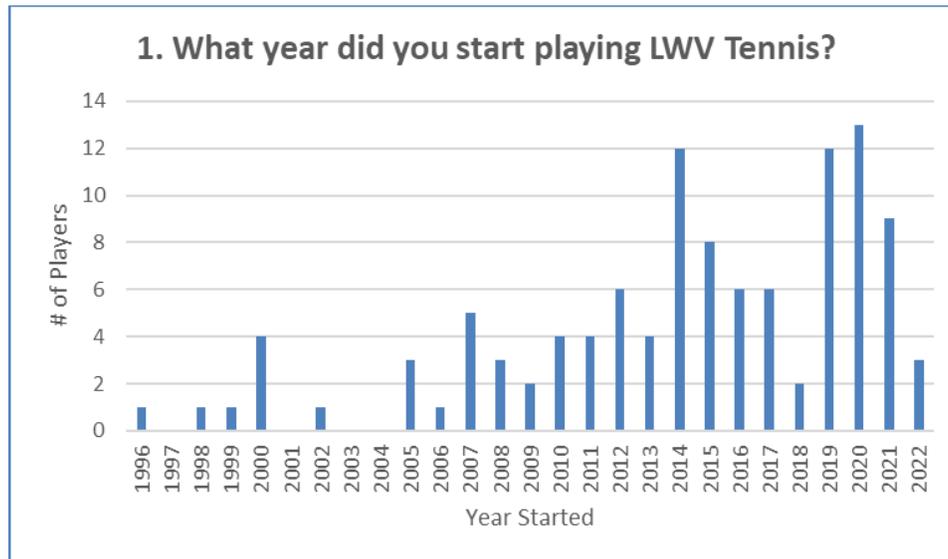


Challenge Court Survey Results

(Data collected May 5-13, 2022)

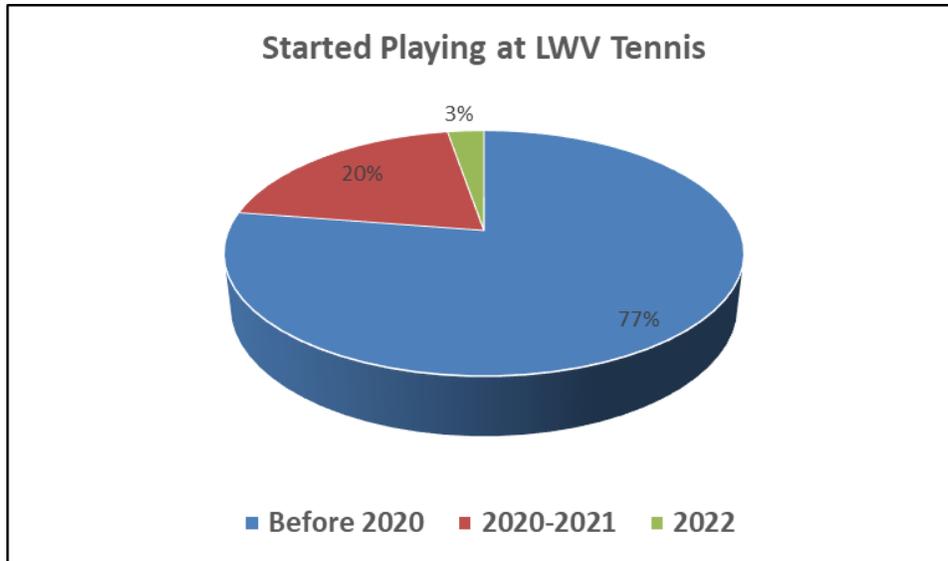
111 members responded to the survey, 41% of our total membership of 269; a large enough sample to represent the full membership.



Respondents can be divided into three groups, each with very different experiences with Laguna Woods Tennis:

- Those who started playing here before 2020 – this group played here before the pandemic hit, played during the pandemic and are playing now as we try to return to something approaching normal.
- Those who started playing during the pandemic – this group arrived during and after the court shutdown, the first implementation on all courts of the Kourts reservation system, the ban on congregating on the grounds, 15 min. intervals between reservations to allow players to enter and leave without contact, playing with masks, and then the gradual relaxation of those restrictions. They have experienced the greatest confusion.
- Those who have started playing in 2022 under the six-month interim rules mixing Kourts reservations on some courts with 1st come, 1st served rules on others. They only know the current interim rules.

The responses to this survey show that each group's very different experiences have produced different ideas about what's best moving forward. No one who arrived during or after the pandemic restrictions has seen a functioning Challenge Court here at Laguna Woods and that informs their thinking about it.



2. Have you ever made, or accepted a challenge on Court 1?

	Before 2020	2020-2021	2022
Yes	55%	9%	0%
No	45%	91%	100%

Challenge Court participants are almost entirely from the Before 2020 group. The pandemic restrictions pretty much put an end to a functioning Challenge Court.

3. Have you made, or accepted, a challenge on Court 1 in the last 12 months?

	Before 2020	2020-2021	2022
Yes	16%	9%	0%
No	84%	91%	100%

Very few people have played challenges in the last 12 months making it nearly impossible for anyone wishing to play a challenge to find willing competitors. A critical mass of willing players is necessary for players to be able to go to the courts and actually participate in a challenge.

Otherwise, going to the court hoping for a match will lead to disappointment. One or two disappointments and most people will stop trying.

4. On a scale of 1-10, how likely are you to make, or accept, a challenge on Court 1 in the next 12 months?			
	Before 2020	2020-2021	2022
Likely (8-10)	31%	27%	67%
Maybe (4-7)	19%	9%	0%
Unlikely (1-3)	50%	64%	33%

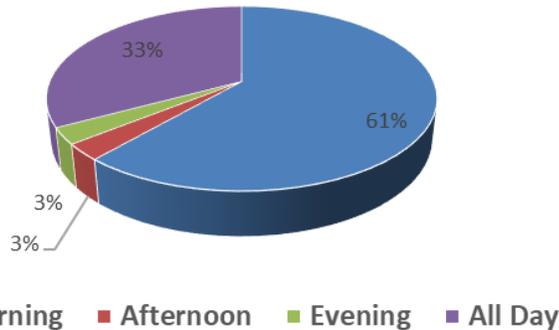
New players are more likely to want to participate in a Challenge Court because it's a great way to meet new people and play. Long term players have more regular arranged matches and are already playing as much as they want to. Players who arrived during the pandemic have never seen the Challenge Court functioning or have been disappointed when they came to the courts hoping to play a challenge.

32% of the membership (about 86 people or 43 two-person teams) are likely to play in a challenge sometime in the next twelve months. The survey did not ask how often they would participate but probably none would play daily and some would only play once a month or quarter or year. That makes it difficult to spontaneously assemble the critical mass necessary for a functioning Challenge Court. An organized effort, perhaps focused on one or two days) will probably be required to restart the Challenge Court before it can become self-sustaining as it was in the past.

5. Do you favor keeping the Challenge Court option with a default to a one-hour court when there are no challenges?			
	Before 2020	2020-2021	2022
Yes	65%	55%	67%
No	35%	45%	33%

While the cohort that arrived during the pandemic restrictions is least in favor, there is still a broad consensus in favor.

6. If your answer to question 5 is yes, then would you favor the Challenge Court option operating mornings, afternoons, evenings or all day?



7. Do you have any other thoughts about the Challenge Court?

Started playing before 2020

- It's great to get it back!
- If it's empty, why not make it available to waiting players?
- It works good for people that do not know other players
- Court 1 can be taken for one and half hours if no challenge.
- Make it an open rotational court so anybody can participate.
- I was playing tennis on our Kourts a long time before I found out the purpose of the challenge cart. I would recommend that the club or our village in general should get the notice out more about the challenge club so new people will feel more encouraged to come down by themselves.
- Good way to meet people
- I would like to challenge but the court was either reserved or it wasn't being used for challenge
- it's a good idea
- During the hours I play (8-10) I have not seen any players waiting to challenge
- Yes, it's a waste of time. Perhaps the board members have few other interests that they can wait around for a court.
- Keep the challenge court
- Keep it! It has served us well!
- Eliminate it
- If it was promoted more again it would get more play.
- As it was worked very well for majority

- keep it
- Needs to be an open all around court
- I think it could be a good way to meet people and play tennis.
- Court 1 and 2 used as challenge court
- If there aren't enough interested people to keep it functioning regularly as a Challenge Court, the option is more of a disappointment than an attraction. People coming to the court hoping to get a match will have wasted their time.
- The fact there is even this survey seems a strong indication the usefulness of the challenge has run its course.
- Useless
- Put it on the same basis as 2-4
- I have never used it but always thought it was a good idea for many that would enjoy playing with others and competing
- Nice way for new members to meet others.
- If we had two challenge courts, we could do A&B players on one court and C&D players on the other court. Also being able to sign up as an individual to play with the next individual who shows up, which might be the current rule.
- Love it. I can't play any longer but want to watch people play on challenge Court
- It is a great way for new people to meet players
- I think it's used very little for challenges.
- I didn't play last year because I didn't want to go to trouble to organize 4 players. Prefer the ease of PB methods
- It helps new players find a game
- Eliminate it
- Keep it the way it was in 2018.
- Eliminate the challenge court. But I think the Center should host "social" hours for residents who are either new to LWV or new to tennis. More should be done to help them meet & find players.
- Good idea to have a challenge court for players with no set players... specially for new members
- make it more obvious how and where one signs up
- Challenge court should be changed to a reservation court.
- Why not add Challenge Court to the Kourts system so it can be reserved like 8-9-10 as a regular court? I'm sure it will see more usage and help alleviate frustration as there aren't enough courts available to be booked in advance
- I have used it for years and find that I do meet new people and vice versa. RTC in Irvine, tried to eliminate their challenge courts and started rating the player levels instead and the whole thing turned the club upside down so they reinstated the challenge court concept again and it is very popular. For the reason stated above. New people can come and meet club members. One court is a good idea and it should remain. If you

want to play on that court, you can still do it for an hour at a time. Don't see the need to change this. Ridiculous proposal

- That it be for both single and doubles play

Started Playing 2020-2021

- Make it a reserved court through Kourts as right now there are only 3 to reserve in advance.
- We do not need Court 1 as a Challenge Court, would prefer that Court 1 could be Reserved through Courts. Currently the only 2 lighted courts that can be reserved on Kourts are Courts 6 and 7.
- What I observed was that those playing did not welcome a challenge. The 4 players all left the court rather than have the winners play the challenge. My impression was that it does not work.
- It should follow the same rules as courts 2-4 or add it to Kourts like it was before
- I'm in favor of eliminating the challenge court, but if it is kept then it should be limited to a single set, period, with a maximum of an hour not an entitlement to an hour.
- I came from courts where we played "pickup" games. It was really fun to meet new people and play with old-timers without having to prearrange matches. I would love the idea of this continuing at the Woods 😊!

Started Playing 2022

- It's all just for fun in the end.