



# The Cottonwood Tennis Club News

The Cottonwood Tennis Club News November 2008

Volume 3—Issue 2

## Message from the President

- Tennis Courts
- CTC Websites
- Dinner Meeting
- Bradshaw Open

## Inside this issue:

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| President's Message | 1 |
| Club Events         | 2 |
| Extra               | 3 |
| Racquet Talk        | 4 |
| League Information  | 5 |
| Closing             | 6 |

## President's Message—Susan Stewart

The tennis courts are looking great. Courts 3 & 4 were resurfaced during the summer, and courts 1 & 2 are being repaired and will have a new surface coat. All of our courts at Cottonwood and Palo Verde are in excellent condition for the upcoming Bradshaw Open Tournament and for our enjoyment all year. If everything stays on schedule, Courts 1 & 2 are scheduled to be redone like all the other courts in 2009.

The Food Court is undergoing improvements and the volunteers will find it much more workable. We have purchased a new refrigerator and are adding a new shade and additional pavers to triple the walking area.

Both of our websites are now well established. Most members are now getting their Newsletters by going to [www.ctcnewsletter.com](http://www.ctcnewsletter.com) and clicking the bright yellow print box at the bottom of the first page for a beautiful printable version. We hope that soon all members will get their Newsletter this way and that mailing will soon become obsolete. You can

cancel your mailed copy, or notify a change of email address, by sending an email to [president@cottonwoodtennisclub.com](mailto:president@cottonwoodtennisclub.com).

The official website of the CTC is — [www.cottonwoodtennisclub.com](http://www.cottonwoodtennisclub.com) This site is outstanding and superior to most communities. The Home Page has links to everything, including our Master Calendar, Club Events, The Bradshaw, and many more. This month you can click the Photo Gallery link and see cool pictures of the CTC October 2008 Dinner Meeting Kick Off & Entertainment, the September 2008 Summer Social "Back to School", and the Wednesday Women's League Group Photos. Try clicking Cool Links & More and check out all the sites you can go to. I know I speak for all of us in giving special thanks to our outstanding webmaster JoAnn Flachsmann.

The October Kick-Off Welcome Dinner and Entertainment was attended by 80 members. We especially enjoyed the entertainment of Mr. E.'s comedy impersonations. Our next Membership Dinner Meeting will be held on November 19th and is hosted by Neda & Bill Mead. Watch for the sign-up sheets to be posted soon.



Everyone should enjoy watching or playing The Bradshaw Open Tournament, headed this year by Peter Gorman and his assistants. As always, it promises to be an enjoyable week.

**Susan Stewart,  
President**

Club Events

Socials

Tournaments

Events

Meetings

**UPCOMING  
EVENTS !**

**MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR !**

**November 2-7**  
*THE BRADSHAW*

**November 15**  
Inter-Club at Sunbird  
Inter-Club at SL CC

**December 1-5**  
Triple T—CTC Closed  
Tournament

**December 13**  
SL CC Inter-club at CW  
SunBird Inter-club at CW

**December 17**  
*CTC Holiday Dinner Dance*



**Tournament News — Al Wagner, Tournament Director**

The Rainbow Classic Tournament. On October 17 & 18 the second Rainbow Classic was held. Teams were divided in groups, the Leprechauns and the Gnomes. Last year, it was the Suns and Diamondbacks. This year the Gnomes started out well in the first round and never looked back. The final score was rather close; however, with only 36 games separating the two teams out of 964 games played over the two day event. Two or three matches ended in very long tiebreakers. One match had a tiebreak score of 11-13! In about one third of the matches the individual teams that won on Friday lost their match on Saturday. So a little "payback" was in place. The after-

noons were quite warm and with a few suffering, a hot weather rule was put in place for the Saturday matches. Thanks to Judy Crane and all who volunteered behind the counter at the food court. The snacks, sandwiches, and drinks were all excellent!

The Rainbow Classic serves to welcome many of our players back from their summer trips and get the club off to a good start for the season. If you have suggestions for improving the format that was used, please let me know.

On Saturday, court #1 was given to the HOA for a few hours to demonstrate the sport of Pickleball or Small Court Tennis. About 30-40

people participated and all seemed to have a good time. Some of the Pickleball players were from the tennis club and some were not. The recreation committee from the HOA is supporting the presence of Pickleball at Suns Lakes, and they requested the use of court #1.

Signing Up For All Events  
If you have a time constraint for your match due to working, etc., please give exact information rather than just "early" or "late." "After 11:00" or "done by 10:30" are sample statements that are much more helpful.

Don't forget to check the bulletin boards frequently -- there's always something going on.

**The Bradshaw Open November 2-7, 2008**

All the sign ups are concluded. In this tightening economy, we have had a little tougher time finding sponsors, but we are close to what we need in order to break even. Big Two Toyota has dropped out and a few of our smaller ones as well. Fortunately, Western Broadband has continued to be an elite sponsor. Special thanks to Paul Reidell, our sponsor chairman, for a great job during a tough time. This will be the first time we have added a Super Senior division for the men over 75 and the women over 70. These sections were added so that we wouldn't have to schedule their matches one day after the other and shorten playing time on court. They should provide us with some very good tennis for our senior members. A special thanks to Wayne Mangold and Keith Nelson for the very time consuming job of setting up the playing schedule, and to all the other members of the committee and volunteers who make this event so successful.

**Pete Gorman, Bradshaw Chair**

**November 2008 Dinner & Meeting**

Santan Ballroom - Wednesday, November 19, 2008  
No Host Bar—5:15 pm Dinner—6:00 pm Meeting—7:00 pm  
Menu: Glazed Ham, Dinner Salad, Potatoes Au Gratin,  
Peas and Pearl Onions, Dinner Rolls, Lemon Meringue Pie  
Cost: \$16.75 Sign-up Deadline: November 12<sup>th</sup>  
Your Host & Hostess: Bill and Neda Mead

Extra

## Publicity

Rating  
Committee

## Miscellaneous

**Publicity—Keith & Susie Welker 802-9704**

Please send any newsworthy publicity items to Keith & Susie Welker. Every month, articles and photo(s) are sent to about 4 local publications, and we would be delighted to include your league's results (be sure to give me a written script). If anyone has photos for publication, please e-mail those as well and be sure to include a cap-

tion. Whether each newspaper prints what we send is not guaranteed. Publicity articles for the winter editions of the SPLASH have been recently limited to 500 words. Names of some participants and/or winners may have to be omitted in order to report more of the news. My apologies!  
keithsusan@earthlink.net

**Tennis Quote of the Month —**

"Experience is a great advantage. The problem is that when you get the experience, you're too damned old to do anything about it."

-- Jimmy Connors

**Looking to improve  
your game?  
CTC has it all !!**

**CTC Qualified  
Tennis Instructors:**

Al Wagner  
H.S. Tennis Coach  
802-7142

Dick White, USPTR  
895-0858

Don Neu, USPTA  
895-2763

Jack Sanders, USPTA  
883-7421 or 221-6388

**Free Tennis Lessons**

by Don Neu  
October—April

**Monday 7:30 pm—  
Beginners**

**Tuesday 7:30 pm  
Intermediate**

**Rating Committee—Keith Nelson 802-7330**

The Ratings committee met September 8 and considered eight Rating Review Request forms. Three were approved. Applications must be received by the first of the month to be on the committee agenda.

Last April the Women's Red and Men's Green color groups took part in a self-ranking experiment that proved to be a very helpful

tool for the committee. I would like to thank all the players who participated. Over 90% of the players took the time to rank all the people in their color group. In December the committee will ask several other color groups to participate in this program.

**Keith Nelson  
Chair, Ratings Committee**

**Welcome New  
Members ---**

Susan Barnett  
Dick Dusault  
Mike Giarlo  
Lorraine Seager

**Have you moved? Have you changed email addresses? Do you have a new phone number?**

If so, please contact [president@cottonwoodtennisclub.com](mailto:president@cottonwoodtennisclub.com) or Mary White to update your contact information on the membership list !  
Mary White, Membership Chair 895-0858 [marywhite1@wbhsi.net](mailto:marywhite1@wbhsi.net)



Minutes from the October 2008 Membership Kick Off Meeting & Entertainment have been posted on the website -

[www.cottonwoodtennisclub.com](http://www.cottonwoodtennisclub.com)  
- the Meeting Minutes page !

New on the [www.ctcnewsletter.com](http://www.ctcnewsletter.com) website this month - a two month printable calendar. Look for the bright pink box on the first page - click and print ! This is available only online !

## Choosing a Tennis Racquet

Choosing a tennis racquet is one of the most important decisions you can make. If you're not comfortable with your racquet, both your play and enjoyment will suffer. It can also be a daunting task for beginners, as many new players are not sure of the different nuances and tweaks they should look for in a tennis racquet.

**Head Size** The head size of a racquet is a huge thing to take into account when making your decision. Power is directly related to head size; a larger head will give more power than a smaller head assuming all other factors are equal, so this should definitely be taken into account. A larger head will also provide a larger sweetspot and be more forgiving to off-center hits. Most tennis racquets today offer heads in the range of 85 to 135 square inches, with the most common being 95-110. As a generalization, more advanced players prefer smaller heads for more control, while beginning players prefer a larger head for its larger sweetspot and enhanced power.

**Length** Tennis racquets are available in lengths from 27-29 inches, which is the legal limit for tournament play. A standard racquet is 27 inches long; however, a longer racquet will provide more reach on groundstrokes, added height on serves,

and slightly more power in general. As racquet lengths increase, the total weight actually goes down, to keep the balance of the racquet correct.

**Weight and Balance** The weight and balance of a tennis racquet is by far one of its most important characteristics. Most pros use heavier, head-weighted racquets, because it gives the most control, assuming the player can create their own power. These racquets usually weigh 11-13 ounces. Another option is a lightweight head-heavy racquet. A few years ago, Wilson developed a way to remove the weight from the handle of a racquet and retain the balance and heavy-head. The racquet design, which was used in their Hammer and Sledge series, was lighter overall, while still retaining mass in the upper hoop, where ball contact occurs. Several other manufacturers have now picked up on this design.

The advantage of a lightweight head-heavy racquet is increased maneuverability without sacrificing power, especially on ground strokes. Some players complain that these racquets feel "light" and transfer more shock to the elbow and arm; however, it is mostly based on preference.

## Racquet Talk



In summary, when shopping for your new tennis racquet, some of the most important things to investigate are head size, length, and weight and balance. Also, remember that no matter how good a racquet looks on paper, there is absolutely no substitute for demo'ing the racquet and seeing how it feels during actual play!

**Jack Szatkowski,  
Contributing Journalist**

## 2008-2009 CTC Board of Directors

President — Susan Stewart

Vice President — Keith Nelson

Secretary — Pam Lenar

Treasurer — Kelz Kelzenburg

Tournament Director — Al Wagner

1st Past President — Wayne Mangold

### CTC Tennis Apparel

|                                  |         |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| NEW Cottonwood Tennis Club Hats  | \$12.00 |
| NEW Cottonwood Club Tennis Towel | \$8.00  |
| Cottonwood Tennis Club Shirts    | \$20.00 |
| Cottonwood Tennis Club Visor     | \$9.00  |

Contact Bob Walk, Apparel Coordinator  
940-6009

Visit us on the web —

[www.cottonwoodtennisclub.com](http://www.cottonwoodtennisclub.com)    [www.ctcnewsletter.com](http://www.ctcnewsletter.com)

Contact us —

[president@cottonwoodtennisclub.com](mailto:president@cottonwoodtennisclub.com)    [webmaster@cottonwoodtennisclub.com](mailto:webmaster@cottonwoodtennisclub.com)

## Mens Leagues

**Tuesday League**      *Nothing to report !*

**Pete Dalecio, Director 895-7704**

**Thursday League** After three weeks of scintillating tennis, the Jack Peterson Chrome Domes are leading the league with 111 points. But right on their tail is Jack Epp's Oldies but Goodies with 109 points. In third place is Bill Gosiak Kiddy Corps with 98 points. Jim Dittman's Sly Foxes are next with 85 points, still close enough to make a surge. Mike DeMalleville and his French Legion is a close fifth place with 82 points. Last but not least, Jack Szatkowski and his Polish Falcons with 77 points are fighting hard to get off the bottom. There are still seven weeks to go so anything can happen. Come out on Thursday's from 10AM to 1PM at the Cottonwood courts to watch some great tennis. Have a meal on the veranda and listen to the bones creak and hear the gasping for air - it's a lot more entertaining than daytime TV.

**Lou Galiano, Director 895-6093**

## Womens Leagues

**Monday League** The Monday Women's League started off with a bang on Oct. 20th. Everyone seemed ready to start playing and meeting up with all the sunbirds that came back. We have a great league, good tennis and a lot of people that help make it happen. Thanks to all of you for your help.

**Pat Davidson, Director 883-9716**



**Wednesday League** Due to the delayed return of players and several Fall tournaments, the Women's Wednesday League will begin the Fall season on November 12 and complete a 5-week session on January 14. A full 10-week session is planned for the Spring season. Illness, injury, and death has resulted in a need for several replacements on several of the teams but six teams of six players each are now ready to begin the Fall season as soon as the Bradshaw Open Tournament is completed. We look forward to good fun, good competition, and good exercise as we begin the Fall season.

**Donna Nelson, Director 802-7330**

## Organized Play

**Mens Organized** Important reminder for those players that play in the Tuesday or Thursday league. If you play in the league, and also want to play in the organized group, you need to sign up as an alternate only for that day. If your team happens to have a bye that week, it's ok to sign up the normal way. This will give those who do not play in the league the opportunity to play in the organized group. We want to get as many members as possible out on the courts each day. I want to thank Art Miller for helping out that extra week until his replacement made it back from Colorado.

It's nice to have such dedicated volunteers to keep our organized league moving on.

**Bob Walk, Coordinator 940-6009**

**Mixed Doubles Organized** All is well on the home front and Friday mornings. Participation has increased in the last month to the point where all five courts have been signed up for and played on. There has also been alternate sign-ups hoping someone would cancel so that they could play, which does occur on occasion. So don't forget to sign up early so that you don't get left out. Courts 1 and 2 were closed for play from Wed., the 22nd thru Sat., the 25th, so that these two courts could be resurfaced. (They are not being reconstructed like courts 3 and 4 were in July.) Therefore, those who were scheduled to play on Fri., the 24th, were given the option to play on our Cottonwood courts 3, 4, and/or 5 at 7:00am or the Palo Verde courts 1 and 2 at the regularly scheduled time at 8:30am. Fall weather has finally arrived, meaning cooler temperatures, making playing very pleasant. So come and enjoy the fun and the good camaraderie.

**Gerry Picker, Coordinator 802-6732**

## League Information

Mens

Womens

Organized

**DROP-IN tennis  
every Sunday—  
7 pm—for beginner  
and intermediate  
levels !**

**Semi Singles  
Friday's at 1:00  
Contact —  
Mary White  
895-0858**

**Womens Organized Ladies** — For Monday and Wednesday Organized play — please remember to sign up for play. We only have one or two courts in play at one time. November 3-7 there will be no organized play due to The Bradshaw. **Mary Jane Williams, Coordinator 895-7666**



Sun Lakes, Arizona

[www.cottonwoodtennisclub.com](http://www.cottonwoodtennisclub.com)  
[www.ctcnewsletter.com](http://www.ctcnewsletter.com)

## The Cottonwood Tennis Club Newsletter

This newsletter is published monthly, six times a year, October through March, by the Cottonwood Tennis Club, Sun Lakes, Arizona. This club was established to provide opportunities for tennis playing residents of Cottonwood Palo Verde at Sun Lakes to participate in organized play, team play, tournament play and social events with friends and neighbors with a common interest. IronOaks and Sun Lakes Country Club residents may also join the club if they have paid the appropriate annual fee required by the Cottonwood Palo Verde Homeowners Association.

An annual club membership entitles members to participate in Monday-Friday mornings organized play, club tournaments, league participation, club-sponsored social events, and subscription to the newsletter and websites.

Membership meetings are held monthly, October through April. Time and place of meetings are posted on the club bulletin board, in this newsletter, and on the websites!

### THE COTTONWOOD TENNIS CLUB NEWSLETTER

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