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Orindawoods Tennis News

Orindawoods Tennis Club: 925-254-1065; Office Hours: M-F 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat./Sun.: 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., www.orindawoodstennis.com
"I like this place, and willingly could waste my time in it – Celia, As You Like It, Act II, Scene IV

Orindawoods Junior Championships

Mid-November saw the Orindawoods Junior Championships take to the Club's courts for a wonderful weekend of junior tennis. Kids from all over Contra Costa County and beyond competed in this entry-level junior tournament. It was great to see many kids having their first tournament and competitive experiences. We did our best to get them off to a good start.

Tennis can be tough, as half the people that play each match lose, and at the end of the tournament, there are only seven winners (one in each of our seven divisions), out of the 78 kids that started, so most kids take a loss at some point. Of course learning how to lose, as well as to win, is one of the huge benefits of these tournaments. For if you can learn to take a loss, and still out there a battle next time, putting your ego and esteem potentially on the line, then you have learned a real valuable lesson for life.

We had several kids from our lesson program playing, with Brittany Anderson and Cameron Gee making the finals (Brittany won, Cameron was still waiting to play at the time of this publication.) Anne Barber and George Kaiser also won a round or two, and had fun playing.

There was a bit of that annoying liquid sunshine on Saturday that put us behind, but we were able to make up all the matches on Sunday and a couple of finals on Monday, Veteran's Day.

Squeegeeing 101

Ah yes, the art of the squeegee. There is an art to it, after all. I recently saw our Head Pro giving Court Four a wonderful tie-die look with some fancy, skilled roller work. Impressive, Patric!

Seriously speaking, the laws of physics apply here, so what you need to know is Squeegee Rule #1: squeegees do not dry courts, they move water. Sun, wind, ambient air temperature, temperature of the court, that is what dries courts. What you want to do with a squeegee is get as much water off the court, so Mother Nature doesn't have to work so hard. Remember, Mother Nature is our friend.

Of course, she can be fickle too, so Rule #2: don't disrespect Mother Nature and squeegee when it looks like it could still rain, 'cause she'll slap your arrogant fanny right around, and dump buckets of water on your head on what was a perfectly pleasant drying court. And she will do all this, just for a good laugh, and because folks, she can. See, you could ruin the whole morning for several other more respectful players who are waiting, squeegee in hand, for a clear patch of blue. Don't diss Mother Nature, it's a philosophy to live by.

Since moving water is the name of the game, we have the

Reindeer Games

The annual Reindeer Games Holiday tournament is December 16, from 1-3ish. We have a limited number of spaces (56) this year, so it may be "sold out" quickly, but check with us to see if there is still room. Obviously, all the Club's courts will be busy on the afternoon of the 16th, hope you were able to join us.

Happy Holidays from Keith, Patric, Philip, Kurt, Cortney, and all of our junior tennis staff!

The Pro Shop will be closed on Christmas, and New Year's Day. Sorry, there will be no Ladies Clinic on December 25, in case you happened to be bored and looking for something to do. We will also not be here on Thanksgiving (November 22 and 23). The junior program runs through Friday, December 14, then we will take a break until the winter program starts on the week of January 7.

Junior Program

Our Junior Program takes a holiday break between December 15 and January 7. Classes start up the week of January 7, with the same basic format as the Fall. See the schedule on page 4.

2008 Dues and Bill Payment

Tennis Club dues for 2008 will be \$91 per month. The increase is a reflection of the reality of keeping an ageing facility in top shape for your enjoyment.

For those of you who pay electronically, be sure to tell your vendor of the new amount for the January billing. The Association will notify our bank, Union Bank, for those who use automatic withdrawals. In addition, there is no longer a 3% discount for those who pay for the entire year.

We remain committed to keeping the Club in top shape, and running smoothly for your tennis enjoyment.

Past Newsletters

For those of you that didn't know, we post the past newsletters on the Club's website, www.orindawoodstennis.com. Just click on the newsletter page, and there is a brief description of what instructional article each newsletter contained.

large blade squeegees here at Orindawoods. I usually find the "rivers" where most of the water is flowing on a court, and push the water right down that course. I tend to go downhill (towards the southeast – towards Hwy 24 -- on all our courts, but hey, if you want to fight gravity head North, knock yourself out). We also have a few of the roller squeegees for touch up work and for those hard to get puddles along the fence (especially between courts 4&5 and 6&7. Very annoying, those puddles.

As for the benefits of squeegeeing, it does allow you to play your favorite game a bit sooner than if you left drying to Mother Nature, and besides, it is a great work out.

Scheduling Courts

Scheduling courts here at the Club is an important, and sometimes a tough job. As I have in the past, it is worthwhile from time to time to explain this process and our philosophy. Especially since, as we go into winter, there are less daylight hours available to play, as well as some rescheduling of rained-out events (leagues).

All decisions we make here are based on our Club's mission statement: "The Club is primarily for the recreational use of the owners and members of Orindawoods and that we seek to grow the game of tennis."

There are many kinds of tennis here at the Club, and we attempt to find a balance in how we distribute the courts for play so that all groups have a time and a place to play. They might not get as much court time as they wish, but there is time set aside for all. I don't consider one type of tennis more important than any other, so a league match doesn't get more consideration than four people playing their weekly social game. I just try to balance it as well as I can. Perhaps this is impossible, but worth the effort.

Courts for Open Play. One of our basic principles is to have two courts for Open, or Drop-in play (courts 4-5), unless there is a club event (match, junior program, tournament, men's day, lesson). It is important to have some courts available for those who do not plan their tennis life a week in advance. Spontaneity can be a good thing.

Clinics. 9:30 Tuesday for women, 9:30 Thursday for men, we have our adult drop-in clinics. You don't need to make a reservation, just show up, and we will teach you what we know (or some small portion of what we know, each and every week). The cost is \$5. While this event takes up two courts (2&3), we think it is an important benefit to the members, and it has been very popular for years. It is a great way to tune up your game.

Lessons. Lessons are on court 2, sometimes on 3 and 4. The junior program is on courts 4-7 in the afternoon, and on the lighted courts after dark. The Junior Program is an important part of our tennis program, as we are building for the future tennis. Lessons are a huge part of what makes Orindawoods such a great club, as we have top pros, dedicated to making you better. I've always considered Orindawoods a learning facility, where education is a high priority (it is fun to get better, and it grows the game), so a strong teaching staff, and resources dedicated to your improvement are priorities.

League Matches. Many of our members enjoy the challenge of league tennis, while others feel that "leagues should be scheduled at 3 a.m. when the courts are free." Striking a balance between these two positions is fun, and we are largely successful in doing so. On the weekends, we never have leagues before 11:00 a.m., leaving most of prime time (8:30-12 noon) free for reservations and open play. During the week, we do have some league activity in the mornings on courts 4-6 (so no drop-in courts on those days). In general, we only have weekday leagues on Mondays and Fridays, as Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays are very busy at the Club.

Lighted Courts. As winter is here, the lighted court distribution becomes important, difficult, sometimes frustrating, and always fun. Before 6pm, the courts are primarily used for lessons (junior and private). 4-6 p.m. is the only time of the day juniors can really play tennis, so we try to make it possible to use our facility and its programs at that time. Mentioned above, this is the future of our beloved game. Generally this does not conflict with adult play (who prefer mornings or evenings). After 6 p.m., we have a couple of lessons (Wednesday and Thursday, one court), with occasional other lessons and times. We attempt to leave all other lighted court times for your reservations. Remember if no one made a reservation, we will turn the lights off, so make a reservation if you want to play at night.

The Ball Machine. The ball machine is primarily used on court 3, but court 2 can also be used if it is not being used for lessons, reservation or open play. Ball machine use is restricted to before 8:30 in the morning and after 11 on weekdays, 12 noon on weekends. There is no ball machine use on lighted courts by reservation (if the court happens to be free that night, and you drop-in, you can use the machine). The guiding principle here is that we don't allow the ball machine during prime time, as we would rather have 2 or 4 people using a court rather than just

Quote of the Month:

"Be not a slave to your own past. Plunge into the sublime seas, dive deep and swim far, as you shall come back with self-respect, with new power, with an advanced experience that shall explain and overlook the old."

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

one. It is a courtesy to your fellow members. As another courtesy, please have the balls picked up by the time the next person shows up, as ball machine reservations can be back to back to back, and you might be cutting down on someone else's time if the court is not ready.

So as you can see, it is a well thought-out process on dividing up the courts, with each group of players considered. We may not be able to get you a court right when you want it, but there are plenty of times when you can play.

That's scheduling. We do our best. Thank you.

Tennis Tip

"Bad" Line Calls

Whoa, now we are talking the tough stuff. What do you do when somebody you are playing makes a bad call? They hook you, they cheat, they only have bad eyesight on your shots, never on theirs.

If you have never run into this problem, or never been upset by it when it does occur, then we may need to check your pulse to see if you are alive. We all know people who "call them close." Their reputation can travel across county and country lines. And we all know how it feels to hit what you thought was the "perfect" shot, only to have someone say, "Oh, that just missed." And then sometimes even condescendingly add, "Boy, you almost had me on that one."

I can feel the temperature rising in my veins, just visualizing that interaction.

The truth of the matter is, tennis is one of the few sports where players, the actual competitors in a game, are asked to be the judges, the referees too. Part of the problem is, as we will discuss below, is that it really takes a minimum of six people to be chair umpires and linesmen for a match involving as few as two people, and as many as four. Just doesn't work from a manpower perspective. The other side of it, is tennis' traditions state that it is a game played by gentile people, people that have been brought up right, and know how to be fair. Hmmm... perhaps we'll just leave that one alone, but there is an assumption in tennis that your character is greater than your desire to win (as a side note, we also employ that same philosophy in asking people to police themselves in paying guest fees at the Club, and many other rules we have here – with overwhelming, but not perfect, success).

So you are playing, an ol' Joesphine makes an atrocious call, what do you do? And more importantly, what are you trying to accomplish with what ever it is that you decide to do?

I think the thing that is easy to miss in all this, is your intention is to win the match, or more to the point (what's in your control), play the best you possibly can. So whatever outward or inward action you take when you get hooked, it should, if you possibly can, keep you on track towards that. My belief is that you need to be able to move on, past this call, and play as close to your best on the very next point. This, ... is tough.

For me, this means, I need to ask them "Are you sure that was out? It looked like it might have caught the line from here."

I think it is important here that you don't call them an out and out cheater (which of course, they are – in your view – opps, not helpful). Getting into a big emotional situation, with the resulting tons of adrenaline being pumped into your veins, is not going to allow you to have the fine motor control you are going to need to have on the very next point.

For me, I feel it is important that you also let them know that 1) you are watching, 2) you respect their right to make the call, and 3) you disagree with their call.

What are you trying to accomplish here? If you are trying to get them to change the call, you are going to be disappointed. This seldom happens. Few people will admit they made a bad call, because, most people don't think that they did (see below). Someone who actually does cheat, is not going to admit it, and certainly is prepared to deal with the bad feelings their actions are going to generate. With these people, I'm sure it has happened before.

So, what you are trying to accomplish is to get some closure. You asked, they said, case closed. If you go on thinking about that call for the next several games, without finding some closure, that is a lot of baggage to be carrying around, and it will get in your way of playing well. In other words, it is in your best interest to let it go. However you have to do that, do it. For me, it is asking, for you, it may not. Let's face it, now you really want to beat them, so don't let your emotions get in the way. If fact, that may be their purpose in calling it out in the first place, to upset you and take you out of your game. Don't let them, remember what you really want, to play well and hopefully win.

Why "Unintentional" Bad Calls Happen. Perspective, or point of view can be a cruel thing in tennis. It determines who should be making the line calls in doubles, and is the reason why so many "bad calls" happen, when both sides swear they saw it correctly and are right.

Basically speaking, you are going to make the better, more correct calls, when you look down a line, and see the



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ball cross it. For example, if you are near the right sideline, and your opponent hits a ball near that right sideline, you are going to see it pretty well, because you can look down that line, and see if it bounces in or wide.

Another example, the receiver's partner, when standing on the service line, and looking across court, along the service line (to see if the serve is long or not), has a very good chance of making a good call on the serve (in or long).

On the other hand, if you are looking across a line, it is very easy to get the call wrong. Again, if you are by the right sideline, and your opponent hits a ball over by the left side line, that ball could be on the line, or even inside the line, and look out to you from where you are standing. Absolutely true. If your opponent happens to be looking down that line, and you make the out call, there is going to be a disagreement, for sure. Both will be sure they are right.

If you are playing doubles, the player closest to being able to look down a line, rather than across it, should really make the call. So on a serve, the receiver should really make the "wide" calls, and the receiver's partner should really make the "long" calls. If a ball is close to the line on the left side of the court, the player on the left should really make that call, while the player on the right should normally defer to the player on the left, who can look down the length of the line better.

The Rules of Tennis say either partner can make the call, but The Code (also part of the rules, on how to deal with a match that is not officiated) also says that it is our duty to get the call right. So I defer to my partner if he or she has a better angle, and if we disagree, the call goes in favor of our opponent. That's The Code.

In singles, you don't have this luxury of necessarily having a player near the line to look down, and therefore, there are usually more erroneous calls in singles (as oppose to more out and out cheating, which would be the same singles vs. doubles). Interestingly enough, the most often "missed" call in singles is on the service return, and that is that long serves are often played, because from where the returner is standing, serves that are just a bit long, look in. Perspective again.

So what do you do? If you are making the call, and you are far away from being able to look down a line, I would give your opponent the benefit of the doubt. In other words, if it isn't way out, chances are pretty good, it is toughing the line (even though it looks honestly out to you). If your opponent calls your brilliant shot out from clear on the other side of the court, it is perhaps helpful to realize that they probably saw it that way, and while they may not understand perspective very well, they are not deliberately cheating.

If this knowledge helps you stay calm, and play the next point near your potential (closure) , then it is worthwhile advice. Good luck out there.

Orindawoods Junior Winter Clinic Schedule 2008

The 2008 Winter Junior Clinics begin the week of **January 8th**, and will continue until March 10. The Spring session will follow on March 13.

Program leader for the 10 week session is Head Pro **Patric Hermanson**.

Class	Times	1 day/wk	2 days/wk
Lil' Ones (age 4-6)	Tu-Th 3:15-4	\$100/\$115	\$175/\$190
Future Stars (7-10)	Tuesday 4-5:30 pm	\$200/\$225	n/a
Tennis Development	Thursday 4-5:30 pm	\$200/\$225	n/a
Tournament Training (invite only)	Friday 4:30-6 pm	\$200/\$225	n/a

The member price is the first price listed, while non-members pay the second amount. Prices will be pro-rated for a later start, so you can still join the action.

We have factored into the cost of the clinics the potential of two weeks of missed classes due to rain, illness, vacations, etc

Special Discount: 10% discount off the cost of second sibling. Discount taken off the lower of the two costs.

Inclement Weather: In case of questionable weather (rain), please call the Pro Shop for a court condition update.

For more information or to sign up, please call Keith or Patric at the Pro Shop **(925) 254-1065**, or e-mail Patric at patricTennis@yahoo.com. Tennis shoes required (no black soled shoes).