



HSVTA News

What's in Our Wallet — A Look at the HSVTA Budget

HSVTA funds come a number of sources, with dues, social events, and club competitions being the largest revenue generators.


The social events and club competitions are generally zero-sum games because ticket sales for the Christmas party and entry fees for club tennis events simply cover the cost of the food and beverages enjoyed at those affairs.

Membership dues amount to around \$3600/year, out of which the Association covers the cost of flying the Board to Vegas for their annual gambling junket. (OK, not really—they just charter a bus to Oaklawn.)

OK, for real: Dues revenues are allocated to cover the projected annual costs of Association activities ranging from producing the Directory (\$900), holding the membership reception (\$500), supplementing the coffee kitty (\$250),

printing USTA championship banners (\$500), and contributing to improvements at the CTC (\$1000). If you are keeping score, that adds up to an amount pretty close to the dues collected, with the balance going to supplies and good old "miscellaneous." The takeaway is that Association finances are stable, if not robust. They are also well-tended and documented by the Treasurer, Tom Noble, who brings to the job his background as a former subcontracts manager for an aerospace company.



**DEPARTMENT
OF CORRECTION**

Last month's issue of Crosscourt showed conflicting dates for the HSVTA picnic. The correct date is June 2. The editor regrets that some people read the newsletter closely enough to find errors. They have been summarily expunged from the mailing list.

Don't let this happen to you.

**BOLEX**

HSVTA Scoreboard

Village Team Tennis – April 29
Signup Period: April 9 – April 25

Family & Friends Tourney – May 13
Signup Period: April 30 – May 9

Help Wanted

Jane Garrison is looking for volunteers to help with the HSVTA picnic on June 2. If you would like to lend a hand, contact her at 501-922-6979 or dickgarrison71@gmail.com.



Competition



HSV Ladies Remain Unbeaten in USTA League

The HSV ladies ran their winning streak to 6-0 by beating three teams in a span of 6 days

On March 31 HSV swept a Little Rock Athletic Club team, with Marilyn Phelan and JoAnne Lewis, Beverly Kogut and Kathy Boone, and Charlene Reinsch and Pam Woodworth wrapped it up by winning a tie-breaker after splitting sets.

Another 2-1 victory on April 4 against Conway



Kathy Boone cracks a backhand down the line.



Charlene Reinsch fights the sun while serving.

kept the streak alive. Helen Baggett and Alice Finton cruised to a 1 and 1 win, but Kathy Boone and Bev Kogut lost in straight sets. Charlene Reinsch and Pam Woodworth wrapped it up by winning a tie-breaker after splitting sets. "Our team is very talented, very strong, and all are willing to rise to the challenge," says Team Captain Reinsch. "The women have done everything from canceling cruises, to coming home early from vacations, to altering family commitments, to make sure we had enough players to compete in a match," she said.

Marilyn Phelan and JoAnne Lewis prepare to return serve.



Bev Kogut and Kathy Boone are happy victors.



Helen Baggett and Charlene Reinsch celebrate their win.



Around the Club



Free for All Brings New Players to the Courts



More than 20 participants attended the Coronado Tennis Center's "Free for All" March 26- April 5. Led by the Center's Pro Manager Bob Wagstaff, the 8-night series of lessons covered all the basic elements of the game.

"The goal of the program is develop a player enough to play enjoyably with friends in just two weeks," Wagstaff says. "Many then go beyond to compete in club leagues and even in national

tournaments," he adds. This year marked the 15th anniversary of program.

Assisted by volunteer members from the Tennis Association, Coach Wagstaff put the participants through drills involving ground strokes, volleys, serves, strategy, and scoring. The program culminated in doubles matches to give the players a chance to test their newly developed skills in friendly competition, followed by a graduation party.



Your Ace Reporter

Money Talks - 2

By “Chip” Schott

Please sit down. Are you comfortable? Holding on to something? Your Ace Reporter has some startling news for you. The Coronado Tennis Center is a business.

It has a department head, a budget, a staff, and a mission. Just like a profit center. Except, like most HSV amenities, it doesn't make a profit.

As a result, the department head must deliver the CTC's mission with a limited staff and compete for “resources” (read money) with the other HSV profit(less) centers. It's a tough job, but somebody's got to do it.

That somebody is Bob Wagstaff who, along with his team of seven, tries to deliver a tennis experience that most clubs perform with twice the personnel. Those clubs, it should be noted, also charge twice the price.

So how does he do it?

It starts with a mission statement: The Mission of the Coronado Tennis Center Team is to foster an environment that encourages every type of participant, advances the growth of tennis, and



protects the current and future value of the of the CTC as an amenity of HSV.

To that end Bob needs money, so every July he prepares a budget for submission to his boss, POA Recreation Department Administrator Stacey Hoover, that projects expected normal operational costs along with anticipated revenues from court fees and annual subscriptions. Like most budgets, it also includes a wish list of capital expenditures for items ranging from new ball machines to the replacement of the watering system for the lower courts. *(Continued on next page.)*

A Short Lesson in Tennis Court Construction

The new watering system planned for the lower courts will be the same type of installation as on the upper courts. Manufactured by HydroCourt, the system introduces water through trenches underneath the court. Capillary action then “wicks” moisture away from the subsurface water level below to the playing surface. As moisture evaporates throughout the day, a float valve mechanism in the control box activates and releases more water into the trenches to maintain the prescribed court moisture level.

HydroCourts supply only the amount of water necessary to keep the surface sufficiently damp, saving as much as 60% in water usage. Because HydroCourts are watered automatically from beneath, there is no loss of playing time for brushing, watering, and waiting for the surface to dry.

The surface of the courts is composed of a product called HAR-TRU, which is made from billion-year-old Pre-Cambrian metabasalt found in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. The stone is crushed, screened, and mixed in the precise proportions necessary to produce a stable playing surface. It is then installed over a porous base of crushed stone aggregate to produce the final product.

The natural green stone is extremely hard and angular — two very important qualities when it comes to tennis court construction. The angularity helps the stone particles lock together to form a stable playing surface. The hardness provides exceptional durability.

For 2018 the budget shows operating expenses of \$163,525 and capital expenditures of \$129,000 against projected revenues of \$85,000. It's not a pretty picture, but not out of line with other HSV cost centers that support the stated mission of the Village to "provide opportunities and lifestyle choices, from the most vibrant to the peaceful and serene." It should also make CTC users very thankful indeed that they don't have to bear the full cost of enjoying this vibrant lifestyle choice.

Like most budget review processes, it's then a matter of give and take: the administration gives the budget request the stink eye and then takes a meat axe to it. For all that, the CTC has enjoyed visible and much appreciated upgrades in recent years, the latest being the make-over of the clubhouse interior. In the future Bob wants to install additional lighting, and his long-term vision includes an indoor court in 2020.

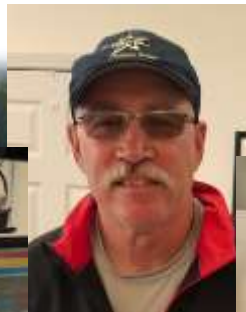
Figures and finances aside, the CTC works because of the people. Bob's team consists of Assistant Manager Sharon Lawson, Dave Rousseau, Greg Hess, Dale Flory, Kathy Steed, Roland Herbstrith, and Mark Lehmann.

The Center also benefits from the efforts and financial assistance of the HSVTA. Although the Association has no official place in the organization chart of either the CTC or the POA, it has become an important cog in the machinery of the facility.

As Bob puts it, "Without the Association we could not do what we have done." In addition to the contribution of the blood, sweat, and tears of Association members who coordinate USTA events, organize club championships, and serve sandwiches, the HSVTA provides money from dues revenue to purchase niceties like the barbeque grill, picnic tables, ice machine, spectator bleachers, and defibrillator.

In short, it's truly a team effort.

Bob Wagstaff



Kathy Steed



Sharon Lawson



Greg Hess



Dale Flory



Roland Herbstrith

Not pictured: Dave Rousseau and Mark Lehmann

My Serve

Confessions of a Tennis Snob

By Clay Court

Please don't tell my wife, but I hate mixed doubles. On so many levels. The moonballs.

The funky serves. The forced politeness that I have to show when I butcher the moonballs and net the funky serves. But, like a good husband (and a good dog), I've learned. I've learned that what doesn't kill you makes you stronger. (Actually, I learned that in the eighth grade when I took my first slug of cherry vodka, but that's another story.)

So back to this story. The story of the marriage saver shot. By the way, this shot is not limited to marriage. It could save a lifetime friendship or a budding romance. It's also gender neutral, available to both sexes with equal opportunity.

The marriage saver shot usually comes deep into the second set, after you have lost the first thanks to your partner's abysmal play. Such as his/her double fault when you had a chance to go up 4-2 and instead you went back to deuce and then lost the game thanks to him/her blowing the next two points on shots that an eighth grader could have put away even after taking two slugs cherry vodka.



The return floats back, the ball as big as the moon in June...

You wanted to weep, wail, and gnash your teeth, but like a good passive/aggressive, you only did the latter. You resolved to be an adult and delay the gratification of taking it out on your spouse until later that evening when she/he has no idea of why you are acting like a jerk.

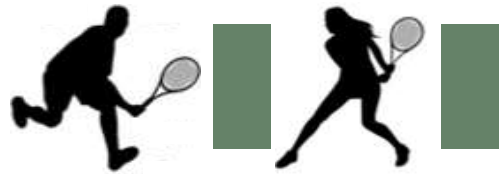
And then comes the chance to make everything whole again. To restore the balance in the universe. To win the second set. You're up 5-4, your ad, and you are serving. Big mo has swung. Cue up the theme song from "Rocky."

You crush the serve and the return floats back, the ball as big as the moon in June and as high as an elephant's eye. Those and a thousand other cliches race through your mind as you raise your racquet to smash all those horrible thoughts about mixed doubles into powdered granite.

And then you hack the ball into the bottom of the net. (It actually hit the ground before the net but you were spared that humiliating image because you had your eyes closed at the time, mentally replaying the scene where Rocky runs up the steps.)

So try as you might, you will never forget that marriage saver shot. Nor will you regret it. The shot will serve as a lifetime reminder that erring is human. And tennis, while it may not bring you divinity, can certainly teach you something about forgiveness. Who knows, maybe someday I'll even forgive the jackass who invented mixed doubles.

Player Profiles



Glen Walter

If you look up the words “nice guy” in the dictionary, you may well find a picture of Glen Walter. If you are trying to return one of his patented cross-court dippers, however, you may wonder how his picture found its way there. Trust me, he really is a nice guy; he’s also a very good tennis player.



Glen started playing tennis in Pine Bluff, AR when he was 18. “I took up the game because my girlfriend said we had to,” he says. “My goal was to just keep the peace, but I was hooked from the first time I picked up a racket.”

In college, he sought out other tennis players and played on the tennis team at Henderson State University. After graduation Glen spent a career managing right of ways for railroads and a government entity. During this time he took a 20 year hiatus when he got married and had a family.

He got back into tennis in Fort Worth and became friends with Val Wilder, a former World No. 1 Tennis Player in the 50-year olds, helping him coach junior and senior high school players. Glen now plays twice a week, but spends additional time on the court helping Bob Wagstaff give lessons to kids ranging from 4 year olds to high school.



“I see a lot of potential in all the kids we work with,” he says. “It’s really great to watch the little ones struggle with learning and it seems like they’ll never get it and then out of the blue, they start playing tennis.”

Susan McKenzie

A graduate of the Free for All class of ‘16, Susan McKenzie says she came to the event “because her husband signed her up for it.” Prior to that, the Bahamas native had never touched a racquet.



Now she has to resist the temptation to play hooky from her full-time job to get on the courts. Susan is good at resisting that temptation, though, because she’s very good at her job as Manager of Sales Coordination for a personal aircraft sales company based in Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

“As a licensed commercial pilot,” she says, “I’ve worked with Premier Aircraft Sales since the company was founded 15 years ago with just four employees. As the company grew to more than 50 people I settled into my current position.”

She and her husband Jack now live in the Village, so she telecommutes and Skypes from here to combine her work with her pleasure.

Susan plays tennis 5 or more times a week, sometimes with her husband Jack and also in a 3.0 club league. “I love tennis because it combines continued learning, physical activity, and friends,” she says. In keeping with the goal of continued

improvement, she has now signed on with a 3.0-3.5 league.



Along with enjoying the physical activity of the game, she also appreciates another aspect of sport: tennis apparel. A former recipient of the “10 Best Dressed Women” award in the Bahamas, Susan has added so many new tennis outfits to her collection that her husband often jokes (kinda sorta) about having to add more closet space to their house.

My Ad

Le Billet Doux

By Dee Falt

Would you believe I actually got some mail in response to my first ever column in the first ever issue of Crosscourt? Some of the missives were thought provoking; others were merely provoking. Among the former was a question for the ages: Why can't you say deuce when it's 30-30?

My answer to this query in the past involved sighing, rolling my eyes, and saying, "Don't you know? It's a French thing." I love bashing the French.

But that's too coy. It's much deeper than that. In fact, the answer is so deep it reaches the point where the quantum world meets I Ching.

Let's start with some definitions, beginning with the word "score." You can score a point, score a piece of paper, score some music, or even score a prohibited substance. Each of those cases results in a score, thereby changing the blasted word into a noun, which allows you to score a score of scores, which really fries the French.

Going deeper, the Oxford English Dictionary tells us that the etymology of the word "score" is from the:



The French didn't invent tennis; they just made it confusing.

Old English scoru 'set of twenty,' from Old Norse skor 'notch, tally, twenty,' of Germanic origin; related to shear. (Note: the French always confuse etymology with entomology, which drives us absolutely buggy here at the OED.)

Do you see where this is going? Neither do the French, so be patient, dear reader.

It all crystallizes when you look up the origin of the word "deuce" and find that it first appears in a Beach Boys classic about an iconic motor car manufactured in 1932, hence the word's meaning as "2."

Ergo: 2 score and 20 years ago (which is actually 3 score if you are keeping score) some French tennis player called "deuce" when it was 30-30 and was made to go sit in the corner and translate the rules of tennis into English, which brings us to where we are now:

deuce steps closer to the apocalypse.

To walk back softly from the brink, gentle reader, remember that 30-30 and deuce are not the same score. The score describes how many points each player has won *until deuce is reached*. Calling deuce at 30-30 should receive the same opprobrium as standing for the 7th inning stretch at the beginning of the 7th inning. It's as premature as it is preternatural.

As the apocalypse approaches, however, you will occasionally hear that call, along with its hybrid, "30 deuce." As you wince, do as I do: Blame the French.