



NEWSLETTER



Fall 2017

Greetings,

This Fall (2017) we've entered a new chapter in the Golden Racquets (GR) story. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, due to the impending closing of the Four Seasons Club in mid-2018, Golden Racquets has begun two venues at the Arlington YMCA Tennis and Squash Club. One venue has moved early-on from Four Seasons, but the other is a completely new venue for Golden Racquets. Both started with just four courts, but the re-located venue on Mondays is currently at 5 courts and the brand new 3.8+ venue on Wednesdays will soon be full with 6 courts! Much appreciation to the YMCA and the Golden Racquets members who have made this happen.



With that, I extend a hand of welcome to the YMCA members who have also joined Golden Racquets and will be playing at the "Y" and other GR locations. Please join me in making their entry into GR pleasant. Welcome, too, to the numerous other new members who have joined GR as a result of our finally being able to re-open the general membership. As we all have, it may take a while for the newer members to get used to the unique methods of GR, but we hope for a smooth integration into the various venues that GR offers. This organization includes a great group of people and we all look forward to getting to know all the new members and enjoying some great tennis together.

Obviously, any transition like the one we're going through offers some challenges. One of the more difficult challenges for us this fall has been to get everyone registered for the various venues in a timely manner. I hope that our Spring/Summer 2018 sign-ups will be somewhat smoother. We'll try to get the process started earlier, as we have in the past, and adhere closely to the sign-up deadline. As members, you can make the work of the officers much easier by getting your applications in as soon as possible once the sign-up period has been announced.

Many of you know, but others may not, that GR has a number of organized "social" events throughout the year -- some impromptu and some more formal get-togethers.

The big one is coming up soon, which is the Annual Golden Racquets Luncheon at PJ Skidoos in Fairfax. Don't miss out ... sign up early ... come enjoy good food, good company, and good times. Special thanks to Howard Ho, our Social Chairman, for all the work he does to put this Luncheon and other socials together. I look forward to seeing you all there in October!

Sincerely,

Ed Grose, President



WTEF Hall of Fame Induction

Kudos and Congratulations!

The members of Golden Racquets would like to send their sincere congratulations to long-time member Pearl Hicks. Pearl (3rd from the left) was inducted into the Washington Tennis & Education Foundation (WTEF) Hall of Fame during the 2017 CITI Bank sponsored tournament in Washington, DC. Also inducted during the ceremonies along with Pearl were James Newmyer (accepted by Ginger

Newmyer, next to Pearl), and the former world number 1 doubles team of Bob & Mike Bryan, pictured with Pearl and Ginger. Pearl, a retired educator, has volunteered as a tutor with the WTEF for 17 years. She is delighted to have been able to combine two things that she loves -- education and tennis -- and feels that this is a valuable way of giving back to society and the community. Pearl's warm and friendly personality and demeanor allows her to continue to be an excellent role model to the students with whom she works at the WTEF, as well as to her teammates when playing tennis. Golden Racquets is proud to count Pearl among our members and friends, and sends her our heart-felt congratulations!

Ladies' Clinic at the Citi Bank Open by Shirley Newman



On August 8th, Marjorie (Margie) Deutsch and I went to the Citi Bank Open. It was my first time to attend, and in addition to watching some great tennis, we had the opportunity to sign up for a 90-minute Ladies' Clinic. We arrived early and found our

way to the clay courts where the clinic was to be held, and were greeted by Jeremy, one of the Rock Creek tennis pros. As the other participants arrived, we noticed that most of them appeared much younger and had good experience, some at the collegiate level. Being Golden Racquets members, Margie and I (and one other woman) were the most mature women there – but we fit in well. Jeremy welcomed the group and introduced John, another tennis pro.

It was at this point that an older man arrived and took over the clinic. He told us he was Wayne Bryan and said that we might have heard of "his boys," Bob and Mike (the Men's Doubles champions). Of course we had! Wayne gave a motivational talk to the assembled group about the importance of a positive attitude and the importance of getting children interested in tennis involved early. One suggestion Wayne gave for inspiring children was to take them to watch great players and let them see what really good play looks like. That suggestion is good for tennis players of all ages! He asked if any of us had something in specific with which we needed help, and after a couple of "I-need-help-with-this-shot" comments from the group (I asked for help with high backhands), it was time to hit the courts!

The well organized and easy to follow drills were led by Wayne, Jeremy, and Jon. Many of the drills focused on the basics of controlling the ball and were progressive in difficulty (i.e., practicing a shot by starting close to a partner and progressively moving farther away to perform the same shot). Wayne also addressed the "I-need-help-with-this-shot" comments from the group. For my "high backhand" comments, he suggested that I balance myself by extending my left arm behind me (because I am a right-handed player) -- and it really helped. Wayne, Jeremy, and Jon made everything FUN even while we were learning.

We were joined on the courts a little later by two thirty-something men, fashionably stubbled, wearing baggy shorts and grungy tee-shirts -- not tennis gear. They were introduced as Jean-Julien Rojer (Netherlands Antilles) and Horia Tecau (Romania). We learned that they have over 50 doubles titles between them – including Wimbledon in 2015 -- and they joined in the remaining drills. It was great playing with them as they were very articulate and obviously enjoyed just being on the court. And they made it look so easy! (Here I will note that they won the U.S. Open Men's Doubles Championship, and having met them, I've been avidly following their matches.)

At the conclusion of the clinic, Jeremy escorted us to one of the hospitality suites where we were all treated to a wine spritzer. On our way to the hospitality suite, we saw Wayne's "boys" (twins Bob & Mike Bryan) coming off one of the practice courts. I was surprised to realize how tall they are. After our exciting morning and before leaving for

the day, Margie and I watched a couple of singles matches, one of which was Milos Raonic, who won his match.

All in all, it was a wonderful day and I hope to do it again next year.



A Dream Come True by Lindsay Wozniak



My husband and I were lucky enough to spend three days at Wimbledon this year and it really was an amazing experience. We saw about 12 matches including the women's quarter finals at center court, men's round of 16 and double's quarterfinals on court one. We were also able to drop in on any of the 18 courts and watch junior players and wheelchair matches. The athleticism of the players, strawberries & cream, and a few Pimm's cups really created some wonderful memories. Below are some of the photos I took of my favorite players.

Martina Navratilova

Novak Djokovic



Venus Williams



Sam Querrey



Rafael Nadal



Caring and Sharing by Alle & Jack Cogdell

We are happy to report that only two get-well cards needed to be sent since the publication of the last newsletter. Those cards were sent to Ed Byrne and to Charlie Williams. We wish them both a complete and full recovery, as well as a speedy return to the courts.

The sad news we share is regarding the loss of member and friend Bob Roeder, who passed away in early August from a tragic accident. Bob was a fine tennis player and very active member of Golden Racquets. Our condolences and thoughts remain with his family.

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## **Something to Think About** by Bob Westall



There have always been people who use their brain power to search for ways to take advantage of others (especially the senior segment of society), but it seems to be a bigger and more imminent fear and concern today for some reason. This is probably due in large part to the easy access of all kinds of information -- much of it personal -- on the Internet, as well as to the general trusting nature of most human beings. So the following is offered in an attempt to raise our awareness and to be just a little more cautious when using our credit cards and checks. Please

read and think about how you may benefit from the following advice (that was initially offered by an attorney after having his wallet & identity stolen).

- Do not sign the back of your credit card. Instead, write 'PHOTO ID REQUIRED' on the signature line, especially if the front of your credit card does not have your photo on it.
- When writing a check to pay a bill, do not put the account number of the bill being paid on the memo line of the check. At the very least, put only the last four digits of the account number -- the company to whom the check is written knows the entire account number and anyone handling the check during the check processing channels will not have access to it.
- Never put your social security number on a check -- you'd be surprised at how many people do!
- Make a copy of the contents (credit cards, driver's license, insurance cards, etc.) of your wallet -- and copy both sides of each card. Keep the copy in a safe place

so that you will easily know what was in your wallet. This will make cancelling credit cards and contacting other businesses if your wallet is stolen or lost easier and you will not have to try to recall from memory all that was in your wallet.

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## **Just a Little Consideration, Please!**

(requested by members)

Even though we all play tennis for the fun and exercise it gives us, do we really want to unnecessarily chase balls on our court? Do we really want a tennis lesson from someone -- even if they are a better player than us -- in the middle of a game? Just a little bit of observation, thought, and consideration will provide a lot of courtesy to our court mates. Remember, everyone is trying his/her best, so here are a few tips to help make your match even more enjoyable!

- Be on time!
- At the end of a point, get the attention of either the server or, if playing doubles, the server's partner before giving the ball back to the server. Then toss or gently hit the ball in such a manner that the person on the other side of the net can easily "catch" or retrieve the ball -- and does not have to walk around the court to collect balls that were inconsiderately returned to them in a random and careless manner.
- If a served ball is obviously out, do not return it. Either catch it and put it in your pocket or let it roll to the back of your (the receiver) court and continue play. (NOTE: There are times when a ball is so close to the service line that we hit it back while at the same time our partner is calling it out. This would not be an "obviously out" situation.)
- Announce the score so that it can be heard by your court mates each time before serving. This will prevent discrepancies in the score later in the match.
- Do not chase or pick up balls during a point unless they are in a position on the court that may be dangerous to the players. Balls should be retrieved at the end of a point and before the next person serves -- not during a service game.
- Water breaks should be taken at the completion of odd-numbered games during a tennis match. However, since several Golden Racquets venues play eight-game sets, it is generally agreed upon that a water break may be taken after game four. Announcing that a water break is being taken gives everyone who wants such a break the opportunity to do it in conjunction with the others on the court.

- Unless your partner (or opponent) asks for help in correcting a shot during the game, do not offer help or advice. It may not be welcomed at that moment! And besides, no one knows they are making mistakes more than the person making them -- and that has been all of us at one time or another! (NOTE: This is not the same thing as "discussing strategy" with your partner during a challenging game. Just make sure the discussion is two-way and not just your opinion.)
- And finally, when in doubt, give the benefit to your opponent. Remember that a ball **"99% out is 100% in"**. People will remember this sportsmanship approach to playing tennis much longer than they will remember who won a particular game or set or match.

**Do you have a tennis pet peeve that you would like to see addressed for the benefit of all? Please share it with us and we will get some helpful suggestions to you in the next newsletter.**



## Save the Date!



The Golden Racquets Annual General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 17, 2017, at PJ Skidoo's, located at 9908 Fairfax Blvd (also known as Rt. 50-W), Fairfax, VA -- next to Fairfax Racquet Club. There will be a cash bar beginning at 11:30am, and lunch will be served at 12:00noon. There will be door prizes, announcement of Member of the Year, and a guest speaker. A reservation form will be emailed to you soon that will contain details regarding cost and meal selection. We hope you will plan to attend and enjoy the company of fellow Golden Racquets members.

**Membership Update: Golden Racquets has reopened its membership rolls. As a result, there are now 329 members, playing at five different venues (Fairfax Racquet Club, Four Seasons Racquet Club, Burke Swim & Racquet Club, Wakefield Park (aka Audrey Moore), and the newest addition to the Golden Racquets venues, the Arlington YMCA.**

# Golden Racquets Code of Conduct

Golden Racquets is an organization that is enjoyed by many people for many reasons. In order for that to remain the premise of the organization, we would like to remind everyone of 3 simple rules -- we will call it the Golden Racquets Code of Conduct.

- Keep it friendly out there. We have a good time, and once you've been around awhile, expect some of your friends to engage in some good-natured joking around. It is all meant to keep the mood light. If you have a "thin skin" you may find this to be a bit uncomfortable, but just remember nothing is meant to offend anyone.
- Keep a good attitude. Our doubles tennis is a team sport. If you or your partner are having an off-day (and we all will at some time or other), just remember to keep a good attitude and try not to bring everyone else on the court down. If you are not giving your all because you have missed a couple of shots, it affects everyone on the court -- especially your partner.
- Be nice. We have a ZERO TOLERANCE policy for any sort of verbal or physical abuse toward anyone for any reason. If you violate this policy, you will forever lose the privilege of playing in any Golden Racquets matches. To be clear, the only physical contact that is permitted is high-fives and fist-bumps. (NOTE: Physical abuse also refers to slamming or throwing racquets or other items.)



## Wanted: GR Social Chairperson



Golden Racquets is still in need of a member who is willing to assist the social committee chair. Golden Racquets functions solely on the volunteer efforts of members, and those efforts are greatly appreciated. Social Committee Chair Howard Ho does a great job, but needs the support of an assistant. Please consider volunteering for this position. Aside from doing your part to keep Golden Racquets the wonderful organization that it is, you will also be given a "zero seniority number," and that number will be effective the entire time you hold the position as well as for one year after you leave the position, virtually guaranteeing that you will receive the venue of your choice. Additionally, you will be a part of the Golden Racquets Board and have direct input to



discussions pertaining to the overall functioning of the club. Please contact president Ed Grose at 571-212-3525 or ed.grose@verizon.net if you are willing to help out. Your contributions will be greatly appreciated!



## **Golden Racquets' Newest Members** by Ellen Johnson

We welcome the following new members to Golden Racquets! We hope they have many enjoyable sets of tennis and make many new friends while doing so. If you are looking for someone to complete a foursome, please consider inviting one of these new members to join you. You and they will be glad you did!

| <b>Name</b>        | <b>GR Rating</b> | <b>Phone</b> |
|--------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Andrea Foster      | 3.8              | 202-215-5007 |
| Joanne Hensley     | 3.4              | 703-615-0989 |
| Wayne Iskra        | 3.5              | 703-941-8353 |
| Donna Koves        | 3.4              | 703-690-2208 |
| Scott Koves        | 3.8              | 703-690-2208 |
| Marion MacRea      | 3.5              | 703-751-4994 |
| Mary Mahon         | 3.7              | 925-200-5164 |
| Tom Meyer          | 3.8              | 301-802-6633 |
| Marsha Nelson      | 3.8              | 703-527-6054 |
| Steve Nelson       | 3.8              | 703-527-6054 |
| Tony Rickert       | 3.8              | 202-256-7435 |
| Cynthea Riesenberg | 3.9              | 703-969-0344 |
| Tom Riesenberg     | 3.9              | 703-409-2284 |
| Charley Wilkinson  | 4.0              | 703-307-7630 |



## **A Little Humor!**

A man spoke frantically into the phone to a 911 operator. He said, "My wife is pregnant and her contractions are only two minutes apart!" The operator asked, "Is this her first child?" "No!" shouted the man. "This is her husband!"



## **Signs and statements that were found on a church marquee or in the church bulletin:**

"Don't let worries kill you -- let the church help."



On a beautiful summer day, the following message was found on the local church marquee: "Choir Picnic Concert: Join us across the street in the park. Bring a blanket and be prepared to sin."

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As seen in the church bulletin: "Weight watchers will meet at 7:00pm on Thursday. Please use the large double-doors at the side entrance."

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This Golden Racquets Newsletter is published by the Fairfax County Golden Racquets, a non-profit volunteer organization dedicated to senior tennis. You are encouraged to visit the Golden Racquets website at <http://www.Golden Racquest.org>. Officers and committee chairs are as follows:

- President: Ed Grose
- Immediate Past President: CJ Dieteman
- Vice President: Laura Riesenberg
- Secretary: Claudia Steichen
- Treasurer: Al McFarland
- Membership Chair: Ellen Johnson
- Rating Committee Chair: Tom Burroughs
- Social Committee Chair: Howard Ho
- Caring Committee Chair: Alle & Jack Cogdell
- Chief Information Officer: Bob Dineen
- Operations & Planning Chair: Fred Hart
- Web Site Manager: Lindsay Wozniak
- Newsletter Editor: Connie Dineen

Please contribute your Golden Racquets articles or pictures of interest to Connie Dineen at:  
[csdineen51@gmail.com](mailto:csdineen51@gmail.com)  
NOTE: Articles may be of general interest and do not necessarily need to be about tennis.