



The Racket

President's Alley

And that's a wrap...

It's hard to believe the 2022 LPTA season has come to a close. It was an incredible summer, with freshly revamped courts, so many great events, and the best weather in recent memory. It's hard for me to imagine that my first term as president is over, too, and I thank you, the members, for supporting me and putting your trust in me to lead the Club for a second term. Of course, LPTA would not be what it is without all the people who work so diligently every day to keep it running smoothly. Our wonderful manager, Dee, spearheaded a dedicated group of employees including Angie, Duncan, George, Tom, Curtis, Robert, Gabe, Zach, Dennis, John, Joe and Kendall. We all owe them a debt of gratitude for their hard work, and we hope to see them again next spring.

Our entire Board of Directors has worked to find creative solutions to some of the challenges we have faced, and to create policies and procedures that are fair and balanced for everyone. I especially want to thank our two retiring Board members: Maureen Gaudio and Jim Stanhaus. Maureen has led the Member Experience Committee (MEC), with unmatched professionalism and creativity for many years. It is not overstating the case to say that the MEC has positively transformed the Club under her leadership. We will also miss Jim's attention to detail and thoughtful questions at Finance Committee and Board meetings. There are so many others who volunteered their time to LPTA this season that I cannot thank them all here. But without them LPTA would not be the same. Lastly, I'd like to welcome our two newest Board members: Marjie Killeen and Rush Howell. They both bring great experience to the Board, and I truly look forward to working with them.

With that, I bid you farewell until next May. I wish you all a happy holiday season, some fun winter tennis, and safe travels for those who are heading out of town.

All the best,

Ben

Ben Rose, LPTA President

2022 LPTA Annual Meeting Recap and Season in Review

Ben Rose, LPTA President, and Treasurer Andy Korn reported on the Club's financial strength at the 2022 Annual Meeting, held by Zoom on Sunday, November 5. "We generated a net operating surplus of \$108,000," Rose says. "That compares to \$82,000 last year. And, if you really want some context for how far we've come, that's up from \$22,000 in 2017." Korn projects a starting cash balance of \$259,000 for 2023.

In addition, there are currently 55 prospective members on the waitlist, and 26 inactive members some of whom are likely to return to active status. "This is a very strong base on which to head into the next few years," says Rose.

Maureen Gaudio, founder and long-time chair of the Club's Member Experience Committee (MEC), presented an overview of the MEC's many accomplishments this past season. Five season-long activities were available to members thanks to the efforts of the MEC and many volunteers: weekly tennis drills, the Mixed Doubles League (Maureen Gaudio), Singles Challenge Ladder (Danny Sharp), Women's Travel Teams (Jill Silberg), and Strength Training for Tennis Players (Juliette Goldstein). Also on offer to members were LPTA clubwear (Jill Silberg and Kristine Prugh), and the TeamReach app (Ron Davies) introduced this season.

For new members, there were the Host Program and New Members Night (Elena Longiotti, Brad Matson, and Membership Co-Chairs Audrey Huzenis and Deirdre Jameson). Additional social events included three BBQs (Tammy Beeler, Karolina Stoihoff, and the entire LPTA staff), four Friday Night Mixers (Lorraine Kaplan and Laura Quandel), and new Women's Round Robin and Social (Laura Quandel).

Two new events - Women's 60+ (Julie Oslan and Lynne Peckham) and Singles Invitational (David Burciaga and Mike Gentile) - were added to the list of popular tournaments: Men's Doubles (David Schultz), Women's Doubles (Nancy Borzak), Mixed Doubles (Ben Bass and Betsy Berry), Wimbledon (Nancy Borzak), Men's 60+ (Bob Munson and Joe Tedino), and Team Tennis (Ron Davies, plus coaches John Bhatti and Dee Shively).

Refurbished Public Courts Ready for 2023



Finely ground stone and new net posts await the laying of the Har Tru playing surface on the Diversey Tennis Center public courts. Facilities and Grounds Manager Duncan Stephen says the stone layer holds water that will slowly evaporate on summer's extremely hot days, helping to keep the Har Tru from drying out too much.

Mature Members Participate in Two Fun Days of Competition

Twenty-four LPTA ladies of a certain age turned out for the inaugural Simply Smashing 60+ Women's Doubles Tournament on Wednesday, September 7. Julie Oslan and Lynne Peckham organized the friendly round robin and dinner at Bacino's. Everyone was a winner.



Fifteen gents aged 60+ signed up for the 2nd annual Sizzling Sexagenarians doubles tournament on Wednesday, September 14. They all sported a new T-shirt during seven rounds of highly competitive tennis. The event was again organized by long-time members Robert Munson and Joe Tedino. After more than two hours of competition, four finalists emerged: Rod Beeler, Elliot Greenberg, Brad Matson and Joe Tedino. Pictured in the front row (l to r) are Ron Davies, Joe Tedino, Robert Munson, and Rod Beeler. Back row (l to r) are Jerry Freedman, Sandy Fineglass, Robert Guttman, Brad Matson, Jeff Elegant, Bob Fisher, Butch Willis, Barney Bauernschmidt, Eloy Burciaga, Elliot Greenberg, and Todd Martin.

Team Tennis - The Blues Take It All



Blue Team (left, l-r): Karen Jaffe, Noreen Pulte, Alyson Ryan, Jon Kaplan, Lorraine Kaplan, Bryan Schabel, Nancy Hirsch, Brad Matson, Randee Saturno, Robert Munson, and coach John Bhatt.



White Team (right, l-r): Francis Noriega, Laura Quandel, Jim Nelson, Erika Vogel, Emily Emmerman, Joe Tedino, Ben Rose, Jan Elegant and Erin Malley. Not pictured: Audrey Stovall

LPTA's second annual Team Tennis took place on Saturday, September 17, under the capable direction of Ron Davies. Blue Team may have swept the six singles and doubles matches, but all were hard fought.

Bryan Schabel and Ben Rose proved worthy of their Court 1 positions, with Bryan eking out a 7-5, 6-4 victory. Nancy Hirsch had a straight set victory, but Laura Quandel made her work hard for every point. Brad Matson and Jon Kaplan looked like they had been partners for years, with a 6-2, 6-3 victory over Jim Nelson and Francis Noriega. Robert Munson and Randee Saturno needed a 3rd set tiebreaker to defeat Joe Tedino and Emily Emmerman in what was a very entertaining match. Lorraine Kaplan and Karen Jaffe had a straight set victory in a spirited match with Audrey Stovall and Erika Vogel. Alyson Ryan and Noreen Pulte needed a 2nd set tiebreaker to defeat Erin Malley and Jan Elegant, but judging by the lengthy conversations during changeovers, all had a good time.

Coaches John Bhatt and Dee Shively provided great support for both teams. More fun was had by all during the after-party catered by Bacino's.

Season's Final BBQ Features Friendship and Tournament Finals

Members and guests of all ages enjoyed some excellent weather, camaraderie, Poochie's fare, and two top-notch tennis matches at the Club's end-of-season BBQ on Saturday, September 18. Thanks to staff and the Member Experience Committee, chaired by Maureen Gaudio.



Nathan Lumpkin and Nancy Hirsch (left, l-r) triumphed 6-2, 6-1 over Lorraine Kaplan and Elliot Greenberg in the finals of the Mixed Doubles Tournament, once again organized by Ben Bass and Betsy Berry.



Marjie Killeen and Caroline Vickrey (right, l-r) prevailed 6-0, 6-7, 6-4 in a nail-biter against Stacey Zontini and Sandy Wang to win the finals of the Women's Doubles Tournament, which was expertly organized by long-time member Nancy Borzak (center).

Decisive Comeback Decides Men's Doubles Final

After dropping the first set 2-6 to (right, l-r) Nathan Lumpkin and Rush Howell, Mike Gentile and David Burciaga settled down and took the second set 6-2, capturing the championship by winning the third set 6-1.



David Burciaga (left) takes the trophy pose in his comeback win with partner Michael Gentile on Saturday, October 5. The 2022 edition of the Men's Doubles Tournament was organized as usual by David Schultz.

Ping Pong Anyone?...

Wanting to share her love of ping pong with her LPTA tennis friends, Julie Oslan (left) organized an August outing at AceBounce with (l-r) Kathryn Brown, Lynne Peckham, Katrina Kash, Danielle Loevy and Ann Greenberg. "It's our new winter sport," says Julie.



Invitational Singles and Mixed Doubles League Play On Into 2023

Karolina Stoioff and Ben Rose (right) played an early-round match in the inaugural Invitational Singles Tournament, organized by David Burciaga and Mike Gentile, with Karolina coming through. After several weeks of elimination play Jonathan Kohn and Craig Palmer were the last of 24 players in the draw. They were unable to get in their finals match before the Club closed so the Invitational Singles Championship will be announced early in the 2023 season.



Rich Yopchick and Caroline Vickrey (above, l-r) defeated Marjie Killeen and Tim Wichman for the Green Division title in the annual Mixed Doubles League, organized by Maureen Gaudio. David Shultz (right) monitored the score. Karolina Stoioff and Nate Lumpkin came back from being down in both of two sets against Randee Saturno and Ben Rose to become Red Division champions. The Blue Division final will be played at the beginning of the 2023 season with Lexy and Richard Kasvin versus Betsy Berry and Maurizio Furlan.

Men's 60+ Finals Closes Out 2022 Season

Elliot Greenberg and Rod Beeler defeated Brad Matson and Joe Tedino in straight sets to claim the end-of-summer Sizzling Sexagenarians Championship. Pictured l-r: Joe, Brad, Rod and Elliot were all smiles and feeling young at heart in the clubhouse before their match on Friday, October 14.



Tennis Odds and Ends



Feeling lucky? Enter the [Wimbledon Public Ballot](#) for your place in the draw to get tickets for the 2023 edition of The Championships.

Iga Swiatek had a 37-match win streak earlier this year, 67-9 (.881), two major championships, and eight titles this season. How [does that stack up against the best seasons this century?](#)

Some tennis players turn to [VR as 'game changer'](#) when they're off court.

The forehand slice, once disdained, [makes a comeback](#).

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 (March 2023) is Friday, February 24. 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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