



Orindawoods Tennis News

June 2020

Vol: 26, Issue 6

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

May Reopening

Tennis Club is Open

As you all know, the Tennis Club reopened on May 4th, and many members have been playing some tennis in our strange, brave new world. There are pretty heavy restrictions on play, but we are allowed to play tennis due to the 4/29 Contra Costa Health Order. We have had to make a couple of adjustments as we move forward (maybe some after this goes to press), but the full Reopening Rules are available on orindawoodstennis.com. Go to "information" and then "club rules."

Rules and Consequences

The Board and Tennis Advisory Committee has put together the modified rules for tennis play at Orindawoods during the pandemic. These rules can be found on the website, under the "information" menu. (summarized in **The Five Key Things** below).

As stated by Dr. Farintano (CC Health Director) in reopening tennis, it is very, very unlikely that you would get COVID-19 from tennis, but it is not a totally safe activity. The government is "opening up activities to the public that are very, very low risk, but not no risk." If we play using the guidelines. That is where we are at in this stage of managing the pandemic.

So far, in the two weeks, I have to say that the members have been responding to the crisis very well, and Orindawoods feels like a safe place to play. All five components of the Five Key Things have been followed and observed. Well played!!!!

There have been reports of other local clubs that have not done so well and had to scale back what is allowed considerably. Specifically, not allowing doubles. We are prepared to do this as well if we can't play in a safe manner.

The Five Key Things:

- Social distancing at all times
- Masks, wear masks when you are on the property. You can take masks off in only 3 instances (only when on the court: singles, members of the same household, practicing by yourself).
- Don't touch shared surfaces (especially tennis balls, but fences, doors, benches, etc...)
- No guests
- Play and Go (no socializing on the property).

The full rules are available at the club (posted in the glass case and the sign in board) and on orindawoodstennis.com under "information" and "club rules." We're doing great! Keep it up!

Tennis Club Social Events Canceled

At this time, due to the County Health Directives in place to protect everyone, there are no Tennis Club Social events. When the rules change, we will see what is possible within the idea of what is safe for the membership and staff. Even though most of our activities are outside, the problems of social distancing and shared surfaces makes

2020 Lesson Rates

Keith & Patric

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

Jennifer

| | |
|------------------|------|
| 1/2 hour private | \$40 |
| 1 hour private | \$75 |

Non-members add \$5

Junior Clinic Pricing: TBD

Weekly Lessons

Hit and Fit:

Sadly, there is no Hit & Fit at this time due to COVID-19.

Tuesday Ladies' Clinic:

Canceled due to COVID-19

Thursday Men's Clinic:

Canceled due to COVID-19

Ball Machine

Sadly, there is no ball machine use due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Court Washing

We start our monthly court washing in May middays on Friday, the first and last Fridays of the month. Check the court scheduler to see what courts are being washed and when. Keeping the club clean is a high priority. Sorry for any inconvenience.

Club Emails

Keith has been sending out Club e-mails two or three times a week. He uses the reservation list as his e-mail list. If you are not getting these e-mails and want to be included, contact Keith. Past e-mails are available on the website, under information, e-mail history. A wide range of topics are discussed.

Quotes of the Month:

"Be content with what you have; rejoice in the way things are. When you realize nothing is lacking, the whole world belongs to you." – Tao, Lao Tzu

pretty much all of our social events impossible. So, for right now, there will be no Monday Team Tennis, or Twilights this summer. This is really difficult, because these are areas of the Club that I have worked very hard to build up. But it seems what was a strength a few months ago, our gathering and enjoying each other's company, is now a weakness, and must be avoided. So, for now, no social events. "This too will pass..."



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Pool Closed / 2020 Opening???

As of the April 29th CC Health directive, pools are to remain closed due to social distancing issues. Whether that changes with the June order, remains to be seen. We will update when we know the answer. For now, we are closed.

Summer Camps???

The Junior Program

Patric and Keith have been looking into a junior program for the summer, but without knowing what the state and county health rules will be, and the spread of the pandemic, it is very hard to make any plans. When the rules for June are released in late May, we will assess the situation. We are very concerned about the safety of all concerned and will only run a program if it is safe to do so.

If you are not on our current mailing list, contact Patric (patric@orindawoodstennis.com) to be sure you get the information. No doubt if there is a Summer Junior Program, the groups will be smaller, and limited in some pretty extreme ways to maintain safety.

Keith's 25th Anniversary at Orindawoods

Twenty-five Years, a Reflection

It seems I started working at Orindawoods 25 years ago. A quiet, sleepy club, that seemed like a safe, happy place to work. There were about 68 member families at the time. I think Court One was used only two times a week. My friend Judy Newman was the pro, and suggested I come to work here. OW needed a tennis club manager. I remember the three men that interviewed me, starting out, and all the members back then, a different group than today, mostly. Time moves on. I managed the Club and taught some lessons. I had been a tennis director a couple times before, so when Judy left after about five years, I stepped into both roles, or as we call it Executive Tennis Director.

The Club has changed a lot in those 25 years. We didn't have COVID-19 back then, for example. My how things have changed. But that isn't what I meant.

We had a junior program, and quite a few people took lessons. We have always had a very strong learning component to the Club, much bigger than the typical club of this size. And that has continued to this day. Several times in the past 25 years, we have had three pros teaching lessons, including now with Jen joining. Patric has been here for 17 years in July. What a blessing that has been!

There have been newsletters, and lots of communication as we have grown into a vibrant community. One that goes beyond just playing tennis, to a place that is like our own backyard, a place where we can play, and relax, let down our hair a bit, and have fun. That's always been the vision. "I like this place, and willingly could waste my time in it." – Celia, *As You Like It*

And the membership has grown over those 25 years. For the first ten years or so it was a gradual growth, but once the OW Homeowner's Association under the leadership of Michael McCollom decide to invest in the physical plant (which was aging, courts really only last 20-25 years before they need major work), we started to see a steady membership increase. We were afraid that a membership of over 100, over 110, over 120 would be too crowded, but that has not proved to be the case. In fact, it has just given us more people to play with, and the play has spread out a bit more across the hours of the day. People

love Court One these days, perhaps the most popular court. What a change! The past ten years or so, the membership has been near capacity, often at capacity, and currently at over 92% full.

We have replaced the court lights a couple of times, greatly enhancing the visibility at night, and making night play really optimal. Our social programs, which are unfortunately on hold right now, have been wonderful. Twilights, Monday Team Tennis, Monday Night Tennis, and other parties lift the spirits and keep people going.

The clubhouse has changed, as has the Pro Shop and even the locker rooms. With Barbara Rogan taking the lead, we remodeled the Pro Shop in 2014 and the clubhouse in 2015, making it larger, and a place where people could sit and

talk after a game of tennis. It has been utilized by many social groups since then, from book groups to informal tennis parties. Orindawoods loves its parties. Such a great group of people!

There have been landscaping upgrades, and changes, as trees and plants have aged out, and been replaced by others. There are over 15 trees that have died in that time, but we have replanted at least 8-10, and usually more native plantings, like oaks (and no more Monterey Pines). Both our landscaping and maintenance contractors are great!

Mainly what has developed and grown in the past 25 years is the spirit and comradery of the membership. A group of people coming together with the common interest of tennis, but from very different backgrounds and circumstances. We have formed kind of an extend family, where we treat each other with support and respect, playing this game that we love. It is the thing I'm most proud of, when I think about Orindawoods. The people, the community.

I am thankful, and grateful, for our wonderful membership. Especially as we are dealing with the current pandemic. We have really stuck together and worked for the common good. It is a sign of how we have all been together over the years and building relationships that support each other in these trying times. Well done, everyone!!!!

And maybe that is the greatest gift, the greatest celebration, in these uncertain times. Blessing to all! -- Keith

Positive Energy, An Inspiration

As I have written many times in the club e-mails, this pandemic is an attack on our physical bodies. It is a deadly disease, that will have lasting consequences into the future.

A close friend of mine had a very controlling father. The father was very worried that someone in the family would get sick, and so he kept very close control on his son, daughter, his wife. His constant worry infected the household and created many problems in life for my friend who is well into his 70s now. Before you label this guy's dad as a jerk, it is important to understand that as a very young toddler my friend's father, lost his father to the Spanish flu in 1918 (over 100 years ago!) and it scared him, and at least a couple future generations after that. The terror of a 4-year-old boy transmuted into the future. That's how big this is. This is what we are living.

So, there is great physical danger, but also, the pandemic is also an attack on our soul, on our spirit, on life, and living fully. This psychological, emotional and spiritual component to the pandemic is profound, and leads to many of the behaviors, both good and bad, that we are seeing. We need to take measures to not be overwhelmed by the negative energy out there in the world, but to find positive energy to put back out, to reclaim the balance for our planet. Each of us, in our own ways, has to find those positive steps that move us in the best direction. And rediscover, if we have lost it, knowing what is really important. Not just for us, but for those who come after us for many years to come.

Of course, crisis is not new to the world, or to people. And there are many sources of inspiration, that can lift our spirits, and guide us forward. Last month I shared a few of my favorites, and now, here are a few more treasures.

The Journey -- Mary Oliver

One day you finally knew
What you had to do, and began,
Though the voices around you
Kept shouting
Their bad advice –
Though the whole house
Began to tremble
And you felt the old tug
At your ankles.
"Mend my life!"
each voice cried
But you didn't stop.
You knew what you had to do,
Though the wind pried
With its stiff fingers
At the very foundations,
Though their melancholy
Was terrible.
It was already late
Enough, and the wild night,
And the road full of fallen
Branches and stones.
But little by little,
As you left their voices behind,

The stars began to burn
Through the sheets of clouds,
And there was a new voice
Which you slowly
Recognized as your own,
That kept you company
As you strode deeper and deeper
Into the world
Determined to do
The only thing you could do –
Determined to save
The only life you could save.

Out Beyond Ideas – Rumi

Out beyond ideas of wrong doing and right doing,
There is a field. I'll meet you there.

When the soul lies down in that grass,
The world is too full to talk about
Ideas, language, even the phrase each other
Doesn't make any sense.

"It Has Not Rained Light" -- Hafiz

It has not rained light for many days,
The wells in the most eyes look
Drought-stricken

Thus friends are not easy to find
In this barren
Place

Where most everyone has become ill
From guarding
Nothing.

On this primal caravan
Careers and cities can appear real in this
Intense
Desert heat

But I say to my close ones,

"Don't get lost in them,
It has not rained light there for days,

Look, most everyone is diseased
From 'making love' to
Nothing."

Sour, Doughy, Raw & Numb – Rumi

If we are not together in the heart,
what's the point?

When body and soul are not dancing,
there is no pleasure in colorful clothing.

Why have cooking pans
if there is no food in the house?

In this world full of fresh bread,
amber, and musk, what are they
to someone with no sense of smell?

If you stay away from fire,
you will remain sour,
doughy, raw, and numb.

You may have lovely just-baked loaves
around you, but those friends cannot help.
You have to feel the oven fire yourself.

If – Rudyard Kipling

If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise

If you can dream – and not make dreams your master;
If you can think – and not make thoughts your aim
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two impostors just the same;
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools;

If you can make one heap of all our winnings
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings
And never breathe a word about your loss;
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: "Hold on!"

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with Kings – nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but none too much;
If you can fill the unforgiving minute,
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And – which is more – you'll be a Man, my son!

The Heart Is Right – Hafiz

The
Heart is right to cry

Even when the smallest drop of light
Of love,
Is taken away

Perhaps you may kick, moan, scream
In a dignified
Silence,

But you are so right
To do so in any fashion

Until God returns
To
You