

President's Report:

First, I'd like to thank the outgoing executive for their support and guidance over the past year. They have been an incredible team to work with, showing passion and commitment to their responsibilities. In fulfilling their duties, they were always mindful of the best interests of the club and the tennis community at large.

You as members are equally responsible for the success of the club. We've had many new members this year and I've heard several great remarks about how friendly and welcoming they found the club to be. This is a wonderful compliment and everyone should feel proud of their part in this achievement.

Some of the highlights this year were the Eric Knoester Clinic weekend in late June. Thank you to new members, Barbara and Larry Jefferson who were largely responsible for making this happen and for offering their hospitality to Eric during his stay. It was a wonderful weekend of instruction and it was enjoyed and appreciated by the 40 or so people who participated.

We had a playday hosted by Campbell River club and another with the Powell River ladies. Arrowsmith has expressed interest in having reciprocal playdays with us next year.

The club website underwent some significant changes which set the stage to more efficiently manage some of the more timeconsuming tasks performed by the executive. It also presented a few unexpected challenges. Work will be continuing over the winter to refine some of the features and to increase user friendliness.

Both the Wednesday and Sunday morning drop-ins were a resounding success with large numbers consistently showing up to play. The drop-in was promoted by word-of-mouth and through the Newcomer's group and was endorsed by the Comox Recreation Commission. Dave Durrant, Program Director of Comox Rec expressed his appreciation to the club for facilitating the drop-in. He applauded the 'spirit' of welcoming and encouraging all tennis players in the community. He also appreciated that as it was public court time, drop-in also allowed those who wanted to play within their own set group to do so, by including them in the available court rotation. I know some people were disappointed that we did not alternate between the Lewis and Anderton venues as was originally proposed in the newsletter. I will recommend that this is revisited by the executive for the upcoming season.

We also experimented with changes in the court utilization for leagues by being able to use all available courts during club reserved time slots and by not using both the Lewis and Anderton Park venues simultaneously. The advantages to this arrangement were that we were able to accommodate all teams wanting to participate in leagues with reasonable start times and longer play periods. It also meant that the mixed doubles event was able to be held at a single venue, avoiding the possibility of someone showing up at the wrong venue, which inevitably happens. Some have expressed reservations about this decision. What I can assure you is that the club reservations for league and tournament events only used 20% to 25% of the available primetime court time available, which is reasonable. This included an expanded spring time league to include singles. I spent many evenings warming the bench

at Anderton during league play and did not observe any public inconvenience. Only one member vehemently expressed their displeasure both to the executive and to Comox Rec. David Durrant was in favor and viewed the court usage as a more efficient arrangement and backed the club's decision. Regrettably, that person expressed his disapproval by boycotting the club this year in protest.

Otherwise I would say that it has been a good season!

Member Recognition

You may not be aware that the club has a tradition of rewarding club members by presenting individuals with 'Lifetime Membership'. These individuals have either reached a landmark 80th birthday or for recognition for long-time, outstanding service to the club. To my knowledge there are only 5 people who have received this honor:

David Lorimer who I believe was one of the key people in starting the club and who has passed away a few years ago. Maureen Fiddell who is a long-time member of the club, but no longer plays. Glen Jordan who passed away this year. We enjoyed Glen's presence on the court until he fell on the courts and broke his hip 4 or 5 years ago. Johanna Hilhorst who inspires us all with her youthfulness and vigor. Last but not least – Vicki LeFort – our undisputed queen of the clubhouse.

This honor has not been bestowed in recent years, and this year the executive would like to acknowledge a special volunteer. Winston Churchill was quoted as saying: You make a living by what you get, but you make a life by what you give - Audrey Greve. Audrey has always been a wonderful volunteer for the club and an unassuming promoter of tennis in our community. Over the years, Audrey has been a tireless volunteer selling Christmas Party tickets, running the My Buddy and Me tournament, helping out with food service, whatever is asked of her. More importantly, Audrey has been the driving force behind the Wednesday morning drop-in even before the club was in existence and is also a staunch supporter and facilitator of the Sunday morning drop-in. For this and more, we would offer this 'Lifetime Membership' as a token of our appreciation and in recognition for all that she does.

Upcoming Events:

February/March – Tournament Workshop, Club website 101.

Volunteer Appreciation Day:

The heart of a volunteer is not measured in size but in the depth of commitment to make a difference in the lives of others. In recognition for the invaluable role these individuals in our club play, we are having a special 'Volunteer Appreciation' day next Saturday, Oct 4 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm here at Anderton. We'll play some tennis – we are going to try out a new format that hopefully we can implement for some social events next year, enjoy some food and refreshments. All volunteers that helped the club in some capacity this year are invited to come out and enjoy as a small token of appreciation for your contribution.

Expenditures:

We didn't spend a lot last year – I think as a rookie President I was a little afraid of spending money. We spent some money on hiring a professional web designer, donated our traditional offering of \$300.00 towards the hydro for the lights at Lewis Park and replaced the netwinding mechanisms on courts 1-4.

We need to replace the rollers and blades on the court cleaning equipment. We are looking into acquiring a proper display case for the trophies and awards, possibly from a school that is closing or from Army surplus.

Other suggestions are:

Benches for Robb Road and Lewis Park (proposed as a cost share with the CRA and Comox Rec).

Clubhouse improvements – banquet seating with underseat storage in the clubhouse. Increase usable space by replacing the tables along the wall with folding tables and setting up an area for the stringing machine that has been donated to the club by Dr. Bellamy.

Acquiring court cleaning equipment for Lewis Park.