021.

I know not everyone at LPTA is into puzzles, and cryptograms can look a bit intimidating, but try using the techniques I mentioned above. Plus, you already have a big hint — you know this puzzle has to do with tennis.

Start there and see if you can solve it!

* Solution appears in "Tennis Odds and Ends" on page 8.

In Attendance...



Betsy Berry's husband, Phil Revzin, treated her to a day at Roland Garros for their 40th wedding anniversary. Intermittent showers didn't dampen the occasion or the quality of the tennis.



Steve Kase returned this season to active membership of LPTA after injury. He celebrated being back on the courts, and picked up a few pointers at the 2022 French Open.



Jacqui Chatz, a new LPTA member, has entered the Wimbledon ticket lottery every year for the past seven years. She won on her first try, and again in 2020. Because of Covid, she had to wait two years to return to The All England Tennis Club, home of The Championships. Jacqui particularly enjoyed the women's doubles final on Centre Court where fans are encouraged to dress smartly.

Campers Come Out to Play

LPTA provides tennis lessons to approximately 120 Chicago Park District campers in July and August as part of our permit agreement with the CPD. Courts 3-5 are used during generally quiet Tuesday afternoon hours. The youngsters learn strokes, teamwork and tennis etiquette from LPTA and Diversey Tennis Center coaches.

Tennis Odds and Ends



Juniors from around the world hope to follow in the footsteps of Novak Djokovic, Coco Gauff, Rafael Nadal and Iga Swiatek at the [2022 ITF World Junior Tennis Finals, August 1-6](#).

What We Can and Can't Learn from the [Bryan Brothers](#).

On the road to Flushing Meadows and the U.S. Open, August 29 - September 11, the big names in professional tennis are playing their way through the eight tournaments of the [U.S. Open Series](#).

[USTA selling Western & Southern](#) tourney in Cincinnati to Ben Navarro, owner of the WTA Charleston event.

USA, Czech Republic and Poland are drawn together at the [Billie Jean King Cup Finals](#) in November.

Coco Gauff to have [signature shoe from New Balance](#), just in time for the U.S. Open.

Cryptogram solution: The world's oldest tennis court is at England's Hampton Court Palace. Henry VIII played on it.

Cocktail of the Month

Planning a team party or gathering to watch one of the many tennis tournaments in the U.S. Open Series this month? There's no pain involved in countering the August heat with an iced "Tennis Elbow." This fruity concoction can be enjoyed with or without the gin.

Ingredients:

4 cups chilled pineapple juice
3 cups chilled apricot nectar
2 cups chilled grapefruit juice
1 1/3 cups gin
1 cup chilled tonic water
Ice cubes
Pineapple wedges
Lime wheels (halved)

Preparation:

Stir first 3 ingredients in large pitcher
Add gin and tonic water to fruit juices and stir
Pour into 8 tall glasses filled with ice
Garnish with pineapple wedges and halved lime wheels



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 (September 2022) is Friday, August 26. 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

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