



National Senior Women's Tennis Association

Magazine

2015 Vol. 1



Original Nine



2015 Houston players at the site of the original 9 photo

The Virginia Slims of Houston

Forty-five years ago, women's professional tennis was born when nine players, called the Original 9 and led by Billie Jean King, signed symbolic \$1 contracts with the late Gladys Heldman, publisher of World Tennis publications, to compete in the newly-created Virginia Slims Circuit. On September 23, 1970, Billie Jean King, joined by Rosemary Casals, Nancy Richey, Kerry Melville, Peaches Bartkowicz, Kristy Pigeon, Judy Dalton, Valerie Ziegenfuss, and Julie Heldman (pictured to the left), decided to participate in the inaugural \$7,500 Virginia Slims of Houston event that was financially backed by Philip Morris' Joe Cullman. The Virginia Slims of Houston paved the way for other tournaments of its kind and led to the creation of 19 others, offering total prize money of \$309,100.

National Senior Women's Tennis Association

2015 – 2017 Officers and Board Members

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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.

**Deadline for the next issue
of the NSWTA Magazine:**
July 26, 2015



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- Carol Clay
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- Kathy Keating-Kay
- Susan Kimball
- Deborah Slaner Larkin
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- Jane Lutz
- Carolyn Nichols
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- Carol Wood
- Joan Oelschlager
- John Meyer
- Yolanda Therrien

Outgoing President's Message

by Cindy Babb

I want to express my most humble thanks for the opportunity to serve as your president for the past two years. It has been an honor to share the love and appreciation we have for each other and for the wonderful game that brings us all together. We have confronted a number of difficult issues during this term but I can honestly say, as the face of our organization, I never felt alone. My thanks go out to my Board (Carolina Blouin, Shelly Works, Camille Bauer, Vicky McEvoy, Brenda Carter, Carol Wood, Belmar Gunderson, Kathy Langer, and Sheila Weinstock) for their guidance, friendship, and support. Thanks, also, to the general membership for their many encouraging comments, emails, and letters. I know Kathy Langer will receive the same level of support from all of us as she takes over the reins of our organization and continues to bring our desires to USTA for a national championship pathway playing two out of three sets for all of our age divisions.

The picture on the cover of this issue was taken at the recent Houston Clay Courts to celebrate the 45th anniversary of the USTA National Senior Women's Clay Court Championships AND the beginning of the women's pro tour. For this occasion we recreated the famous picture of Billie Jean, Rosie, and the other members of the "Original 9." The photo was taken in the same general area as the original 1970 photo and we stand as unified in our belief that a championship tennis match should be two out of three sets as the "Original 9" were unified in their belief that women could be professionals just as well as men. It should be noted that the 35's women stand front and center with the older age divisions.

Together we can accomplish much. Let us continue to support the tournaments that are a value for our time and money. Bring along a friend or two and let's grow our tournaments and our organization.

See you on the courts!

Cindy



Incoming President's Message

by Kathy Langer

Leading the NSWTA at this time is going to be exciting, challenging and fun. I look forward to working with my Board members, who are not only great tennis players, but are enthusiastic, knowledgeable and willing to do whatever it takes to make this organization even better. Following Cindy Babb's passionate leadership is not going to be easy, but I am looking forward to the test.

The new Board of Directors include long time members and past presidents Belmar Gunderson, Carol Wood, Brenda Carter and Cindy who are joining some fresh new faces on the Board: Gee Gee Garvin and Simona Bruetting, both top young players who will help in encouraging the youngsters to join our dynamic organization. Plus Rita Giles, Gail Murayama and Teal Lang, who bring a wealth of talent as we head on into the future, embracing some of the new technology that is just waiting for us to use. Plus we have what I call our "bonus" members: Sue Bramlette, (Membership), Pam Simons, (Newsletter), Carolyn Nichols (Social Media) and Sandy Cooper, (Treasurer), plus Pat Greer, former Executive Director, all working to make us better.

Last fall, Cindy asked me to head up an Exploratory Committee to explore options on keeping senior tennis relevant for the next several years in lieu of current USTA actions, which she has spelled out in her columns. The committee put together a survey and sent it to over 3,200 men and women senior tennis players asking what they want. The results are in this issue of the newsletter. We received nearly 1,000 responses, which is a very, very good 30%. Many people offered opinions and suggestions which will be presented to the USTA Adult/Senior Competition Committee at the Annual Meeting in April. There has also been a dialogue with Katrina Adams, USTA President.

We are hoping we are getting their attention so they understand they don't have to change us, just support us, and listen to how we can and do contribute to the success of the USTA. Cindy will head up this committee to keep the dialogue going. Please feel free to contact me at anytime with your concerns. My info is in our invaluable directory.

Go out there and play some tennis!

Kathy Langer



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BUSINESS NEWS

2015 United Airlines Discount for NSWTA Members

United Airlines is pleased to offer NSWTA members discounts of 5% to 10% off published fares yet again, starting January 1, 2015.

Save an additional 3% by booking your reservations at united.com.

Once you have chosen your flights, insert the following in the box labeled Offer Code: **ZTXW798369**. Or call for reservations at 800-426-1122.

Refer to Z Code **ZTXW** and Agreement Code: **798369**.

Our organization benefits when you use the code for your travels. We accumulate points that we use toward free tickets, which we raffle off at the Houston Clay Court Championships and at Intersectionals. So this is a win-win situation. Happy travels!!

Magazine Advertising

Advertising in our magazine reaches a vibrant, energetic readership. To place an ad, contact Pam Simons at pesimons@aol.com.

Rates:

¼ page: \$250 an issue
(NSWTA member rate: \$150)

½ page: \$500 an issue
(NSWTA member rate: \$400)

Full page: \$1,000 an issue
(NSWTA member rate: \$900)

Advertise in 2 issues and the third is free!

Contributions

| | | | | | |
|---|---------|--|--------|-------------------------------------|-------|
| • Anonymous | \$2,000 | Mary Lenore Blair | \$ 100 | Rosie Fortna | \$ 80 |
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| • Pam Percy | \$ 200 | <i>In honor of Cindy Babb</i> | | <i>In memory of Eleese Thornton</i> | |
| • <i>In memory of Ralph Wilson, in honor of Mary Wilson</i> | | Bunny Russell | \$ 100 | Jane Ross | \$ 25 |
| • Judith A. Smith | \$ 200 | <i>In memory of Pat Hammer</i> | | Olga Stark | \$ 25 |
| • Betty Wachob | \$ 200 | Sally Utiger | \$ 100 | Faye Stokes | \$ 25 |
| • <i>In memory of Ralph Wilson, in honor of Mary Wilson</i> | | Jessie Von Hippel | \$ 100 | Fran Tomaselli | \$ 25 |
| • Cindy Benzon | \$ 100 | Caroline Haynes | \$ 100 | Teresa Merklin | \$ 15 |
| • <i>In memory of Lovie Beard</i> | | <i>In memory of Dan Lay</i> | | Christine Chiminello | \$ 10 |

Carol Clay's NSWTA clothing line by Winning Wear



Pictured above, left to right:

Judy in the **LAT LADY LONGSLEEVE 100% COTTON** \$15 (White/Black/Pink/Key Lime/Lt Blue/Eggplant/Hot Pink/Indigo/Teal/Turquoise)

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Carol in another **LADY TEE SILK SCREEN** (see above)

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To Order Contact: Carol Clay 954-829-6599 • Terri Heasley 954-290-6202 • Winningwear10s@gmail.com.

Minutes from the NSWTA Annual Meeting

March 3, 2015.

The Houston Racquet Club

Submitted by Gee Gee Garvin

In the audience when outgoing President Cindy Babb handed the gavel to incoming President Kathy Langer were five former NSWTA presidents, who built our organization into what it is today: Laurie Leach, Margaret Anderson, Carolyn Nichols, Sue Bramlette, Brenda Carter.

Treasurer's Report: As of January 31, 2015 there is \$20,402.84 in checking and \$39,006.66 in savings.

President's Report: Special guests in the audience were Steve Duffel (member of the International Competition selection group) and Jerry Thomas (Texas Adult Competition Committee Chair) to get ideas for starting a men's organization similar to ours.

This year celebrates 45 years for the NSWCCC held at the Houston Racquet Club. The 45's draw for both singles and doubles is the largest in a long time. Our thanks to Sue Bramlette, Cathy Lassiter, the entire committee, and staff of the club for a wonderful event and an enormous thank you to Bob Bramlette for his ongoing help.

Outgoing President Cindy Babb thanked her Board members for their hard work and dedication: Camille Bauer, Carolina Blouin, Brenda Carter, Belmar Gunderson, Kathy Langer, Vicky McEvoy, Shelia Weinstock, Carol Wood, and Shelly Works.

The NSWTA thanks Cindy Babb for her leadership and focus, keeping women's tennis and women's competition foremost in the public eye.

Kathy Langer announced her new Board: Brenda Carter, Carol Wood, Belmar Gunderson, Rita Giles, Gail Murayma, Simona Bruetting, Gee Gee Garvin, Teal Lang and Cindy Babb (Ex-Officio). Sandy Cooper (Treasurer), Sue Bramlette (Membership), Pam Simons (Newsletter), Carolyn Nichols (Social Media) will continue in their activities.

Membership Report (Sue Bramlette): Please let Sue know if your email has changed so she can update.

Sue stated that memberships have decreased over the last 5 years and is at its lowest number since 2009.

NSWTA Foundation (Cindy Babb) The NSWTA Foundation is the part of the NSWTA that has a tax-deductible, 501-C3 status. All donations to the NSWTA should be paid to it, using the correct name, in order for you to receive a tax deduction. Money from this account can be used for all NSWTA work, including funding our magazine, paying annual meeting expenses, and supporting the Intersectionals. Keep in mind that many companies you work for have funds earmarked to match employee contributions to tax deductible, charitable organizations like the NSWTA Foundation.

FRIENDSHIP CUP

Every two years Ralph and Mary Wilson have sponsored and paid for what is called The Friendship Cup, a competitive playing opportunity for women 75 and over in Portschach, Austria. Due to the passing of Ralph, the Wilson money has gone into a trust. Mary has only one vote out of four trustees but thinks the trustees will approve a grant request to continue supporting the Cup provided she is not in a position to oversee it. Therefore Mary has asked the NSWTA, and we have agreed, that if the money is approved, we will take on Friendship Cup organizational responsibilities.

Exploratory Committee

Last year your Board created an exploratory committee to address USTA actions that we felt threatened our sport, such as shortening tournament formats. Kathy Langer was appointed to serve as chair of this committee; committee members include Diane Barker, Sue Bramlette, Abbie Neuthaler, Andi Polisky, Chris Ramsower-Pearlstein, Ed Trost, Greta Watson, Cindy Babb, Brenda Cater, Kim Lackey, and Steve Duffel. The committee decided to survey 3,000 tournament players; the results (see following article) will be shared with USTA President Katrina Adams and the USTA Adult/Senior Competition Committee.

USTA Adult Senior Competition Committee (Carol Clay)

Carol reported there is a new committee for 2015-2016, appointed by USTA President Katrina Adams. Only 5 of the 16 on the new committee are tournament players; of them, three are NSWTA members—Carol Clay, Chrissy Costamagna (who serves as Vice Chair), and Gee Gee Garvin. Eight former members did not reapply.

The Comp Committee's main goal is to increase participation, targeting different types of players through different formats, events and scoring.

ITF Report/ Senior Selection Committee (Carolyn Nichols): There is an ITF sanctioned tournament (210 point) which counts towards ITF ranking which will take place at BallenIsles Country Club November 5-8 between USA and Canadian players.

The Father-Daughter National Hard Court tournament will be held at the Springs Tennis Club in Rancho Mirage, May 8-10. Formerly this tournament was held at the Barnes Tennis Center in San Diego.

Starting in 2016 World Team Championships will start a day earlier and end a day earlier (Sunday-Saturday instead of Monday-Sunday).

INTERSECTIONALS

The 2015 Intesectionals will take place in Boca Raton, FL, November 9-15. The membership voted to move the 2016 Intersectionals to the Darling Tennis Center, Las Vegas. Larry Eichenbaum will continue his pivotal role at this event. The USTA Adult Senior Competition Committee will be told of our vote.

Senior Tennis Survey Results

by Kathy Langer

Who says senior tennis players aren't interested in competitive tennis or aren't interested in having their voices heard? NSWTA, along with support from John Powless, initiated a player survey recently that disputes those ideas. The survey, which many of you took, went to over 3,200 men and women players. Over 1,000 responded, which is a phenomenal 30% response rate. Special thanks to Ed Trost, TD of the ASICS Cat. II tournament, who put it together. For the full results of the survey, look for a link on carolynnichols.com. Below is a synopsis of the results:

- 533 men and 423 women responded, representing 42 states
- Ages 55--80 had the most responses, with the **65 age group taking the lead**. There were 99 responses from 30-45 group and 46 from the 85- 90s.
- Most of the players play **1-4 tournaments**; 81% play Category I National Championships and 85% play Category II National Tournaments. Many also play Sectional and Local tournaments, 71% and 65% respectively.
- 35% of the players pay **\$501-\$1,001 to play in a national event** while 21% pay \$1,001-\$1,500 when there is no housing.
- **Location and well-run tournaments** are the most important factors that go into choosing a tournament, with friends, facility, consolation, chance for gold, silver and bronze balls pretty important and USTA ranking points not too important. But a whopping 62% don't give a hoot about prize money.
- Players were ambivalent about **amenities**, and, although many like prizes (not money), dinners, housing and gift bags, a good percentage found they were not important at all.
- Most players (78%) **prefer a tournament offering the best 2 out of three sets** while 21% favor a tiebreak in lieu of a third set and only 6 players like an 8-game pro set.
- 52% of the players said they would play in a tournament that did not have their preferred format, but 30% said they would not. Can we afford to lose 30% of the players?
- **The USTA website and TennisLink** got a fair rating with 45% satisfied, but 25% (USTA website) were very dissatisfied, and 22% for TL.
- **USTA promotion of tournaments**—38% are not satisfied while 22% are somewhat satisfied and the rest are ambivalent.
- **USTA support of our National Cup Teams**—62% were ambivalent; 27% were dissatisfied and 12% were ok with the support. Most people know their chances of making a Cup team are very slim.
- Asked if players would play in a **tournament not sanctioned by the USTA**, nearly 60% said yes, while 29% said no, with caveats in the discussion part of the survey.
- 59% of players are interested in joining either a **men's or women's senior tennis organization**.

Kathy Langer's Report from the USTA Annual Meeting

(Boca Raton, FL, April 10-12)

I hadn't planned on attending the Annual Meeting, but when USTA President Katrina Adams indicated she would talk to me, I decided to go hear what the USTA is planning for the next two years. Katrina's opening remarks focused on growing and evolving, and being open to new approaches from youth to seniors.



Kathy Langer

After the meeting I was able to sit down with Doug Wenger, the new Chair of the Adult Senior Competition Committee, to hear how the goals of the next two years would affect senior tennis. Doug has a full agenda for trying to increase participation in local, sectional and national tournaments. He listened, asked for feedback and assured us there were no immediate plans to change anything in our present formats, but they are exploring many avenues. He agreed to run by any ideas on changes affecting senior tennis to a small group, including me, before any big decisions were made. I believe that his committee has 'heard us' from the many angles we have used: our own players' survey, former NSWTA President Cindy Babb's passionate emails to USTA top officials, the forming of our NSWTA Exploratory Committee to consider future options and your own Letters to the Editor in this magazine, which is sent to all top USTA officials. If anyone wants to contact anyone on the ASCC, the new way is to email adultcompetition@usta.com.

My meeting with Katrina was also good. She has heard our concerns, wants to support us, but still has to acknowledge and try to do something about the falling numbers of tournament players across the country. She listened when I suggested the USTA could do more to promote, advertise and market our tournaments to try to attract competitive players who are not familiar with our events. Overall, it was a positive meeting. Some of the things we were concerned about, like shortening tournament formats, don't seem to be issues at this time. But we will remain vigilant.

MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations To:

Belated congratulations to **Betty Cookson** who was honored with the Barbara Williams Service Award by the USTA at its semi-annual meeting in August. The award—established to honor the late Barbara Williams, a long-time USTA volunteer who gave unselfishly of her time and energy to promote the sport of tennis—recognizes a female volunteer who through her leadership and by her example has encouraged and inspired others to become volunteers and assume leadership roles at the community, sectional, and/or national levels of the USTA.



Betty Cookson

From the NorCal USTA magazine: Betty has chaired almost every committee she has been a member of, thus attesting to her leadership skills. At each level of volunteering, Betty tackled her “job” with initiative and enthusiasm and amassed a great deal of experience with USTA Northern California and the USTA. With this experience she has taken “newbies” under her wing and guided and developed their leadership skills in such a way that one was unaware of all that was being accomplished. The span of her volunteering and her leadership expertise has resulted in her providing a valuable mentoring environment for volunteers new to tennis.

Belated congratulations to **Fran Chandler** for being inducted into the Southern Tennis Hall of Fame last year. The Jackson, Tennessee native played No. 1 singles and doubles and posted a 52-6 singles record at Murray State University, earning her the Murray State Female Athlete of the Year award in 1980. The following fall, Fran transferred to the University of Mississippi where she earned All-SEC honors in 1983 and 1984, and Ole Miss’ Female Athlete of the Year award in 1984.



Fran Chandler, husband and mother

As an adult, Fran has won 12 USTA national championships in singles and five in doubles. During the years of 2001-2012, Fran ended the year at No. 1 in her age bracket in the United States seven times; she finished within the top three places the other four years. In 2008 she won the 45s National Clay, Indoor and Hard Court championships in singles and the

clay and hard titles in doubles. Fran captured two more national titles in 2010. In 2012, she swept the National Clay 50s event by winning both the singles and doubles titles.

Fran has played on several ITF World Cup teams and won ITF World Individual titles in doubles in 2008 and the singles title in 2010, giving her #1 in the world status in her age bracket. She won her second world singles title this past year at the World Individual 50s singles event

Fran is a member of the Jackson-Madison County Hall of Fame, the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame and is the 2008 USTA Southern Senior Slew Hester Female Player of the Year. Off the court, Chandler is a full time pharmacist serving the Jackson, TN, community for the past 29 years. She and her husband Willie enjoy playing husband/wife mixed doubles tournaments together.

Vicky Rogers McEvoy

was inducted into the Eastern Tennis Hall of Fame last month. Vicky began her tennis career at Manursing Island Club in her hometown of Rye, NY, and continued to perfect her game at The Bishop’s School in La Jolla, Calif. She rose as high as No. 3 among United States women and No. 2 as a junior. Vicky reached the finals of the National Girls’ 18 & Under Championships at the Philadelphia Cricket Club in 1967. She also excelled at the Longwood tournament, taking a set from Margaret Smith Court. Playing in England the following year, she took a set from Virginia Wade and reached the third round of Wimbledon in singles and in doubles.



Vicky Rogers McEvoy

Despite early success with tennis, Vicky decided to leave tennis to pursue a career in the medical field. She attended Harvard Medical School from 1971 to 1975. Currently she is an assistant professor of pediatrics at Harvard Medical School and Chief of Pediatrics at the Mass General West Medical Group. She just retired from being Medical Director of the latter group, a post she held for 18 years. She has published several books on children and medicine.

Vicky recently won her first gold ball with Molly Hahn at the National Senior Women’s Grass Court Championships in Pennsylvania in the women’s 65s. “Tennis is endlessly challenging, as there is always something else you need to be working on,” Vicky said. “It’s a great game for teaching life skills, and I am grateful to tennis for all it has given me and how it has broadened my life.”

Bob Ingersoll, director of tennis at The West Side Tennis Club in Forest Hills, N.Y., was also inducted into the Eastern Hall of Fame last month. Bob, a Sydney, Australia native and long time NSWTA member, captained the tennis team at the University of Newcastle, where he earned a degree in education. He taught troubled kids in Australia for two years, received his tenure, then started competing in professional tournaments. In 1976, Bob moved to the United States to play more tennis, and met his wife-to-be Dina on his first day in New York.



Robert Ingersoll

Bob taught at or ran several New York City-area tennis clubs, training nationally ranked juniors. For him, it was more than just teaching tennis. "I felt the system could be improved and that the best way to effect change would be from within," he said.

Bob held a variety of volunteer positions at USTA Eastern, served on Eastern's board of directors for 16 years as president, vice president, regional president, treasurer and delegate (twice). He became chair of Eastern's Coaches Commission.

At the national level, Ingersole chaired the USTA Nominating Committee, was a member of the USTA Junior Competition Committee for 28 years (and served as chair) and has represented Eastern at the International Tennis Federation. Currently, Ingersole is the president of the Junior Tennis Foundation (JTF), chair of the USTA Pro Circuit Committee and on Eastern's System Review Task Force. Bob coached several outstanding players including former pro Justin Gimelstob. He created the Star Search Talent identification program, which identified athletes at a young age and introduced them to tennis. As the director of tennis at The West Side Tennis Club for the past 12 years, Ingersole is still providing both kids and adults with the opportunity to play.

"I believe in the profound impact that tennis has in shaping lives," Ingersole said. "Watching people grow through the sport is both exciting and humbling."

Andrea Barnes was honored last December by being named Northern California Junior Department Volunteer of the Year for 2014. Andrea, who played for Stanford, has taught at the Stanford Campus Recreation Association for years, and just retired as its Tennis Director. In



Andrea Barnes

one of her last events as Director, Andrea helped organize a USTA NorCal clinic for 300 youths at the Stanford University's tennis center. The event paired youth players of all ages and ability levels with the members and coaches of both the Cardinal men's and women's tennis teams for a day of instruction, games and fun. In 2011, Andrea was named USPTA Northern California Pro of the Year.

Ann Pellow was named USPTA Nor Cal women's senior Player of the Year. Ann is a teaching professional in Davis, CA. She got to the semies of the Houston Clay Court women's 55 singles this year and won Bronze with Kim Lackey in the 55 doubles.



Ann Pellow

Carol Wood received the 30 Years USTA Volunteer Service Award for her dedication to tennis at the recent USTA Annual Meeting.



Carol Wood (second from left)

Carolyn Nichols received the 20 Years USTA Volunteer Service Award at the same meeting.

Tina Karwasky gets two high fives and congratulations for winning her 100th Gold Ball in singles and her 100th Gold Ball in doubles, at the National Clay Court Championships in Huntsville, AL.



Tina Karwasky

First Balls

Congratulations to **Jessie von Hippel** for her First Ball—Bronze—in the National Clay Court 75 doubles in Houston!



Houston doubles: Jessie von Hippel (on right) with her Houston doubles partner Ria Graham.

Congratulations to **Esther Williams** and **Lorna McCracken**, 80s doubles partners, who won their First Balls—Bronze—at the National Clay Court Championships in Hunstville!



First Ball for Esther Williams and Lorna McCracken

In Remembrance

Jean P. Harris

1917-2015

Jean Parsons Harris, 97, passed away January 4 in Carmel after a long and active life. Jean was born in Phoenix, AZ, and grew up in the state before moving to California to take business courses. While working at Lockheed Aircraft Company, she met her future husband Bruce Harris. They raised five children on the Monterey Peninsula. Once divorced, Jean worked as a bookkeeper and was active in her community.

Jean loved playing bridge, participated in ballroom dancing competitions, sang in the Bach Festival Chorus, and was a world-wide traveler. She was an inspiration to many as a motivational speaker for Park Lane (Monterey) and a guest speaker at the Northern California Senior Tennis Association awards ceremonies. Jean's love was tennis—the game that she and her sisters played as children on clay in the Arizona desert. After taking time to raise her family, she returned to the courts with a vengeance. She belonged to several Peninsula tennis clubs and competed locally, nationally and internationally and was an USTA tennis umpire for ten years. Jean was nationally ranked in tennis, was sponsored by Prince racquets, received national Sportsmanship awards and earned two Golden Grand Slam awards that were presented to her during the US Open Tennis Tournament in Flushing Meadows, New York (2003 and 2004). In 2010 she was inducted into the USTA NorCal Tennis Hall of Fame. Her greatest accomplishment of all however, was raising five children as a single mother.

At Jean's request no services were held. A celebration of her life for family and friends will be held in the summer. In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made to the USTA NorCal Tennis Foundation, 1920 North Loop Road, Alameda, CA 94502-8081. Proceeds will be used for the support of youth tennis programs throughout the NorCal section and especially in underserved communities.

Harvey Goldschmid

Mary Goldschmid's husband Harvey, aged 74, died February 11 in Manhattan. He was an expert on corporate law, a member of the Securities and Exchange Commission, and a law professor at Columbia Law School. Our hearts go out to Mary and their three sons. Donations in his memory are being directed to the Columbia Law School Annual Fund.



Jean Harris



Mary and Harvey

Daniel H. Lay

Belmar Gunderson's husband Dan, aged 82, died March 7 after a short illness. A commercial airline pilot for many years, Dan was good with his hands, always fixing up things at the two homes he and Belmar owned in Wisconsin and Florida. All our thoughts are with Belmar.



Belmar and Dan

Letters to The Editor

Dear Editor,

On January 18, 2015, I was honored to be a part of Dodo's Memorial Service at the La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club. The family shared many Dodo stories and adventures. A few tears were shed but mostly from laughter; you can't talk about Dodo without having a big smile on your face.

I met Dodo 48 years ago when I was twelve years old, growing up in Santa Monica. I had four brothers and was surrounded by a block full of boys. We played basketball, football (across our neighbors' lawns), and baseball in the street. I loved sports because I was good at them and it made me feel successful. Around the time I was in the 5th grade my playmates were recruited into "little league." (Girls were not allowed.) I remembered sitting on the curb in front of my house waiting for my buddies to get home from practice. I felt abandoned.

It was at this time that tennis entered my life. Sign-ups for after-school tennis lessons were being offered by May Sutton Bundy and her daughter Dodo Cheney. I started on May's Beginners court. She pitched me my first tennis ball—I nailed it. She told me that I was "fabulous" and I needed to go to the advanced group with Dodo.

Dodo gave me my first tennis lessons. I was hooked. Tennis was what I needed to fuel my competitive fires. She encouraged me to practice and get involved in "Teen Tennis," which was a team event scheduled on Saturdays. Later she encouraged me to join the USTA and play junior tournaments. When I was 19, Dodo and I played doubles together and won the Santa Monica Open. We have crossed paths many times over the years while playing Senior tournaments. She was always encouraging and supportive and ready to give me some "Dodo" advice. I was proud to call Dodo my mentor and friend.

Across town another 12-year-old girl, Serena (Rittmayer) Quarelli, was growing up a total tomboy, excelling in many sports. Tennis was not on her radar until May and Dodo offered classes at her elementary school. Serena told me that Dodo pulled her aside and encouraged her to keep playing—that she would be really

good. Serena took it to heart. Serena and I became fast friends in high school and doubles partners. We played junior tournaments, college and many years of Senior Tournaments. Watch out—we have been known to hook up now and then for a reunion tournament.

I'm not sure if Dodo knew how important she was to us. Dodo paid it forward and affected our lives. I will remember Dodo for the encouragement and love of tennis that she shared with us. Serena and I have been teaching and coaching thousands of kids for the past 40 years. Dodo has made us understand that showing someone a little positive attention can make a difference. Serena and I carry the torch that Dodo handed us and every day we pass a piece of that torch to another student.

Dodo is a light that will keep on shining. Her newest competition is collecting Gold Stars—I'm sure she is already forming her very own galaxy—"The Dodo Way."

Kandy Chain

Dear Editor,

Having played USTA league tennis for more than 30 years, I have seen the leagues grow; I have seen the USTA add senior (over 50) and super senior (over 60) divisions to accommodate us older players. I have always felt that tennis was indeed the "sport for a lifetime"—what an encouraging slogan. How disillusioning it was, when the league age groups were reorganized, to be "thrown under the bus" at the ripe old age of 65 with no national championships to aspire to. Why bother to put together a team and do all that work with no goal to inspire my teammates?

In March of 2014, however, I received the information below (direct quote): "Contrary to how decisions are usually handled at the National level, last week the USTA League Committee approved a National Invitational for the Adult 65 & Over 2014 season."

Yippee, I thought, someone at USTA cares about us seniors. I subsequently put together an over 65 9.0 team, managed to qualify by playing the required matches against another team and, off we go to Surprise at the end of March for the privilege of representing New England.

In January 2015, however, I was stunned to receive more information, this time from the National USTA League Manager (direct quote): "In case you get 65 & Over players who need information on the upcoming events in Surprise,

please direct them to this link for the tournament booklet. http://www.usta.com/Adult-Tennis/USTA-League/65_over_championships/

They will not be able to navigate through our website to find this page but if they Google the event they will find it. We just don't want to actively have it on our national championship page and mislead anyone that it is a national."

In the final analysis, I guess that the USTA wants to disassociate itself from its older players and I am wondering why my team members and I are spending over \$1,000 each to attend an event which isn't really a national. Sadly there are only 3 other teams at our level. The USTA strategy of discouragement seems to be working.

Susan Kimball, Captain, 9.0 Over 65 New England

Dear Editor,

On Monday, March 23, 2015, former tennis star Bob Hewitt, was FINALLY convicted of raping two girls and indecently assaulting another. These crimes were committed in the 1980's and 1990's against young girls in South Africa and here in the United States (one was age 12 at the time) who were entrusted to him in his capacity as a tennis teacher and coach.

At the peak of his tennis career, Hewitt was an extremely talented doubles player, winning over fifteen Grand Slam Championships in the 1960's and 1970's. In 1992, he was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame.

Despite many efforts over the years by the South African girls and a former Massachusetts high school tennis champion to get Hewitt investigated and punished for his crimes, it wasn't until the Boston Globe conducted a review in 2011 followed by the Hall of Fame conducting its own investigation and suspending him indefinitely that he was charged. He is expected to be formally expelled from the Hall once he has exhausted any appeals. Hewitt maintains his innocence and calls his victims "spiteful publicity seekers."

If you want to make yourself sick, read some of the statements by those young ladies whose lives were sadly changed forever by this monster. IT'S ABOUT TIME.

Sally Utiger

TAIL

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CHANGES TO THE NSWTA DIRECTORY

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Teresa Marklin

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REGULAR ARTICLES

Sally's Alley

by Sally Utiger

USTA Official, New England



Sally Utiger

Every year the USTA publishes **FRIEND AT COURT**, the book of rules and regulations under which tennis is played in the United States. It is recommended reading for players, parents, coaches, teachers, tournament directors, league officials, and anyone who wants a finer understanding of the game. The book contains the ITF Rules of Tennis, USTA Regulations, ITA (college) rules and regulations and *The Code*. We NSWTA players know that *The Code* contains the “unwritten” rules that apply to all matches unless there is an official present to assume some of the players’ responsibilities.

Ever since I have been a certified official, there have been changes made, from substantial to simple wording, and these are noted in the current **FRIEND AT COURT**. I will try to bring to your attention the changes that most affect us.

Under ITF Rules of Tennis in 2015 **FRIEND AT COURT**

1. Deals with resolving scoring disputes when the receiver acknowledges that the server had called the score before the start of the previous point. A sentence was added to explain that when the receiver denies hearing the score, the 3 step process of **Code 32** is used to settle the score. [Page 8](#)
2. No time Violation for a phone going off between points, or Point Penalty if previous Time Violation has been given. If the cell phone rings during the point, the opponent may stop the point and claim the point based on deliberate hindrance. [Page 19](#)
3. Hindrance rules only apply to ringing cell phones, not vibrating cell phones. [Page 19](#)
4. Explains that when a No-Ad point is replayed, the receiver or receiving team is not allowed to change the original choice of court to which the server must serve. [Page 34](#)

Under **THE CODE**

1. Sentence added explicitly stating what had been implicit, that a player is expected to give the opponent the benefit of the doubt on touches, hitting the ball before it crosses the net, invasion of opponent’s court, double hits, and double bounces. [Page 50](#)
2. Updated to clarify that when players cannot agree which player served a disputed game, they should toss a coin to decide. [Page 52](#)

Under USTA REGULATIONS

1. Explains that **doubles players playing together for the first time** should nonetheless be considered for seeding based on doubles results with other partners and singles results. [Page 75](#)
2. The definition of the term “Default” was updated to confirm that a default occurs when an official defaults a player under the Point Penalty System. [Page 104](#)
3. Explains that a player will not be penalized for taking an **insulin injection** during a match. [Page 111](#)
4. Now more precisely defines **racquet abuse**. [Page 127](#)
5. Clarifies that an official can call a hindrance for excessively loud noise such as grunting or **shrieking**, but only on the court from which the noise emanates. [Page 131](#)
6. If a hat, ball, towel drops during play, the official shall determine if the opponent is hindered. If so, the official shall call “let” and caution the player that subsequent incidents will result in a deliberate hindrance, loss of point. No immediate “let” call. [Page 155](#)

Speaking of rules, I can’t help but comment on the issue of the now-famous saga of deflated Patriot footballs at the end of the season. One of our Boston Globe columnists, Shirley Leung, wrote about the incredible amount of brainpower grown men have expended on just one tiny aspect of the sport: “Ultimately it’s about fair play and how sports is an escape. It’s easier to go on and on about the air in footballs than to deal with the cold facts of life—how a surgeon gets murdered in his own hospital, how journalists get gunned down by terrorists in their own offices, how bombs get set off at our own Boston Marathon.”

It’s too bad we can’t spend as much time on what really matters as we do on rules...and the weather!



USTA Adult Competition Committee Aims to Grow Participation

by Doug Wenger, Chair, USTA Adult Competition Committee

USTA President Katrina Adams started her 2015-16 term by appointing volunteer committees and working groups, each of whose aim is to drive the growth of tennis. One of those committees is the Adult Competition Committee, of which I am honored to serve as chairman. I embrace this assignment with enthusiasm and optimism.

As a former collegiate player and long-time adult tournament participant at the District, Section and National level, I am particularly interested in promoting and growing participation in adult competition. I have been a USTA volunteer for more than 15 years, and I have served as a Tournament Director, Section President, and volunteer coach of a National runner-up Junior Team Tennis team. Our committee is a strong blend of international and national level players, tennis industry professionals, tournament officials, experienced staff, NTRP advocates, Section leaders, and others. We have a number of members returning from the previous committee, including Vice Chair Chrissie Costamagna and USTA Staff member Theresa Bowen.

Our committee's overall mandate is to address the decline of adult tournament play and to increase participation at all levels. In addition, every committee member is responsible for organizing or supporting a local grass-roots event (family and adult) in their respective community.

The focus of our committee is wide and deep—perhaps more so than ever before. Our scope includes a number of adult competition formats (not including USTA League and international play). While previous committees had significant focus on the higher-end aspects of “Senior Competition” and less focus in other aspects of adult play, the new committee has a wide range of areas in its charge, including entry level adult competition (Red/Orange/Green ball), NTRP, District & Section Age



Doug Wenger

Group events, and the “Top of the House”—our National tournaments (Category 1 and 2).

Other responsibilities of our committee include assisting national tournament directors with player seedings, tournament sanctioning and scheduling, sharing ideas on how to increase the diversity of adult event participants, rankings appeals, PPR tables, outreach and communication, sharing best practices, and selecting the Senior Service Award winner. Another change from previous years is that the Senior Cup Team Selection process formerly managed by this committee will now be handled by the Senior Team Selection Group.

Participation rates in adult events are on the decline—down nearly 11 percent in the past five years. Almost every age group has seen a decline in Category 1 and Category 2 participation levels over the past 10-plus years as well. Despite these statistics, there remain many bright spots. There are several well-attended events that enjoy solid participation and good player remarks. There still are groups of passionate and dedicated players who participate in adult events year after year. Studies also show that there are about 34,000 USTA League players (playing singles) with NTRP ratings of 4.0 and higher who are not playing adult tournaments. This group presents a largely untapped potential market for us.

Our mission is to find ways to take what is working well and add the right mix of promotion, innovation, and other actions to grow participation. While the ideas on what to do (or not do) vary widely, one thing is certain—we all want adult competitive tennis to thrive! Our committee is committed to working hard to achieve this goal.

For general questions and concerns for the committee, please contact us at aduldtournaments@usta.com. For ranking-related questions, please send your questions to ustaranking@usta.com.

Thank you for helping us grow participation in adult competitive tennis!

HEALTH & FITNESS

Massage Cupping

by Bernadette Lehmann

(NSWTA member Bern Lehmann is Nationally Certified as a Massage Therapist as well as for Therapeutic Massage and Body Work. Before joining Performance Health Center, in Natick, MA, Bern was trained as a Physical Therapist Assistant and a Recreational Therapist for the state of Hawaii.)



Bernadette Lehmann

Cupping is like the opposite of massage: rather than apply pressure to muscles, it uses suction to pull the skin and superficial muscle layer lightly upward. I find cupping works well on IT bands, scar tissue and to improve range of motion. And it has been used forever to relieve back and neck pain, stiff muscles, anxiety, fatigue, migraines, rheumatism and even cellulite. But don't book me for that one. I do not work on cellulite.

I use glass or plastic cups and a vacuum pistol to create suction on the body's surface. Massage oil or cream is used to bond the suction and create a smooth glide on the skin. This gliding technique lifts and stretches soft tissue. It promotes healing by loosening connective tissue, adhesions and scarring. This technique also improves blood flow circulation to the treated area, to encourage healing.

There is a difference between Massage Cupping and Traditional Chinese Cupping. In Massage Cupping, cups are placed on the treatment area for 1-3 minutes. Cups are slightly lifted and moved along the muscle fibers. Movements include: the gliding technique, which mimics effleurage; scooping, which mimics cross fiber fractioning; and shaking and twisting the cup, effective for scars and deep tissue release.

In Traditional Chinese Cupping, cups are placed on the skin and left for up to 15 minutes. They may be moved over the area being treated. They may be warmed up briefly by flame before being applied (don't do this at home). The Chinese Cupping goal is to move the stagnation of blood and dispense internal heat. It is often combined with acupuncture in one treatment as cupping follows the lines of the meridians and strives to 'open' energy-flow channels. And Chinese Cupping can affect tissues up to four inches deep from the external skin, releasing toxins and even refreshing veins and arteries. Hands, wrists, legs and ankles can be 'cupped.' Early Chinese documentation has it recommended for treating tuberculosis.

I hope you can find a certified massage practitioner in your area to experience cupping.

Help Your Tennis by Balancing your Emotions, your Thoughts and your Body

by Kathy Keating-Kay

(Kathy Keating-Kay, a certified JSJ practitioner and self-help instructor, has been practicing and teaching the Art of Jin Shin Jyutsu since 2000, learning it to turn her own health around. She also is adept at healing horses and dogs. Kathy, a NSWTA member, is no longer competing in tennis but having laugh out loud doubles games with her good friends at the Lauderdale Tennis Club.)



Kathy Keating-Kay

JIN SHIN JYUTSU is the Art of releasing tensions that are the causes for various symptoms in the body. Our bodies contain several energy pathways that feed life into all of our cells. When one or more of these paths become blocked, this damming effect may lead to discomfort or even pain. This blockage or stagnation will not only disrupt the local area but will continue and eventually disharmonize the complete path or paths of the energy flow.

Through Jin Shin Jyutsu, our awareness is awakened to the simple fact that we are endowed with the ability to harmonize and balance ourselves (in rhythm with the universe) physically, mentally and spiritually.

Jin Shin Jyutsu is an art as opposed to a technique because a technique is a mechanical application, whereas an art is a skillful creation. This beautiful, simple Art is our inheritance. There is a lot more to Jin Shin Jyutsu but you can start experiencing the Art today and everyday after that. It's very easy!

The Source of Energy for all cells of the body is located in the PALMS and SOLES. Each finger and each thumb are the simple unlocking keys to harmonizing attitudes.

First wrap your fingers around your THUMB— (Epidermis function, Spleen and Stomach Energy Patterns and the Attitude of Worry)

1. All worries begin to melt away.
2. Daily fatigue is "house cleaned".
3. Stomach distresses are removed.

Next simply hold your INDEX finger—(Muscular function, Kidney and Bladder Energy Patterns and the Attitude of Fear)

1. All FEARS begin to melt away.
2. Assimilation and elimination functions begin to improve.
3. All circulatory functions are improved.

Next simply hold your MIDDLE finger—(Vascular function, Liver and Gall Bladder Energy Patterns and the Attitude of Anger)

1. All frustrations, indecisions and anger begin to melt away.
2. Harmony is restored.
3. Eye tension starts to release.

Next simply hold your RING finger—(Dermis function, Lung and Large Intestine Energy Patterns and the Attitude of Sadness)

1. All deep sadness, hurts and depressions melt away.
2. Body energy begins to increase.
3. To be the smile, to unload and to receive your Breath of Life become easier (natural and effortless).

Next simply hold your LITTLE finger—(Skeletal function, Heart and Small Intestine Energy Patterns and the Attitude of Try To)

1. ALL "TRYING TO'S" melt away and you can just BE the SELF you are.
2. Heart functions become harmonized.
3. Body energy begins to increase.
4. Nerves become relaxed.
5. Total PEACE engulfs your body in the get to KNOW MYSELF IT IS.

Next simply hold the CENTER OF THE PALM—(Intuition, Energy Source for all Functions, Diaphragm and Umbilicus Energy Patterns). You can hold the right finger tips on the center of the left palm and the left finger tips on the center of the right palm simultaneously.

1. Aids in releasing general tension/stress from the total body.
2. Balancers (equilibrium) for the total body.

There are many more benefits—these are just a few. You can do all one hand and later the other hand or do the center of the palms.

I like to do 36 breaths while holding the center of the palms. Fold the hands, be the SMILE, be the dropping of the shoulders, bow (tilt) the head to a comfortable position, and exhale (unload) "one", inhale (RECEIVE the Cosmic Energy Force), exhale (unload) "two", inhale (RECEIVE), etc., counting up to thirty six aware and understanding BREATHS - the "purified" Cosmic Energy Force—daily. Just quietly enjoy each BREATH. Do not 'try' to breathe, just exhale (unload) all of the "dirt, dust and greasy grime" and inhale (receive) the "purified" Cosmic Energy Force.

This information comes from the 3 Jin Shin Jyutsu Self Help books written by Mary Burmeister. You can also order them online from the website: www.JSJinc.net

I know you will greatly enjoy and benefit from the Art of Jin Shin Jyutsu. Start holding those fingers now—fall asleep holding them—watch TV holding them—at red lights hold them—and at doctor appointments hold them. You always have your fingers with you.

It is a joy sharing this with you and I know it will help. If you would like to receive personal treatments, contact me at 954-778-0362. Namaste`



FEATURE ARTICLES

Women Coaches—A Vanishing Player in College Sports?

by Deborah Slaner Larkin

(Deborah is the CEO of the Women's Sports Foundation, an avid league, Cup and tournament player and a Life Member of the NSWTA.)



Deborah Slaner Larkin

Women cannot be complacent. We've fought for the right to vote, for credit cards in our own name, for the right to take advanced math and science classes, to participate in sports and, as this issue's cover reminds us, for our own professional tennis league. But we are not fully there yet on many issues and many of us who work in the sports industry are wondering how to engage with the next generation about our causes and our history. We love their energy and successes, but are a little surprised at the issues they haven't taken up, important concerns like equal pay and Title IX compliance. Some have never even heard of Billie Jean King, Rosie Casals, Althea Gibson or Pauline Betz Addie, who recently died at the age of 91—true pioneers who paved the way for all of us, both on and off the court.

In 1972, 90% of women's college teams were coached by women; now that number is 40%, according to the NCAA. This dramatic decline began when the AIAW discontinued operation in the late 1970s, and the NCAA assumed governance of both men's and women's sports. Prior to that time, men were not comfortable coaching women's teams—it was not prestigious, did not pay enough and the male coaches didn't have relationships with the female Athletic Directors (AD), who made the hiring decisions. But that all changed once the men's and women's teams were under the NCAA umbrella. Coaching women's sports became respectable, more money was offered and as many schools felt only one AD was needed, the female AD position for women's sports was most often dropped. The male ADs hired coaches they knew, which were men. This is still true today, but we're also seeing other trends. Being a head coach is an all-encompassing job, leaving little time for other responsibilities like raising families, which affects women more than men. We're also hearing stories of women who report that they and their athletes are experiencing discrimination at their universities, but are afraid to speak up for fear of losing their jobs.

They have cause for their fear. In 2014 Jamie Kenney, head men's tennis coach at Tufts University was fired. She filed a Title IX complaint with the Department of Education alleging that

her termination from the position was illegally motivated by gender stereotypes and double standards. According to the complaint Kenney alleges that her termination stemmed from suspending two team captains for violating the team's drinking policy. The players were banned from attending the conference championship—a punishment she cleared with the AD—but the players came anyway. The rest of the team got involved, rallying their parents to complain to the Tufts President. The Athletic Director then withdrew his support for the coach and a representative from human resources confronted Coach Kenney with the parents' complaints. Eventually, Kenney raised gender equity concerns and was terminated.

Unfortunately, this firing is not an isolated incidence. Tracey Greisbaum, field hockey coach at U. Iowa, and Shannon Miller, ice hockey coach at UM Duluth, were recently fired—not for cause but in both instances, for other reasons. A common thread was that they were both successful coaches and both spoke out against discrimination.

The Women's Sports Foundation—the leading authority on the participation of women and girls in sports—is devoting its efforts to bring attention to firings like this and is conducting research to determine why we're losing so many female coaches. Founded by Billie Jean King in 1974, The Women's Sports Foundation shapes public attitude about women's sports and athletes, builds capacities for organizations that get girls active, ensures equal opportunities for girls and women, and supports physically and emotionally healthy lifestyles. It has relationships with more than 1,000 of the world's elite female athletes and is recognized globally for its leadership, vision, expertise and influence.

Unless we pay attention and fight this trend of firing and not hiring female coaches, coaching college sports may turn into a male-only profession and we have too many qualified women coaches who want to coach to let that happen. It's not fair to them, or to the female players who deserve to be coached by qualified women (and men) who are also powerful role models.

If you know of female coaches having good or bad experiences, we'd like to hear about them—whether they happened last year or 30 years ago. Please email us at Advocacy@WomensSportsFoundation.org.

For more information, visit www.WomensSportsFoundation.org. Follow us: www.facebook.com/WomensSportsFoundation or on Twitter @WomensSportsFdn.

How We Seed

by Carol Clay

(Carol is a long-time volunteer for all things tennis as well as a ranked player and our very own NSWTA T-Shirt retailer.)



Carol Clay

So, you signed up to play the National Grass Courts in Forest Hills. You go online to see where you are seeded. But you are not seeded! You are aghast. Didn't they know you are ranked #10 in the USA? Why did they stop at only four seeds, anyway?

Well, the answers to these and other questions lie in what is called the "All Factors Method" of seeding tennis players. It is the seeding procedure used in all Category I National Championships and Super Category II and Category II National Tournaments. According to the USTA's Friend at Court (FAC), which contains USTA rules and regulations, "The All Factors Method of seeding is based on the players' chances of winning the tournament as determined by the Tournament Committee. The Tournament Committee shall consider all reasonably available information, including ranking lists, standing lists, recent records, types of surface and **particularly head-to-head encounters.**" (Emphasis added.) Results from unsanctioned tournaments can be used (e.g. from USPTA tournaments).

The exercise starts with a hard-working volunteer (more on that later) looking up head to head results of player records on the USTA and ITF websites. Many seeding assistants then create a "win/loss" chart. Players with direct wins over players in the draw are placed above the players they have beaten. Court surface is taken into consideration if the players have a combination of wins and losses against each other. While noting wins and losses on a player's record the seeding assistant also looks for players who have played common opponents. Wins and losses against common opponents are analyzed. For example, if player A has a win over player B and player C has a loss to player B then player A would be considered to have an indirect win over player C and would thus be seeded above player C even though they may never have played each other. Seeding assistants generally go back two or three years in researching records; beyond that, wins and losses may not be relevant due to aging and injuries.

The national ranking and standing lists may be used by seeding assistants as a place to begin their research. However, rankings and standings are based on points players earn by reaching certain rounds in tournaments and seeding for tournaments uses actual head to head results. Merely winning a tournament does not help with future seeding unless there were strong players in the tournament field who were defeated.

The seeds are then sent as 'suggestions' to the Tournament Director, who posts them two to three days before posting the draws. Our distraught player in the first paragraph would, when seeing she was not seeded, call the Tournament Director with information (such as specific direct and indirect wins or losses over a seeded player and the date, tournament and surface of the win) to substantiate her complaint. The Tournament Director can make an immediate ruling or bounce the complaint back to the seeding assistants, who then might have to do further research to double check the information. The Tournament Director ultimately decides the case.

So who are these hard-working seeding assistants? There are 21 in the Senior Women's divisions, usually two per five year age group. The seeding assistants provide seeding suggestions for every Category I National Championship and Category II National Tournament which contains the age division to which they are assigned. Due to conflict of interest concerns, seeding assistants do not seed their own age categories; they become familiar with the players in the division from following tournament results as the year progresses.

If anyone wants an inside look at how seeding is done, and can spare some time, please contact me at placlay10s@gmail.com. We are always looking for new volunteers. You get to see a completely different side of the tennis world and... you can make a difference.

CATEGORY I TOURNAMENTS

National Mixed 50, 60, 70 Hard Court Championships

Palm Springs, CA

(part of the ASICS Cat II Tournament)

January 24 February 1

50s—Susan Wright and Ronald Brewer won the Bronze. Fedderly/Worley Hagen won Gold; Neuman-Rea/Rea got Silver.

60s—Tina Karwasky and Geoff Cykman got Silver. Pam Schultz and Jeffrey Heely won the backdraw. Heston-Rettenmaier won Gold; Davis/Kearney won Bronze.

70s—Linda Bucklin and Charles Hoeveler won Gold over Jane Pang and Tad Yukawa, 6-7, 6-4, 6-4. Suella Steel and George Balch were pitted against Andrea Polisky and John Davis for the Bronze. Anne Russ and John Poplewell got to the finals of the backdraw.

National 30s Hard Court Championships

Austin, TX

February 27-March 2

First seed Meredith Walton won the Gold Ball over Julie Thu, 6-1, 6-1.

Meredith and Julie teamed up to win the doubles round robin.

National 35-85 Clay Court Championships

Houston, TX

March 2-8

Houston 35s

by Carolina Blouin



35s-Liz Burris, Kristin Hess

It's been almost two years since I've played a National and I had forgotten how Houston is indeed the best-run tournament in the country for female adult/senior tennis. It has meticulous match scheduling, a wonderful buffet breakfast and lunch every day, dinners and Happy Hour with live music, and a silent auction with items donated by NSWTA members including US Open presidential seating and women's finals tickets. At check in, one is greeted with a smile and a generous goodie bag with a tournament hat, long sleeve shirt, booklet with all tournament info and a magazine, a plastic mug with the TX flag and the famous towel, which held the theme of the tournament, "Don't mess with Texas."

Women's tennis history was celebrated this week,

and it all started at the Houston Racquet Club. However, history was also made this week by an incredibly inspiring woman named Kristin Hess. Her participation in the tournament brought everything else into perspective. She is a past gold and silver ball champion who at the early age of 42 was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma cancer. Only three months ago, Kristin had a stem cell transplant and spent 21 days in isolation in the hospital. This happened after 28 sessions of Chemo and a high dosage one. When she was invited to play this year's tournament she did not believe she could. She not only did but she and partner Liz Burris beat me and Gee Gee as second seeds in an amazing three-hour, three-set doubles match to reach the semis. Kristin said later, "My red blood cells were so low that I was unable to catch my breath most of the time and I had to take the full allotted time between points for recovery for the next point." Once the match was over, she could not hold back tears of joy. All of us hugged her tight and congratulated her and Liz on the win. Tennis is giving her happiness again after an amazing and continuing battle with cancer and we were all privileged to witness that moment! We all hope to see Kristin at next year's tournament and pray that the Lord will continue to give her strength to continue on her path to recovery.

The 35's standard was high this year with many great battles on the court. I wish I could name all the players who competed and write about each one. I will write about Dru Torian, who works with the special needs population in TX. I saw her hitting against the wall and asked if she wanted to hit on the hard courts before our first matches. She looked at me and asked if I wasn't the girl from Augusta, GA. I said yes, then she said, I am playing against you, are you sure you want to hit with me? I said, why not? As a matter of fact, we tried to play that match on Wednesday, as Thursday's forecast was for rain and wind. Well, we were not able to play early so we just practiced and wished each other well. The next day we had a friendly match and at one point she came up to the net, thinking the match was over. I reminded her I had lost the first point of the last game and she smiled. When the match was indeed over, we hugged and started talking about children with special needs, including my older son. I think we both deserved the "friendly" award!

The singles semis included Julie Thu and me (because of an unfortunate injury from a dear player Patricia Zerdan), and Meredith Walton and Nancy Hilliard. Julie beat me in an impeccable match, focused in every point fearless but gracefully, and Nancy beat Meredith in an extremely competitive match to reach the finals. In the end, inside due to rain on Sunday, Julie overcame Nancy in another wonderful tennis match (7-5, 6-3) to win her singles Gold Ball. Nancy also deserved her Silver and Meredith got the Bronze as I withdrew due to a swollen limb.

The doubles was an amazing event and spectators thought they were watching NCAA Division 1 College tennis! All matches were competitive and the ending

result for the first four places was: Hilliard/Smashy d. (#1 seed) Thu/Walton for Gold/Silver, and Morris/Toney d. Burris/Hess for Bronze/4th place. Thank you everyone for supporting tennis and NSWTA and hope to see you next year.

Houston 45s

by Nora Harrison

I was very excited about returning and competing in the 2015 Houston National Senior Clay Court Championships and doubly excited when asked to send a report on my experience as a returning player. I decided to take the opportunity instead to introduce my close friend/teammate from college (University of Texas at Tyler) and newest member of the NSWTA, Alexandra Nikolic.

Alexandra under encouragement (mine of course!) signed up for the tourney to test her skills, having taken a 25-year absence from the game. She got the bug early last year and started playing again and competing in tournaments in the Dallas area. She decided to play because she had missed its fun factor and more importantly, a sense of belonging on the tennis courts. Her success in tourneys at the local level was encouraging and we began talking at length about the National Senior circuit. I was delighted for the chance to catch up with her in person since her last visit to me in Erie, Colorado.

Alexandra was euphoric when she first arrived at the Houston Racquet Club a few days ahead of the start of the tourney. She looked forward to meeting and making new friends and was overwhelmed with the welcome she received and the kindness shown by the players, tourney staff, officials and the club personnel as the tournament progressed. Alexandra played her first round match in the Ladies 45's singles and lost to Diane Fleming (Belpre, OH). A big surprise came a day later when she was approached by Donna Miller (from Houston), her next round opponent. As it turned out, Donna and Alexandra were on the same high school tennis team in Tyler (Robert E. Lee)! Small world indeed. Donna won that match the next day. Alexandra shared with me that her match against Donna brought back memories of their competitiveness vying for positions on the high school team and that she looks forward to rekindling their friendship. Her experience at this tourney was unique and rewarding and she hopes to see everyone again in the next National Senior tourney. I hope to see her, too.

Now the tournament's results:

Julie Cass (Austin, TX) returned as the #2 seed and battled against #1 seed (and defending 2014 champion) Jolene Watanabe (Hilton Head Island, SC) in the Finals and won in 2 very close sets (6-4, 7-5). #5 seed Mary Dinneen (Maitland, FL) who lost to Jolene



45s Works, Shimizu, 35s Blouin, 45s Wright

in the semifinal round came in 3rd place when she and Shelly Works (San Antonio, TX) took to the courts. Laura Hudson (Austin, TX) won the backdraw, beating Tamara Simone (Solon, OH) 6-1, 6-1.

Julie became a double champion (literally and figuratively) when she won the Ladies Doubles with partner Alissa Finerman (Santa Monica, CA). As the #1 seeded team, they took on the #2 seeded team comprising of Jolene and Mary Dailey (Delray Beach, FL) and won 6-2, 6-1. 3rd place went to the team of Liz Burris (Bacliff, TX)/Tammy Morris (Houston, TX) and 4th place to Cynthia Trower Johnson/Vicki Vasicek Buholz (both from Dallas, TX). In the backdraw finals, Laura Hudson and Cynthia Rice beat Shelly Works and Lenora Wright in a battle between teams of fifth-seeded Texans, 6-4, 6-4.



45s_ Julie Cass, Alissa Finerman

Houston 55's

by Gail Warden

I was so excited to be heading to Houston for I have aged up to the 55's and it would be my first time attending this coveted event at the Houston Racquet Club. For those of you who haven't attended Houston yet, write this one down on your calendars for 2016. It is the best of the best. Well, it's hard to beat La Jolla's location in San Diego, but you won't want to miss the Houston experience: the NSWCCC committee offers a buffet breakfast and lunch every day, two parties and the use of the facilities of the HRC. What more could a tennis player want? Okay, warm weather, but there are nice clay courts for our bodies and all your peers gathered around to watch and cheer you on. Yup, Houston has that in spades.

The 55's started off with a singles draw of 26 young and eager ladies on a chilly cloudy day. Cynthia Johnson is back on the scene and 5th seed Yvonne Gallop was her opponent. What a battle this was, tracking balls down all over the court, angles galore and a lot of grunting. Cynthia came out on top, eking out the first set 7-5 and the second 6-3. Kathy Foulk also found herself in a duel with Sally Zasloff. These ladies were slicing and dicing, topspin, serve and volley, you name it they did it. Foulk came out the winner 7-6, 6-4. Those of us who survived the first round took on the seeded players the second round. No upsets that day. I was lucky enough to have a great seat for the quarterfinals between Ann Pellow and Tracy Thompson. These ladies have every shot



55s Kim Lackey, Ann Pellow

in the book—I was sweating just watching these gals duel it out. Hats off to Ann and Tracy, you left it all on the court. Ann Pellow advanced 1-6, 6-2, 6-3.

Mother Nature had some fun with us on Thursday. She decided to blast Houston with some arctic air, sending the temperature plunging 50 degrees. That didn't stop us ladies from donning our woolies and competing. As the saying goes, "when the going gets tough, the tough get going." I played Erin Boynton in the back draw that day; we are both from the north and when it's that cold we just go inside—but not in Houston; play on we did. There were no back draw upsets Thursday; all the seeds advanced. Kathy Vick and Tracy Thompson ended up in the finals of the back draw with Kathy coming out on top in three sets. The main draw saw Diane Barker and Susan Wright duking it out for the Gold ball. Diane persevered 6-2, 6-0. Cynthia Johnson defeated Ann Pellow for the Bronze 6-0, 6-4.

The doubles draw saw 15 teams at the starting line. This was a deep draw, setting the stage for some early round upsets. Two teams, Foulk / Gallop and Pellow / Lackey upset their seeds and ended up playing each other for the Bronze ball. Pellow / Lackey came out the victors in three hard fought sets 6-4, 3-6, 6-2. I saw the main draw finals that was decided in three close sets with Nichols / Wright defeating Steinmetz / Vick 6-4, 5-7, 7-6. The volley exchanges and tactics in this match drew quite a crowd. It takes a lot of effort, practice time and sacrifice to travel to Houston. For all of you who had the courage to sign up for the 55's National Clay courts, my hat goes off to you.



55s- Susan Wright, Carolyn Nichols, Kathy Vick, Kim Steinmetz

Houston 65s

by Shula Feuer

First Impressions." Being a neophyte in the National Tennis scene, this was my first 65's National tournament. Houston has always been touted as a premier national event, and I must say it definitely lived up to its reputation.

The venue, The Houston Racquet Club, is a beautiful facility with numerous courts, lovely clubhouse, pro-shop, well-situated locker rooms, and fitness center. The tournament was well organized thanks to tournament director Sue Bramlette, her assistant Judy Job, and all the committee members who worked to make this a first class event. I can't imagine the number of hours that were put in to making this such a superb week. We all received lovely goodie bags, breakfast and lunch everyday,

an impressive journal listing all the sponsors that provided us with additional amenities—like the onsite masseuses, an athletic trainer, a wonderful cocktail hour on Wednesday, and a sumptuous banquet on Thursday evening.

One of the things that was out of the tournament's control was the weather. On two of the days, when you walked around the club, it looked more like we were at a ski resort rather than a tennis club. Most everyone was donning layers of clothing, including fleece jackets, ski hats, gloves, and anything that would keep their bodies warm. We had heat towers and an outdoor fireplace to cozy up to, to warm up our bodies. But, of course, as you started to play, the layers did start to come off, slowly though.

The icing on the cake was the high quality of tennis in all age groups. In the 65's there were many great three set matches in both singles and doubles. The singles draw did have its share of upsets. In the semi-finals Kerry Young (#4 seed) defeated # 1 seed Martha Downing. Anne Guerrant (#3 seed) prevailed over the #2 seed Brenda Carter. Anne Guerrant won the Gold, Kerry Young, the Silver, Brenda Carter won the Bronze. In the doubles, the first seeded team of Kathleen Bennett / Martha Downing won the Gold, Kathy Barnes / Sue Bramlette, the Silver, and Cynthia Babb / Brenda Carter took the Bronze.

My final impression—I can't wait to return to Houston next year!



65s- Kathy Barnes, 55s Tracey Thompson



65s- Ching Ling Chang, Anne Guerrant



65s Vicky McEvoy, Cindy Babb, Brenda Carter, Molly Hahn with 55s Gail Warden and husband Duncan

Houston 75's

by Jessie von Hippel

The 75's division is strong, resilient, multi-talented, and always ready to enjoy one another's company and share another grand adventure together. In Houston a 32 draw in singles and 16 draw in doubles faced the challenges of temperatures in the low's 40's on several days, swirling winds, and threatening rain to produce memorable matches throughout the week and memorable experiences off the court.

Some, like Linda Friedlander, coming from single-digit cold days and mounds of snow in upstate New York and bringing their down jackets, were delighted to feel the warm Texas sun and a relatively warmer climate. Most of us were all bundled up in layers to play and, as Lola O'Sullivan said, "felt like muffins" running around the court, but "the fact that we all persevered is testimony itself to the heartiness of us ALL!!!"

Cheering many of the matches on as well as playing their own were Penny Maag, Lillian Carothers, Betty Hill, Alisa Slack, and Barbara Rorick. We welcomed back to competition those recovering from injuries and illness—Dolores Beck, Kathy Langer, Cathy Kestle (playing with a broken wrist), Susie Martin, Bambi Schuette, and Laurie Leach. We welcomed to the 75's Dorcas Miller and Grace Woo, and 80's Laurie Leach, Mary John Lynch, and Jan Durrett who all had great matches in the 75's. We all miss Carol Wood and hope for her quick return, but we were reminded of her participation in early days of the tournament by the picture included on the poster at the entrance to the banquet.



75s-Old picture of Carol Wood

As we all know, clay, especially slow, wet clay, demands strategy and endurance in singles, and this was clear in a number of three-set first-round matchups with Lyn Tietz over Barbara Oldfield, Chris Smith over Lola O'Sullivan, and Ria Graham over Kathy Langer. The singles seeds held to form until the semifinals, with Donna Fales (1), Dori Devries (2), and Lynn Little (4) coming through, but Roz King (3) falling in three sets to Ria Graham (5) marked by a deciding tiebreaker 7-6(6).

The most memorable match took place in the women's singles finals between top-seeded Donna Fales and fourth-seeded Lynn Little. Several days of cold weather did not cool off Lynn, whose hot streak started in Mission Hills with three-set wins over Roz King and Dori Devries, nor did it cool Donna, who was coming from straight-set wins over Libby Keenan, Grace Woo, and Burnett Herrick in the Crawford Cup. Donna's all-court game, taking the ball on the rise, masterfully moving her opponents around the court and taking the net on any short ball, gave her solid wins over Julia Levering,

#5 seed Lyn Tietz, and #5 seed Ria Graham to reach the final matchup with Lynn. Lynn's deep ground strokes, determination not to make unforced errors, and mental fortitude produced solid wins as well over Cathy Kestle, Betty Hill, Grace Woo, and then #2 seed Dori Devries in the semifinals. Spectators, participants, and Club members were enthralled as Lynn and Donna produced well-constructed, always mentally and physically challenging, and thoughtful points throughout a magnificent final won by Lynn 7-6 (2), 6-4. Dori Devries took third place over Ria Graham in a well-fought match.

An early-round consolation match saw Dolores Beck bow to Cathy Kestle in a four-hour, 6-7, 6-4, 7-5 match, with both fully challenging each other point by point, leaving Cathy moving to the next round and Dolores happy that she had fully recovered from a knee accident last July when she was carried off the court. That evening the guitarist at the banquet at HRC grabbed his microphone to toast Dolores, saying "that was some long match, little lady." Barbara Oldfield and Mary John Lynch were not to be outdone in their well-played 7-6 (4), 4-6, 7-5 match, with Barbara moving on, while Grace Woo and Patty Boyer pushed each other to the brink as well, with Grace moving on. Lyn Tietz prevailed to take the consolation singles over, in order, Lola O'Sullivan, Roz King, and Grace Woo.

The women's 75's doubles more or less followed form with #1 seeds Dori Devries and Roz King and #2 seeds Claudia Giacomini and Lynn Little making it to the finals, although each met an unseeded team in the semis. Judy Janc and Susan Martin had defeated #3 seeds Kathy Langer and Lyn Tietz, but then lost to Giacomini and Little, while Ria Graham and Jessie von Hippel had defeated #4 seeds Chris Smith and Michaelin Watts but lost to Devries and King. The doubles final produced masterful doubles, with the momentum seesawing back and forth and each team challenging the best in the other, with Giacomini and Little prevailing in three sets 6-0, 6-7(5), 6-2. For third place Graham and von Hippel won over Janc and Martin in fourth place.



75s-Claudia Giacomini, Donna Ringer in warm jacket

Three-set challenges marked the consolation doubles with Carol Roberts and Mary Ann Winden winning over Caroline Haynes and Laurie Leach, Dorcas Miller and Grace Woo over Lola O'Sullivan and Barbara Oldfield, and Bambi Schuette and Jeannette Tubbs. Miller and Woo won the final round over Langer and Tietz 6-1, 6-7 (5), Retired (pc) as times for departures got too close.

The many talents of our group was seen in the NSWTA Auction with Lyn Tietz's watercolors and books, Judy Janc's paintings, Ria Graham's California Coast palette oil painting, and Michaelin Watts' design talents in helping to arrange auction items for their best



75s- Donna Fales (Silver), Lynn Little (Gold)



75s- Ria Graham (4th) with Dori Devries (Bronze)

presentations. Ever-resourceful Kathie Meyering shared her TUEBL source of free books for our devices (the Ultimate Book Library at <http://tuebl.ca/>). Our group also knows how to have fun and celebrate, as seen at the "Texas Tailgate" party with Lola, Laurie and Chris Smith in team jerseys and linedancing to the lively Texas Roadhouse band.



75s-Bonnie Champion

Thanks, finally, to the outstanding leadership of Sue Bramlette and her always-helpful committee and the talented and dedicated staff of the Houston Racquet Club. We were warmly welcomed and graciously hosted on and off the courts, creating a memorable experience for all in celebrating the 45th anniversary of this tournament at the Club. We treasured



75s-L-R Barbara Oldfield, Lyn Tietz, Patti Boyer, Lola O'Sullivan, Linda Friedlander, Kathy Langer.

being around women tennis players of all ages, marveling at the power and modern strokes of the young ones, the inspiring play of the 85's where we will be someday, and sharing stories about how we started, why we compete, and why we all love tennis.

Houston 85s

by Jane Lutz

Eighty and Five, the Ladies Still Strive to Win: With years of experience behind it, the Houston Racquet Club hosted its annual United States Tennis Association National Women's Clay Court Championships under the theme "Don't Mess with Texas."

Jane Lutz captured "double gold" in the 85's age division, winning in both singles and doubles. She gave up only 8 games in all of her singles matches to win the Gold Ball. Following Jane to win the Silver Ball was her doubles partner, Rita Price; the Bronze Ball was awarded to Janet Hubbard, who defeated Louise Russ in a tough three setter, 4-6,6-4,6-1. The singles consolation title was captured by Carol Cofer, who topped Jan Durrett 6-1,6-0 after Nell Seavey, a woman new to the 85's, had defaulted to Jan earlier because of illness.

Originally six teams were entered in the doubles competition, and an 8-draw format was set. However, before the tournament began, Boots Colwell and Pat Wiedenmann were forced to cancel their entry due to an injury that Boots suffered. Therefore, the format was changed to a round robin. Topping all of the teams and winning the Gold Balls were Jane Lutz and Rita Price, who took the prize without dropping a set. Angie Ray and Louise Russ captured the Silver Balls. Winning the Bronze Balls were Joyce Jones and her partner, Nell Seavey. This was not only Nell Seavey's first tournament in the 85's, it was also her first USTA ball. Carol Cofer and Janet Hubbard finished fourth, followed by Margaret Anderson and Elizabeth Harrison.



85s-Front: Rita Price, Janet Hubbard, Elizabeth Harrison, Joyce Jones, Louise Russ; Back=Jane Lutz, Carol Cofer, Margaret Anderson, Nell Seavey, Angie Ray, Jan Durrett

The weather during the week was a "dippity do dah" event. The first few days were sunny and pleasant. Then, however, the "dip" in the temperature dropped to 31 degrees, light rain fell, and a heavier wind arrived. Meanwhile, the players made it "do" and played any matches scheduled. Finally "dah" players "didn't mess with Texas" and finished their tournament as planned.

Other highlights of the 45th tournament included fantastic breakfasts and lunches for the players, a Texas Tailgate party on Wednesday and a Beers and Cheers event on Friday. At the HRC Hoedown on Thursday evening, the annual "Silent Auction" was held, the raffle for an airline ticket to benefit the NSWTA was drawn, and a local band performed. Joyce Jones read a poem about tennis she had penned, and a song was sung to "A Bicycle Built for Two" by players.

At the annual business meeting, Kathy Langer was installed as the new president and received the HRC's Good Sportsmanship award, and Cynthia Babb was recognized for her dedication as past president.



85s--Bronze: Joyce Jones, Nell Seavey Gold: Rita Price, Jane Lutz Silver: Angie Ray, Louise Russ

National Father/Daughter Indoor Championships

South Barrington, IL

March 13-15

Father 80 and Over–Daughter Doubles: Susan Wright and Enver Mehmedbasich (Grand Junction, CO) came in second in this round robin to the Fechtors (Boston/Watertown, MA).

National 60-80 Clay Court Championships

Huntsville, AL

April 11-17

Huntsville 60s

by Yolanda Therrien

The week in Huntsville, Alabama proved to be one requiring determination and adaptability. Despite the unfavorable weather, the Huntsville Women’s Tennis Association provided players with lots of smiles, plenty of food and thoughtful gifts. These women deserve a big “thank you” for all their efforts to make the players’ visit to Huntsville warm and inviting. Thank goodness for Southern hospitality. When you have lemons, make lemonade!

For the singles main draw, play continued on the clay Monday thru Wednesday between rain showers. The finals were played on hard courts indoors on Thursday. Tina Karwasky was able to adapt through several rain delays prior to reaching the finals indoor and capturing another Gold Ball with the score of 6-0, 6-3. In fact this was Tina’s 100th Gold Ball in singles. Wendy McColskey took the Silver while Sherri Bronson took the Bronze.

Due to the wet weather conditions and its effect on these clays courts, the doubles only saw play on the clay Saturday, Sunday and Friday. Play was cancelled Monday thru Wednesday afternoon. Play resumed on the hard courts Thursday followed by the finals on clay on Friday. The team of Tina Karwasky and Jan Kirkland-Cochran prevailed over Sherri Bronson and Kathy Foulk 6-0, 7-6 (2). This too was Tina’s 100th Gold Ball in doubles.

After numerous delays and change of surfaces, Rita Giles won the back draw over Leslie Murveit 6-2, 6-4.



60s-Yodie Therrien



60s-Sherri Bronson, Kathy Foulk,TD Joc Simmons, Jan Kirkland Cochran, Tina Karwasky

The team of Lillian Peltz-Petow and Norma Taylor won the doubles back draw over Elizabeth Bohac and B’Ann Gabelt 7-6 (5), 6-3.

Looks like lemons could become Tina’s favorite fruit!

Huntsville 70s

by Elizabeth Barnhill

For any age group, the first National of the year is always a special event bringing together



70s-Elizabeth Barnhill, Sharon Ploor

tennis friends from around the country. For the 70s, the National Clay Courts in Huntsville provided the perfect venue. With hotels close to the site, with the Huntsville Women’s Tennis Association providing delicious lunches and morning snacks, and with rain providing plenty of time to catch up, there was lots of camaraderie.

In the 70s singles, #1 seed Betty Wachob outlasted #2 seed Cathy Anderson in a 6-7, 6-4, 7-5 marathon to win the Gold Ball. Lee Delfausse received the Bronze when her doubles partner Sue Kimball withdrew from their singles match after one game. In the doubles, Anderson/Wachob won the Gold over Delfausse/Kimball 7-5, 6-2. Elizabeth Barnhill/Sharon Ploor, who upset #2 seeds Ann Hunt/Sheila Weinstock in the quarters, received the Bronze when Jane Pang/Anne Russ had to withdraw after Russ fractured a bone in her foot during her last singles match. Hunt/Weinstock went on to win the consolation doubles over Peggy Andry/Jan Pierson, 6-4, 6-3. The singles consolation was won by Peggy Andry over Elizabeth Barnhill 6-2, 6-2.

The week of rainy weather forced many delayed matches, matches indoors, matches on hard courts, and some shortened formats. A special thanks to tournament director Joc Simmons for getting all matches played and for keeping his pleasant demeanor despite lack of sleep from hearing rain almost every night. Fittingly, by the final morning we were back playing full 2 out of 3 sets on the Huntsville clay.



70s-Sheila Weinstock, Ann Hunt

Huntsville 80s

by Esther Williams

A group of twelve enthusiastic women born in 1935 or earlier arrived to play in Huntsville. Most of us were tournament veterans, although some had just moved into the 80s. We were very happy to have a reunion. We came from

both coasts and in between. Fay Martin and Carolyn Shumake lived the closest to the tournament, in Tennessee. There was a lot of collegiality among the players, as well as much discussion of the 1940s, and singing of 1940s popular songs such as "Til the End of Time" and "Chickory Chick Cha La Cha La."



80s- Jan Davis, Carolyn Shumake, Lorna McCracken, Esther Williams

An especially enjoyable feature of this tournament was that the 60s, 70s, and 80s all played on the same days. The entire group of tournament players was small enough that we could get to know many of the younger players. We all made some new friends and discovered that we all had a lot in common in spite of the age disparity.

The Huntsville Tennis Center had many beautiful clay courts and a very helpful staff, especially "Joc" Simmons, the Tournament Director. The ladies from the Huntsville Women's Tennis Association took very good care of all the players. The HWTA gave us a welcome cocktail party and provided delicious lunches and plentiful snacks all day long. Most of the excellent items served are featured in the HWTA's cookbook, which many of us bought by the end of the week. The HWTA also arranged for a tour bus to take us to see downtown Huntsville one evening.

The only thing that no one could control was the weather. There were long rain delays on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday! Otherwise the weather was warm and pleasant. On Wednesday and Thursday the 80s doubles matches were played on the Huntsville Tennis Center's hard courts because the clay courts were too soft to be playable.

The seedings held up in the singles. #1 Burnett Herrick defeated #2 Dorothy Matthiessen 6-4, 6-2 in the singles finals, and they earned Gold and Silver balls, respectively. Mary John Lynch won a Bronze ball by defeating Esther Williams 6-2, 7-5 in the play-off for third place. Judith Smith defeated Irene Bretzel 6-1, 6-3 to win the consolation draw.

There were 5 pairs in the doubles so we played a round robin. This was a great plan because we all were assured of four matches. Janet Davis and Carolyn Shumake played together in a tournament for the first time, as did Dorothy Matthiessen



80s- Judy Smith, Burnett Herrick



80s- Esther Williams, Mary John Lynch

and Jacquie van Haelst. Burnett Herrick and Judith Smith, seeded #1, won all four of their matches and won Gold balls. Rose Austin and Mary John Lynch won three of their matches and won Silver balls. Lorna McCracken and Esther Williams won two of their matches and won Bronze balls. It was the first ball for both Lorna and Esther.



80s- Dorothy Matthiessen and Jacquie van Haelst

This was an excellent tournament in every way (except the weather) and all of the 80s had a wonderful time.

National Husband/Wife Grass Court Championships

Mission Hills Country Club, Rancho Mirage, CA
March 1 - 14

by Susan Kimball

As usual, this tournament attracted a huge number of husband and wife teams in every age group. Steve and Abby Solomon are so successful at running this tournament that they have had to restrict draws to 32, 64 and 32 respectively—there is always a waiting list of couples eager to fill any last-minute open spots—but with only 10 grass courts available at Mission Hills Country Club, any more players would make it difficult to fit in all of the matches. As it was, some first round consolation matches had to be played on hard courts.

What is the great attraction? First must be the chance to play on the wonderful grass courts at Mission Hills Country Club but that isn't all: entry fees include attractive and wearable long sleeve performance shirts for both men and women, a gift bag with hats, socks and other goodies, grounds passes to the Indian Wells Tournament and a dinner dance with delicious foods on the buffet to entice everybody and a great DJ to encourage those folks with remaining energy to dance!

As if that all isn't enough, Ken Solomon, CEO of the Tennis Channel, which is a major sponsor of this tournament and who also happens to be Steve and Abby's son, attended the banquet



Ann Stanley with Grace Woo (top photo); Susan Sprague (bottom left); Heather Fiscalini (bottom right)

as a guest speaker. Gripes, praise, suggestions, etc. were all graciously accepted by Ken from many of us anxious to voice our opinions.

The weather this year was kind; previous years have sometimes presented us with damp grass in the mornings delaying play because of the slippery conditions or gale force desert winds which don't delay play but definitely present a challenge somewhat akin to playing in a wind tunnel. This year, every day was perfect.

In the 100's, Jennifer and John Lyons were defeated in the final by Jamil and Penne Atcha—a first win on the grass for the Atcha's. The 120's was won by Anne and Andrew Stanley who beat Steve and Karen Haas, who are new to the 120 age category. The 140's was won by Colleen and Don Keenan over Diane and David Willauer. Colleen and Don were excited to "graduate" into this division and win their first Gold Ball. Honorable mention goes to Grace Woo and her husband Jeff Wagstaff who were seeded 5, were knocked out in the first round, Grace being exhausted as she came directly from the ladies' tournament in Houston, Jeff being severely jet-lagged, but they were able to re-group and win the back draw.

National Husband/Wife Clay Court Championships

Olde Providence Racquet Club, Charlotte, NC

April 27- May 1

by Jack Barker

When you get husbands, wives and tennis together there is a lot of love taking place and that is what transpired at the National Clay Courts Husband and Wife Championships. The Olde Providence Racquet Club, in Charlotte NC, was once again a grand host to the tournament.

Play started on Monday in all categories. At dinner Monday night, all the couples were treated to a wonderful dinner, great prizes, and a very interesting short presentation from Peter Marmureanu. Petre, which is Peter in Romania, was a former Romanian Davis Cup player. His autobiography is called "Beyond My Dreams" and should be on everyone's summer reading list.

Tuesday and Wednesday were filled with great play. The seeds advanced, but barely, as the field was very balanced from top to bottom. Many matches were decided by a player hitting a line or a tape. Of course, there were winners and a few misses that resulted in the all-too-famous words, "How could I miss that ball!?"

The highlight on Thursday was the 100's final. The Williams, who were the number one seed, beat the Chases in straight sets. The Chases were looking

for revenge as they lost to the Williams at the indoors last December however the Williams played tough, winning 7-6, 6-2. The Clarks had a walkover to capture the Bronze.

The 120's semis had some outstanding competition, which ended with both the number one and number two seeds losing. The Kimballs defeated the Spagues 6-4, 6-4 and the Barkers squeaked by the Haas in a three-hour three-setter.

The 140's semis had upsets in the top half of the draw with the #3 seed Willauers winning over #1 seed Burns Keenan/Keenan 7-6, 6-4. The bottom half had the #2 seed Siracusas surviving 6-4 in the third set against Azevedo/Mizerek.

Back draw matches in both the 120's and the 140's were also very competitive, once again showing the strength of the draw from top to bottom.

In the 120's on Friday, the Kimballs defeated the Barkers in two hard-fought sets, 7-6, 7-6, claiming the title. The Bronze went to the Spragues, who defeat the Haas 7-6, 6-4. The consolation tournament went to the team of Martin Collin/Betsy Savitt 6-3, 7-5.

In the 140's, the Willauers took the Gold with a 6-3, 6-2 victory against the Siracusas. In the battle for the Bronze the Burns Keenan/Keenan team won over Azevedo/Mizerek 6-1, 6-2. The Carters (Brenda and Harry) suffered a loss the first day but rebounded to win five straight in the consolation tournament.

In closing, the Olde Providence Racquet Club deserves a standing ovation for level of friendship that was so freely given to all the players. The management team, the staff, and the wonderful members, (especially the Beverleys) made this a truly exceptional experience.

Let's hope the tournament continues to grow in the future.



Todd and Sue Sprague, 120 Bronze



Martin Colin and Betsy Savitt, 120 Consies



Lynne and Mike Annett



Diane and Jack Barker, 120 Silver



140s Diane and David Willauers (Gold) with Judith and Pat Siracusa (Silver)



Mas and Sue Kimball, 120's Gold

CATEGORY II TOURNAMENTS

Les Grandes Dames at BallenIsles

Palm Beach Gardens, FL
January 21 – 25

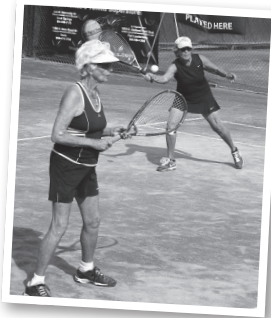
by Sheila Weinstock

Once again, the even-numbered players converged on the beautiful facility of the BallenIsles Country Club for the annual Super Category II tournament held there. Overall, there was lots of good competitive play, with the number one seeds winning in all the categories, except for the 40 doubles where the team of Bishop and Myslivecek upset the number one seed of Dailey and Riddell in a very close, long, three-set match.

The banquet held on Thursday night was the off-court highlight of the tournament. The banquet was held in Dodo Cheney's honor and there was an overabundance of wooden rackets, white lace scarves, pearls and sequins adorning the room. A great video was shown giving an overview of Dodo's life, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed watching it. It was a great tribute to one of our great legends of women's tennis. Burnett Herrick was named the "best dressed" for her outstanding lace outfit, as well as for her energetic dancing. As usual, the dance floor was very busy and the players used the activity for their "pre-match" dynamic warm-up!

Trish Faulkner and her committee did their usual fine job with orchestrating the tournament schedule, activities, and the outstanding banquet. Everyone had a great time and appreciate all the effort put in to the tournament as a whole.

*The photos on the next 2 1/2 pages are from the Crawford Cup tournament.



Burnett Herrick, Dorothy Wasser



Kathy Foulk, Terri Thomson



Carol Wood



Diana Kitt



Carolyn Nichols, Diane Barker

All the final results:

30 Singles: Fanny Gamble d. Rocio Rodriguez 6-3, 6-4; Doubles RR won by Bishop / Marr

40 Singles: Jennifer Bishop d. Paula Myslivecek 6-7 (5), 6-4, 6-4; Doubles: Bishop / Myslivecek d. Dailey / Riddell.

50 Singles: Fran Chandler d. Julie Farina 6-0, 6-1; Doubles: Keller / Kirby d. Brown / Jones in 3 sets

60 Singles: Wendy McColskey d. Helga Immerfall 6-1, 6-0; Doubles: McColskey / McColskey d. Peggy Machoian / Joan Oelschlager 6-2, 6-3

70 Singles: Betty Wachob d. Cathy Anderson 6-0, 6-1; Doubles: Anderson / Wachob d. Irene Graham / Sue Kimball 7-6(3), 6-2

80 Singles: Burnett Herrick d. Libby Keenan 6-3, 7-5; Doubles: Herrick / Judy Smith d. Rosemarie Asch / Mary Ann Plante 6-0, 6-4



Christine Kingsley and Denise Robinson



Canadian Jeannette McGlone

ASICS

Rancho Mirage, CA

January 24-February 1

by Marie Allman

Rancho Mirage California is at its best in January and hosts the largest Category II tournament in the US, drawing 600 men and women. The sun comes up around 9 am and it feels great, warm, especially if you are from Utah, Colorado and Reno like some of my friends where the snow is thick. It was held at Mission Hills CC, my home club, which does a wonderful job of hosting a cocktail party and one fun dinner dance. Many of us ladies get up and bogey after dinner! The tournament is very well run and provides exceedingly tough competition. The last few years it has also hosted the National Hardcourts Mixed for 50 and 60's.

As I'm getting to be more and more senior I'm watching these gorgeous matches by many young people, too numerous to



Joan Brisbin



Sue Bacey, Toni Carlos



Canadians Donna Leroux, Brenda Pfau

mention. Alyssa Finerman must be one of the top doubles players her age in the US, Amanda Parson plays lovely singles. Many of my peers and older—like Lynn Little and Dori Devries—are also showing such mental strength, such experience. I'm envious but happy for them!

The results were as follows:

| Singles | Doubles |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| 35 A. Parson Siegel | C. Bartelt/Ryan |
| 40 M. Atoji | N. Hayden/Parson Siegel |
| 45 T. Houk | A. Finerman/Herreman-Bagby |
| 50 R. Niedeffner | L. Naumu/P. Vandenberg |
| 55 S. Wright | T. Thompson/Wright |
| 60 T. Karwasky | A. Stanley/S. Bronson |
| 65 C. Ren | J. Hasse/F. Matsumoto |
| 70 C. Castell | C. Castell/J. Louie |
| 75 L. Little | L. Little/D. Matthiessen |
| 80 D. Matthiessen | |

The Crawford Cup—Les Grandes Dames

Ft. Lauderdale, FL

February 4-8

by Brenda Pfau

This was my third trip to the Fort Lauderdale Tennis Club for the Grandes Dames

tournament. Each year there are a number of Canadians playing in the tournament—both those who are “snowbirds” and those less lucky who are wintering in the frozen North and travel down to play. Word is spreading about what a great tournament this is and our numbers are growing! There are a number of reasons why we think this is a great tournament to play and you will notice that the beautiful weather, and lovely venue—while a great bonus—are not in the top ten reasons we love to come. So here are the Top Ten Reasons This is a Great Tournament:

1. The tournament is always very well organized and run by a great, facilitative group of club members and always with a smile! My introduction to Patty



Michelle Rothstein, Barbara Squires



Rita Price, Alisa Yee, Leora Grimshaw, Shula Feuer, Jane Lutz

Crawford came three years ago when I got a call a week before the tournament. She told me that she had learned from another player that I was coming from Canada, alone, and staying at a hotel, so took the initiative to help me and arranged accommodation for me onsite. And she organized a pick up at the airport for me at 2 am in the morning. Wow... for a stranger!



Joann Nicodemus, Kathy Langer



Dorothy Wasser, Joan Nevins

2. It's a great opportunity to meet and mingle with fellow Canadians. We are so geographically spread in Canada that we seldom meet up with many of the Canadian players and we look forward to Crawford and meeting other Canadians and catching up with friends from afar.



Teal Lang

3. We are in awe and draw inspiration from being there and talking to and watching the legends of the game play: hall of famers, gold ball winners and just beautiful, and gracious ladies all of them --too many to list but I must mention Rita Price. She sees me once a year and not only remembers my name, but how to spell it and where I am from.



Ellen Goodman, Carol Clay

4. Where would many of us be without Carol Clay and the wonderful NSWTA clothing sold at the tournament? I received my order by mail two weeks ago...I am set for long sleeve shirts for at least another year. Great shirts, beautiful design and so affordable. And the tournament gift shirt is so lovely each year. Thanks, Carol!



Kerry Young, Sue Bramlette, Cindy Babb, Brenda Carter

5. The tournament has an interesting international flavor. A number of players come from countries other than Canada and it's wonderful to meet and talk to them about tennis at 'home.' This year I played a wonderful lady whose home base is Milan; another lady I played is from Sweden, and “winters” each year in Florida—another “snowbird”. And I enjoyed watching one of the top young ITF players from France.

6. The tournament draws top players from across the USA and it's wonderful to meet ladies from California to New York, from Ohio and Illinois to Texas and everywhere in between. There are not too many places where I can travel to just one place and meet new friends from east to west and north to south and catch up with my American friends I've met at other tournaments.



Kerry Young, Mary Ann Plante, Abbi Neuthaler and Ellen Goodman



Kris McDonald, Betsy Savitt

7. The hospitality of the Fort Lauderdale Tennis Club is phenomenal. Not only do members give over the whole club to the tournament, players are made to feel welcome and have full use of the courts, the gym, and the pool. And the continental breakfast every day is awesome. Members are out on the courts getting courts ready for play early in the morning and are on duty grooming the courts between matches.

8. Many club members host players as billets. This really helps offset the costs of travel to a tournament. The club hosts a wonderful evening dinner with great door prizes. (Somehow our table won 5 great prizes; next year, sit with the Canadians.) We appreciate the sponsorship of club members in hosting the dinner and donating the door prizes. It's a very relaxing and lovely event each year.

9. The level of competition is awesome. The tournament attracts top players with very deep draws. So many great matches to watch! Going home enriched from the tennis experience is a major reason to play this tournament.

10. The atmosphere of the tournament exemplifies the spirit of the game. The graciousness and camaraderie



Louise Russ, Carol Cofer, Janet Hubbard, Jane Lutz, Rita Price

at the tournament with top players encouraging newcomers to the tournament scene, with few on-court disputes, and players feeling like "winners" even if the match was "lost" ...make this a lovely tennis tournament.

The Results:

45s—S. Boyer d. D. Esswein; Doubles: M.Carter /K. Quentrec d. A.Neuthaler /S.Zasloff

55s—D. Barker d. C. Nichols; Doubles: McDonald /Savitt d. Gallop /Leprevost

65s—B. Carter d. A. Guerrant; Doubles: Bramlette /Young d. Babb /Carter

75s—D. Fales d. B. Herrick; Doubles: Herrick /Wasser d. Langer /Tietz

85S- D. Lutz d. R. Price; Doubles: Brisbin /Cofer

NSWTA Championships

Alexandria, VA

April 22-26

by Joan Oelschlager

The flowers and trees at the Belle Haven Country Club were in full spring bloom, making the long winter a distant memory. This year's players were again from a cross section of states plus Canada, this year from Nova Scotia.

In the 65's singles matches, Cindy Babb, a self-described doubles player, started her route to the finals with a straight set win over Lois Harris. Her next rounds included wins over Carol Clay and Simmy Pell, before losing in the final to Toni Novack 6-7, 6-1, 6-4. Last year's winner, Liz Smoake, lost to Novack in the semis and won the ¾ playoff when Simmy Pell withdrew with a hamstring injury. Lois Harris was the consolation winner.

In the 75's semies, Katherine Gwathmey lost to eventual winner Caroline Haynes while, Theo Shepherd lost to Ingrid Rehwinkel. Haynes and Rehwinkel had a very competitive match, with Haynes coming out on top 6-3, 6-3. Theo Shepherd



Shula Feuer, Nancy Aranow



Caroline Haynes, Ingrid Rehwinkel



Head referee Elizabeth Ruff with pro Holly Johnson



Katherine Gwathmey and Betty Hill

won the $\frac{3}{4}$ playoff over Katherine Gwathmey 6-1, 7-6. Betty Hill was the consolation champ.

In the 55's singles, the toughest match was in the first round, with Heidi Clemmer the eventual winner over Suzanne LippeSiegler, 2-6, 6-4, 6-4. Janet Moseley, the 2 seed, upset the 1 seed Robyn Russell in the final, 6-0, 6-1. Janet said afterwards that she has some of her best matches at this tournament. Something in the water?? Suzanne LippeSiegler was the consolation winner.

The 45's singles had the largest draw, with 14 players and 4 very strong seeds. Number 4 seed Sheila Walker had a tough first round match against eventual consolation winner Kelly McKinley, going three sets 6-7, 6-4, 7-5. Walker lost to 2 seed Susan Boyer in the semi's, 6-1, 6-1. Tamara Simone, the 3 seed, beat doubles partner Nanette Huff in the quarters, then went three tough sets with the 1 seed, Alicia Wise, who won 6-4, 4-6, 6-0. This set up a final of big hitter Alicia Wise against the incredibly steady Susan Boyer. Susan pushed Alicia to a tie break in the first set but Alicia's big groundies found their mark in the second, helping her to a 6-2 finish. Susan said she had never hit against someone with such a big forehand, even the guys that she practices against. Sheila Walker won the $\frac{3}{4}$ playoff when Tamara Simone retired with an Achilles strain.

The 35's singles was won by Julie Ogborne over Michelle Tack, 6-1, 6-0. In the 75's doubles round robin, Caroline Haynes and Theo Shepherd were the winners with wins over Dolores Beck/Alisa Slack and Katherine Gwathmey/Betty Hill. The 65's doubles had a strong field. Number 2 seeds Carol Clay and Ellen Goodman were upset the first day by Liz Smoake and Brenda Winstead, 7-5, 6-4. They in turn were beaten 6-4, 6-3 by Chris Grant and Ann Bradley, last year's champions. Cindy Babb and Brenda Carter got to the final with a win over Lois Harris and Alice Hume in the semis, 6-0, 6-2. In the finals, Grant and Bradley pushed Babb and Carter to 7-5 in the first set but succumbed 6-2 in the second. Smoake and Winstead beat Harris and Hume 7-5, 6-4 for the $\frac{3}{4}$ playoff. Clay and Goodman took the consolation with a straight set win

over Shula Feuer/Nancy Aranow, 6-3, 6-2.

The 55's doubles also had a strong field. The number one seeds, Terry Solins and Lynn Taylor, had the toughest match of the group, losing to Michele Archibald and Cathy Shields in the semis 5-7, 6-2, 7-5, playing the third set in a persistent cold drizzle. The #2 seeds, Rita Giles and Joan Oelschlager, lost to the eventual winners Chris Witherspoon and Heidi Clemmer 6-2, 6-1. Robin Russell and Susan Nothnagle pulled out a close match against Grant and Bradley 7-6, 6-3, then lost to Clemmer and Witherspoon in the semis 6-2, 6-3. In the final, Clemmer and Witherspoon didn't let Archibald and Shields get into their game, taking it 6-1, 6-2.

In the 45's doubles, the unseeded team of Amy White and Laurie Yarbrough had a real battle on their hands in the semis with Nanette Huff and Tamara Simone until Simone had to retire with an Achilles strain. The score when she retired was 4-6, 7-6, 3-3. In the top half, number 1 seeds Alicia Wise and Sheila Walker had an easier match, winning against Ann Grubbs and Kelly McKinley 6-2, 6-3. However, they couldn't overcome White and Yarbrough in the final, losing 6-2, 6-3.

The 35's doubles was a round robin. White and Yarbrough took the title with wins over the teams of Mariana Eberle-Blaylock/Janice Kiernan and Debra Broadus/Yulia Taylor.

Many thanks to all those who made contributions to the door prizes at the dinner Friday night (Lisa Dunner, The Washington Castles, Lu Armstrong, Tracy Viebrock, Joan Oelschlager, Four Seasons Tennis Club, Chris Witherspoon, Ingrid Rehwinkle, Kathy Wicks, Rita Giles and Mid Atlantic USTA). Many thanks also to Steve Fiske and his staff, head referee Elizabeth Ruff and to the Belle Haven Country Club for allowing us to return again for this year's championships.



Robyn Russell, Janet Moseley



Ann Grubbs and Kelly McKinley



Norma Taylor, Lil Peltz Petow



Michele Archibald, Cathy Shields, Chris Witherspoon, Heidi Clemmer



Laurie Yarbrough, Karen Torrent, Joan Oelschlager



45's singles: Sheila Walker- 3/4 winner, Alicia Wise- winner, Susan Boyer-finalist



Alicia Wise/Sheila Walker with Amy White/Laurie Yarbrough



Cindy Babb, Brenda Carter, Carol Wood, Chris Grant, Ann Bradley

Shots from Houston



Shots from Huntsville



2015 National Tournament Schedule

| Date | Tournament | Age Division | Surface |
|-------------------------|--|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Jan 21-25* | BallenIsles, Palm Beach Gardens, FL | 30-80 | Clay |
| Jan 24- Feb 1 | ASICS Classic, Rancho Mirage, CA | 35-80 | Hard |
| January 24-Feb 1 | National Mixed Hard Courts, Rancho Mirage, CA | 50, 60, 70 | |
| Feb 4-8* | Crawford Cup, Ft Lauderdale, FL | 35-85 | Clay |
| Feb 27-March 2 | National Hard Courts, Austin, TX | 30 (S,D,Mixed) | |
| March 2-8 | National Clay Courts, Houston, TX | 35-85 | |
| March 8-14 | National H/W Grass Courts, Rancho Mirage, CA | | |
| March 16-21 | ITF Young Seniors World Team Champs, Antalya, Turkey | 35, 40, 45 | |
| March 13-15 | National F/D, M/S Indoors, South Barrington, Illinois | | |
| April 11-17 | National Clay Courts, Huntsville, AL | 60,70,80 | |
| April 22-26* | NSWTA Champs, Alexandria, VA | 35-75 | Clay |
| April 27-May 1 | National H/W Clay Courts, Charlotte, NC | | |
| May 1-4 | National Indoors, Gold River, CA | 30 (S, D, Mixed) | |
| May 6 | Southern Sr Open, Jackson, MS | 30-85 | Clay |
| May 8-10 | National F/D, M/S Hard Courts, Rancho Mirage, CA | 60, 70, 80+ | Hard |
| May 11-17 | National Hard Courts, La Jolla, CA | 40-90 | |
| May 14-18 | National Indoors, Homewood, IL | 35, 45, 55 | |
| May 20-25 | Pacific Coast Srs, Berkeley, CA | 35-75 | Hard |
| May 21-25* | Westwood Sr Champs, Austin TX | 35-80 (S,D,Mixed) | Hard,Clay |
| June 4-7 | Senior Slams, Yale, West Haven, CT | check website | Hard |
| June 8-13 | ITF Seniors World Team Champs, La Baule, France | 50, 55, 60 | |
| June 10-14 | National Indoors, Lakewood, CO | 40, 50 | |
| June 10-14 | Marin Sr Champs, Mill Valley, CA | 35-70 | Hard |
| June 19-21 | National M/D Indoors. Vancouver, WA | | |
| June 22-28 | National Indoors, Kansas City | 65,75,85 | |
| July 9-12 | Nike Champs, Portland, OR | 30-80 | Hard |
| July 13-19 | National Grass Courts, Forest Hills, NY | 30-80 | |
| July 19-26 | National Grass Courts, Germantown, PA | 35-85 | |
| July 28-Aug 2 | Washington State Champs, Seattle, WA | 35-80 | Hard |
| August 2-4 | National F/D Grass Courts, Chestnut Hill, MA | | |
| August 10-12 | National M/D Grass Courts, Chestnut Hill, MA | | |
| August 17-22 | National Indoors, Seattle, WA | 60 | |
| August 27-30 | National Indoors, Lakewood, CO | 40, 50 | |
| Sept 21-16 | ITF Super Seniors World Team Champs, Croatia | 65, 70, 75, 80 | |
| October 5-11 | National Hard Courts, Chamisal, Salinas CA | 35-85 | |
| Oct 7-11 | National Mixed Clay Courts, Seabrook, SC | 40, 50, 60,70 | |
| Oct 9-11 | National M/D Clay Courts, Port St. Lucie, FL | | |
| Oct 14-20 | National Indoors, Vancouver, WA | 70,80,90 | |
| Oct 15-18 | World of Tennis, Austin, TX | 55-80 | Hard |
| Oct 21-25 | National Clay Courts, Palm Beach Gardens | 40, 50 | |
| Oct 26-30 | Las Vegas Sr Open | 50-85 | Hard |
| Nov 5-8 | ITF Tournament | BallenIsles, Palm Beach Gdns, FL | Clay |
| Nov 6-8 | National M/D Hard Courts, Montgomery TX | | |
| Nov 6-8 | National Father/Daughter Claycourts, Jupiter, FL | | |
| Nov 9-15 | Intersectionals Team Event, Boca Raton, FL | | Clay |
| Nov 27-Dec 2 | National Clay Courts, Ft Lauderdale | 30 (S, D, Mixed) | |
| Nov 30-Dec 6 | National Hardcourts, La Jolla | 40 (S, D, Mixed) | |
| Dec 9-13 | National H/W Indoors, Charlottesville, VA | | |

Bold= National Category 1 tournaments

*= Super Cat II



NATIONAL SENIOR WOMEN'S TENNIS ASSOCIATION

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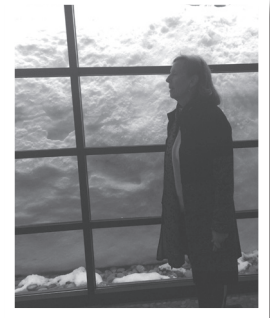
Sally Utiger at net



Sally's winter project



Davida Dinerman's forehead



Judy Smith in hibernation

New England's Winter of Discontent or, S'NOW JOKE

by Sally Utiger

We New Englanders have sent in our snow pictures to prove it's been a winter for the record book. There is still precious little evidence of Spring, with the exception of some green grass over the septic tank. Yay. The official measurement of 108.6" at Logan Airport in Boston topped the old record of 107.9 set in 1995 – 1996. There was a monthly record broken as well: 64.9" in February.

Some of the statistics are mind-boggling:

- Since January 25, Boston spent \$30 million dollars cleaning up the roads
- The removal crews plowed 237,863 miles
- Enough snow was plowed to fill the New England Patriot's stadium 90 times

And, as I write this, April 9, guess what: it is snowing!

To keep us sane, we tried everything, including figuring out what to do with all the tournament T-shirts some of us accumulate.

"All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism."

Author Unknown

