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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

Guests and Guest Fees

Guest fees are \$10 per person. Guests can come one time per week.

If we look at the club's **mission statement**, we see that "The Club is for the recreational use of the homeowners and associate members. We strive to grow the game of tennis." Deducing from that, we can see that guest privileges at the Club is for the benefit of the members, and not for the benefit of the guests. Simply put, if the guests aren't helping the members, then there is no reason to have guests at the Club.

As members, we want to support each other by making sure our guests pay, and as guests, we want to pay for the services and good will we receive (by being asked to play at such a nice club with our friends).

The Goodness of Man. Sometimes it is felt that the "honor system" of paying guest fees doesn't work, but as the manager of the club, I can tell you that if you ever need to feel the basic goodness and honesty of the vast majority of people, then looking at the compliance of guest payments at Orindawoods is a good place to start. Most people want to support, and pay for, the services they are receiving. The Club collects a significant amount of money each year from guest fees. About nine memberships worth of income. Or in other words, everyone's dues are probably about \$7 per month lower because people pay their guest fees.

The Cheaters. Now I don't have to tell tennis players, who rely on their opponent's honesty on line calls that there are some people who are not honest. Perhaps because of that experience, tennis players like us are particularly sensitive about people who cheat. Or shall we say, take advantage of a club and a system that expects people to behave in a socially acceptable manner. Gentlemen and gentlewomen.

As players, when someone cheats, we feel a sense of injustice. And we would like the infraction to be corrected. We wish the clouds would part, the trumpets sound, and voice of God would demand the person on the other side reverse their call. In my somewhat limited experience in 45 years of playing tennis this has never happened, not even one time. I'm not saying there isn't a god, just that he's not going to solve this level of problem for me.

In fact, who knows, for my own personal growth, god may even want me to man-up and solve it myself. In a league match, where I can't choose my opponents, I'm going to have to deal with the situation by not letting it throw me off my game. But in a social match, people who misbehave do not have to be invited back.

A Member Privilege. Having a guest is a privilege of membership. As stated above, guests are for the members. That is, they are for the member's benefit. They are a beloved friend, or a player who is needed to fill out a foursome. If the members didn't want and need guests, there would be no guests at Orindawoods. We have priced the guest fee (\$10 per day, limit of one day per week) to help our members out. There are times when a guest fills out a foursome or is just fun to play with. We don't want the price to be prohibitive.

In other words, we don't allow guests so that people who are not members have a great place to play. It's not a cheap form of membership. There should be no "drop-in tennis" for non-members. Guests are invited, on an "as needed" basis, only.

Responsibility. The other side of the cheating issue is that we are all responsible for our guests. Just like the clouds won't part and lightning doesn't strike down your cheating opponent, the same is true with guests that don't behave properly (don't pay fees, don't behave properly, wear the wrong kind of shoes, etc...). No higher power is going to rescue you. But **you don't have to invite them back.** And unlike a league match, you don't have to play with them.

I admit this can be difficult. Few people like delivering bad news. No one wants to be the bad guy, or the cop, and we all wish someone else would do it for us. And a guest can have many fine attributes (good player, nice guy, good partner, stunningly good looking), but if they don't

Happy New Year!

Happy New Year from all your friends at Orindawoods Tennis Club. 2015 was a great year for the Club, with a full membership, Twilights, Monday Team Tennis, numerous league teams, tons of social tennis, summer camps and after-school clinics for kids, a new ball machine, Hit and Fit exercise class, our annual trip to Indian Wells, a great staff, and all of you, our wonderful membership.

We have the nicest courts in the area, wonderful, bright court lights, a nice, new lobby and so many opportunities to learn and play the game we love.

Keith, Patric and Anna Marie look forward to seeing you out on the courts in 2016. Happy New Year!

Dues for 2016

Monthly Associate Dues for 2016 will be \$125.

If you have an **automatic payment** for the bills, please make sure to adjust the amount so that you do not incur any late fees.

respect the members and the Club (don't pay the fee, want to come more than once a week, behave poorly, etc...), don't invite them back. Divine intervention looks pretty good, except for the fact that it just doesn't happen very often.

Management's Role. Sometimes people think I will play god, and intervene for them. I can assure you I'm not god. Just ask any of my friends or associates. No lightning bolts, no thunder. I got nada. And unless I actually witness the infraction (I'm not omniscient either), I'm going pretty much on second hand information, sometimes third hand. Never ideal and often colored in a way that might not be helpful.

If it is a **Club event**, then who is invited or allowed to play is out of your hands, and the Club needs to take care of misbehavior. If you see anything happening in these circumstances, please let us know.

A value gained and not a value lost. Remember that the guests are for the members' benefit. We don't expect everyone to get along or like everyone else, but the guests should only be here if they are a benefit to the over all membership of the Club. Thanks!

Tennis Tip:

Defensive Alignment / Filling The Lanes

Any time you hit a ball to your opponent, there are certain shots they can hit, and certain shots they would have a very hard time making. The flight path of these potential shots create lanes of probability where their upcoming shot will most likely go. I've attempted to map out some of the most basic and important patterns (see diagrams below).

Predictable. Now it is true that on my next shot, the ball could be returned anywhere ("I never paint blue dog purple except for when I do."). But if a 100 such shots were hit, there would be an obvious pattern to the return. This predictable pattern is what we base strategy on. Without that, we are left trying to cover everything, and every possibility, and that is impossible (not that people don't try). Or even worse yet, people cover where the ball can't possibly go.

Not only is the location predictable, but this most-likely location is often where the ball can be hit the hardest as well. In other words, where you, as the defender, will have the least amount of time to be ready. Balls that float or careen off to the less-likely places will not be going nearly as fast (and thus, you may be able to run down, even if you weren't "looking for that shot"). All things considered, **most shots go across the body**. From the perspective of the hitter, forehands angle off to the left of the hitter, and backhands to the right.

Determining Factors. There are several factors that determine more exactly where their next shot will most likely go (and go fastest). The location of where your ball lands on the court, whether they are hitting a forehand or a backhand, how deep your shot is, how much pace and spin is on your shot, how good or poor is their position (alignment) relative to the contact point? Grips they use. Psychological factors (their most favorite shot).

Warning: geometry is probably the least important factor. Physics (how fast your ball is going, from where, with what spin?) and physiology (how the body / arm moves) are much more important than geometry (what looks open on a diagram, like below). For example, a ball that is low, in close and contacted in front of the body will go across the body. A ball that is contacted more out to the side, allows the possibility of hitting the ball down the line or inside out. The question isn't, "is my alley open?" but did they position / align well enough to hit the alley? (Answer is often no).

Challenging Shots. Interestingly enough, a ball that is hit very hard to your opponent will also tend to be returned across the body most of the time, because they will panic, fearing lateness, and actually contact the ball early. The more difficult your shot is to your opponent, the more predictable the return.

Tactical Situations and Considerations: Figure 1 gives an example of one of the most basic patterns of predictability in tennis. A shot to the backhand corner, which your opponent is hitting a backhand creates cross-court lanes of predictability (Fig. 1). Placing your ball to their backhand corner is the basis of much of singles strategy, and ad court doubles strategy, because the backhand return is quite predictable. Based on these lanes, we would place our players (S for singles, N for doubles net player, B for doubles baseline player) to defend and take advantage of these predictable lanes. The wider the backhand being played by your opponent, the more likely it will go cross-court.

Stacking. Defending in modern doubles is based on anticipating where these lanes are, and covering them with not just one, but **both** players. It is a tennis version of the "double team." We overload certain areas to deal with our opponent's best shots, and to try to deceive them into playing shots they can't make often enough to beat us (the white, open space, down the line in this first example). Of course if your shot is weak, or they are very strong, they will make more of these "difficult shots." But they are still more difficult (a great down-the-line backhand will make more errors than a cross court backhand – it's physics and physiology).

Contrast this to an opponent hitting a forehand from the same wide position (figure 2). Much more of the court is reasonably accessible to a player with a decent forehand, thus making it much harder to predict for the defending team. The net person (N) must cover the line, as that is the physically easiest place to hit. That leaves the backcourt player (B) covering most of the court. The predicament is even worse for the singles player (S), who really has to guess. The alignment of the ball relative to the player hitting is really

Quote of the Month:

*"I never paint blue dog purple, except for when I do."
-- George Rodrigue*



**Orindawoods
Tennis Club**

650 Orindawoods Dr
Orinda, CA 94563
USA

Phone:
925-254-1065

Fax:
925-254-1380

Website:
www.orindawoodstennis.com

Executive Tennis Director:

Keith Wheeler
orindawoodstc@
sbcglobal.net

Head Pro:

Patric Hermanson
PatricTennis@yahoo.com

Associate Pro:

Anna Marie Gamboa
gamboa.tennis@yahoo.com

Junior Tennis Staff:

Jeremy O'Neill
Katie Reaves
David Schultz

Weekend Staff:

George Kaiser

Newsletter Editor:

Keith Wheeler

Associate Editors:

Patric Hermanson

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the only solid clue. Can they hit the ball both ways? If the footwork of the player playing the ball is good, it is going to be pure guesswork for the defense.

Or, in other words, you don't want your opponents hitting forehands from that area of the court. Most singles strategy in modern tennis is designed to be hitting forehands from exactly that area. Same for ad-court doubles.

The ball down the middle in doubles to the deuce side player (figure 3) is another classic shot to work off of. We can see that most of the returns go back up the middle. And if you combine that with where the best shots can be hit (pace), it makes sense that the doubles team (N and B) cover the center of the court (stack). The better your shot, the more we stack (stand close to the bisecting middle line). In singles (S), since the ball is returned up the middle most of the time, running around and hitting an inside out forehand to the backhand corner is the best play here (thus setting up Fig. 1).

The ball out wide to the forehand (figure 4) also produces a predictable return, if your shot is strong enough. This shot is used a lot in singles (S), especially on the first serve. Pull them wide, force a cross court, or weak down the line return. Then hit the next ball to the backhand corner (thus forcing them to hit a running backhand, very difficult). The trouble is, if your first shot isn't strong enough, then their forehand up the line is a real possibility (in singles and especially doubles, you're in big trouble). For that reason, we don't see the ball wide to the forehand as much in doubles (B & N, N closer to the alley on a weaker shot, more to the middle on a strong shot) or on second serves.

Shot Selection / The Other Side Of The Ball:

A quick word on when you are hitting the ball. When I am playing a shot, there are lots of places that I could hit the ball. After all, I have been playing for over 45 years, and I'm pretty good. However success in tennis is not about where you could potentially hit the ball, but where it is most advantageous to hit the ball. I am limited as follows:

On Defense. If I'm in a defensive situation (you have hit a strong shot to me), there is probably only one direction I have any business hitting (I might be able to vary the height, lob or drop shot instead of groundstroke, but even that is limited by how good your shot is). My best chance here is: I hit it in, and you miss (or give me 2nd chance).

On Offense. If I am in a strong position (you have hit a weak shot), I might have two or three choices. If you are any good at all, you have covered my best option. So the decision becomes between my second or third best choice. The third choice is probably a winner, but I also might make a lot more mistakes trying that shot. "Know thy self."

The Easy Shot. Sometimes I just play the easiest shot, every single time. No deception, no trickery, no regrets (if it fails). Here it is, my best, deal with it. It's amazing how often this works. Especially on pressure filled points. Good luck out there!

Figure 1

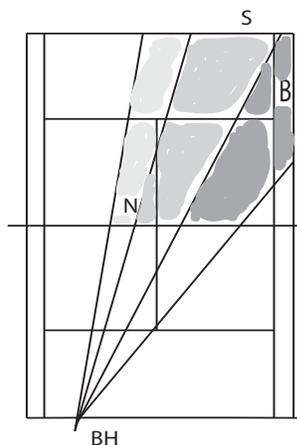
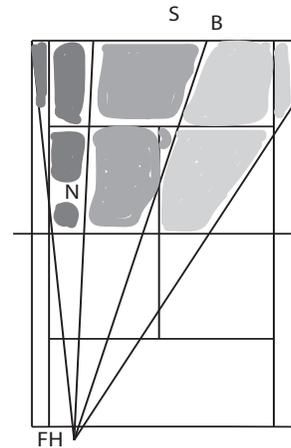
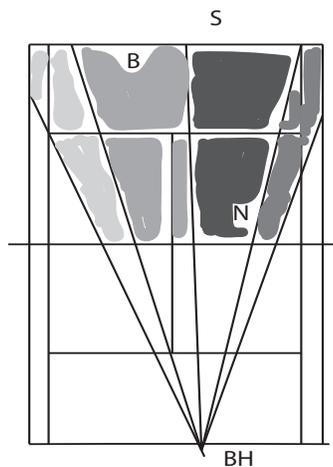


Figure 2



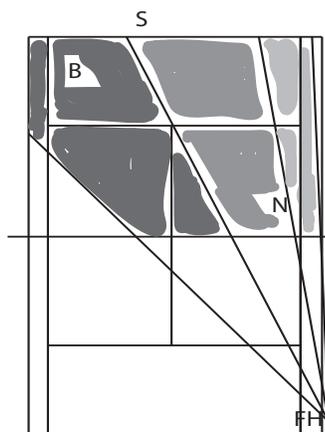
- most probable, highest speed
- next probable, moderate speed
- less likely, slower speed
- still probable, slightly slower speed
- unlikely, slow speed

Figure 3



-  most probable, good pace
-  highest pace, hard to make
-  desirable target, lower pace
-  hard to make, low pace

Figure 4



-  Most Likely, most power
-  Next Likely, decent pace
-  Most difficult, slower pace

Winter Junior Program 2016 January 11th – March 18th

The 2016 Winter Junior Clinics begin the week of January 12th, and will continue thru the week of March 18th. Program leaders for the ten-week session are Head Pro Patric Hermanson and Assistant Pro Anna Marie Gamboa.

Level	Class	Time (s)	One day/week	Two Days
I	Lil'Ones (ages 4-6)	Tues/Thurs 3:15-4pm	\$135*	\$215*

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	Future Stars (ages 7-10 years)	Tuesdays 4-5:30pm	\$250*	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	Tennis Development (ages 11-14)	Thursdays 4-5:30pm	\$250*	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	Tournament Training	Wednesday 4:30-6:30pm	\$320*	n/a
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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

***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.

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 or call the Pro Shop at (925) 254-1065.