



HSVTA News

Board Sets Plans for 2020 Events

The HSVTA Board met on March 4 to discuss a range of issues, including preparations for the tournaments to be held at the Tennis Center and the calendar of events for Association members. The schedule for the coming months is now shaping up like this:

March 23-27 – Free for All

This event has drawn players new to the Village and returnees from previous Free for Alls who like the chance to improve their skills under the guidance of Bob Wagstaff and Association members working as his assistant coaches. This year the Board is making a special effort to implement a mentoring system in which members will volunteer to be on a call list for the newbies who want someone to hit with.

April 19 – “Kick off” Fun Sunday

As a follow on to the Free for All and to start the warm weather tennis season, this Fun Sunday will feature free food for members and an afternoon of both social and competitive tennis.

June 6 – Ladies Day

Last year the “Coffee, Tea, and Tennis” for ladies maxed out the registrant list—and drew one of the heaviest downpours of the summer, forcing cancellation of the event. Given the enthusiast response, we are reprising the affair that will feature doubles matches followed by a tasting session of exotic teas and coffees.

August 24-28 – Free for All

September 11-12 – College Exhibition and Hit Around

Because last year’s match between Ouachita Baptist and Harding College drew a large crowd and rave reviews from the schools’ players and coaches, it is being expanded to a two-day affair. Friday evening will feature “twilight tennis” to give Association members a chance to hit with the college players (or anyone else who happens to be holding a racquet). The exhibition match will be held Saturday starting at 10:00 AM.

September 19 – Free Food for All Balboa Barbeque Extravaganza

December (date TBD) – Christmas Party

Tournaments

April 28-May 3 – USTA/SOUTHERN ARKANSAS Adult 70 & Over Multi-States

July 17-19 – Ike Eisenhower State Farm Jr.

October 2-4 – USTA 65 and over

October (dates TBD) – Club Championships

Free for All Scheduled for March 23-27

Coach Bob Wagstaff and his all-star cast of assistants will teach the fundamentals of tennis to adult beginners and those returning to the game in a week-long series of lessons, drills, and play beginning March 23 through 27. It's fun, instructive, and free. Racquets are provided.

Sessions will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. during the week, with a graduation party on the last night. Be sure to let your friends and neighbors know because about a third of the HSVTA membership has come through the program, making it a wonderful way to add to the organization. Sign up by calling the Tennis Center at 501-922-5054 or send an email to bwagstaff@hsvpoa.org. Registration is also available through hsvticketsales.com.



Coach Wagstaff teaches service techniques at last year's Free for All.

Mentors Needed for New Players

The Association is looking for members who would like to give something back to the game by making themselves available to hit with new players. You don't have to be a coach, but any advice you might wish to share would likely be appreciated. More important than tips on technique is simply giving the novice a chance to get the ball back over the net, learn the rules, and develop confidence.

If you are willing to spend an hour or two a week on the court with people eager to improve their game, please send a message to sechhsvta@gmail.com. Your contact information will then be made available to people like the Free for All participants who are looking to get a little court time.

Welcome the Return of Warm Weather with Mixed Doubles on Wednesdays

Are you looking for a way to combine socializing, competition, and skills development? The Wednesday morning Mixed Doubles league organized by Eddie Berk offers an opportunity to do that weekly. But you don't have a partner, you say? Just put your name on the list and the merry matchmakers will pair you up with a player of opposite gender but comparable skill level. It's a terrific way to meet people, work on your game, and become a part of the tennis community in the Village. Just look for the sign-up sheet in the clubhouse.



The Courtly Curmudgeon

Got the Time?

Ace Reporter's column about commercialism in tennis in the last issue of Crosscourt got me to wondering about how tennis compares to other sports in terms of time the ball is in play. Football fans who devote 3+ hours on a Sunday afternoon watching a game may not realize that the ball is actually in play only 11 minutes of that time, for example.

The reason that escapes their attention is probably because replays follow every snap, even those that result in a two-yard gain after a scrum. After all, broadcasters realize they can't show commercials for 180 minutes, so they devote only one-third of that time to bombard viewers with insurance-selling ostriches, but at a mind numbing rate of 50 messages per hour. The rest of the time is spent on replays of the replays of the replays, which unfortunately limits shots of high kicking cheerleaders to something vanishingly close to zero. But that's a story for another whine.

Bottom line for football: the ball is in play only 5% of the time, leaving fans plenty of opportunity to go the bathroom, read *The Great Gatsby* (twice), and invent a new use for plorfidium.

In contrast, a not so recent Wall Street Journal analysis of an Andy Murray match found that 26

minutes of play occurred in 2 hours and 41 minutes, giving tennis fans a much higher rate of return (16%) on their investment of viewing time. While it's true that tennis is not long on cheerleaders, the shots of the girlfriends in the player's box can make up for that. And the best part is that you know when the commercial breaks are coming and can develop strategies to dodge them.

Baseball, on the other hand, now offers viewers all the pleasures of a wind swept plain strewn with landmines, with commercials exploding underfoot with every other step. While watching a game you simply can't escape "And that's a walk, brought to you by Audion, the Ear Wax

Removal Paste for millennials," or "And that's another expectoration, brought to you by Bubba's. 'Nuf said."

Even worse, no cheerleaders, and no girlfriends. When I watch a baseball game the best I can do for prurience is remember fondly the time when the TV camera caught a young couple necking in the upper reaches of the third deck in right field, followed by Dizzy Dean's immortal words: "Ain't they cute.

They's real baseball fans cuz he kisses her on the strikes, and she kisses him on

