



National Senior Women's Tennis Association

# Magazine

2017 Vol. 2

## GameChangers:

### Dr. Robert Walter Johnson and the ATA

by Rita Giles



Rita Giles

*Dr. Robert Walter Johnson (1899-1971) was a Lynchburg physician, the first minority doctor in the entire city to be granted practice rights at the Lynchburg General Hospital. In addition to his work, Dr. Johnson was a successful trainer for promising African-American tennis players.*

**W**hen I think about the many opportunities I have encountered, I feel appreciative and grateful for the opportunity of receiving tennis lessons from Dr. Robert Walter Johnson and my participation in the ATA (American Tennis Association).

Growing up in Lynchburg, Virginia, I was exposed to tennis at age 8. It was a popular sport for kids. My neighborhood had one tennis court which also included a baseball field and a recreation center. Afterschool activities involved my hitting the tennis ball with my sister or other neighborhood friends. Although I knew the objective of the game, I had no formal lessons. As my interest increased for the game, my grandmother made contact with well-known physician, tennis instructor and friend, Dr. Robert Walter Johnson, for lessons. It was at that juncture my interest and desire to learn the game grew stronger.



Dr. Robert Walter Johnson



Dr. Johnson, unknown to me, was widely recognized for his influential coaching, mentoring and craft of a comprehensive Junior Development Tennis Program. He is credited as a major force in the careers of Althea Gibson and Arthur Ashe. In addition, he was the founder of the ATA (American Tennis Association) Junior Development Program and a member of the USLTA's committee for boys and girls ages 12 and 14 divisions in the late 60's.

A young Arthur Ashe with his mentor Dr. Johnson. Johnson sponsored Ashe, Althea Gibson and hundreds of African-American juniors at his Lynchburg home, where he had a tennis court in his backyard. He initiated the integration of black tennis at the junior level and ultimately at the highest levels of the game, courageously approaching tournament directors and lobbying for his players' full participation.

(from blacktennispros.com)

During that particular era, ATA was the only means for African American junior tennis players to compete. With a mission to enjoy tennis, establish social connections and compete on various levels, the ATA is regarded as the oldest African American sports organization in the United States. Over decades the ATA has produced a series of dominant champions and players making for an atmosphere of family and camaraderie at its annual tournaments. Currently, with over

cover story cont'd on page 10

# National Senior Women's Tennis Association

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The NSWTA Magazine is published three times a year and distributed free to all members of the Association. Stories, comments, contributions, photographs and information are provided by the members of the Association and all members are encouraged to participate. Send material to: Pam Ellis Simons at [pesimons@aol.com](mailto:pesimons@aol.com).

Deadline for the next issue  
of the NSWTA Magazine:  
November 20, 2017





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## President's Message

by Kathy Foulk



I would like to start out by saying how sorry we all are for the unsuspected attack on our membership by an obscure email last month. We try very hard to keep our passwords within our membership and change often enough to keep invaders at bay but as much as we may try to keep our site safe, there are many ways hackers can get through. We apologize for any inconvenience the hackers may have caused and hope no one suffered any serious consequences. If you still can't log into our membership site, please let Kim Mark or me know.

The NSWTA is a very special group. Some of us have played the USTA Leagues but our hearts are with individual play. I call us the Traditionalists. We are the example of the true game of tennis, traditional match play. We should be proud and not afraid of what the USTA may do in the future. Our players are invited to Forrest Hills, Houston Racket Club and Germantown just to name a few of the many private clubs. How many league championships would be allowed at BallenIsles? No matter what the future brings to individual play, we will last and are a select group that should be proud of how the game is played and especially, where it is played.

Just recently there was an article published in the Tennis Industry magazine on the growth of tennis in the USA. It reports that growth has occurred over the last 5 years but mostly in the ages of 6-17. This is important because our youth will be us in coming

years. Another percentage mentioned was that 62% of the 18.8 million players were over 25 years old; the largest group at 21% was 25-34 years of age. Some of the reasons for slight declines in older groups were: less competitive play, inactivity, aging and players of multiple sports. But, the overall report suggests there is a future for the game and with youth growing the sport, we have a good chance of the traditionalists surviving. Let's make sure we welcome these young players at our tournaments and make them feel they are a part of an elite group of tennis players.

With membership continuing to grow and donations to the Foundation increasing, we are indebted to each of you. It shows our networking is stimulating this group. This is the important task and we must make sure our new players or members have us available to them, showing them how to use the clubs, thank club members and tournament directors and involve themselves in our dinners and tournament functions. They will feel they belong and are a part of a wonderful organization of friends. I have seen a lot of interaction at the tournaments from our Ambassadors, Board Members and members and I am thankful to each. If we want to retain the traditional game we have to promote the traditional game. Keep up the networking and continue to inspire the players you meet. See you on the court.

*Kathy Foulk*

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# BUSINESS NEWS

## 2017 United Airlines Discount for NSWTA Members

The United Airlines discount Code for all NSWTA members for 2017 is **ZXWZ 906448**.

There is no charge if you book online, using the discount. For those who cannot book online, you can call United Reservations Meetings Desk at 800-426-1122 and give them the number but you will be charged \$25 for this arrangement.

Due to a change in "policy," United Airlines has modified our contract regarding discounts for NSWTA members. The amount of the discount will remain the same, but it is required that your travel be to and from a tournament. We have listed the Category I and II tournaments in the United agreement and given dates that incorporate travel one week before the start of the tournament and one week after, for those members who want a longer trip.

If you have any difficulty making your online reservations, please email [suebramlette@comcast.net](mailto:suebramlette@comcast.net).

**The 2018 Friendship Cup will be held late May/ early June. Deadline for entries: October 15, 2017**  
To qualify, you must be at least 75 yrs old in 2018, have participated in at least one Category I plus one other sanctioned tournament in 2017 and be a current member of the NSWTA.  
Drawing will be held mid November 2017. To enter the drawing, you must include a recent passport size photo for the Friendship Cup program, a short biography including how you became interested in tennis, and a list of your 2017 tournament participation information. See the NSWTA website for more information, including address to send your entry.

### Contributions

- Sandy Mazzei                      \$100 In honor of his wife Jean
- Joyce Jones                        \$100 In honor of her husband Don

Member dues, auction and raffle proceeds plus other donations to the NSWTA are used to cover the costs to run the organization, primarily publishing the magazine, the printed directory, salaries of the magazine editor, treasurer, web master, and the membership chair.

Donations to the NSWTA Foundation (NSWTF) go toward some tournaments (Intersectionals, NSWTA Championships, the National Clay Courts in Houston and others as the Board of Directors determines), speakers, the Margaret Russo Sportsmanship Award, and other special projects determined by the Board. These donations are tax deductible.

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# CHANGES TO THE NSWTA DIRECTORY

## New Life Member:

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## Deceased Members:

### Gina Reed

October 2016

### Dessie Wright

October 2016

## In Remembrance

### Virginia K. 'Gina' Reed

Gina Reed, 92, died September 22, 2016 near her home in Naples, Florida. Gina was born in St Paul, attended the University of Minnesota, loved opera and played tennis. Belmar Gunderson remembers a fun story about Gina. "She played on our 75's team some time ago," says Belmar. "Her teammates at that time were Marilyn Skiffington and Alice Jones. Alice is still living, Marilyn passed about two or three years ago. Alice is in her nineties. She was on the 75's team when we were playing at Lake Conroe, TX. I remember that they had just won their first match and had gone out and bought a magnum of champagne and invited all the other FL teams to come to their condo and help them celebrate their win. I asked them why the celebration and was told that they had looked at the draw and decided that this was the only team that they could beat, thus the celebration."



### John P. Canby, M.D.

(husband of long time member Margaret)

Dr. Canby, 88, died on July 15 from dementia and a stroke. He served as a doctor and health care administrator in the US Army for 34 years, holding numerous medical positions including Army Medical Attache in India. Upon retiring from professional life, he volunteered in their hometown of San Antonio as Men's Tennis Leagues Coordinator for the USTA and with the San Antonio Tennis Association in the after school tennis program. Margaret and John were a beloved fixture at national senior women's tennis tournaments these past few years. We send Margaret our great condolences.



## Dessie Blount Wright

November 16, 1923-October 7, 2016

Dessie was born in Monroe, Louisiana, but grew up in Los Angeles, CA. She graduated from Fremont High School in LA and later became an entrepreneur in several industries, including real estate and adult care homes. She looked forward to her National Senior events but most of her focus later in life was on teaching Bible study and her family.



And congratulations to **Connie Ebert**, who will be inducted into the USTA Middle States Hall of Fame October 19. Ebert's life-long dedication to tennis has influenced thousands to try tennis, volunteer and stay involved. As a player and volunteer herself, she epitomizes tennis as a lifetime sport. Many of her tournament successes have occurred during her golden years, and she was recently award with the USTA Seniors' Service Award.



Connie Ebert

## MEMBER NEWS

### Congratulations To:

Congratulations to **Judy Dixon**, who recently retired as the Head Women's Tennis Coach at UMass Amherst. She coached the women's tennis team from 1993-2017 and the men's team from 1993-2001. In her tenure at UMass, Dixon set coaching records, compiling more wins than anyone in school history (316). She took home six A-10 Coach of the Year honors, and this year she won the Wilson/ITA Northeast Women's Tennis Coach of the Year. What is Judy doing this summer? Coaching. This time underserved youth in Greater Springfield, MA, as part of the USTA's National Junior Tennis & Learning Network.



Judy Dixon and UMass team

Congrats to **Sheila Weinstock** for her perseverance. Sheila appeared in her hometown Lancaster News over 50 years ago. In a serendipitous series of events, she is reappearing in it again this summer. The news peg: how she was excluded from playing on Lancaster's midget midget baseball team at the age of 11 because she was a girl. For a revealing look at how many career disappointments women experienced back in the day, follow this link to the story:



Sheila Weinstock

[http://lancasteronline.com/sports/baseball/lntournament/gal-banned-from-new-era-tournament-has-happy-ending-as/article\\_fb60ba34-69b7-11e7-8336-87e4b2437f63.html](http://lancasteronline.com/sports/baseball/lntournament/gal-banned-from-new-era-tournament-has-happy-ending-as/article_fb60ba34-69b7-11e7-8336-87e4b2437f63.html)

Luckily, Sheila turned her talents to tennis and has done very well in our favorite sport, thank you.



Judy Smith

Congratulations to **Judy Smith** who was inducted into the Friendship Cup Hall of Fame. Judy was playing in her 15th Friendship Cup, a 50-year-old competition between a USTA New England team and players from throughout Quebec, Canada.

**Donna Fales**, who recently retired as Executive Director of Rebuilding Together Miami-Dade, Inc, has agreed to take on the Presidency of the National Senior Women's Tennis Foundation, the non-profit arm of our NSWTA organization. We congratulate Donna on her many years of service in Miami-Dade county, FL and for their naming Tuesday, June 6, 2017 Donna Fales Day. We look forward to her work with the NSWTF.



In the future, tax-deductible contributions to our organization can be mailed to her at 6815 Pallazzo Street, Coral Gables, FL 33146

## Letters to The Editor

### Dear Editor:

With the extreme heat and 'heat index' warnings that are issued for public health and safety in the summer, I was wondering if the NSWTA should come up with some recommendations to tournament referees about our tennis scheduling and the welfare of our players over the age of 65.

It seems to me that if the temps are 90 or more and the Public is warned that it is unsafe to be outside the tennis should be rescheduled for earlier starts... say 8am for singles and 11am for doubles (as the heat typically builds up from 1-5 pm for the almost inevitable thunderstorms on the East Coast) or play the doubles at 5:30-8 pm—as it is still daylight.

Of course, the Board can only suggest this, but it may increase the draws in the over 65 and 75 divisions, as such heat could possibly kill older persons, even the elite athletes we are! I know many women have avoided the GCC event due to the heat...and the draws are getting smaller each year.

I want to compliment the GCC director, Melissa Jackson for giving us 15 minutes at split sets and 5 minutes after a set when that heat index was over 95! She said she checked and the USTA had no policies in place.

Robbie Dimond



**Dear Editor:**

I played the grass at Germantown several years ago and the temp was over 100 degrees F! The only change was our between game changeover was 2 minutes instead of 1.5.

I have asked the head referee to place the 75 matches in the shade and she complied.

Unfortunately on grass an 8 am start is tough as it is still wet from the dew.

I would rather have the tournament date changed to early June or early September when it is cooler. Of course, keep in mind the National Indoor is around 6/20 and the national hard courts are in mid- late September in La Quinta where temp was 112 degrees F — crazy.

Perhaps we should reevaluate the entire tournament schedule keeping in mind the outdoor temps effect on those over 60.

Thanks so much.

Barbara Trimble RN,BS, MBA

**Dear Editor,**

Racquet is a brand new independent quarterly magazine written by many different writers, with really great essays about our favorite game. Reporter/Writer Claire Suddath was at Forest Hills during the National Grasscourts, interviewing me and several other Seniors for an article. Watch for it. Hopefully this will gather more viewers and help to grow our game!

Rita Price

**First Gold Balls**

**Irene Bretzel** won her first Gold Ball this June, beating both #2 seed Doris Lutz and #1 seed Margaret Canby, on successive days, during the National Senior Women Indoor Championships held at the Genesis Health Club, Overland Park, Kansas City.



Irene Bretzel

Then, a month later, she won her First Gold in doubles with Carolyn Shumake at the National Grass Courts in Philadelphia. All those days in the gym are paying off for Irene!



Carolyn and Irene get Gold

**Dorothy Wasser** won her First Gold in a hard fought 7-5, 7-6(7) doubles finals with Burnette Herrick at Forest Hills' Grasscourts against odds-on favorites Dori Devries and Carol Wood. Well done, Dorothy! As she put it, "First Gold. Took almost 80 years."



Dorothy Wasser

**Correction:**

The previous issue omitted the fact that Dorothy Wasser and Burnett Herrick won the 75 doubles at the NSWTA Championships, held in Charleston SC in April. We regret the mistake.

**The following players will represent the US in the 2017 ITF Seniors World Team Championships October 29-November 3 in Miami, FL:**

**Maria Esther Bueno Cup (W50)**

Nathalie Herreman-Bagby, Pacific Palisades, CA  
 Jenny Klitch, Palm Beach Gardens, FL  
 Ros Nideffer, San Diego, CA (Captain)  
 Shelly Works, San Antonio, TX

**Maureen Connolly Cup (W55)**

Vicki Buholz, Dallas, TX  
 Frances Chandler, Jackson, TN (Captain)  
 Tracy Houk, Montara, CA  
 Judy Newman, Scotts Valley, CA

**Alice Marble Cup (W60)**

Diane Barker, Daniel Island, SC  
 Carolyn Nichols, Rancho Santa Fe, CA (Captain)  
 Patricia Purcell, Saint Louis, MO  
 Susan Wright, Grand Junction, CO

**The following will represent the US at the Super Seniors World Team Championships October 8-14 in Orlando, FL:**

**Kitty Godfree Cup (W65)**

Molly Hahn, Belmont, MA (Captain)  
 Tina B. Karwasky, Glendale, CA  
 Wendy McColskey, Durham, NC  
 Victoria Rogers McEvoy, Cambridge, MA

**Althea Gibson Cup (W70)**

Brenda Carter, Charleston, SC (Captain)  
 Carol Clay, Ft. Lauderdale, FL  
 Susan Kimball, Oak Bluffs, MA  
 Leslie Pixley, Malvern, PA

**Queen's Cup (W75)**

Catherine G. Anderson, Del Mar, CA  
 Susanne Clark, New York, NY  
 Charleen Hillebrand, Harbor City, CA  
 Suella Steel, La Jolla, CA (Captain)

**Doris Hart Cup (W80)**

Dori B Devries, Reno, NV  
 Burnette Herrick, Tarboro, NC  
 Roz M. King, San Diego, CA  
 Carol Wood, Rockville, MD (Captain)

**2017 ITF SENIORS (50, 55, 60) WORLD INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Miami Beach, FL, USA

November 4 -11, 2017 (entry deadline: Oct 4)

This premier ITF tournament is rarely held in the United States. Now is a good time to get an IPIN and enter an international tournament.

For more information:

<http://www.itftennis.com/seniors/tournaments/tournament/info.aspx?tournamentid=1100039958>

## REGULAR ARTICLES

### Sally's Alley

#### TENNIS ON THE GRASS

by Sally Utiger

USTA Official, New England



Sally Utiger

Considering that I've played tennis on grass maybe three times in my life, it's rather presumptive of me to write about the game from a personal experience point of view. However, a fascination for history combined with many summers of officiating at the Longwood Cricket Club in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, has made me a huge fan with some pretty acute observational skills.

Playing on grass causes the ball to bounce low, fast and erratically. The surface encourages a greater emphasis on net play and thus makes for a more diverse game. Rather than blasting the ball back and forth from the baseline, players must strive to get to the net and to keep their opponents away from it. The result is a mixture of ground strokes, approach shots, lobs and retrievals, with a variety of spins and angles.

As recently as 1974 three of the four major championships in the world were played on grass, and in the United States an entire grass-court season led up to the U.S. Open. New players may not know that grass was our game's original surface. In 1873 a British army officer, Major Walter Wingfield, invented sphairistike (Greek for "playing at ball"). The next year, 1874, Mary Ewing Outerbridge, a Staten Island socialite, was vacationing in Bermuda when she saw some Englishmen knocking a white ball around an hourglass-shaped court on a lawn. She brought home from her vacation some equipment for "lawn tennis" (as most people were calling it) and soon members of the American leisure class were whacking balls around mansion grounds and in places like the Staten Island Cricket and Baseball Club.

In 1881 the United States National Lawn Tennis Association (a name later shortened to the United States Lawn Tennis Association, and now of course just the United States Tennis Association) was formed to standardize rules and equipment. The first U.S. Singles championship for men was held at the brand new Newport Casino. The club hosted the tournament until 1915, when play was moved to the West Side Tennis Club in Forest Hills, NY. The women's championship, which began in 1887 at the Philadelphia Cricket Club, was moved to Forest Hills in 1921. In 1968, when all the major tournaments

worldwide began to allow professionals to play, the combined U.S. Championships became the U.S. Open. The surface: grass.

Then a tennis craze in the early 1970's brought the game to the masses. From then on, grass-court tennis seemed less and less representative of the popular game. Only expensive country clubs could afford to build and maintain grass courts. The USLTA dropped the L and switched the U.S. Open to clay courts at Forest Hills in 1975 and then to the hard courts of the National Tennis Center, in Queens, in 1978.

Now Wimbledon is the only important grass-court tournament. And although it remains probably the most prestigious tournament in the world, and is my favorite to watch, it does seem strange that few of the players are comfortable on grass and many of the higher ranked world players go out in the early rounds. The handful of well rounded serve-and-volleyers excel at Wimbledon, but they are sadly scarce. Of course, even grass-court tennis today is a far cry from the game before the big rackets came into use. For the most part, the rackets are too powerful, the players too strong for that rhythm of chip, lob, and retrieve.

Much as I hate to say it, I expect that grass-court tennis will eventually disappear from the pro circuit. I have to admit that with all the progress, something has been lost. Sad.

Material on history found in GOOGLE

Reading included subject material from BUD COLLINS' TENNIS ENCYCLOPEDIA



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## HEALTH & FITNESS

### Learning to Relax in Motion

By Dr. Erin Boynton

It happens to almost every tennis player. It's match point and the pressure is high. Your muscles tense and tighten in anticipation. Your opponent unleashes a blistering serve, but when you go to return it you feel like the tin man, all clumsy and stiff, and you hit the ball into the net. Game over.



Whether we're playing tennis or just doing something as simple as walking down the street, our muscles need to relax and contract to move. But like in the example above, we often create far more tension than necessary.

If you're playing a sport and you're nervous, the tension in your body can hinder your performance, not to mention lead to imbalances down the road. So, what do you do when you're mid-match and you find yourself clenching your muscles as the pressure mounts? Start by noticing. How does it feel? What muscles are tense? Then, try and let go. Tensing our muscles is usually an involuntary process, but if we notice we can let go and release the tension. You can also use your breath. If I'm playing tennis, I like to breathe in as I take my racquet back then breathe out as I swing. If you try it yourself, you'll notice that it's very hard to tense up as you're breathing out—and that's a good thing.

This breathing technique is also easy to adapt. Playing football? Breathe in as you cock your arm back; breathe out as you throw. Doing pullups? Breathe in as you lower your body; breathe out as you pull yourself up. You can also adjust your breathing to match the speed of your movement, using short breaths for quick movements and longer breaths for slower ones.

Your breath is an anchor, and when you align it with your movement, you can let go of tension and relax your body.

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### How to Build and Keep your Confidence for Peak Tennis Performance

by Dr. Michelle Cleere

Elite Performance Expert  
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*"You've got to take the initiative and play your game. In a decisive set, confidence is the difference."*

Chris Evert



In tennis, having the ability to be confident gives us the sense we can succeed and therefore keeps us motivated to continue to play and improve our tennis game. The problem is no one talks about what confidence is so we end up attaching it to the wrong things: never (ever) losing, never making a mistake, worrying how others talk about us, and stressing over other's (coaches, spouse and friends) expectations.

The even more devastating part about confidence is the misconception that a few mistakes in a match mean the whole match was a catastrophe. When asked, tennis players will say that after a few mistakes the entire match was terrible. When probed a little further, it's realized that many times 5% was bad and 95% was pretty good. This shift in perspective is very helpful. Being so hard on oneself can lead to disaster.

#### What is self-confidence?

Self-Confidence is a realistic belief or expectation of achieving success. It includes:

- Your innermost thoughts about your realistic capabilities
- A realistic judgment about what you are able to do

Self-confidence is not what you wish you could do or be or what ought to be. Diffident athletes fall into this trap, focusing on shortcomings and fueling self-fulfilling prophecies that create a vicious negative spiral. It is also not an inflated opinion of yourself or your skills. Often, an overconfident athlete does not prepare adequately and underestimates opponents.

Optimal self-confidence puts an athlete in a great place to perform at their best by lowering anxiety and creating positive expectations of success. It increases motivation by raising perceived competence and it enhances concentration by eliminating distraction from negative thoughts.

#### What negatively impacts confidence?

In tennis, confidence is impacted by a service break, being down a game or set, making errors, and losing. Take Angelique Kerber in this year's Wimbledon match against Irina Falconi. She won 6-4, 6-4 but it wasn't easy:

“Then something seemed to switch off in the No 1’s head. Serving for a 4-0 lead she double faulted, then punched one of her double-handed backhand returns into the net. A couple more unforced errors and she found her serve broken. This was her year in microcosm: glorious success suddenly transmogrifying into nervy, neurotic self-destruction.” (The Telegraph)

Developing awareness of what is going on gives you the ability to get back in the game immediately, just as Kerber did against Falconi at the Wimbledon. Confidence is important for your success but you must build confidence around the right things – an improved forehand, a great crosscourt shot, a solid pre-serve routine, and the right mindset. You must recognize when you are struggling with confidence in a match and turn it around. If you don’t develop the awareness to know when anxiety, doubts or fears are setting in, they will run away with your brain — you are no longer playing tennis and will lose.

### Strategies to boost and maintain competitive confidence

- Set your own realistic goals. Meeting goals builds motivation and confidence.
- Use imagery, video, or You Tubes to help reinforce doing it the right way. It also reinforces muscle memory.
- Think positively to reinforce feelings of competence. Work on changing negative thoughts into something more positive. If you focus only on change and mistakes, it is not helping your performance. Reinforce what you do well.
- Focus on the process (versus winning). It’s more controllable.

Create a mental game plan to deal with negative emotions. There are many moments in tennis that produce unwanted, negative emotions. They may start a week before a match and grow as you get closer. There are also moments in a match, before you serve and between points, that tend to produce negative emotions. The book *Beating the Tennis Demons* talks about the mental game plan you need to deal with these key moments of a match.

Dr. Michelle’s bestseller, *Beating the Tennis Demons*, helps clients develop practical skills to gain more control over competitive environments. If you are interested in finding out how Dr. Michelle can help you beat the tennis demons, email her for a free 30-minute phone consult – [drmichelle@drmichellecleere.com](mailto:drmichelle@drmichellecleere.com).

## GAME CHANGERS

### Dr. Robert Walter Johnson and the ATA

by Rita Giles

*continued from cover*

...2,000 members, the ATA (<http://www.americantennisassociation.org>) celebrates its 100th anniversary this year. It remains an integral part of the American tennis community promoting tennis at all levels and diverse backgrounds.

Back in the 1960s, my teaching and training was done on a clay court in Dr. Johnson’s backyard and from a one-car garage next to his home. This venue was considered the signature site for Dr. Johnson’s Junior Development Program and neighborhood kids to learn the game. Before



Dr. Johnson’s former house and tennis court in Lynchburg, now listed on the National Register of Historic Places, will become an educational museum sharing Dr. Johnson’s story and accomplishments in tennis, medicine, and civil rights.

exhibiting skills to play on the clay court, Dr. Johnson demonstrated to me how to hold the racquet for the backhand and forehand shots and the mechanics of a serve. I recall my first challenge was learning how to hit a forehand and backhand from a ball suspended from a rafter on a cord in a one-car garage. “Show me how you would hit the ball,” he asked. After demonstrating several times, Dr. Johnson showed me according to his expertise and style the proper way. Oh what joy and excitement! The garage lesson was done many times before I was instructed on the clay court with other kids. During this initial lesson, Dr. Johnson (need-less-to-say) was a persistent taskmaster and instructor. I was using a Jack Kramer wood racquet and it was difficult to manage for an 8 year old. But handling this type of racket made my grip and arm stronger.

Observing others playing the game was another strategy that followed. It was hard to observe older players execute various shots, but all of this was a part of Dr. Johnson’s strategy. I felt like an anxious racehorse ready to take to the track and RUN! But by watching the other players, I learned how to be humble, patient, and respectful of other players. It was there where my tennis skills paved the way for my potential to play competitive tennis.

As a junior tennis player, I competed in local city tournaments and ATA tournaments in Richmond,

Virginia. Participating in ATA tournaments afforded many players the opportunities to earn scholarships to 4-year universities. I was a beneficiary of such an opportunity that allowed me an academic and tennis scholarship to Hampton University.

Dr. Johnson's plan for all players he instructed involved "following directions, attitude, discipline, and competitiveness." The keys to his success in motivating and inspiring players were the same principles that make one's life a success. Without a doubt, Dr. Johnson and the ATA organization played a key role for aspiring junior tennis players and those he cultivated into the professional arena.

Perseverance, tenacity and determination have enabled me to continue to enjoy the opportunity to compete on the Senior National level. Just as I have passion for education, I know the game of tennis is a lifetime commitment for which I plan to continue for years to come.

## The Gold Belles:

### Fran Wakefield Hunter

by Bonnie Champion



Bonnie Champion

Did you know that Fran Wakefield Hunter:

- Introduced USTA membership to juniors so they could experience sanctioned tennis tournaments
- Volunteered to promote tennis at all levels at local parks, tennis clubs, and various tennis associations
- Co-authored the leading textbook in Women's Track and Field currently in its 4th edition
- Received the Southern California Tennis Association (SCTA) Lifetime Achievement Award in 2004
- Was inducted in 2016 to the Senior Hall of Fame in Southern California

Like in most of the US in the 1940s, there were no organized interscholastic sports for girls at Fran Wakefield Hunter's Orange County, CA, school but there were "play days" and invitational games after school. These, along with a \$3 racquet her father bought from Sears, made up Fran's first experience with a sport she grew to love and support for the better part of 60 years.

Fran started playing tennis competitively at public parks and honing her skills as a "D" level player when she was 25 years old. Gradually her game improved to "A" level when she began playing tournaments. However, no one was happier than Fran when she turned 40 in 1968 and qualified to play Senior Women's tennis (and women her own age!). This is also the year she received her first Sectional Senior ranking, and in 1972, she received her first National Senior ranking. Fran held on to both the Sectional and National

rankings throughout her tennis career, winning 2 highly coveted gold balls (National 45's Hard Court Doubles Champion and 80's Indoor Doubles Champion), 6 silver balls, and 6 bronze balls with various doubles partners.

Beyond the tennis court, Fran has devoted 20 years to the USTA Senior Women's/Adult Competition Committee, working to implement mandatory back draws and 3rd and 4th place playoffs in all nationals. We also have Fran to thank for limiting the number of events per day in some age groups. Fran credits Carol Schneider—a long time committee volunteer on USTA committees as well as a Southern California Tennis Association Executive Officer of many years standing—for teaching her the "ropes" of ranking in Southern California and later introducing her to USTA committee work. It was with Carol's guidance that Fran was able to help others achieve their personal goals in the senior competition tournaments. Fran continues to have an influence on the game, having mentored several players including SoCal's 80s star Roz King into the USTA volunteer ranks. Needless to say, her legacy off the court lives on.

In Fran's opinion, league play has been the biggest change to improve tennis by bringing more players to the game. Previously, tournaments were the main outlet for play beyond the park and private club. However, changes like International play for elite players and the expansion of age group national championships with five-year divisions has also allowed the game to grow. She feels that the national championships have been a tremendous boon for senior women who play tennis.

Fran and her husband Doral reside in Bonita, California. Fran's son Bruce played high school varsity tennis and competed for both UC San Diego and Southern Oregon University. Before her health became a concern, Fran was playing tennis about 4-5 days a week. Eventually it went to two days a week until she finally had to stop playing last December. Fran is 89 years old and had hoped to do well in the 90's in tournaments. She never thought about quitting the game of tennis until her health made it impossible to keeping playing. Now, her new goal is to do well in the 90's as a spectator.

With tennis being a MAJOR part of her life for over 60 years, Fran recommends continued play for physical and mental health. "I do the best I can for the time I give to tennis," she says. Fran Wakefield Hunter has given a lot to the game of tennis, and for this, we are truly grateful that she was one of many who led the way.



Fran Wakefield Hunter

## TOURNAMENTS

### National Hard Court Championships

La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club, La Jolla, CA

May 8 -14

50s

by Alissa Finerman

The USTA Women's 50 National Hard Court Championships was played at the beautiful La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club. The singles draw was a round of 32 and all but 2 of the top 8 seeds advanced to the quarterfinal rounds (the #5-8 seed Jenny Keller withdrew and Yumi Hansen defeated Kristin Fudalla, another #5-8 seed). In one notable quarter-final match, #1 seed Ros Nideffer hit some powerful forehands and solid volleys to defeat the #5-8 seed Andrea Rice who has a strong serve, 6-2 6-4. Ros then defeated Shelly Works, a very consistent player, 6-0 6-0 to advance to the finals. On the other side of the draw, the #2 seed former tour player Nathalie Herreman-Bagby advanced easily to the semi-finals against #3 seed Jean-Marie Alpert. (Jean-Marie defeated Vicki Cosio 6-1 6-0 to reach the semi-finals.) The toughest match of the draw was the semi-final match between Herreman-Bagby and Alpert. The former tour player and leftie Bagby started off strong and jumped out to a 6-0 2-0 lead. Jean Marie kept fighting and used her speed to run down every shot and win the second set 6-4. Jean Marie was up 4-1 in the third set but Nathalie fought back to 4-4 before Jean Marie was able to close out the match in a third set tiebreaker and 2.5-hour match to meet Ros in the finals.

Although there were some great points in the finals, Ros used her strong net game and volleys to win her fourth-straight singles title 6-0 6-2. Nathalie came back after playing 2 three-set matches and more than 5 ½ hours of tennis on Thursday to win the ¾ playoff on Saturday with a 6-4, 6-4 win over Shelly Works.

The doubles draw was one of the toughest round of 32 draws we have seen, with various former professional players and experienced players from the senior tour. One notable round of 16 match was between the #5-8 seed Dailey-Smith vs Rice-Walker with the experienced team of Dailey-Smith winning 6-4 in the third set. The toughest quarterfinal match was between the #4 seed



50 Singles Alpert (Silver),  
Nideffer (Gold)



50s- Shelly Works

Dawson-Keller and the #5-8 seed Finerman/Herreman-Bagby. The 2+ hour match had many great points with Finerman/Herreman-Bagby winning 6-1 in the third set. Finerman/Herreman-Bagby then played a 3-hour three set match against the #1 seeds Nideffer/Spence-Nasim before a crowd on court 1 with Nideffer/Spence-Nasim prevailing 7-6, 5-7, 6-3. On the other half of the draw, the #3 seeds Hammargren-Lyons defeated Fudella-Works in the quarterfinals 6-1, 6-1 and the #2 seed Alpert/Bowes-Hackney defeated the #5-8 seed Newman-Romanov 6-2, 6-1. The defending champs Hammargren-Lyons won their semi-final match to face Nideffer/Spence-Nasim in the finals but Ros and Debbie were too strong and won the title 6-1, 6-0. Finerman/Herreman-Bagby took the Bronze as Alpert/Bowes-Hackney had to withdraw due to an injury from their semi-final match. The seasoned team of Dailey/Smith won the doubles consolation with a 6-3, 6-1 semi-final win over Andrade-Sisson and then a default in the finals from Newman-Romanov (who defeated Rice-Walker in a close semi-final match 10-8 in the tiebreaker to decide the third set).

We'd like to say a special thank you to Bill Kellogg, the tournament director, Conan Lorenzo, the Director of Tennis, and to all the volunteers who made this tournament so special and help to support the senior tennis tour.

60s

by Deb Pruitt

The La Jolla 60's was stacked with top players this year. The weather held up despite a few rain delays in the beginning of the week.

Susan Wright #3 defeated her partner Tina Karwasky #1 in a 3 set match to reach the finals against Carolyn Nichols #2. It was a hard-fought match and



50s- Bronze Ball winners Nathalie Herreman-Bagby,  
Director of Tennis Conan Lorenzo, Alissa Finerman



50 Doubles- Lyons/Hammargren (Silver) with  
Nideffer/Spence-Nasim (Gold)



60 Doubles Wright/Karwasky (Silver),  
Harris/Nichols (Gold)



60 Consie Winners Bronson/David with  
finalists McLees/Young

Susan was victorious 6-4, 6-3. Tina took the # 3 spot defeating Sherri Bronson.

The doubles had the familiar stars of Wright and Karwasky taking on the fierce competitors of Nichols and Robin Harris. A terrific 3-set battle put Nichols and Harris on top with a 2-6,6-4,6-4 victory.

The 60's folks seem to get better and younger every year! It was another great week of tennis and camaraderie in the paradise of La Jolla!



60s Barnes/Airola-Murveit with Bronze winners Clery Ferrell/Davis

## 70s

by Cathie Anderson

Another great tournament at the 70 national Hardcourts at the La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club. The weather didn't start out very good with chilly overcast May-Grey and even a little rain but Wednesday was the only day there was any holdup in play. By the end of the day everybody was on the beach having hamburgers and hotdogs with all the fixins and at sundown everybody was staring at the horizon looking for the green flash.

The 70's draw was small but strong. The top 4 singles seeds held up and there was a good final between Brenda Carter and Carol Clay. (Eastern clay courters doing their thing on hard courts). Brenda winning in straight sets.

There were a lot of strong teams and close matches in the doubles. Allyson Bolduc and Brenda Carter took out the # 1 seeds of Judy Louie and Ann Hunt in the semis then played Liane Bryson and Cathie Anderson in the finals. Bryson and Anderson won the second set in a close tiebreaker after losing the 1st set. Bryson and Anderson won the 3rd set. The comment of the match was when Allyson yelled—Yours—to Brenda and when Brenda didn't go for it she commented—Mine, I guess. All in all it was fine tournament.



70 Doubles Anderson/Bryson (Gold) with Carter/Bolduc (Silver)

## 80s

by Lyn Tietz

My tournament week started in Surprise, AZ for the 65's – 80 Nationals. The weather was 108 degrees with forty mile an hour winds. What a challenge! Because of the heat matches were early morning or at night under lights. I haven't played under lights in years!

To arrive in San Diego in pouring rain and sixty degrees was almost a pleasure. The rain cleared by Monday morning and was perfect tennis weather all week. How could anyone ever complain about a tournament in beautiful California with weather like this?

This tournament is quite a treat with all the amenities. Every night free snacks, a wonderful picnic dinner on the beach and the gala dinner on Friday night with so many choices of great food and cocktails! Everyone from 50 – 90 should play this tournament every year no matter what age bracket you fall in. Where else can you vacation on the California beachfront for \$99 a night? Bill Kellogg really spoils us.

In the singles Roz King breezed past Sally Bublitz, Lyn Tietz and Burnette Herrick without losing a set and had a good battle to beat Dori DeVries 6-4, 1-6, 6-4 to win the gold. Then Roz and Dori made it to the finals without losing a set and beat Wasser and Wood 6-3, 6-1. Kathy Langer and Burnette Herrick won the 3rd place as Tietz and Matthiessen had to withdraw.

In the feed-in Tietz won over Rehwinkel which was the third time they were opponents in the same tournament (singles, doubles, singles). Ingrid said Lyn is giving her nightmares. In the doubles Mary J. Lynch and Sheila Palmer were invincible and won it all.

Great tournament, don't miss it. Come every year!



80 doubles Wasser/Wood (Silver) with DeVries/King (Gold)



80 Consies Winners Lynch/Palmer with runnersup Milliken/Hill



80 singles Consie winner Lyn Tietz with runnerup Ingrid Rehwinkel

## 90s

by Rita Price

**T**he Hard Court Nationals at La Jolla was a success story

for six players. Rita Price, Joyce Vanderpol, and Helene Salvetat played singles and doubles; Betty Cookson, Lucy Trefzger and Pearl Evans played doubles only. Price played a single's match and a double's match on Wednesday because Joyce arrived late Tuesday evening with her twin sister, Rene, fan and photographer for Joyce. The single's match with Price and Vanderpol drew the attention of TV7 news, which followed them on and off court, commenting upon 93-year-old Joyce's and 90-year-old Price's "moves with vim and vigor"—and neither disappointed.

Price and Betty Cookson, last year's Gold winners in doubles, were the only veterans. They faced newcomer, Pearl Evans (she wore pearl ear rings too) with partner Lucy Trefzger, who gave them a run for their money, but lost in two sets. Pearl brought three of her daughters all named with L's (Lee, Laura, and Lou), and some groupies from Palm Springs, who hooted and hollered when Pearl hit winners! It was a blast for all four players!

Although Pearl and Lucy lost to Price and Cookson, they managed to ease out the team of Joyce Vanderpol and Helene Salvetat in their other double's match.



90s Doubles Betty Cookson\_Rita Price (Gold) with Pearl Evans\_Lucy Trefzger (Silver)

It's remarkable because all four players had never played together before this game. Hats off to Helene, aged 96, who came from France for the third time, to play singles and doubles at this tournament. This achievement was not lost, because, TV9 came to honor this talented lady, showing her hitting with the pro, and then having her tell her story, as well.

So, results: Price wins singles and doubles with partner, Betty Cookson; Vanderpol wins silver in singles, and bronze in doubles with partner, Helene Salvetat; Pearl Evans and Lucy Trefzger win silver in doubles; Helene wins bronze in singles and doubles! So, all WINNERS, in my opinion!

Amenities at the club: Happy Hour with snacks, drinks, and conversations with friends. BBQ delightful until the gulls "were at it again" swooping down on my cheesecake dessert when I left it for a photo shoot on the beach under the golden setting sun! Banquet with Betty and Pearl's daughters and a gentleman, Bob



90s- Joyce Vanderpol and twin sister Rene, fan and photographer

Ackerly, who played in the men's tournament, and my dear friend, Gail Forbes, was another evening of delicious food and drinks and delightful conversations.

Goodbye once again to La Jolla and thanks to all the volunteers and managers who made us feel like royalty! See you next year?



90 singles Helene Salvetat (Bronze), Rita Price (Gold), Joyce Vanderpol (Silver)

## National 35, 45, 55 Indoor Championships

Cincinnati, Ohio

May 18-22

by Teal Lang

**T**here was a new venue for the Indoor National Championships this year. After several years in Chicago, the event was held in Cincinnati at the Western Tennis and Fitness Club. All agreed that the courts and lighting were good and even better, no airplane-sized ceiling fans to avoid as in Chicago! Lobs of all heights made it; although I don't think "lob" is in the tennis vocabulary of the 35s. The draws were small but the tennis large. Seems like most of Texas showed up for the 55s events. Surprise winner in the 45s singles with newbie Alicia Rowley beating both the number 1 and 2 seeds to take the Gold Ball. The later match start times were a little different as were tiebreakers to determine the third set.

As with Chicago, the players socialized a lot at the venue since we were all watching matches from the same spots. Always fun to talk something other than tennis with our new and old friends. Site seeing was fun too with lots of options, and the Ohio River split the city so that you could visit Ohio and Kentucky in the same trip. I learned that Cincinnati is an old city so lots of historical buildings, communities, history lessons for those that ventured out.

See you there next year.

### 35s

Yulia Bolotova def. Katja Kovacic in the finals, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3

Gloria Guntinas took the Bronze.

Bolotova/Kovacic def. Kara Gerczynski/Jill

Vanderkooi in the doubles, 6-1, 6-2 for the Gold.

### 45s

Alicia Rowley def. Amy Alcini in the finals, 6-4, 6-3.

Tangerine Manning took the Bronze.

Amy and Tangerine won the round robin doubles.



**55s**

Ann Whitney def. Gayle Prejean 6-1, 6-3 for the Gold. Vicki Buholz got the Bronze. Vicki Buholz and Kathy Vick won the Gold in the round robin doubles.

## National Women's Indoor Championships

Overland Park, KS  
June 19-25

**65s**

by Barbara Starnes

The early advantages of playing the Category I Indoor Hard Court at the Genesis Health Club were due to the tournament director, Michael Woody. Mike sent out texts and emails to all players involved, informing them of start times and when the seeds and draws were posted on the web site. Communications such as this were extremely helpful. Also, Mike's wife gave complimentary chair massages Wednesday afternoon. The Host Hotel was conveniently located next door and served breakfast and supper. Genesis Health Club had great facilities with nine climate controlled indoor courts along with workout room, pool and sauna. Mike provided thirty-minute court space to be shared in the mornings to warm up. There was also a practice session Sunday afternoon for two hours to help us become acclimated. Once the tournament began, matches ran true to scheduling. Lunch of sandwiches, salad, and fruit were offered daily. Tuesday after play we had cheeses, crackers, vegetable and fruit trays, cookies, and wine. Wednesday evening was a delicious Italian buffet followed by games and award presentations.

Tina Karwasky won her 115th and 116th gold balls by winning in singles over Kathy Barnes and in doubles with partner Jan Kirkland-Cochran over Kathy Barnes and Molly Hahn. Molly was the bronze singles winner over Barbara Hubbard. The bronze doubles winners were Peggy Machoian and Joan Oelschlager by besting Lynn Rush and Barbara Starnes. Cindy Babb won the backdraw finals by



65WD winners-Jan Kirkland-Cochran, TD Mike Woody photobombing, Tina Karwasky



65 Consie winners-Barbara Hubbard and Cindy Babb



65-Lynn Rush and Barbara Starnes

defeating Starnes. Babb and Hubbard were victorious in the backdraw finals against Nancy Engard and Donna Esteen-Mixon.

In 65 singles and doubles, the draws were small; however, the entry allowed many of us to become well acquainted with each other, forming new and/or better friendships.

I was delighted to know the players better. See you at the next tournament!



65-Kathy Barnes (Silver in singles), Peggy Machoian and Joan Oelschlager (Bronze in doubles), Molly Hahn (Bronze in singles)

**75s**

by Kathie Meyering

Of course, for the INDOOR, the weather was perfect! And inside Michael Woody (aka "Woody") made it even better than last year. Starting with a free warm up clinic on Sunday (when Bonnie Champion ACED Woody), lunches daily with a special one provided by very generous club members Thursday. We were not lacking for great food! Banquet & Wine-cheese party (and much more — even "smoothies" or anything else for non drinkers...anything to please!) Club members & personnel were all extremely helpful.

We were asked to fill out a personal questionnaire, which Woody collated and then tested our knowledge of each other! We have mountain climbers, pilots, an author, teachers, probation officer, and hair stylist! Who would have guessed? It's the people...Penny with a gift of mustard; Lurline always sharing her macadamia nut chocolates; the total strangers who shared personal Parkinsons disease information...so many more!

Of the 43 ladies, 20 were 75s singles players & 12 teams for doubles. Many exciting matches.

Suella Steel (1) d. Dorcas Miller (3) 6-3, 6-2 for the Gold. Sheila Weinstock (4) d. Grace Woo (2) for Bronze. Patti Boyer (5) d. Carolyn Clark 5-7, 6-4, 7-6 (4) in Consolation.

Steel/Weinstock (1) d. Miller/Woo (2) 6-0, 6-1 for Gold. Boyer/Lola O'Sullivan (3) d. Judy Janc/Norma Veal (4) in Consolation.



75-Helga Lukacsy and Bonnie Champion



75-Carolyn Clark

**85s**

by Joyce Jones

**W**oody did a great job of making this a fun tourney. And OMG! Irene

Bretzel won her very first Gold Ball! She definitely earned it.

For years she has worked out at a fitness center, bicycled, played every day, and took lessons preparing the best that she could. She never got discouraged when she would draw the #1 or #2 seeds first round every tournament. It paid off this time. She beat the #1 seed Margaret Canby 6-2, 6-2, and the #2 seed Jane Lutz 2-6, 6-1, 6-4. Congratulations, Irene!

Things went much better in the 85D this year. Last year, a member of one team got heat stroke because the air conditioner broke down, and she and her partner had to retire. Another team fell and were injured so badly that they had to withdraw without getting to play a single match. Things went much better this year. Canby and Angie Ray took the Gold Ball, defeating Lutz and Pat Wiedenmann 6-3, 6-4, and Joyce Jones and Carolyn Shumake 6-4, 6-4. Jones and Shumake d. Lutz and Wiedenmann 6-3, 6-2 to win the Silver Ball.

No injuries this year. Yay!!



85 Indoors Singles Champion Irene Bretzel



85-Margaret Canby



85WD Champions: Left, Silver Ball - Carolyn Shumake & Joyce Jones; Gold Ball - Angie Ray & Margaret Canby; Bronze Ball - Doris Lutz & Pat Wiedenmann

**National 30-80 Grass Court Championships**

The West Side Tennis Club, Forest Hills NY  
July 10-16

**30s**

Singles: Amy McCaffery d Erin Fleming 6-0, 6-1 in the finals.

Doubles: Brooke Biddle/Corin Coffey won the round robin

**40s**

Pat Zerdan won the Gold Ball over Trish Riddell, 6-2, 6-0. Trish, an unseeded player, had a good tournament, beating 4th seed Mutsumi Shirai and then 2nd seed Mercedes Michel in three sets to reach the finals.

Mercedes Michel won the Bronze over Isabela Iantosca.

Iantosca/Shirai won the doubles round robin. Olga Harvey and Michel won Silver.

**50s**

by Judy L. Van Raalte

**T**he USTA National Grass Court Championships are held at the West Side Tennis Club in Forest Hills, NY, which hosted the US Open for 60 years, and in 1973 was the first grand slam to award equal prize money to men and women (thank you for the tennis tidbits, Wikipedia, especially the one about equal prize money). The club's historic grass tennis courts are pristine, well maintained (especially relative to those at Wimbledon this year), and chock full of tennis players clad in white from head to toe. Those who take time to linger in the clubhouse can review the photos of US Open champions dating back to the 1800s. New amenities on site include locker room updates (new toilets and showers) and synthetic grass courts along with a rollicking concert series in the Forest Hills stadium (tickets to the Emmylou Harris and John Mellencamp show included with tournament entry).

July in New York can be extremely hot and humid, the kind of weather that has players standing around talking about hydration and the color of their pee. Sporadic rain showers could have cooled things off but instead they simply made the event "interesting" with sweltering humidity, intermittent rain delays, and a downpour just prior to the John Mellencamp concert. Thanks to the excellent tournament directing of Bob and Dina Ingersole



Pam Percy, Betty Wachob, Brenda Carter, Van Light, Sandra, Allyson Bolduc

and perhaps a little luck with the timing of the rain, all the 50s tournament matches were completed on grass (including the consolation matches).

The 50s singles draw consisted of 18 players with 4 "lucky" players having to play 2 main draw singles matches on the first day. The main draw early round matches were straight set affairs with only one tiebreak until the semi-finals when Vicki Buholz won a tough 3 setter vs. 4th seed Erika Smith (6-3, 6-7 [8], 6-3) and top seeded Shannon Cross won a hard fought "it could have been anyone's game" match vs. 3rd seed Vesna McKenna (6-3, 6-4). In the final, Buholz (who is now officially warmed up for her grass court 55s event) defeated Cross 6-1, 6-0. McKenna took 3rd place. The consolation final was won by Judy Van Raalte, who beat Ann Young, 5-7, 6-2, 10-5.

A total of 8 teams were involved in doubles play with unseeded McKenna and Abbi Neuthaler upsetting #1 seeds Cross and Buholz in the semi-finals. The final was played over two days due to a rain delay that got the players off the court in time to join the player party (but after all the brownies were eaten). Smith and Mary Dailey won the gold ball defeating McKenna and Neuthaler, 6-4, 6-1. Cross and Buholz earned the 3rd place bronze ball beating Sally Allen and Karen Oxholm, 6-4, 6-1. In the consolation final, Jackie Gaines and April Mongelli beat Catherine Barton and Katie Walker, 6-0, 6-0.

## 60s

by Francis O'Sullivan

Courts were in marvelous condition and Bob and Dina did a great job AGAIN. The concerts were a lovely added bonus. Kudos! The doubles draw was small, but packed with good teams. Tina Karwasky and Susan Wright beat Pat Purcell and Betsy Savitt, last year's champions, in the finals. Sherri Bronson and Kathy Foulk won the bronze over newcomer Heidi Klemmer and Hiko Fritz-Krockow. Having played Heidi in singles, I can attest to the fact that Heidi has a really good grass court game. She is set to retire within weeks and is going to commit to her game. Connie Jones and Nancy Neff won the consolations after some stellar play.

On Wednesday, the match of the day (I was involved but believe this to be true) was between Pat Purcell and Frances O'Sullivan. The match went on early at 10:00 on court 1 and did not finish until 2:05. How that can happen on grass, I am not quite sure! Pat won 6-7, 7-6, 7-6. Frances held two match points



Vickie Buholz, Susan Wright, Trish Riddell

in the final set tiebreaker when Pat came up with a great serve and another hustle play.

Mary Morgan was the upsetter of seeds in the singles draw. She was out for a few years because of rotator cuff surgery, but is returning in grand form. First round, she defeated Sally Zasloff, a seed, after Sally had to retire from a hamstring pull. Then in the quarterfinals, Mary beat Sherri Bronson, the # 3 seed, in 3 sets. Her run was abruptly ended by a "perfect" match from Susan Wright in the semi-finals. Susan continued her dominance in the finals, surrendering only 2 games to Pat Purcell who had a big upset of Tina Karwasky in the semi-finals.

Sherri Bronson won the consolation draw over Suzanne Siegler 6-3, 6-4 after some of the matches on Saturday had to be played on the clay due to rain delays.

Now, I cannot wait until next year!

## 70s

by Allyson Bolduc

History, Grass Courts. Grass court bounce. Beautiful, sunny week in July. Hot. Humid. Friends. Fun, Laughter. Serious, good tennis. Pro-am on Sunday — relaxed and fun with 70s



Betsy Savitt, Pam Percy, Betty Wachob

well represented. Free tickets for everyone for the John Mellencamp concert held in the refurbished stadium with a wonderful view of the grass courts and clubhouse behind and finished by 10pm. Very nice banquet with a raffle finding almost everyone a winner — thank you sponsors. Strong and deep draws in both singles and doubles which made the main draw and back draw a challenge for almost every match. \$3.00 french fries at the pool. Baskin Robbins down the street. Bern working her magic. Trains rushing by. Bob and Dina as professional and welcoming as always. New players to the tournament, new members to the NSWTA. Rain delays on Thursday night and Friday. Long shadows on the grass and the sun reflecting on the club house. A real feeling of awe and history just walking through the front door of the club and playing where some of the greats in tennis competed.

Warm welcome by the club members and staff. Another excellent job by everyone associated with the club and tournament. A real pleasure to have the opportunity to play here and with women



Lola O'Sullivan, Lurline Fujii, Lillian Carothers, Ann Pellow

who share a passion for tennis and play with joy.

"The soft ball is the wrath..."; "You should be brave to play". Penny Maag, when asked about a match she was watching, put her ear bud to her mouth and said, "This is a critical point" with the voice of a seasoned announcer. "Did you see that point?" "How did she hit that?" "What a wonderful match." "Grass court bounce."



Burnette and Dori

It was hard to get to the finals as there were closely contested matches and amazing tennis. Three sets were not uncommon. Several 3 hour matches. In singles Liane Bryson played as though she played on grass every day and had a very successful tournament winning over seeded players including Sue Kimball, Lee Delfausse and Brenda Carter but finally losing to Betty Wachob in the finals, 6-4, 7-6. Brenda and Judy Louie played for ¾ with Brenda prevailing, 6-3, 6-3. The back draw was loaded with talent as well with Carol Ann Castell winning over Sue Kimball 3-6, 6-3, with the deciding set shortened to a match breaker because of the heat and rain, 10-3.

Doubles was also packed with good teams. In the finals, Brenda Carter and Betty Wachob won in two sets over Lee Delfausse and Sue Kimball, 7-6, 6-4. Liane Bryson and Sheila Johnson played against Judy Louie and Ann Hunt for ¾ with Liane and Sheila winning 6-3, 6-4. The back draw saw Peggy Andry and CarolAnn Castell defeating Chris Grant and Brenda Winstead 7-5, 6-2.

Hope the rest of your summer is full of tennis — and aces and winners!

**80s**

*by Carol Branson*

**T**he 80's ladies, some of them making their first appearances to this group, (yes, it happens to the best of us), were happy participants in this lovely tournament. Bob and Dina Ingersole responded to all our spoken and unspoken needs. For some reason the tournament provided 6 balls for each match, I think saying we were old. We actually still can run! The grass was in perfect condition and so well cared for. The referees were caring as well as helpful while keeping us on task.

Now for the play. Dori Devries was the star of singles, adding another Gold ball to her collection by defeating Burnette Herrick in the final. Both are good grasscourt players. Carol Wood brought her skills to win the Bronze over Carol Branson, who has returned after breaking her back by falling through her attic while preparing for a flower show. Ingrid Rehwinkel was the champion of the consolation round.

Doubles were held as a round robin. Play was affected by some New York rain on Tuesday and Friday

however the 5 teams finished, although a match had to be moved to a very different surface: indoor, very wet Har-Tru. Dorothy Wasser and Burnette Herrick were winners for first in a tight, hard fought battle against Dori Devries and Carol Wood with a very close score of 7-5, 7-6(7). Third place was won by Ingrid Rehwinkel and Carol Branson. All the ladies enjoyed playing with 2 charming and talented women from the Forest Hills club. And all appreciated the tournament giving us tickets to the John Mellencamp concert Tuesday evening.

**National 35-85 Grass Court Championships**

**Germantown Cricket Club, Philadelphia, PA July 16-23**

**35s**

Anda Perianu won the Gold over Yulia Bolotova, 6-3, 6-4 Perianu and Jennifer Tuchband won the doubles Gold Balls over Marybeth Williams and Alisa Yee, 6-2, 7-5.

**45s**

Julie Cass won Gold, beating Trish Riddell in a good match, 6-4, 7-6(6)

Mutsumi Shirai beat Corinna Bode for the Bronze, 6-2, 7-6(3)

Melanie Crampton beat Teal Henderson to win the backdraw.



45 Gold to Julie Cass

Shari Webber and Mary Beth Williams (seeded 4) won Gold in the doubles when Bode-Shirai withdrew.

Amy Alcini and Julie Cass won the Bronze over Teal Henderson/ Rachel Maniatias.



55s Vicki Buholz with 45s Teal Henderson, Rachel Maniatias, Amy Alcini

Mary Dailey/ Trish Riddell won the backdraw over Karen Garfield/ Karin Weiner.

**55s**

*by Susan Wright*

**T**he Germantown Cricket Club is a beautiful facility with 24 grass courts. Since last year they have dug up and reseeded all the courts so they were in fantastic condition this year. The courts being only six



Ref Melissa Jackson with 55 Consie finalists Chris Witherspoon, Tammy Mavromatis



Elizabeth Tassone, Ann Young 55s

weeks old had to be watered each afternoon, tier by tier.

The draw for the 55 women's singles was very deep with many strong players. One day the heat on the court was in the 100's. It was mandatory to take a 5 minute break in the shade between the first and second sets and 15 minutes between the second and third sets. I had never experienced that before. On Thursday, the hottest day of the week, several matches were around the 2 hour 45 minute mark.



55 Susan Wright/Tracey Thompson (Gold), TD Melanie Hittinger, Judy Newman/Mary Dailey (Silver)

Vicki Buholz def. Susan Wright for the Gold ball, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3  
 Ann Whitney def. Shannon Cross for Bronze, 7-6(5), 2-6, 6-4  
 Gayle Prejean won the Consies over Tracey Thompson, 6-3, 7-6(3)  
 Thompson/Wright won the Gold in doubles over Mary Dailey/Judy Newman, 6-2, 6-3  
 Buholz/Cross won Bronze over Lisa Hoffstein/Abbi Neuthaler, 6-3, 6-1

**65s**  
*by Toni Novack*

Philadelphia's Germantown Cricket Club greeted the National 65 ladies tennis competitors with much improved grass court conditions and a stunning week of many hotly contested 3 set matches to go along with 100-degree-plus heat index temps. Pickle juice was placed next to Gatorade so you know we were in for a scorcher.

Three out of four seeded players made their way to the semis. Unseeded Leslie Pixley, who loves grass, benefitted when a hobbled third-seed Cindy Babb retired in the first round after they split sets; Leslie then overcame Lil Peltz-Petow in three sets to reach the semis against tournament favorite Tina Karwasky. In the bottom half of the draw Molly Hahn played a long



65-Molly Hahn, Toni Novack



65-Lynn Rush, Barbara Starnes



65 Gold Jan Kirkland-Cochran and Tina Karwasky

three-setter against Toni Novack in the semis and prevailed after being bageled in the first set. Tina lived up to her reputation as queen of the court winning the Gold over Molly Hahn. Leslie Pixley took the Bronze, defeating Novack in a squeaker, 5-7, 6-2, 6-4

Doubles saw the return of teammates Lil and Molly, who made their way to the final after a three-setter over Cindy Babb and Barbara Hubbard. Quarter-finalists Pam Simons and Debra Pruitt played a close first set against Karwasky and Jan Kirkland-Cochran but ran out of gas in the second. Leslie Pixley and partner Candia Barry outlasted in 3 sets Texans Lynn Rush and Barbara Starnes. (Barbara had a terrific tournament, reaching the finals of the feed-in in both singles and doubles.) Top seeds Tina and Jan prevailed in the final as Molly and Lil settled for Silver. Leslie took home her second Bronze of the tournament, as she and Candia beat Cindy and Barb, 6-4, 7-6 (6) in the playoff.

Kudos to tournament referee Melissa Jackson and tournament director Melanie Hittinger and their crew for efficiently keeping matches on time and results posted. The players greatly appreciate having this tournament and it is our hope that with the improved grass courts the draws will be bigger next year.

**75s**  
*by Patti Boyer and Lola O'Sullivan*

The grass is always greener at the Germantown Cricket Club. Thank you, Germantown, for the lovely new green grass and for allowing us to use your facilities for a week. Your director, Melanie Hittinger, ran a really great tournament.

As usual the weather was hot and humid but we had plenty of shade, ice, and Gatorade. Head referee Melissa A. Jackson made sure we all stayed well hydrated and in good health. No one had to go to the hospital. Thank goodness. There was one participant who was coughing all the time and could



65- Simmy Pell, Cindy Babb



Lil Peltz-Petow, Nancy Lucas 65s



Janet Lippincott, Bev Wallace



65 Bronze winners - Candia Barry/Leslie Pixley



75- Terri Egger



75 Bronze winner Ruby Jenkins

be heard all over. She sounded like she was choking. I think that was me. Thank you everyone for all your concern.

Sheila Weinstock the number 2 seed took the Gold away from Grace Woo in a tough three-setter. Ruby Jenkins the number 1 seed beat Burnette Herrick for the Bronze ball. Burnette played down from the 80s just to show us we can go on forever. Patti Boyer won the Consolation against Teri Eggers in the third set tie breaker.

Sheila and her partner Roberta Dimond won the doubles against Grace Woo and Dorcas Miller. Sheila went home a happy player with two Golds. Herrick and Wasser beat Boyer and O'Sullivan for the Bronze ball. Lots of great tennis.

There was a free vodka tasting before the delightful, yummy dinner party. Thank you, Germantown for both.

## 85s

by Irene Bretzel

What a wonderful opportunity to play on the beautiful Germantown Cricket grass courts. Since there were only 3 singles players, we played the Round Robin Format.

### Round 1:

Jane Lutz, the amazing player, performed her games as usual. Irene Bretzel, her opponent, admits all that hard work practicing her skills and improving her fitness is paying off. Another tough 3-setter: Jane defeated Irene 5-7, 6-2, 6-4.

### Round 2:

Nice to see Angie Ray back playing singles. She plays a fierce doubles game. Another fierce 3-setter: Jane defeated Angie 6-2, 4-6, 6-4

### Round 3:

Interesting match to watch since neither has ever played Singles against each other. Angie, a trooper. Result: Irene defeated Angie 6-1, 6-1.

85 Doubles:



Penny Maag, 75s



75-Lurline Fujii, Bonnie Champion, Lillian Carothers



75 playoff Burnette Herrick/Dorothy Wasser (Bronze) with Patti Boyer/ Lola O'Sullivan



75-Robbie Dimond/Sheila Weinstock (Gold), Grace Woo/Dorcas Miller (Silver)

Just two doubles teams. Jane Lutz / Angie Ray versus Carolyn Shumake / Irene Bretzel.

It was quite a challenge since Carolyn and Irene have never teamed up. Amazingly Carolyn and Irene defeated Jane and Angie, 7-5, 6-4.

The 85s had a blast and look forward to next year!

## Cup Tournaments

### New England Wins 37th Annual Addie Cup

by Davida Dinerman

For the 10th time in eleven years, New England won the Pauline Betz Addie Cup. The event was held on June 5- 6 at the gorgeous Boar's Head Inn, Charlottesville, VA. Originally, Addie Cup involved top-ranked women in their 40s in the four east coast sections of the USTA: Eastern, Mid-Atlantic, Middle States, and New England. As the years passed, and the original ladies aged up, they wanted to keep competing. They added 50s, 60s and 70s divisions. This year, we included an 80s group. The Cup winner was determined by total matches won out of a possible 19 in the five age groups. The team that took at least 10 lines among all age groups won the match.

In the first rounds, New England faced Mid-Atlantic, and Eastern took on Middle States. It was pouring rain outside with no let-up in sight. Fortunately, the beautiful indoor facilities could accommodate this large event. The 40s, 50s and 60s divisions played three singles and two doubles lines. The 70s comprised two singles and one doubles, and there was one doubles match in the 80s.

New England kept a decent lead throughout the day, and ended strong in the doubles to earn a 12-7 victory. Meanwhile, Eastern had been down for most of the round, and needed the final few doubles matches to pull through. When we heard loud whooping and saw group hugs among the Eastern players, we knew they had clinched the win. It was a New England-Eastern final once again.

On day two, everyone was happy to see the sun; the outdoor clay was ready by 8 a.m. New England and Eastern swapped wins for most of the afternoon. By the afternoon, there were two more 40s doubles matches to play, and Eastern had the edge overall, 9-8. The first point went to New England in straight sets; it was 9-9. Both teams were on the sidelines with eyes glued to the four players left. Eastern won the first set, but New England responded by dominating the second set. The teams swapped points in the third set 10-point tie breaker until New England broke free and won it 10-7!

The Middle Atlantic and Middle States completion came to an exciting finish for third and fourth

place. In the end, Middle States prevailed 10-9, thanks to big wins in the 40s and 50s categories.

New England captain Molly Hahn summed it up well, saying, "Each section brought very strong players; and we had an absolutely surreal victory over Eastern. Our team did not win the competition because of individual performances alone. The supportive team dynamics the women created across all age groups played an important role. We coalesced into a big congenial family in which absolutely everyone helped each other in striving for the common goal."

Next year's Addie Cup venue moves to the Eastern section.



Pictured:

Top left to right: Susan Benoit, Ann Knoblock, Esther Williams, Allyson Bolduc, Ericka Bueno, Deb Simpson, Lisa Tholen, Yvette Kruger

Middle left to right: Sue Kimball, Jean Osachuk, Mary Mayotte, Vicky McEvoy, Johanna Bickford, Chance Fechter, Aileen Eleey

Bottom left to right: Sheila Weinstock, Lee Delfausse, Carol Wood, Molly Hahn, Davida Dinerman (Missing Judy Smith)

## The 2017 Southern Senior Cup

This annual event for the USTA Southern region drew more than 300 players in team competition for men and women in the 35, 45, 55, 65, and 75 age categories with a team match format of two singles and one doubles. The players in the field include former collegiate All-Americans, NCAA champions and professional players. Each state vied for a chance at the Mildred Southern Cup, Gil Stacy Cup, and the men and women's overall scoring title.

Tani Deaton and Huntsville Tennis Center continue to make this event very turnkey, and like previous years, coordinated another successful championship.

Said Chris Walling: "A big thank you to all the players who participated this year as well. This event showcased some of the best tennis in the Section, and we are proud to host an event of such caliber. I heard several times in the last few days about how the competition gets better and better each year. I could not agree more!"

Mildred Southern Cup (awarded to overall winner)

- Winner: Georgia (66 points)
- 2nd Place: North Carolina (62 points)
- 3rd Place: Tennessee (59 points)
- 4th Place: South Carolina (55 points)
- 5th Place: Alabama (30 points)

Women's Overall Scoring Title

- Winner: North Carolina (42 points)
- 2nd Place: South Carolina (36 points)
- 3rd Place: Tennessee (34 points)
- 4th Place: Georgia (22 points)
- 5th Place: Alabama (12 points)

Age Group Results

- Women's 35 Championship: TN def. NC, 2-1.
- Women's 45 Championship: NC def. AR, 2-1.
- Women's 55 Championship: SC def. TN, 2-1.
- Women's 65 Championship: SC def. NC, 3-0.
- Women's 75 Championship: NC def. AL, 2-0.

## New England Women Win 2017 Friendship Cup in Woodstock, VT

by Heidi Willoughby

This year marked the 50th Anniversary of the start of the Friendship Cup. Though it began life as a men's event, it expanded to include women in 1979. This competition features a USTA New England team versus players from throughout Quebec, Canada. The event returned this year to the beautiful facilities at the Woodstock Athletic Club on the weekend of June 16-18. This year's expanded format featured 16 singles matches on Saturday and 7 doubles matches on Sunday in age groups 45 and up through 75 and over. The Quebec women came with a strong team, but the New England women were ready, scoring a decisive 20-3 victory.

Judy Smith, playing in her 15th Friendship Cup, was inducted into the Friendship Cup Hall of Fame. The team was delighted to be cheered on by New England tennis legends Carol Jaffe and Ann Murphy, both former Friendship Cup players and captains.



New England. Quebec Friendship Cup

# Shots from La Jolla







# 2017 National Tournament Schedule

Correct as of August 8, 2017 For updates: Go to [NSWTA.org](http://NSWTA.org) and click on 2017 Calendar on the Home page  
or link to USTA via [www.carolynnichols.com](http://www.carolynnichols.com)

Date	Tournament	Age Division	Surface
January 18-22*	Les Grand Dames BallenIsles, Palm Beach Gardens, FL	30-80	Clay
January 21-29 *	ASICS, Rancho Mirage, CA	35-85 (W, M, Mixd)	Hard
	Also the <b>National Mixed Hard Courts, Rancho Mirage, CA</b>	50, 60, 70	Hard
February 1-5 *	Crawford Cup, Ft. Lauderdale, FL	35-85	Clay
February 15-19	JoAnne Russell Cup, Naples, FL	50-80	Clay
<b>March 3-6</b>	<b>National Hard Cts, Austin, TX</b>	30 (W, M, Mixd)	Hard
<b>March 5-11</b>	<b>National Husband/Wife Grass, Rancho Mirage, CA</b>		Grass
<b>March 10-12</b>	<b>National Indoor F/D, M/S South Barrington, IL</b>		
<b>March 19-April 1</b>	<b>ITF Young-Srs World Team &amp; Individ. Championships, Cape Town, South Africa</b>		
<b>March 27-April 2</b>	<b>National Clay Cts, Houston, TX</b>	<b>35-90 odds</b>	<b>Clay</b>
<b>April 17-23</b>	<b>National Clay Cts, Baton Rouge, LA</b>	60, 70, 80s	Clay
April 26-30*	NSWTA Championships, Charleston, SC	35-75	Clay
<b>May 3-7</b>	<b>National Husband/Wife Clay Cts, Charlotte, NC</b>		Clay
<b>May 8-14</b>	<b>National Hard Cts, La Jolla, CA</b>	50, 60, 70, 80, 90	Hard
<b>May 18-22</b>	<b>National Indoors, Western Tennis, Cincinnati, OH</b>	35, 45, 55	
May 25-29*	Westwood Senior, Austin, TX	35-80	
<b>May 26-29</b>	<b>National Indoors, Lexington Tennis, Lexington KY</b>	30s (sgls, dbls, mixed)	
June 1-4	Senior Slams, Yale, New Haven, CT	50-75	
<b>June 2-4</b>	<b>National Indoor M/D, Vancouver, WA</b>		
June 8-12	Marin Seniors, Mill Valley, CA	35-70	Hard
<b>June 9-11</b>	<b>National Husband/Wife Hard Cts, Kansas City, MO</b>	(Open)	
<b>June 19-25</b>	<b>National Indoors, Overland Park, KS</b>	65, 75, 85	
<b>July 10-16</b>	<b>National Grass Cts, Forest Hills, NY</b>	30-80	Grass
<b>July 16-23</b>	<b>National Grass Cts, Philadelphia, PA</b>	35-85	Grass
<b>August 2-4</b>	<b>National Grass Cts M/D, Chestnut Hill, MA</b>		Grass
<b>August 6-8</b>	<b>National Grass Cts F/D, Chestnut Hill, MA</b>		
<b>August 17-20</b>	<b>National Indoors, Lakewood, CO</b>	40/50s	
<b>August 21-26</b>	<b>National Indoors, Seattle, WA</b>	60s (MW sgls, dbls, mxd)	
<b>Sept 13-18</b>	<b>National Indoors, Club Green Meadows, Vancouver, WA</b>	70,80,90	
<b>September 25-29</b>	<b>National Husband/Wife Indoors, Charlottesville, VA</b>		
<b>Sept 25-Oct 1</b>	<b>National Hard Cts, La Quinta, Palm Desert, CA</b>	35-85	Hard
<b>October 4-8</b>	<b>National Mixed Dbles Clay Cts, Seabrook Is, SC</b>	40, 50, 60, 70	
<b>October 4-8</b>	<b>National Clay Courts, Palm Beach Gardens, FL</b>	40, 50	Clay
<b>October 8-21</b>	<b>ITF Super-Seniors World Team &amp; Individual Championships, Lake Nona, FL</b>		
October 26-30	Barbara Cooper Cup, Winter Park, FL	35-85	Clay
<b>October 29-Nov 11</b>	<b>ITF Seniors World Team &amp; Individual Championships, Miami, FL</b>		
October 30-Nov 3*	Las Vegas Senior Open Cat II (MW50-85), Cat I (Mx 75 & 80) Las Vegas, NV		
October 30-Nov 3	National Grass Cts, Rancho Mirage, CA	90	
<b>Nov 12-16</b>	<b>National Husband/Wife Hardcourts, Palm Desert CA</b>	(combined ages)	
Nov 13 - 19	National Women's Intersectionals		
<b>Nov 27 - Dec 3</b>	<b>National Hard Courts, La Jolla, CA</b>	40 (sgls, dbls, mxd)	Hard
Nov 29-Dec 3*	Fiesta Bowl Senior, Scottsdale, AZ	35-85s (MW, Mxd)	
<b>December 1-5</b>	<b>National Clay Courts, Ft. Lauderdale, FL</b>	30s (sgls, dbls, mxd)	Clay

**Bold**= National Category 1 tournaments

\*= Super Cat II



NATIONAL SENIOR WOMEN'S TENNIS ASSOCIATION

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**Once again there were heat advisories during the  
2017 National Grass Court Championships in Philadelphia.  
Hats were in order and . . .**



**. . . serious rehydrating took place each afternoon.**

