

“on the line”

March 2006

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SANTA
MONICA
TENNIS
CLUB

-Since 1928-

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE!

Live from Santa Monica... It's Friday Night!! Just in time for "April Fools Day," the first Friday night mixed doubles round robin of the year is scheduled for March 31st from 7:00pm -10:00pm. The entry fee is just \$12 and includes everything you need to make a fool of yourself on the tennis court. Send the enclosed entry form and check made payable to SMTC to: Bob Shubert, 820 N. Acacia St., #104, Inglewood, CA 90302, or contact him if you have any questions at (310) 672-4417. Deadline for entry is Saturday, March 25th.

THE FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHTER FOR SMTC

Great News! After extensive lobbying from many interested parties (including SMTC), the City of Santa has **approved the installation of new lighting elements for Reed Park tennis courts**. This is a HUGE victory not only for the club but for the tennis community at large. Construction on the upgrade will begin on or about June 1st, and will continue through the month. Therefore, Reed Park will not be available to SMTC during June. However, arrangements have been made for Sunday Open Play to take place at Memorial Park instead during the construction period. Look out for details in later newsletters. A pat on the back to all those who wrote letters, signed petitions, etc. to bring this proposal to a reality.

Interclub Tournament with Westchester Tennis Club March 26, 2006 at Reed Park

Sign up with, or without, a partner and we will put together the pairings based on signups received from both clubs. The cost is only \$15 per person.

We hope to have 4.5, 4.0 and 3.5 sections and will probably play mostly mixed doubles and some same-sex pairings. Note: Harry Weiss will now be in charge of the tournament. Please send your entry form to Harry at 24801 Rotunde Mesa Rd. Malibu, CA 90265 or phone (310) 918-5652.

March Calendar

Sunday Open Play*

3/5, 3/12 and 3/19

Riviera Resort & Racquet Club Trip

3/17 - 3/19

Interclub w/Westchester

3/26

Friday Night Live!

3/31

*Winter hours: Courts #1 & 2 - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Court # 6 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Spring Singles Round Robin

Get into the Spring season with the **2006 Spring Singles Round Robin**, March through May. Play a series of matches, arranged at your convenience, with players in your NTRP division. Kick the snow off your boots and sharpen up your singles game, meet new players, enjoy exciting competition & earn Grand Prix points!!

The entry fee is only \$10.00. Send entry form to Jutta Ruehl, 625 Midvale Ave. #4, Los Angeles, CA 90024. **Deadline for entry is March 10.**

Riviera Resort & Racquet Club Trip March 17 - 19, 2006

It's less than 15 days to the first serve at Indian Wells Tennis Garden - and SMTC members have a chance to see the best tennis players on the women's and men's tour!

Again we have scheduled a trip to the Riviera Resort in Palm Springs for March 17 - 19, 2006. The resort has received several awards in the past three years and has many on-site activities to offer: nine tennis courts (five lighted for night play), two swimming pools with Jacuzzi, fitness center, the Grill, the Bar and Starbucks Espresso Café, a lighted 18-hole championship putting course, and volleyball and classic croquet.



SMTC members have in the past enjoyed great tennis at the resort and we promise action, action and more action on and off the courts. We plan organized tennis on Saturday and Sunday mornings; court time will be available for early arrivals on Friday. Dinner and winner's recognition is planned for Saturday night. The trip coincides with the Pacific Life Open tennis tournament at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden. I would like to get tickets for Friday's day and night matches. Please call me if you are interested to join the group or go to the tournament website: <http://www.iwtg.net> for more information. Please sign up as soon as possible, as limited number of rooms will be available.

\$275.00 per person includes:

1. Two nights hotel (double occupancy - if you need a roommate we will try to get one for you)
2. All organized tennis, including balls
3. Saturday night "Happy Hour"
4. Dinner and wine on Saturday night

Deadline for sign-up is March 8, 2006. Deadline for refund is March 5, 2006.

Head's Up!

There will be an inter-club with Mountaingate Tennis Club, April 9th. We will need four mixed teams of 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5, so be prepared! We have waited a long time for this interclub and now we must be prepared to show them our best. Details in next month's newsletter.

IS THERE A FUTURE "BAGHDATIS" AMONG US?

The annual Dudley Cup will take place at Reed Park during the week of April 10-14. This is a **Juniors Tournament** run by the city of Santa Monica. If you are free during the weekday, stop by the courts and watch some great matches being played by these up-and-coming future leaders of tennis. Who knows, maybe a few years from now you'll recognize a familiar face playing a professional match and be able to say, "Hey, I saw him (or her) when..."

If you know of a junior player interested in participating in the tournament, contact Bill Nissley, the Dudley Cup Tournament Director, at whnissley@hotmail.com.

Welcome New Members

- Audrey Cohen 3.5 310-208-6776
- Stacie Murray 3.5 310-452-1647
- Craig Shaw 3.5 310-558-9824
- Gadi Kaufman* 3.5 310-451-4113
- John Kemp 4.0 310-553-9510
- Paul Suchecki 3.5 310-306-3104
- Luciana Momesso 3.0 310-395-5818
- Roni Crichton 3.0 310-450-9400
- Philip Berman 4.0 310-828-8728
- John Baker 3.0 310-338-9381
- John Megery 4.5 310-401-0699

*returning member

Save The Date - Parents Against Leukemia Event

Please save the date of Monday, May 15, for the Parents Against Leukemia annual tennis tournament and luncheon. Many of our SMTC ladies have enjoyed this through the years and now men are included if they wish. Participants play on private courts and there will be a luncheon with boutique and silent auction.

The registration forms/flyer, etc. will be out soon. For information call Evelyn Mendoza at 818-780-2848. Let's support this worthwhile cause! More details next month.

2006 SMTC Board of Directors

Officers

President	Elizabeth Dorzback	310-829-3293
Vice-President	Jutta Ruehl	310-208-6882
Secretary	Marguerite Jorgensen	310-454-2408
Treasurer	Bruce Schelden	310-306-7115

Directors

Social	Ron Elmer	818-903-2170
Ladder	Bruce Janger	310-392-0680
Membership	Available	
Tournaments	Anoosh Askari	310-828-6207
Interclub	Available	
Trips	Jutta Ruehl	310-208-6882

AND THE SURVEY SAYS...

The above quote is from the popular game show “The Family Feud.” Although some members of our “SMTC Family” may seem to feud occasionally on the tennis court, they managed to take time out to complete the recently distributed survey questionnaire. The results have been reviewed and calculated. Here’s what we’ve learned:

1. There were 32 Surveys received (approximately 16% of the membership); the largest age group represented is 60-70 y.o.; 50% of those who responded play at the 4.0 level.
2. The activities people participate in most are the Challenge Ladder and Open Play; Social Tournaments come in at a close second, immediately followed by Competitive Tournaments (each of these categories was separated by only 1 vote).
3. 50% of the responses stated that their experience with the club is “very good,” and they like the variety of activities and events that the club offers. Well over the majority of responses (75%) stated that the reason they don’t participate more often (or in more activities) is due to “lack of time/busy schedules.”
4. The club activity which received overwhelming input (including numerous write-in comments) was Sunday Open Play. Most of these comments addressed members’ tendency to manipulate the open play guidelines, and unfriendly behavior (especially to newcomers at open play). Other comments were that the level of play is not strong enough and/or there is too much waiting time for an available court.
5. The favorite tournament format is round robin/playing with the same partner. The least favorite format is “King of the Hill.” The majority of players, however, stated that they like the variety of formats that the club offers.
6. Comments/Suggestions that appeared multiple times: request for more singles round robins; desire for more members at the 4.5+ level (especially for the annual club championships); suggestion to designate a qualified club member to rate all members in order to have a uniform rating system.
7. And finally, another frequent comment was the sentiment that the SMTC board “does a great job.”

The SMTC board takes all responses very seriously and thanks those who took the time and effort to submit the questionnaires. Some changes have already been implemented (you may have noticed a stronger board presence in attendance at Sunday Open Play to help facilitate a more friendly and cooperative atmosphere). We have also planned some new and different activities (i.e., the upcoming Cardio Tennis in April) in order to keep the club fresh and stimulate participation. YOU CAN HELP by: (1) bringing new members into the club and encouraging former members to rejoin; and (2) volunteering to run an event (especially if there’s a specific activity you’d like the club to do).

Please feel free to contact any board member if you have any questions about the survey or wish to assist with any SMTC events.

Reminder: The 2006 Member Handbook will be out next month. Please check that your name and contact information in the current handbook is correct. If there are any changes, please e-mail them ASAP to Ellen117@aol.com.

Top 10 Reasons to Join SMTC’s Board of Directors

10. Make new friends.
9. Apply your strong leadership skills.
8. Let your opinions be heard.
7. Play more tennis.
6. Meet lots of colorful people.
5. Develop some new skills (like how to run a tournament, etc.)
4. Rise to a challenge.
3. Make new friends.
2. Receive free membership fees.

AND THE #1 REASON TO JOIN THE SMTC BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

1. It’s never boring !!

If interested in either being our NEW Interclub or Membership Director contact Elizabeth at (310) 829-3293.

A heartfelt “thank you” goes to Joanie Rippner who has devoted over two years as the club’s membership director. She has been a hard-working asset to the club, but her schedule no longer permits her to serve on the SMTC board. Her diligence and creativity will be missed and we wish her well in all her future endeavors. If you cross paths with Joanie, please feel free to thank her personally.

Open Play Works Best If You Follow the Rules

Some people still don’t seem to know the rules for Sunday Open Play. (Or maybe they just pretend that they don’t.) But here’s a quick review:

1. Yes, sudden death on second deuce applies on ALL THREE COURTS. No, it doesn’t matter if people are waiting. Even if no one is waiting, people might arrive during the set.
2. Your name can only be on one of the two lists at a time. To be on the Challenge Court list, you must be listed with a partner.
3. Warm-up is limited to FIVE MINUTES! Not ten! Not fifteen! FIVE!!! (Quiz time: How long is the maximum warm-up?)

Folks, we all know from experience. Sunday Open Play works much better when everyone follows the rules.

SMTc CHALLENGE LADDERS

“Snapshot” of standings taken February 28, 2006. Please see the website for current standings: www.santamonicatennisclub.com

Open Singles

1. Mike Schmidt (4.5)
2. Jim Metzger (4.5)
3. Mike Germroth (4.0)
4. Marty Katz (4.5)
5. Allan Greenberg (4.0)
6. Bill Roberti (4.5)
7. Russell Braunstein (4.5)
8. Bill Denecour (4.0)
9. Steve Dorman (4.0)
10. Bruce Janger (4.0)
11. Richard Levik (4.0)
12. Park Liu (4.0)
13. Josh Mallamud (4.0)
14. John Raiss (4.5)
15. Rick DeWeese (4.5)
16. Andy Shore (4.5)
17. Cyrus Namini (4.0)
18. Jerry Zamarin (4.0)
19. Stacie Murray (3.5)
20. Joe Hanania (3.5)
21. Raymond Lopez (3.5)

Women’s Singles

1. Stacie Murray (3.5)
2. Elizabeth Dorzback (4.0)
3. Carol Katz (4.0)
4. Diane Hart (3.0)

Mixed Doubles

1. Phoebe Neil (4.5) / Mike Schmidt (4.5)
2. Sherry Harrison (4.0) / David Morton (4.0)
3. Elizabeth Dorzback (4.0) / Ron Elmer (4.0)

Women’s Doubles

1. Sherry Harrison (4.0) / Candace Tysdal (3.5)
2. Elizabeth Dorzback (4.0) / Linda Martin (4.0)
3. Patti Kingston (3.5) / Sue Moore (3.5)

Men’s Doubles

1. Brian Page (4.5) / Mike Schmidt (4.5)
2. Chris Clarke (4.0) / Ron Elmer (4.0)

Newly-Won Positions

Date	Challenger	Defeated
2/25/05	Stacie Murray	Elizabeth Dorzback
2/23/05	Steve Dorman	Bruce Janger
2/18/05	Harrison / Morton	Dorzback / Elmer
2/14/05	Cyrus Namini	Jerry Zamarin
2/11/05	Stacie Murray	Joe Hanania
1/29/05	Mike Germroth	Marty Katz
1/25/05	Bruce Janger	Josh Mallamud (defaulted)

Positions Recently Defended

Date	Defender	Defeated
2/25/06	Russell Braunstein	Richard Levik
2/16/06	Bill Roberti	Bruce Janger
2/14/06	Bill Denecour	Bruce Janger
2/6/06	Jim Metzger	Bill Denecour
1/29/06	Bruce Janger	Stacie Murray
1/25/06	Andy Shore	Jerry Zamarin

Welcome To:

Stacie Murray
Open Singles

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

Jim Metzger has yet to lose in 7 matches since joining the ladder in October. He appears headed toward a showdown with **Mike Schmidt**, who hasn’t lost to anyone not named **Raul Hernandez** since 2002. Maybe we’ll put it on pay-per-view.

Even more remarkably, Jim holds a lead over **Bruce Janger** in ladder points for 2006.

For the first time in memory, we didn’t have to cut anyone from the open singles ladder for failure to renew his membership.

**Interclub Tournament
Westchester Tennis Club
Sunday, March 26, 2006
Reed Park**

Your Name _____ male female

Phone (h) _____ (w) _____

Address _____

City _____ ZIP _____

Your E-Mail _____

Your NTRP level: 2.5 3.0 3.5 4.0 4.5 5+

Partner's Name _____ male female

Partner's E-Mail _____

Partner's NTRP: 2.5 3.0 3.5 4.0 4.5 5+

Enclose:

- 1) Check payable to "SMTC" for **\$15 per person**
- 2) Stamped, self-addressed #10 envelope (not required if you furnish e-mail address)

Mail to: SMTC, c/o Harry Weiss
24801 Rotunde Mesa Rd.
Malibu, CA 90265

Phone (310) 918-5652

Preferably sign up with a partner, however, it not required.
We will try to match you up with one.

**Riviera Resort & Racquet Club Trip
Palm Springs
March 17 - 19, 2006**

Your Name _____ male female

Phone (h) _____ (w) _____

Address _____

City _____ ZIP _____

Your E-Mail _____

Your NTRP level: 2.5 3.0 3.5 4.0 4.5 5+

Guest Name _____

Guest E-Mail _____

Is Guest a Tennis Player? Yes No

Guest NTRP level: 2.5 3.0 3.5 4.0 4.5 5+

Person You'll Share Room With: _____

Can You Drive Carpool? Yes No **How Many?** _____

Enclose:

- 1) Check payable to "SMTC" for **\$275.00 per person**
- 2) Stamped, self-addressed #10 envelope (not required if you furnish e-mail address)

Mail to: SMTC c/o Jutta Ruehl, 625 Midvale Ave. #4
Los Angeles, CA 90024

**Entries must be received by March 8
Deadline for refunds is March 5**



**Spring Singles Round Robin
Major Grand Prix Event
March thru May, 2006**

Your Name _____

Circle: **Man** **Woman**

Phone (h) _____ (w) _____

E-mail Address _____

Circle NTRP level: 2.5 3.0 3.5 4.0 4.5 5+

Open Division Men's Division Women's Division

Enclose:

- 1) Check payable to SMTC
(\$10 per player)
- 2) Self-addressed stamped envelope
(only if you haven't provided e-mail address)

Mail to: Jutta Ruehl, 625 Midvale Ave. #4, Los Angeles, CA 90024

Deadline:
Entries must be received by Friday, March 10

**Friday Night Live!
Reed Park - March 31st, 2006
7:00-10:00 p.m.**

Your Name _____

Phone (h) _____ (w) _____

Address _____

City _____ ZIP _____

Your E-Mail _____

NTRP Level: 3.0 3.5 4.0 4.5 5.0

Circle: **Male** **Female**

Enclose:

Check payable to "SMTC" for **\$12**

Mail to: Bob Shubert, 820 N. Acacia St., #104, Inglewood, CA 90302

Entries must be received by Saturday, March 25th