



The Splash – March 2011

Spring has sprung for the Cottonwood Tennis Club. Consequently, the Spring 2011 tennis leagues for both or male and female members have been established and they will keep the courts busy until April when the season ends.

Pictured above are the four directors of the CTC tennis leagues: left to right are Art Miller, Pat Davidson, Lou Galiano, and Bernie Tighe. Having just completed a highly successful round of competition in the Fall leagues, these four individuals are now working to assure that the Spring leagues continue to function as the competitive heart of the club.

The goal of league play is to assure that CTC men and women with a hunger for spirited competition can experience ten weeks of dynamic tennis in matches designed to test their skills. The leagues end each season with a party where the winners are playfully harassed as they receive their prizes—trophies or club paraphernalia. Despite the rumor started by Lou Galiano, we note that Rolex watches are not given out to the winners.

The leagues are initially divided into Level 1 and Level 2 clusters. The level one women play on Mondays and the level one men play on Thursdays. Both the male and female level one groups are made up from individuals who have been ranked as red, green, or blue players. Using a draft system Pat Davidson created five six-person teams and Lou Galiano created six seven-person teams. As the season progresses, individuals are rotated in such a way as to assure that all players on each team are matched to players on opposing teams such that the competition is always as balanced as possible.

Art Miller and Bernie Tighe supervise the Level 2 teams. The women have five six-person teams drawn from the blue, black, and orange members of the club and the men have six six-person teams drawn from a similar pool. All together, the league play consumes the available courts from 10:00 to 1:00 for the full season. The captains oversee all aspects of the competition and the CTC is grateful for the contribution they make to the club and its membership.

Significantly, Lou Galiano entered the world of tennis through the free tennis lessons offered by the Cottonwood Tennis Club coaches each Monday and Tuesday from 7:30 to 9:00 from October through April of each year. Like many of our current club members, Lou was an absolute beginner who thought tennis would be a stimulating physical and mental challenge that could augment his love of golf. The skills he learned during the lessons led him to quickly make tennis a centerpiece of his Sun Lakes lifestyle and he is now one of our top players. We always encourage everyone who even thinks they might enjoy the world of tennis to give it a try at our free lessons. Loaner rackets are available. For many, they may never feel the need to join the leagues and engage in focused competition on the courts, but they are likely to make new friends who help them enjoy a social round of tennis on a regular basis.

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