

Crosscourt

December – January 2020

HSVTA News

Board Members Elected for 2020

Two new members were elected to the HSV Tennis Association Board for the coming year and two members were re-elected at a December 11 meeting at the Coronado Tennis Center.

Irena Olga was voted in as the Treasurer and Gaye Swaim took office as Vice President. Doug Ogilvie and Greg Szczurek were re-elected as President and Secretary, respectively.



From left to right: Gaye Swaim (Vice President), Greg Szczurek (Secretary), Larry Lininger (outgoing VP), Doug Ogilvie (President), Tom Noble (outgoing Treasurer), Irena Olga (Treasurer), Bob Wagstaff

After welcoming the new Board members, President Doug Ogilvie offered his thanks to outgoing officers Tom Noble and Larry Lininger. “It’s Association members like you who are the foundation of the Association,” he said. Tom served for four years as Treasurer and Larry for two years as VP.

Doug also noted the service of USTA Coordinator Alan Farnsworth. “Successful tournaments don’t happen without the hard work of the person managing the support of the event, and Alan should be recognized by all the members for his contributions,” Doug said.

Looking back on 2019, Doug recounted Association’s accomplishments during the past year:

- 15% increase in Association membership
- Support of two successful USTA tournaments
- Implementation of HSVTA website

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- Online Membership Directory
- Support of two well-attended Free for All events
- Two CPR classes organized by HSTVA members
- Increased participation in the Club Championships
- Support of the exhibition match and “hit around” with Harding University and Ouachita Baptist
- Fall tennis and barbeque extravaganza
- Establishment of a new league for ladies tennis

“We want to build on the momentum we gained in 2019 to make the Association even better and more responsive to the members, and we’re looking forward to having the two new additions to the Board do that,” he said.

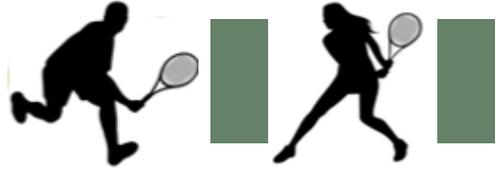


The 2020 dues are due, so please do your part now and renew your HSVTA membership. Forms are available in the CTC clubhouse.



The Association is looking for a person to fill the USTA Coordinator position. If you are interested in helping the CTC and the Association support the spring and fall tournaments, please contact the Secretary at sechsvta@gmail.com for more information.

Player Profiles



Dave O'Brien



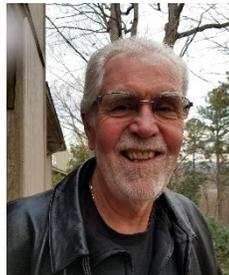
Dave O'Brien moved to the Village with his wife of 45 years in 2012 after retiring from a 28 year career as a drug and alcohol counselor. His love for tennis began in Minneapolis where, he says, "It takes passion to shovel snow off of concrete courts."

Although his play was sporadic over the years in the "frozen tundra," when he came to the Village he was especially drawn by the tennis complex. "My biggest satisfaction has been to recover from chemo shortly before moving here and regain the strength to play."

"I love tennis because of the challenge of focus," Dave says. A book he read about the inner game of tennis enabled him to cherish the times he can see the ball before focus blurs. Like many Villagers, he had only played singles before relocating. "Learning the skill of doubles play has been great, he says, "but my biggest disappointment was to get to the 65 and over finals with Harlan Jensen's team a few years back and play poorly".

Dave plays in the Tuesday scrambles, does drills with Bob Wagstaff on Mondays, and participates in HSVTA events. "I appreciate the Association for all of the effort involved with planning the extra social events that make each year memorable," he says. He pays the Association back by regularly managing the grounds crew at CTC tournaments and helping with the recycling effort.

Although he doesn't play as much tennis as he would like because he is the "bike guy" for the Ageless Bicycle Club three times a week, loves golf, and tries to get in some 5k runs, his opponents know that whenever he comes to the court, he does it with *focus*.



Irena Nelson

Irena Nelson is another Villager who came here from the "frozen tundra," hailing from St. Paul, MN, where she enjoyed downhill skiing as much as she did tennis. Like many players here she put the game on hold while she and her husband Marty supported the development of their children's soccer skills, taking them to tournaments throughout the upper Midwest.



"When I finally had time to get back to tennis in 2000, the first ball that went over the net hooked me all over again," Irena says. To satisfy her passion for the game she joined a Lifetime Fitness club in the area, which allowed her to play indoors year round.

She took lessons, participated on two teams, and developed a cosmopolitan circle of tennis friends by playing regularly at the University of Minnesota. "I met players there from all over the world," she says. "It was fascinating to see how many people enjoyed the game from so many different places and cultures."



In addition to playing tennis, she also helped to develop the sport in the inner city by participating in St. Paul Urban Tennis, a non-profit program that uses the fun and activity of tennis to promote leadership and literacy in youngsters.

Irena moved to the Village a year ago after retiring from a 40-year career with State Farm, where she worked in a variety of the firm's divisions. Since then she has become a regular at the CTC, playing 3-5 times a week and working with a trainer to develop fitness and balance for tennis.

In pursuit of her personal mission to develop the game wherever she plays, Irena became Treasurer of the HSVTA in December. "I want to give back to tennis for all it has given me—camaraderie, friendship, and fitness," she says.

Your Ace Reporter

Signs of the Times

After watching a few laps of the recent NASCAR race from Tick Notch, NC recently, a thought occurred to me: Why does anyone watch this stuff? Then, a revelation: Because the sponsors have injected viewers with a potent serum composed of equal parts of chaw and mosquito repellent that draws their eyes to the logos splattered over every square inch of every car and driver. Which led Your Ace Reporter to look into the abyss: Why don't tennis players look like walking billboards when they take the court?

The answer comes from ATP rules, which require the player to "dress and present himself for play in a professional manner in clean and customarily acceptable tennis attire as approved by ATP." Prior to 2013, that meant that only a logo for a player's apparel or racquet company could appear on headwear. In addition, a player could sell space on his clothes to only two companies — apart from having a logo presence for his apparel company — and those non-manufacturer logos could appear only on sleeves.

The rules have been relaxed, however, to allow one commercial logo patch on both sleeves



A sign (or signs) of things to come? Will tennis players ever look like NASCAR drivers?

along with one on the front of the shirt. An additional patch can be worn on the back of the shirt or near the collar, but only if that company is part of the ATP Premier/Platinum sponsor patch program.

But it's a bit more complicated than that. Five pages of the ATP Code spell out restrictions on the size, placement, and nature of signage found on anything from hats to shoes to compression shorts to water bottles and towels. Even the player's skin is addressed: A tattoo (if visible) must not be commercial in nature because any logos must be located on the player's clothing.

Players lobbied hard for the right to sell more of their personal space as a way to supplement their tour earnings. Endorsements earn millions of dollars for elite players, allowing them to support their retinue of coaches, trainers, and gurus. For a journeymen competitor, a four-square inch ad from a vitamin company might make the difference between sleeping in a car versus bedding down in a no-tell motel on the Challenger tour.

Personally, I have the same attitude as the pros about my apparel. I don't wear any clothing with a logo unless the company pays me for the advertising space.

And no, that doesn't mean I play in the nude.

My no-name T-shirt and shorts from the local big box fit just fine. (It just means I have to pay for my posse out of my own pocket.)