



Laguna Woods Tennis Club Newsletter

May 2024

Board Members - 2024

President – Russell Seagal

Vice President – Bob Schwartz

Treasurer – Theresa Kennedy

Secretary – Judy Brown

Membership Director – Jim Quigley

Activities Director – Manny Robledo

Social Directors – Linda De Villers

with Melissa Fort

Facility Director – Vacant

Contact any of us via email:

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Manny: lovejoy@comline.com

Linda: lindadevillersphd@yahoo.com

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Comment Cards are available in the clubhouse if you prefer to drop us a note that way – Just fill one out and drop it in the podium slot at the clubhouse.

Notes from the President:

We sacrificed court time but oh, what a payback! The annual Super Seniors Tournament for players ages 75 and up was held May 6-11. Over 100 players from around the country competed in this USTA Level 1 event, and their play was as exciting as it was competitive. The appreciative and inspired audience was filled with club members, and key among them was Ned Buckman. Ned is the magician in charge of day-to-day tournament operations, who tirelessly keeps all the balls in the air. His contribution to this event cannot be overstated. Ned offers his own shout-out to his trusty band of helpers: Joe Wida, George Ozeki, Dennis Hannan and Sheryl Leicher.

Special thanks to all our volunteers who helped the available board members with so many food service tasks during the weeklong event. The breakfasts, a catered lunch and an ice-cream social were widely appreciated by players and attendees. Cheers to those who gave their valuable time and effort:

Ninette Arnold, Barb Dacus, Melissa Fort, Suzanne Frank, Susan Grenz, Marcia Hackett, Wendy Hames, Vega Huang, Susan Rose and Callie Roth.

One of those volunteers, Melissa Fort, will take on the role of Co-Social Director on the Tennis Club board. Welcome, Melissa; lucky to have you!

Upcoming Events:

•May 26th, 3:00-6:00 – Courts 1-6 are reserved for Social Sunday. Take advantage of this opportunity to mix tennis, potluck food, chit-chat and club-supplied beverages such as beer and soda. The event is open to all village residents who may each invite one guest. So, wear your tennis gear, pack a can of balls, share your favorite dishes, and hang out with your buds. And, in the spirit of “community,” plan on meeting some new folks to play with.

•June 1st, 9:00-12:00 – Our “May” Compass Tournament will be held on a Saturday to enable players with Friday commitments the opportunity to compete. Sign-up info will be posted soon.

•June 3rd, 11:30-1:00 – Tennis Club board meeting at the clubhouse. You’re always welcome to attend and offer comments or suggestions.

From the Membership Director:

A new electronic membership directory as well as a player list by skill level was emailed to club members. New members who have not received a printed directory should contact Jim Quigley at jq07017@gmail.com.

From VMS/Lorie:

We are pleased to announce a clean sweep: the arrival of replacement brooms on all courts and an umbrella for the table by Courts 9-10. Also



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planned for this year are new benches, sunshades and ball machines. These expenditures fall under VMS's equipment budget for this year, and the board has asked VMS to seek our input for future equipment buys as the budget cycle progresses. We have suggested chairs with back supports for the courts (in addition to the benches) and new fence covers. As for court resurfacing, it's scheduled for fall 2026, so minor repairs will be made as needed in the interim.

VMS recently began stepped-up monitoring of overall court usage. **Please be sure to swipe/tap your membership card when you enter a gate *and also* use the green sign-in sheets for yourself and any guests. We don't want court usage to be undercounted by VMS!** They will implement the following rules changes on a trial basis starting in June:

- For consistency, time limits on all courts will change to 1.5 hours when others are waiting
- An additional green sign-in sheet will be put by the entrance to Courts 9-10 to avoid undercounting players on reserved courts who use that back gate to enter the facility
- Time limits for ball machines will change to 1 hour to accommodate more users

For players who take part in Lorie's groups on Tuesday and Thursday mornings: Beginning May 28th Lorie will use the Court Reserve App (Events function) to sign up players. If you need help with Court Reserve, contact Lorie. She also asked us to remind everyone that the use of ball machines is by reservation only.

Things to Ponder:

VMS informed us they will not go ahead with a village-wide survey on tennis court usage, as they had suggested after a meeting with club members last December. They will consider feedback from the trial period of rules changes described above for their decisions going forward. The club can make suggestions, so if you have input please let us know. Take a minute to email us, or use the Suggestion Box in the clubhouse to give us your thoughts:

- If you use the **ball machines**, do you typically spend **more** or **less** than **1 hour** hitting?
- Changing all court times to 1.5 hours while others are waiting provides consistency and simplifies court allocation. Do you agree with the 1.5-hour limit for all courts? **Yes or No**
- Regarding the multiple whiteboards used for walk-on courts: Would it be better to post **one whiteboard for Courts 1-8** and a second **whiteboard for Courts 9-10** located near those two reserved courts at the back of the facility? **Yes or No**

In response to the April "Things to Ponder" piece on opportunities to play tennis in groups, lessons and drills; we heard several comments in favor of drills and organized play along with some questions about group activities. We will pursue these topics at the next board meeting. Stay tuned.

In Memoriam: Kong Chu passed away on May 9th at the ripe age of 98. His daughter, Michele Scott, lovingly sent us this link to her father's wonderful stories and memories for us to share with his beloved tennis community:

<https://adventuresofkongchu.wordpress.com/the-life-and-times-of-kong-chu-choose-your-own-adventure/>

Visit our Tennis Club Website:

For all the latest and greatest, go to <https://www.lagunawoodsvillage.com/amenities/clubs/tennis-club>