



The Cottonwood Tennis Club held the “TRIPLE T” Tournament in December. This popular event draws its name from the structure wherein eighty matches are created as forty male and forty female club members are assigned to one of four different teams that all play gender-to-gender and mixed matches. Scheduled during a spate of perfect Arizona weather, the four-day tournament produced an event that was a feast for body and soul.

Pictured above, Bob Walk and Kaipo Simonelli help prepare the blueberry pancakes and sausages for our first ever Triple T breakfast. They are working on the newly remodeled counter in the recently remodeled outdoor kitchen area built and maintained by the Cottonwood Tennis Club. Equipped with a refrigerator to keep fresh food fresh; a sink to help us keep everything clean and sanitary; and, ample storage space to protect all the equipment from hungry birds; the outdoor kitchen allows us to offer the three hundred members of the club healthy snacks and wonderful meals. To wit—a great pancake breakfast.

Though we love to eat well, we clearly put most of our effort into playing lots of tennis. Only two days after the end of the Triple T Tournament, we co-hosted a highly successful social tournament with SunBird. Cottonwood and SunBird residents filled the four courts at SunBird and all five courts at Cottonwood and many matches ran long because the teams were so well matched. The winner this year was Cottonwood.

On a regular basis, absolute beginners and persons who need to refresh long lost skills attend the free tennis lessons each Monday and Tuesday evening. As the lessons work their magic, more and more individuals sign up to play in the organized tennis competition. The women play Monday and Wednesday mornings and the men play Tuesdays and Thursdays. These matches are supervised by volunteers who schedule the four individuals who will rotate partners through three sets of tennis. On Fridays, Gerry Picker organizes mixed matches. The league play for the men and women takes place

after organized play. Both the men and women offer two leagues so players can readily find appropriate competition to match their skill levels.

As with many of the clubs and organizations in the greater Sun Lakes area, the Cottonwood tennis club provides a rich social experience for its members. For each of the six months of our “high season,” we have dinner meetings as a prelude to our brief business sessions. Each Christmas, we have a dinner-dance party that functions as the social highlight of our year. Eighty two couples attended this year and danced until late in the evening. Finally, we will again have a picnic event at Sisk Park in April to bring the “high season” to a joyful end.

By John E. Crawford

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