

MVTC COURT REPORT

Mountain View Tennis Club

MVTC.NET

Feb - Mar 2008



Upcoming Events

Today - Send in your MVTC membership form today

Feb 10 - USTA Adult team registration closes

Feb 16 - LATC Valentine's Team Tennis

Feb 18 - 24 SAP Open, S J

Inside This Issue

President's Message	1
MVTC Spring USTA	1
Membership Reminder	1
2008 Board	2
LATC Team Tennis	2
SAP Open	2

Contact MVTC via email at info@mvtc.net or leave a message at 650 964-6224

President's Message

by Mike Rodgers

2007 in Review

Well our Court Report is long overdue and as I finally sit down to think about it, it's good to reflect on the past year. In case you missed it, we had some great times at MVTC's big 40th Anniversary events throughout the year and somehow we still managed to keep a decent balance in our bank account at year's end. Special thanks to last year's Social Chairs Marc Shaw and Carol Kaplan Buchser all for their great planning of the numerous 40th events throughout the year. Last year club membership peaked at just over 300 members, and we continued to get a lot of "new to MVTC" folks, even towards the end of the year. Working with the city, the formal citizen's Tennis Advisory Board (including two reps from MVTC) was formed and began meeting with city officials on conditions of the courts and facilities and other issues. MVTC also helped sponsor Net Gain, a new community after school program at Rengstorff courts, for "at risk" middle school aged kids who (mostly) never played tennis before. MVTC also continues to sponsor the youth tennis league at Cuesta Park, which is as popular as ever (and regularly in need of adult coaches). *(cont. pg 2)*



MVTC Spring USTA Leagues

by Bing Seid and Kirby Drumm

The Spring Tennis season is upon us. Some teams are forming **as of this moment**. If you plan to form a team or have an interest to be on a team, please see the contacts below. Kindly include your gender, USTA rating, and if you are willing to captain or co-captain. There are only a few weeks left to form teams so talk to your tennis buddies and reply quickly. The USTA NorCal Adult League Team Registration ends on February 10, 2008.

The Adult League starts play on March 17, 2008.

Each team match consists of five individual matches, two singles and three doubles teams (three individual matches for 2.5, 5.0, 5.5 and Open: one singles and two doubles) Skill levels: 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0, 5.5 and Open. Minimum age: 19 years prior to or during the calendar year in which player plays in his/her first local league match.

More information is available at:

<http://www.norcal.usta.com/leagues/custom.sps?iType=1945&icustompageid=4395>

Please contact Kirby Drumm (usta@mvtc.net) or Bing Seid if you are interested in playing Adult League or have any questions.

Don't forget to send in your 2008

MVTC Membership Applications, which are now www.mvtc.net in PDF format. We are a club run by volunteers, so please be sure to check any and all boxes relating to things you would like to help with!

2008 Board Members and Committee Chairs

Mountain View Tennis Club is a club that works because of all the volunteers who have contributed their time and know-how to the day-to-day running of the club and its events. Thank you to last year's Board and Committee chairs for their service and to the 2008 Board, listed below.

Jeffery Ballou, Roger Okamoto, Kathy Wheeler, and Heather Brown are new to the 2008 Board, while Kirby Drumm and Nancy Pizzo are moving into new spots.

President	Mike Rodgers
VP	Kathy Wheeler
Secretary	Debbie Ryan
Treasurer	Jeff Ballou
Membership	Roger Okamoto
SDL	Karl Mellon
USTA	Kirby Drumm and Bing Seid
Tourneys	Heather Brown and <Open>
Food	<Open>
Social	<Open>
Publicity	Nancy Pizzo
Court Report	Regina Regan
Web	Lori Spray
Junior Tennis	Lisa McMillan
Carol Tolen	Board Member

LATC Valentine's Team Tennis Tournament

Los Altos Tennis Club invites MVTC members to enter its Valentine's TEAM Tennis Tournament!

When: Saturday, February 16th from 10am to 2pm

Where: Los Altos High School tennis courts

TEAM Format: men's / women's / mixed doubles

Entries: 40 players limit comprising 10 teams / 4 per team

Fee: \$10 per member, \$15 per non-member and includes lunch and prizes. **Enter by contacting [Frank Smyth](mailto:fsmyth@aol.com) with your name, phone number and USTA rating: fsmyth@aol.com**

WANTED

**Committee Chair for Food
Committee Chair for Social
Committee Co-Chair for Tourneys**

Please contact Mike Rodgers
president@mvtc.net

SAP Open

Once again we have the opportunity to watch some of the world's greatest players battle it out right in our own neighborhood. The SAP Open will be held February 18 - 24 in San Jose. So far in the draw, are Andy Roddick, James Blake, Mardy Fish, and Tommy Hass. The Bryan brothers will also be playing their energetic brand of doubles. Pete Sampras will be in an exhibition match Monday evening. USTA members are being offered a two for one special on tickets for the day sessions, February 18,19, and 20. Tickets must be ordered three days in advance, see their web site for more information. www.sapopen.com



(Pres. Message cont.) While many of us join the club to play USTA leagues, MVTC's strong reputation as a sponsor of "social tennis" continues to be manifested by our monthly tournaments throughout the year as well as in the "drop in" Umbrella Tennis slots at Cuesta on Fridays and the Social Doubles League on Saturdays at Rengstorff, both of which expanded participation and months of operation last year. The one down side to this expansion we have, is that participation in tournaments, especially the women's doubles and singles events, continues to decline somewhat. Organizationally, the MVTC board voted to formally incorporate the club as a 501(c)3 public interest non-profit. This will not change our relationship with the City of Mountain View Recreation Department, (Cont. on pg. 3)

Court Report: Feb - Mar

(Pres. Message Cont. from pg.2) but it will greatly lower our costs for insurance, provide protection for board members, help qualify us for various USTA grants, and make a portion of your members' dues tax deductible, beginning in 2008.

MVTC Needs Volunteers

100% of the club activities are dependent on volunteerism and MVTC can use your help, without which we can't put on our wonderful events and programs. We are still looking for a 2nd co-chair for Tournaments for 2008 as well as a Food Chair to help continue our wonderful tournament schedule. We also don't yet have a Social Events Chair for 2008, though this role will be quite a bit less work after all the 40th events last year. If you are interested in helping out, please contact us at president@mvtc.net. Each month's tournaments are actually run by additional club members who sign up to oversee one of the tourneys or to coordinate food. If you're not interested in helping out at the Board level, signing up to do one month's tourney is another great way to help. The many MVTC USTA teams also need help, especially for those willing to captain and co-captain teams. Right now spring teams are forming and I know just on the men's side we are still looking for at least one more captain to step forward at the 4.0 level as well as another captain or at least co-captain at 3.5. Contact usta@mvtc.net if you're interested in captaining or even just playing on any of the teams throughout the year. Later on in the year, the youth program can always use additional help and at least one of the teams last fall played their matches all season without a real coach. Contact Lisa McMillan if you're interested in helping out there.

NetGain After School Program Kicks Off

Some of you may have wondered what the heck was going on in the afternoons last fall at Rengstorff Courts, when for six weeks, some of the courts were taken over for the new NetGain program, which was spawned out of the informal "Friends of Mountain View Tennis" and also co-sponsored by Mountain View Rec Dept and PAL (Police Activities League). Chris and Mary Dateo organized and hosted many of the planning sessions and Jere Schafer was 100% successful in singlehandedly harassing local vendors and raising the ~\$1500 in supplies needed for the pilot sessions. Roughly 30 hand picked "at risk" local middle schoolers were shuttled to and from Rengstorff two afternoons per week for six weeks. Frank Smyth, Marc Shaw and Everett Villasenor lead a cast of volunteers to help guide the kids through drills and training sessions designed for those who were playing for the first time. Marc built regular training plans for each week and by the sixth week, the kids were playing real tennis. At the end of the program the young people were allowed to keep the racquet they used for the six weeks as well as provided with a new can of balls. Special thanks to Officer Wahed Magee, who was the MVPD officer sponsoring the program and who spent many hours shuttling kids and hanging out on the courts. Plans are already in the works for the next iteration of this successful tennis program for the community's youth.

USTA Recreational Play Continues to Grow

While the number of club players has remained fairly constant for MVTC, the number of options on USTA sponsored leagues continues to grow. With the addition of the popular combos the last couple of years, and some of us (myself included) now qualifying for seniors leagues, it seems there's always multiple options for playing USTA leagues at any time of the year. While some had bemoaned the general lack of singles play in all these leagues (other than the regular spring men's and women's seasons, it's all doubles play) and perhaps in response to recent some of the various non-USTA recreational singles web based singles pairing programs, USTA NorCal is now sponsoring Flex Leagues throughout the year to support this interest in more informally scheduled singles play. Play in these leagues is not used for ratings, but is organized around ratings (e.g. leagues for 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 etc). I myself signed up for the first batch that started a couple of weeks ago, but I haven't been able to get a single match scheduled or played with all the foul weather we've had. At least I got a little extra time here and there instead to catch some of the great replays at the Aussie Open on the tennis channel via my DVR. Who'd a thunk it that we see two really young players (Djokovic and Tsongas) with tennis arsenals capable of blowing an improved Nadal off the court and even dethroning the perennial champion Roger Federer himself.

Future of MVTC Tournaments

While in the short term we certainly need a couple of more bodies at the Board to make our regular tourney schedule happen this year, the larger concern is what direction to take with the tournaments themselves. The slow decline in participation is certainly at least a by product of the ever growing USTA league play. Our team tennis events and our mixed and men's singles and doubles continue to be popular, but our women's singles and doubles events in particular really lost critical mass in 2007. Last year, we did open up all the women's events to both members and guests, but still saw a continued drop in these events. This is one of the things the Board will be looking at early in the year and we've love to hear Member's thoughts on how we might improve the tournaments and participation moving forward.

(Pres. Message Cont. from pg.3)

If You're New to MVTC, Welcome

We always get a host of questions from new members on what tennis programs we have and how can they meet MVTC folks to play tennis. Our monthly tournaments, which run from spring through fall, are known both for the spirited tennis play as well as great food and social events. Starting again in spring, we have two courts reserved 6-8PM at Cuesta on Fridays for drop in play for MVTC members (Umbrella Tennis). A Social Doubles League is also held on Saturday mornings starting in the spring and even if you can't commit to the full schedule, they are always looking for folks for the substitute list, so you'll be sure to get some extra tennis in. Our new membership chair, Roger Okamoto is fine tuning his work converting our membership rosters into SQL and has contact info tabularized for members to look up other players and club members (available on our website for members). MVTC also gets preferred rates for its USTA teams out of Rengstorff and Cuesta Parks and if you're interested, contact usta@mvtc.net as spring teams and rosters are forming now. During the year, we also have two general club meetings, one in the spring and one again in the fall. These are always great events with great food and beverages as well as great camaraderie with fellow members and are not to be missed.

Paying USTA Team Ball and Court Rental Fees

by Regina Regan

All MVTC members are eligible to play on MVTC sponsored USTA teams. Teams must pay for court time and balls. The club will front the cost of the court rental, pay the city and notify the captain for reimbursement. This is usually when you hear from your captain that it is time to pay your portion of the team fees. Some of us forget to pay, and this leaves the captain in an uncomfortable position and out a few extra dollars. Our new club policy is to hold the tournament, team, or membership application of anyone delinquent in repaying their captain. The application will go through once the fees are paid. Hopefully this will help in speeding up the payment of team fees.

Communication Troubles?

If you are having trouble opening the Court Report, or receiving club-wide e-mails, please let us know at info@mvtc.net Make sure your spam filter allows messages from regina.regan@gmail.com as this is the address through which the team-wide messages are distributed. A major club goal this year is to reduce the amount of printed material we mail to members. Verifying our electronic methods are working will help us reach this goal.

MVTC Preliminary Schedule 2008

MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV
26 General Meeting	19-20 Tourn TBA	17-18 Tourn TBA	21-22 Tourn TBA	19-20 Tourn TBA	16-17 Quad Club	13-14 Tourn TBA	18-19 Tourn TBA	1 Grand Prix
29 Team Tennis Free							29 General Meeting	