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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](http://www.orindawoodstennis.com)

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

## **Looking Back, Looking Forward**

### ***New For 2015 Lobby***

Much of the past year behind the scenes has been spent trying to improve the clubhouse here at the Club. The Tennis Advisory Committee of Barbara Rogan, Cat Schmidt and Ken Lyons, plus Executive Tennis Director Keith Wheeler and the rest of the Orindawoods Board have been looking for ways to enhance the Club and make the Orindawoods tennis experience a better one.

It is clear to anyone who has traveled to local clubs that Orindawoods has one of the best decks of any tennis club in the area. A wonderful place to sit out under the trees and watch the matches being played. A place to relax with friends and enjoy the post-match glory.

Unfortunately, our clubhouse leaves a bit to be desired. In the past twelve months, we have remodeled the office, and in the past few years, remodeled the locker rooms. But the common area needs work. On those cold days, where more shelter is required than the deck can provide, our very modest clubhouse is not capable of meeting the call. It is also a poor place in which to stage and host the many parties and gatherings that happen at Orindawoods.

We have come up with a plan to expand and improve the clubhouse so that it can better serve the needs of the membership.

So the big news looking forward to 2015 is that we are hoping to remodel the common area of the clubhouse, both making it a bit larger, and enhancing and improving the kitchen prep area.

We are hoping to do this work in the Winter, but it depends on permits and such, some of which are out of our control. We will keep everyone updated.

### ***Congrats to Michael McCollom, MHS & High School Tennis***

The Miramonte Girls High School Tennis team came in second in NCS and went on to the state tournament. The past several years Michael has led this fine group of kids (both boys and girls) to a string of successes. Not only is Michael a long time member of the Club, but he lives here in Orindawoods. Many of our club juniors have gone on to play for MHS, as well as other local high schools. It's great to see these young people finding a place in both athletics and our fine sport.

**Not Just Michael:** Other Club members have taken the time and energy to coach local high schools. Ellie Kann, Marcy Sharafian, Eric Petersen and close friends of Orindawoods Marcy Place, Doug Tartar and Corby Mullins have coached in recent years. Thanks to each and every one for making High School tennis possible.

### ***USTA 6.5 Combo Team raises \$400***

Our USTA 6.5 combo team raised over \$400 for the local food bank. At the end of the season party, the team decided to donate the money that they usually give as a gift to the captains to the local food bank. It was felt the captains did such a poor job of running the team, they should just give the money away (Just kidding). It was a kind gift to a much needed cause. Well played.

### ***Mother Nature Washes The Courts***

Mother Nature has been doing a bang up job of washing the courts recently, but I think there is a bit of a confusion somewhere about the nature of the task. The

## ***2015 Dues***

The Orindawoods Tennis Club monthly dues for 2014 will be \$120. With the club at capacity, with a waiting list, and the extensive improvements planned for 2015, the Board decided that this was the best rate for 2015.

### ***Men's Lunch Bunch 12/10***

Storm of the year, party of the year! The Thursday Men's Lunch Bunch met on Thursday 12/11 right in the middle of the biggest storm in five years. But what troopers these guys are, because instead of a bunch of no shows, every single person showed up. So twenty-eight slightly weathered but unbowed members assembled at Woodhall and celebrated the great camaraderie that has been a symbol of this group for well over twenty years. Filet mignon (BBQed in the rain) was served, with salad, rolls and beans. The beverages were cool, and the friendship warm. It was good to see all these long-time members, many now retired from tennis, get together and celebrate. Many thanks to Chet Ferdun, Dave Whitaker, Ted Fick, Page Thibodeaux and all the guys who helped out. Well played indeed.

### ***Reindeer Games***

It didn't rain. End of story. Actually, forty club members and friends had a wonderful time at this year's Reindeer Games. We played four rounds (32 games) of round robin tennis, and then enjoyed each other's company on the deck, celebrating the holiday season. If you missed out on the Reindeer Games this year, I'm sure it will be dry again in three or four years time. Surprising that the wettest winter was dry for "the games." Go figure.

whole reason for washing the courts is so that they will be clean and we can play on them. If she never turns off the hose and stops washing, no matter how clean they are, there will never be any time to play. A real problem recently. So OK, Mom, shut it down, at least during my next foursome.

It was said we had a drought  
But actually we have a spout  
A spigot that won't shut off  
No matter how we cuss

So count your blessings  
And stop your fussings  
Mother Nature does as she pleases  
While the weatherman just teases

### ***Upcoming League Action***

The USTA 40 plus season is almost upon us. We will have women's teams (captains in parenthesis) at the 4.5 (Marcy Sharafian), 3.5 (Winnie Shamash) and 3.0 levels (Kim Shaw). We were hoping to have a 4.0 team as well, but with the recent success of our 4.0s at Nationals, they either had to split up or move up, not leaving enough available for a 4.0 team. Of course, league matches use courts, so check on the Club Calendar or Court Scheduler to see what times and what courts might be used by league tennis.

Right on the heels of the Forty Plus season will be the Adult season, running from April through June. We're entering a big time of the year for league tennis. There is already plenty of talk about potential teams. The ducks are lining up.

In the Weekday leagues, BALL continues and the Spring League is about to start.

Good luck to everyone who is playing on these teams.

The key to league teams is captains. Without captains, we don't have any teams. It's crucial to the fun of the Club members that people captain our teams. Thanks to all the members that have captained in the past year. Your hard work and dedication has been appreciated. Thank you.

### ***The Court Cam***

The Court Cam is a great feature on the Orindawoodstennis.com website where you can see a recent picture of courts 2&3, and 4-7. It's a great way to see what the weather is like, whether the courts are dry, and how busy the club is.

Unfortunately, our beloved and often used court cam has some challenges. We are very sorry about this temperamental behavior. And we sadly report that despite our best efforts (and that of the program's designer, and our webmaster, not to mention me), it still jams up from time to time.

Sometimes the problem is at our end, and sometimes it is at yours. What you can do, is check your end, and curse about mine. So two problems.

At your end of the pipe (internet), sometimes computers do not publish the most recent image, but fall back to one that you looked at earlier. Make sure that if you are getting a stale picture, you refresh your screen or even restart your browser (sorry, a pain). I suppose the idea is that your computer wants to give you the page you were looking at yesterday, and not update it, if you really still want to finish looking at what you saw yesterday. Makes sense for an interesting article or something you wished to buy, but no one wants yesterday's weather in our case.

At our end of the pipe (internet), for some reason the program stalls every once in a while. So you may see totally wet courts pictured in a total down pour, with huge thunderheads in the background, when you know very well it is sunny outside, has been for hours and the last known rain was days ago. Frustrating.

I'm happy to report that the problems at our end of the pipe seem to be much more rare. If you can't get an accurate picture, let me know. I am checking for camera crashes much more frequently (and restarting the camera if there is one), but the sooner I know, the faster I can get a fresh picture back up on your screen. Thanks for your help.

We will continue to work on what might be the problem out our end, and here in this space, we just wanted to apologize. I use the court cam as much as anyone (to decide if it is dry enough to teach, etc...) and I'm truly frustrated by the trouble we seem to be having with this wonderful information that we offer and try to provide, and are not always able to deliver. Sorry.

### **Anticipation**

#### ***The Nature of Indecision***

There are times in tennis when we are able to return a difficult shot, and there are times when a ball goes right by us, and we don't even

#### ***Quote of the Month***

"Face it / Accept it / Deal with it / Let it go."



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move. That second ball might not even be moving very fast, and yet we don't flex a muscle. In the one instance, we are ready to move, or have already moved, anticipating their play, and in the other, we are frozen. What just happened? Why do we freeze?

In working with many players over the past several months on anticipation, I can tell you that most people freeze when there are too many choices, too many possible answers (two choices, right or left, can be too many). If the opponent can hit the ball anywhere, we are much less likely to make a move, than if they are limited where they can go.

**Choices:** In most situations, it is more likely your opponent is going to hit one shot than another. If you can figure out what the most likely shot is, and cover that, you have a much better chance of returning their ball, or forcing them to try to do something else, that they may not do very well. (In doubles, it's amazing how many players can't hit down the line, or can only do so from one wing. We should be taking advantage of this).

**Space and Time:** When playing defense, often players back up, to give themselves more time to react. This seldom works, because when they are farther back, while they have more time, there is also much more space for an opponent to hit into.

The possible directions that a shot can go when it leaves your opponents racquet diverge as the ball leave the strings. The greater the distance from the opponent the ball travels to reach you, the farther apart these potential shots can be (both in width and height. The square footage of the space you have to cover increases dramatically with each foot the ball travels). So it is easier to anticipate and intercept a shot that is made relatively close to you than one that is played by a player farther away from you.

We see amazing volley-to-volley exchanges in doubles that seem impossible because there is so little time, but the players understand also that because the combatants are close to each other, the ball must travel in smaller spaces. Knowledgeable players simply place their racquets in those predictable spaces and the shot hits their racquet. Magic.

**Difficulty:** If your opponent has a tough shot, either because the ball is hit hard, has a lot of spin, is low, is in a tough spot, or to his weaker side, the space they can play the ball into is smaller. For example a hard shot down the middle in doubles is almost always returned back up the middle. It is hard to change the direction of a ball that is totally ripped. So if your team hits a hard shot up the middle, it would be wise to cover your middle space in anticipation of their reply. Especially with your net player. On the other hand, if you give your opponent a sitter, a skilled player can hit their shot anywhere.

Actually, the smaller the space the opponent can hit into, the easier it is to guess and move to cover that shot. So if you are closer to your opponent it is easier to decide, move and play the ball, rather than more difficult. Of course, you could die (just kidding).

**Deciding is the key.** If you make a decision, you have a much better chance of getting the ball. The problem is that we fear that we might be wrong. So we wait, gather more information (like the ball passing us), and run out of time. Living in uncertainty, we are wrong every time. The opportunity for action passes. Fear has paralyzed us.

**You Know More Than You Think You Know:** Often when that shot does pass us by, we say, "Darn, I knew that was coming."

The truth is, we probably did know. The problem is, we didn't act. We need to learn to trust what we know. Most of us have been playing tennis for quite a while, and we know the patterns of play. We just need to come out of our shell and act on what we know.

For example, most people hit best across their body. If we just covered that all the time we would do much better than just standing there waiting for confirmation, waiting until it is too late to act.

**Pro Tennis:** So what do the pros do when there are too many answers? When their opponent can hit the ball anywhere. It is interesting, but the best players make a move. They cover one of the shots, even if it is only likely to be that shot 20% of the time. Better to cover something than cover nothing. Club players attempt to cover everything.

**Few Things Are Right Or Wrong, But Thinking Makes It So:** It all comes down to being OK with being wrong. Accepting that you can't be right all the time, or win every point. Once you can let go of feeling bad if you happen to be wrong from time to time, you are free to see more clearly what is actually going on, and to anticipate much better. Most opponents actually give away what they are going to do. Do you have eyes to see

the clues? Probably not if you are worried about looking bad. Good luck out there.

## **Winter Junior Program 2015** **January 12<sup>th</sup> – March 13<sup>th</sup>**

The 2015 Winter Junior Clinics begin the week of January 12<sup>th</sup>, and will continue thru the week of March 9<sup>th</sup>. Program leaders for the nine-week session are Head Pro Patric Hermanson and Assistant Pro Anna Marie Gamboa.

Level	Class	Time (s)	One day/week	Two Days
I	<b>Lil'Ones</b> (ages 4-6)	Tues/Thurs 3:15-4pm	\$120*	\$200*

The Lil' Ones class is for the always adorable 4-6 year olds. We will be developing the coordination and balance of these young players as well as giving them an introduction to tennis using age appropriate balls and court size.

II	<b>Future Stars</b> (ages 7-10 years)	Tuesdays 4-5:30pm	\$225*	n/a
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The Future Stars Group is for our 7 to 10 year old players. The players will be working with Quickstart balls on 36' and 60' courts. Stroke instruction, tennis games and match play are all part of the curriculum.

III	<b>Tennis Development</b> (ages 11-14)	Thursdays 4-5:30pm	\$225*	n/a
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In the Tennis Development Group we will work on refining technique, improving footwork and developing strategic awareness for successful match play. This class is for beginning through intermediate players.

IV	<b>Tournament Training</b> n/a	Wednesday 4:30-6:30pm	\$305*
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The Tournament Training Group is an invitation only class. Contact Patric about setting up a try-out. Players already in the program will be promoted when they are ready.

\***Non-members** should add \$25 (Lil' Ones only \$15).

We have factored into the cost of the clinics, the potential of two weeks of missed classes due to the 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. Conditions are also listed at [Orindawoodstennis.com](http://Orindawoodstennis.com).

**Tennis shoes required** (no shoes that mark the court),

For more information please check out the club website or call Keith or Patric at the Pro Shop.

To sign up, e-mail Patric at [patric.owtc@yahoo.com](mailto:patric.owtc@yahoo.com) or call the Pro Shop at (925) 254-1065.