



Orindawoods Tennis News

August 2021 Vol: 27, Issue 8

Orindawoods Tennis Club: 925-254-1065; www.orindawoodstennis.com

"I like this place, and willingly could waste my time in it" – Celia, As You Like It, Act II, Scene IV

Twilight Tennis

Twilight Tennis BBQ August 22nd

Our second Twilight of the season will be August 22nd. We will be serving Kinder's meats, as usual, with all the fixin's. Don't miss it!

The schedule: Tennis will be played from 5-7pm, followed by our traditional BBQ dinner on the deck at 7:30pm. (7:30-8:30pm).

For tennis, we do our mix and match social doubles, where Keith mixes the various players each round, so everyone gets a nice variety of partners. This is a great way to meet new tennis players and become part of the group. We usually play 3 rounds of tennis.

The cost will be \$25 per person. Please bring your own beverage, all other food is provided. (Steak or chicken, salad, side, roll, dessert).

To register: please contact Keith (keith@orindawoods.tennis.com) and let him know: 1) if you are playing tennis, and 2) if you want steak or chicken.

Next Twilight Date: September 12th (tennis 4-6pm, dinner 6:30),

Billing Questions and Account Payments

Silvercreek Management

We know that multiple people have had challenges with the old billing system in the past year, especially with our former management service. Now with Silvercreek as our new management company, this situation has improved and is up to the standards we all expect. I have received many great reviews from members on Silvercreek's service.

Silvercreek are helpful, easy to deal with, and will walk you through setting up online billing, and any other services. Their number is 916-877-7793, and the e-mail is accounting@sc-manage.com.

This is a great time, and opportunity, to get your account set up the way that works best for you, up to date, and running smoothly. We are thrilled that Silvercreek is such a great partner in this process.

Men's and Women's Clinics Restart

Starting in about the middle of the month (see below) we will resume our famous Men's and Women's Drop-in Clinics here at the Club. As we mentioned last month, the price going forward will be \$10, as after 20+ years, we figured Patric finally deserved a bit of a raise.

Ladies' Clinic	Tuesdays at 9:30-10	begins 8/17
Men's Clinic	Thursdays at 9:30-10	begins 8/26

The format is still drop-in, come when you can.

Prerequisite: The clinics are 1) for members only, and 2) players that can rally and serve. This is not a clinic for beginners. Thanks!

Parking at the Club:

Greystone Terrace Parking

When the Club is active, our overflow parking is on Greystone Terrace across the street. This has worked out very well in the past, but it is **VERY IMPORTANT** that we only park on the north (right-hand side going up the hill) of the street. If we park cars on both sides of the street, emergency vehicles will not be able to access the homes and areas above (in case of emergency or fire, endangering everyone -- not to mention your car, if the fire truck has to move it).

2021 Club Rates

Keith & Patric tennis lessons:

1/2 hour private	\$45
1 hour private	\$80

Club Dues: \$140 / month

Guests: \$10 (1 visit / week). Pay Station located by the Pro Shop door.

Weekly Lessons

Ladies clinic:	Tues 9:30
Men's clinics:	Thurs 9:30

Starting: August 17th / 26th **Cost:** \$10

Ball Machine

Ball Machine Club	\$110 /year
Ball Machine / hour	\$8

- Ball Machine Club runs thru 3/30/22
- Reserve Court 3 to use the machine.
- Reservations are for 1 hour.
- Pay using Pay Station / credit card
- iPhone app: Like My Drill

Racquet Services

Head Pro Patric Hermanson restrings racquets and is an official Babolat dealer to meet all your racquet needs.

COVID, Masks, etc...

We will post signs and communicate by e-mail when Contra Costa County health directives change. Currently masks are **REQUIRED INDOORS** at OW.

Monday Team Tennis

We are about 2/3 of the way through the season. Cindy Barber's' Team 1 continues to lead John Bockman's Team 2 in a tight race. Check out the MTT standings on the [MTT website](#).

Court Washing

In order to keep the Club clean and in the best condition possible, we will wash the courts two Fridays a month from 12-3pm. Check the Court Scheduler to see which courts on which Fridays. Thanks!

Quote of the Month:

"You don't have to see the whole staircase to take the first step."
-- Martin Luther King



Orindawoods Tennis Club

650 Orindawoods Dr.
Orinda, CA 94563

Phone:
925-254-1065

Website:
orindawoodstennis.com

Smart Phone Reservation App:
PlayTennisConnect

Facebook:
Orindawoods Tennis Club

Executive Tennis Director:
Keith Wheeler
keith@orindawoodstennis.com

Head Pro:
Patric Hermanson
patric@orindawoodstennis.com

Newsletter Editor:
Keith Wheeler

Late Summer Court Usage

Junior Program: The Junior Program will restart in late August with the return to school of our junior tennis players. The junior program runs Tuesday-Friday afternoons from 4-5:30 on courts 4-7. See [Junior Page](#) for Details.

League Tennis: We have a couple of USTA 40+ teams this summer. We have a Women's 40+ 4.0 team, and a women's 40+ 4.5 team. The matches have been scheduled at times that are not busy at the Club, so it should not impact most member play. The 4.0 team will play Fridays at 10:30 a.m, and the 4.5 team on the weekends. Good luck to our Orindawoods Ladies (OWLs).

Monday Team Tennis: Courts 2-7, Monday evenings through Labor Day, 5-9 p.m.. Court One is available for member play and reservations.

Guests at Orindawoods

Guests are allowed at Orindawoods Tennis Club. **Members are responsible** for making sure they pay for their guests, and that their guests follow all the Orindawoods rules.

Guests are allowed **one visit per week. Half the players on a court must be members** (one guest for singles, two guests for doubles).

Guest Payments: Guest payments will now be done by Square Payment, with your credit card. NO MORE CASH payments. There is a **Pay Station in the lobby**, available all hours, where you can pay for your guest. Guest fees are still \$10. To pay for a guest:

1. Tap the screen
2. Select item (guest, team guest fee, ball machine hour, etc...)
3. Click blue "Charge" button
4. Confirm and Pay
5. Insert or tap your card or Apple pay (option for receipt).
6. Enjoy your game. Thank you!

Tennis Club Directory / Address Book

Many people over the years have asked about a Tennis Club Directory, or address book. We used to publish a hard copy. Unfortunately, turn over at the Club is such that it is almost out of date the day it is published. There are also large expenses connected with publishing such a yearly directory and mailing it, that in the modern electronic world, just don't make sense.

Online Version. We have updated the Tennis Directory online. On the website under "Membership Services" there is a page "[Tennis Directory](#)" that has a link to

the tennis club address book. You need to sign-in to the Tennis Club website to look up this information.

The trick in making this list is including the Orindawoods residents that play tennis. I've done my best to do so but may have left a few people out. These names are added at the bottom of the formal list.

Obviously, this information is for private use, by tennis partners, and not for any business or solicitation. That is why it is on the private, member-only, sign-in required, section of the website. Thank you.

Court One Rebuild

Court One is such a treasure, almost like your own private court, and maintaining it in top order is a top priority.

History and Decision Making: We are planning to patch and color Court One in early September. Due to excessive earth movement, Court One cracks a lot more, and sooner, than our other six courts (which are on engineered soil). Therefore, it requires more maintenance. We have spent three years researching the best solutions for repairing Court One, including clay and Astroturf / sand courts. The patching and coloring repair solution is the best for the long-term interests of Orindawoods and gives us the comfort and flexibility to use the court as we all wish and love.

The court will be closed for a few days, while we patch the cracks and recolor the court. We will announce by e-mail when Court One will be closed and the reservation times will be blocked off on the Court Scheduler. At this time of repainting, we will not only have the tennis lines put on the court, but we will have Orindawoods' first pickleball lines. This is an exciting, yet somewhat controversial development, that we have researched thoroughly.

For more on pickleball at Orindawoods:

Pickleball at Orindawoods

With the patch and recoloring of Court One, Orindawoods has decided to add four pickleball courts on Court One (Yes, they will all fit). Court One will continue to be a blue and green tennis court, with not only tennis lines, but pickle ball lines as well. The pickleball lines will be in light blue paint, like the 60-foot junior lines on our other six courts. The light blue lines blend in well, so they are not a huge distraction, but visible when playing pickleball. We have purchased pickleball nets to go along with the lines that can be easily rolled on and off the court (stored on the side of the court).

The Why and How of Pickleball at Orindawoods:

Pickleball is a hot topic in the sports and club world these days. It is one of the fastest growing sports, and a natural game for those who have played tennis, as there are many similarities. It is easy to pick up, especially if you have played racquet sports before. Over the past few years, many members and residents have inquired about Pickleball, if and / or when, it will be introduced at Orindawoods Tennis Club.

Those in favor love pickleball. **Those opposed** to pickleball, often can't stand it. We're aware that feelings can run strong on this topic. The TAC, Staff and Board have researched the various points of view and have come up with a solution that works for the long-term best interests of Orindawoods by looking at the needs of the various groups.

The Member's Needs:

Pickleball lovers seem to love the game for a couple of reason: It is fun, fast paced, easy to learn, doesn't require as much running around as tennis, and mixing levels of play is much easier than in tennis, where the hours and skills required to play decently take a long time to acquire. Basically, pickleball is great for social gatherings, and bringing people together of all levels, age and athletic ability.

Tennis players opposed to pickleball have a couple of primary complaints about pickleball. One, the Club is at full capacity, and we need all of the courts. Pickleball takes courts away from tennis. This opposition isn't opposed to pickleball per se, and if pickle ball has its own courts, no problem. Unfortunately, one of the attractive things about pickleball is that it can be played on tennis courts and using a tennis court is far less expensive than building dedicated pickleball courts, which would cost upwards of \$60,000 for four courts, not to mention the space required.

Orindawoods does not have the money or space to build such a dedicated pickleball facility at this time. If the tennis courts are sitting empty, like at many park facilities or schools where pickleball has been introduced, no problem. But at a successful, busy club like Orindawoods, court time is of the essence.

Second, pickleball is quite loud, and has different etiquette, so it is tough for tennis players to play next to pickleball. Tennis is a game of silence during play, hearing the sound of contact, and concentration. A very different game.

Our Solution:

Orindawoods is primarily a tennis club, and tennis comes first. Members joined to play tennis (and swim). But also, for fun and recreation. To meet the needs of both groups as best we can, Court One is the only court that will allow pickleball, and it is restricted to times when it is not busy and needed for tennis. We have studied court reservations and usage over the past several years, and therefore have found that after noon, tennis play on Court One is relatively light. The exceptions to this are during club programs and events, when we would still need Court One for tennis as the other courts are busy.

Since pickleball is loud, both in contact with the ball, and the social nature, we have decided to set up our pickleball on Court One, which is separate from the other six courts. We have also set the lines up so there could be up to four pickleball courts, and potentially 16 people playing pickleball at once, if pickleball grows in popularity at the Club, which we hope, there will be plenty of room on Court One for expansion and fun. This will allow us to have pickleball events like clinics and socials. And still maintain distance from the tennis players. Everyone wins.

Pickleball Court Rules

- Pickleball begins at Orindawoods when the new courts are installed, not before. (Early September)
- Pickleball is restricted to Court One only.
- Court One can still be reserved for tennis during pickleball hours. First come, first serve.
- Club attire and court shoe rules still apply
- Guest fees and rules apply, pay guest fees at the square payment station in the Club house. \$10.
- Court One is for tennis and pickleball only, not other activities (just like all the other courts).
- Pickleball can be played after 12 noon (and not during events and clinics that take up most of the Club).
- Pickleball may be reserved on Court One between the hours of 9-12 a.m. if the court is empty, i.e. not reserved, 48 hours or less prior to the time of start of play.
- When making a reservation, in the box that says asks for "singles" or "doubles," enter "pickleball." This will allow other people to come at that time to play pickleball as well, as there are four pickle ball courts, and up to 16 people can play at a time.
- To reduce noise, pickleball players are asked to use Green Zone low noise paddles.
- When you are done, please roll the pickleball nets to the side, just like the ball machine on court 3.

The Pickleball Future:

We are looking forward to kicking off pickleball once the courts are resurfaced. We plan to have pickleball events in the future:

- Pickleball clinic - learn to play, meet people
- Pickleball playday - designated times when you can drop-in and play.
- Pickleball Twilight - social events around pickleball.
- Pickleball equipment sales in the Pro Shop.

Tennis Tip

The Hourglass

There is a space on the court that is crucial in the play of good doubles. It can be simplified by phrases like “cover the middle” or “hit down the middle” but the actual space, as I see it in my mind’s eye, is a bit more specific than that. If we look at this target area, it kind of looks like an hourglass. (Note: this is the space the ball is traveling through, not where it is landing). Notice that the ball is going away from the net person, but into (at) the back court or approaching person.

The Question: What makes this space so special?

Tactics: There are balls that we can play to our opponents that make tennis harder for them, and there are balls we can play to them that make tennis easier. In addition, there are shots we can choose to play that are easier for us, and there are shots that we can choose that are harder. By easier, I don’t just mean less likely to miss, but also to hit much more effectively. And conversely, when I say harder to hit, I don’t just mean that we will make more errors, but also that our shots won’t be as strong or effective.

So, if I can combine my best shots to my opponent’s worst places, I’m going to be more successful, then if I try my most difficult shots to their easiest places. Makes sense.

Ideally, it would be your good to their bad (Federer’s forehand to anyone’s backhand), but what about your good to their good, or your bad to their bad. I guess it depends who has the best good or the best bad. Clearly you don’t want to get caught up in your bad to their good (Federer’s backhand to Nadal’s forehand is the classic example).

Looking at the hourglass, if I’m hitting a forehand in the deuce court (see diagram), the opposing net player tends to cover the alley (my forehand up the alley shot). Then I can hit cross court away from them, just on the edge of their reach through the middle, and into the backhand area of the opponent who is behind them. This ball going away from the net person (cross court) would require them reaching for the ball (my strong cross court forehand towards their relatively weak inside out forehand volley). It would be difficult for them to hit at my partner (our weakness).

When the ball gets past the net person and into the middle, toward the back opponent’s backhand (if right-handed), it jams them up and forces them to hit the ball up the middle, most of the time to my partner, the net person (their weak shot — low backhand — to our strong shot — volley at the net by my partner moving in)

On the add side, the cross court return into the hourglass is going away from the net person, and that is generally the weaker backhand volley (much harder to volley towards my partner), or into the approaching or back court person’s forehand in the middle. This shot is harder to hit down the alley successfully, and harder to hit inside out, towards my backhand. The balls tend to go back in the middle where my net person is waiting.

Counter Tactics: The best defense to the hourglass shot is for the net person to close in and cut the ball off when it is on their side of the court before it gets into the back person’s side of the court in the middle. This is “controlling the middle.” The problem is that most net players stand too far back (guarding the lob or the alley) or don’t move forward enough once the ball has been played, to cover this space. This space, simply put, is the whole ball game in doubles.

Setting Up the Hourglass: As the player playing this shot (server or returner), you will need to lob or hit down the alley occasionally (preferably at low-risk times) to keep this space open (that is how you control the middle).

The final benefit of the hourglass shot is that it is pretty much the easiest shot to hit. And the shot that is easiest to hit well. Cross court, right through the middle, over the lowest part of the net, into the biggest space on the court. You can hit hard, with relatively little risk (compared to other shots). If you misfire, there is lots of margin for error, and the ball usually still goes in. It is much harder for your opponent to hit the ball away from you, to the sides of the court, if they are hitting from the middle. Sum it up: It’s an easier shot, it leaves you in a better position to defend, and it is harder for your opponent to hit offensive shots from the middle.

One final tip for the wise player: if you play this strategy well, don’t get fooled by the fact that your opponent will hit more winners, because you will win more matches. The team that controls the middle of the court, wins the matches, even if they lose a lot of battles. I often call this “the price of doing business,” or making an investment. There is no such thing as a free lunch, and you have to be willing to lose some points, to win the match. By the way, they will hit more winners on these shots at 2-2 in the first set, than 4-5 in the third set. Pressure makes their shots harder. And of course, when you are feeling the pressure, you want to be hitting your “best shots”, with lots of margin for error, not some tricky shots that require nerves of steel. Good luck out there playing smart tennis!

