



Irvington Club News



July 2020



Notes From the General Manager

Dear Irvington Club Members,

I am so excited to see you back at the Club and I know the Pros are elated to be back on the courts. I appreciate everyone's cooperation and abiding by the rules. We want to ensure you and our staff are in a safe environment and take whatever precautions we must do so.

We are anxiously awaiting to hear if we can open the pool (which would come with Phase 2). The date announced with the Phase 2 opening would be July 10th and we are hoping that will happen. Regardless, we are planning and starting to send out information to you. We will be offering Open Swim, Lap Swimming, Swim Team, and both group and Private Lessons. All of these will have restrictions, so please know that we are doing what we can to accommodate our members. We will be doing a video similar to the one we did for the Club, so that you can get a "visual" on how things will work. This will come out next week. We will also be sending instructions on how to sign-up for pool time. Pools in other counties have opened and have shared with me that things are going very well. People are complying with the rules and pools are one of the safer environments to be in. Let's hope we can Open!

The Board of Trustees and I continue to meet weekly and review and discuss how things are going. We do appreciate your comments so don't hesitate to contact me.

I am sad to inform you that Donna Roisom will not be returning to work at the Club. She and Julie are moving to Wilsonville and plan on enjoying their new house (on the golf course) and spending some time at their house in Sunriver. Donna has worked at the Club for over 8 years and been our opening "sunshine" at the front desk. We will truly miss her, yet the good news is they are members, so hopefully we will see them here at the Club playing tennis, working out, and attending our events.

Help me welcome Karey Welling, who will be working a weekend shift. Karey is former manager of West Hills Racquet Club and Mt. Park. She has a wealth of club knowledge and is looking forward to working some hours and still being in an environment she loves.

Thank you again for being part of our Community and continuing to support the Club and our staff.

Your kind emails are much appreciated! Best, - Barb

President's Message

In the past few months, we all have been faced with truly historic events. The COVID 19 pandemic has taken loved ones from us, changed how we live and work, and brought us together. The killing of George Floyd was an unspeakable act that has awakened our country and caused us to reflect on our past actions and our privilege.

I am happy to say that members have followed the guidelines we established to allow reopening the ITC in a safe manner. We will continue to follow the State, County, and CDC guidelines as we hopefully move forward into Phase 2. The spike in cases is alarming and reinforces the necessity of wearing masks and physically distancing ourselves.

The Board of Trustees received very positive feedback regarding our message about racism. Many thanks to the members who wrote the bulk of that message. I am proud to say that we have formed a Social Justice subcommittee of the Community Involvement Committee. That group will assist the Board in moving forward with our incredibly important antiracism work. There are Black Lives Matter signs up at the Club and some banners are on the way.

Lastly, I want to thank Barb, the Pros, and the staff for their hard work in planning and reopening the Club and keeping the Club a safe place. Thanks also to the Board members for meeting every week since the end of March and for leading their Committees forward. This is definitely a team effort. Be healthy and stay safe everyone!

- Cathy Zarosinski

Tennis Article: Play to the Score by Walter Seidel

Play to the Score by Walter Seidel

Different times in the match we come across crucial moments where lots of pressure is put onto specific points. Tennis matches can be won by very close margins and a lot of the time it's just a couple of big points at very important moments in the match that determine who wins and who loses. *In tennis what matters most is which points are won and at what stage during the match.* Tennis is one of those rare sports where you can actually win less points than your opponent and still win the match. It happens all the time and the main reason for this is because of the scoring system for games and sets. For example, you can win a game by either winning four points in a row or by just winning two more points than your opponent. Let's say you win the first set 7-6 (10-8). It was super close, but when you were serving it was a battle for every game with lots of deuces and advantages, but even though it was close you managed to hold serve and win your service games. Your opponent, however, has a much more powerful serve than yours and wins every of their service games in four straight points or losing just one or maybe two points in every game. As you can see when you are serving your points and your opponent's points won are very similar, but when your opponent is serving, she gets all the points or almost all of them. Then in the tiebreaker you win 10-8, winning by yet again just two points. In all your service games played you got two extra points by winning every close game.

Hypothetically let's say you won a total of 30 points and your opponent won 18 points when you were serving. When your opponent serves, she wins every game and it's not close earning her 24 points and leaving you with just 9 points. You now have 39 points and your opponent has 42 points. You then win the tiebreaker 10-8 so even when you add the ten to your score giving you 49 points your opponent will now have 50 points. *Your opponent won one more point than you even though you won the set.* I think of these types of matches as *lottery matches*, because you are feeling like you should win. You are winning more points but still find yourself in a pickle losing the match. Especially during tournaments like Wimbledon where grass is more of a lottery because the ball's low, skidding bounces reward big servers.

Matches can be determined by just a few points and you might even win less points than your opponent and still squeak out a win. Because of this we have to play smarter at different times during the match. Every point is not created equal like the old saying goes. Whenever I hear someone say every point matters, I cringe and rephrase it by saying not every point matters, but rather the big points matter. It's absolutely necessary to take risks and be ok with losing points when you have to go for more and try to force your opponent to make an error. *If you believe every point matters you will play things too safe and not take chances when you need to.* Let's pretend you are competing in the Carolyn Lumber Tennis Championships 2020 (scheduled for October 4th-17th). Let's dive in and evaluate how you could play the games better and have more success.

1. **0-0.** When it's the very first point in the set try to play consistent and win this point. This point sets the stage for the rest of the game and will give you lots of confidence for the next few points. Often players just play reckless and go for too much on the first point and then get nervous when they are down 0-15 and before they know it, they are 0-30 down.
 2. **15-0.** Now that you are up a point you can be more offensive by taking a shot up the line or rushing the net when you get your opponent off balance. If you win the next point you have a comfortable lead 30-0. If you lose the point you are just back to 15-15. *Key is to play more offensive when you are up and more defensive when you are down.* Let's say you go for a winner up the line and miss and now you are back to 15-15. I like to think of this as "evens". It helps me emotionally think we are at the beginning again. I am not behind in the score. We are just starting over. A new fresh start.
 3. **15-15.** Ok, it's back to 15-15 and now try to play a tactical move that's more of a medium defensive play. By this I mean try to keep the ball cross court and deep by not changing the direction of the ball. Hang in there and don't try to finish the point too quickly, unless of course you get that opportunity ball that I talked about in my previous article on the approach shot. If this ball shows up then of course take advantage of the situation and finish the point. Let's say you lose the point despite all of this. What do you do next?
 4. **15-30.** Now you have to play really safe. Total defense is the way to go here. I don't mean push high moon balls over the net, but think slice and topspin. Get that score back to "evens" again. Move your opponent around by not necessarily changing direction a lot but more keeping the ball up the middle and cross court. You need to grind it out here and stay super consistent. No errors on your side of the net. You need to play tough and win the point. You make no errors and go on to win the point.
 5. **30-30.** We are at 30-30. A critical time during the game. The person that wins this point has a big advantage. Try to go for a little more getting your opponent off the court by utilizing your forehand. Perhaps hit an inside out forehand to your opponent's backhand trying to get your opponent to hit a short ball that you can approach the net with. Usually players play too safe at 30-30 and lose the point to nerves. Good job you won the point!
- 40-30.** You did it! Now apply all the heat. Don't be out of control but you *can afford to lose the point again because you are up a point.* You hit a wide serve on the deuce side and step into the court and hit your next ball to the open ad side for a winner. Congratulations you won the game. Woohoo! You were thinking about how to play on every point and not just hitting balls without a plan in place.

Remember in tennis you can't run out the clock. You have to win the big points that matter the most and you have to finish the points especially the very last point if you want to win matches. That's the beauty of the sport. You can't give up. There is always a chance you can win despite all the odds that might be stacked up against you.

Tennis Committee Meeting

The Tennis Committee will meet on Wednesday, July 8 at 5:00PM via Zoom.

If you are interested in attending, please email Stephanie Vickers @ stephanievickers@comcast.net.

From the Archives

from Steve Hall, Chair of the Oregon Tennis Historical Committee
Celebrating 30 Years - The Oregon Tennis Historical Committee

Thirty years ago, a group of old timers were assembled after tennis in the club lounge and were musing that for being one of the few truly historic tennis clubs in the Pacific Northwest, you couldn't tell it by observing the clubs decorum. It was also mentioned that as players got older there was no safe place to donate their scrapbooks and other tennis memorabilia so it could be preserved for the younger generation to enjoy. These conversations gave birth to the creation of the Oregon Tennis Historical Committee. It was decided that the scope should include all of Oregon and not just the Irvington Club to put into perspective the role the Irvington Club has had in the evolution of tennis in Oregon.



The charter members of the committee were myself as the chair, Sam Lee, Emery Neale, and Mabel Balkovitch. The major contributor to the historical archive was Sam Lee, who was the premier tennis historian in the Pacific Northwest for many years. Sam donated to our archives much material from his personal collection and spent countless hours performing research and documenting profiles of the historical clubs, tournaments and elite players in the Northwest. We have done our best to preserve the integrity of the information provided by Sam. However, over the years many other committee members have worked hard in building our historical tennis archive and have helped us display it. Besides our current committee members who include myself, Barb Farmer, Brian Parrott, Mike Tammen, Wayne Pickard, Mike Stone, and Bob Howard the following are other previous committee members: Jim Flynn, Colleen Scissors, Laurie Taylor, Jack Neer, Steve Boeh, John Linde, Carol Davidson, and Sarah Chung. I hope I didn't leave off anyone.

It is the people listed above you can thank for helping us preserve our rich tennis history which graces our walls throughout the Irvington Club. Our rich history can also be observed on the oregontennishistory.com website.

Earlier this year, an individual dropped off a set of pictures taken at the Irvington in the late 40's and early 50's which featured the outdoor playing area at the Irvington Club. Below is one of the pictures which features the swimming pool surrounded by the outdoor courts. This was taken just before indoor tennis evolved.

Jeff Folen Construction comes to an end

On July 1st, Irvington Club Member Jeff Folen will retire his construction business after 40 years. His business has one of the lowest CCB (Construction Contractors Board #11509) numbers in the state of Oregon. During this time, Jeff has run this business basically by word of mouth. He has been regarded as a "craftsman", as his work with copper demonstrates. Jeff did his own bidding and billing for jobs. Over the years of working, Jeff has never had any complaints about his work. For retirement, Jeff golfs and just purchased a "new" old boat. Thank you Jeff for all you've done and we wish you a great new chapter.

John Popplewell joins the 2020 ITF Super Senior Team

On June 30th, John Popplewell found out that he's been selected to represent the USTA in the ITF(International Tennis Federation) Super Senior World Team Championships, taking place October 11-16 in Mallorca, Spain with Individuals to follow October 17-24. This is the highest honor one can achieve in Senior tennis. Congrats John!

The Tuesday Night Group

The Tuesday Night Group by John Campbell

If you have a regular, weekly doubles match, you know the drill of finding a sub when you can't play... and if you play long enough, a strange thing will eventually happen: All four players can't play, but each has independently found a sub to step in – so your weekly match is played by four entirely different people. Different people, but in a way, it is still your group. Hold that thought...

On Tuesday nights, (except when a pandemic keeps us all off the courts), you are likely to see a group playing doubles that can trace its origins to four players who began playing a late-night match 50 years ago. 120 Club Member Gordon McComb recalls when he began playing the 10:00 p.m. slot, almost always on Tuesday nights. The year was 1970 and the initial group included Gordon and three friends all named Harry – Dozier, Meister, and Beery (Gordon notes that it made remembering player names very easy). Back then the 10:00 p.m. slot was the last court time, just as the 8:45 p.m. slot is now. Gordon says that staff sometimes went home before they finished playing, leaving them to lock up when they were done. With no one playing after them, and no staff waiting on them to finish, they would sometimes play well past the 11:15 p.m. end time. After playing, Gordon explains that Harry Dozier and another frequent player, Gerry Schwiebinger, would often head to a late-night bar. Gordon shakes his head at the memory – by that hour, he thought heading home to get some sleep made a bit more sense.

And so, they kept on playing, every Tuesday night, year in and year out – always late on Tuesday night, when four busy people could manage to squeeze in some court time. Over the years, some of the regular players changed (Gordon recalls John Wycoff, Ron Talney, Ken Saxon, and Jim McIntosh among others), but Gordon and Harry Dozier kept right on playing.

As the years went by Fred Hazzard became a regular with Gordon and Harry by the mid-1980s and Marc Gonzales joined the group some years after that. Harry Dozier passed away in 2012 and I joined the group to replace him. And we played on. A few years later, Gordon moved to Salem, and realized that, while he could keep his weekly morning matches at the Club which he has continued to play, the late-night commute from Salem was going to be too much. So, Gordon found a sub for his Tuesday night match and Doug Cooke joined the group.

There is a thought experiment from ancient Greece, involving a ship sailed by Theseus – over the course of a long voyage individual boards in the ship are replaced, one at a time, until none of the original boards remain. The question: Is it the same ship? On behalf of Marc, Fred, Doug, me – and two all-but-permanent subs, Stephen Doubleday and Kevin McMullen – we say it is as we lay claim to playing in a weekly doubles match with 50 years of history. When a semblance of normalcy returns, I expect you'll have a chance to watch history, though it doesn't look like much – four guys playing tennis, subbing in for Gordon, Harry, and many longtime players who started the match a half century ago.

The Club Re-Opens

Due to Covid-19, the Club was temporarily closed in accordance with the statewide stay-at-home order. The club re-opened in Phase 1 on Friday, June 19th. While in Phase 1, the Club has implemented many policies and practices to keep our members and staff safe. This includes, social distancing, sanitizing your hands upon entry and exit of the Club, wearing a mask in all common areas, singles only on the indoor courts, and no food or beverage service. The pool is currently closed and will likely open in Phase 2, but we are still waiting to hear the determination from Governor and Health Officials.

We are excited to open our doors and welcome all of you back!



USTA Adult 55+ and Mixed 18+ Leagues

Our USTA Adult 55+ & Mixed 18+ league signups are at the front desk with a signup deadline of Friday, July 17th by 10:00pm. Please be sure to register on our paper or online signups if you want to be on a team. We form all the teams based on the number of signups at level, so its super important to get your name on the signup if you want to play.

Matches begin September 4th
Playoffs for Adult 55+ are November 14th-15th
Playoffs for Mixed 18+ are November 20th-22nd

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I have made a big change!



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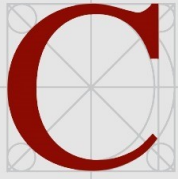


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