



# NEWSLETTER



## Spring (March) 2019

Dear Golden Racquets (GR) Members:

At the Board of Directors (BOD) meeting held on January 22, Joseph Caruth announced that he had made the decision to step down as president of Golden Racquets. We would all like to thank Joseph for his willingness to work with and support of GR and the BOD, and for continuing to act as captain of the Burke venue. At that same BOD meeting, I was voted in as the Acting President, to serve until the next regularly scheduled election cycle. I have been a member of GR for 10 years and am currently the chair of the ratings committee and captain of the Mason District venue. I would like to thank the GR BOD for their vote of confidence in me as I begin the role of Acting President of GR.



I am concerned that we may have a shortage of in-door courts in the future. The loss of The Four Seasons Tennis Club has resulted in the limited number of tennis courts available at the other tennis facilities in the area. We are fortunate to have good working relationships with Burke Racquet and Swim Club, Fairfax Racquet Club, the Fairfax County Park Authority, and the Arlington YMCA, so we will continue to use these tennis facilities to the benefit of GR members. We have recently been informed that the Arlington YMCA will begin their remodeling in 2021.

GR has started a Grant Writing Committee headed by Mel Kollander. We hope to use any procured grant funds to supplement the cost of tennis play for our members, but details of this have not been worked out at this time. Additionally, a Task Force is being created which we hope will be of assistance in convincing Fairfax County, Fairfax City, Vienna, and Alexandria to consider building in-door tennis court facilities.

New members of the BOD are Leigh Albert, Recording Secretary; Dave Fleming, Operations and Planning Chairman; Joanne Hensley, Website Manager; Marion MacRae, Caring & Sharing Committee Chairperson; and Adele Neuberg, Membership Chairperson. As you know, GR is a volunteer-run organization, and we thank these most recent members of the BOD for their willingness to serve and support GR. I would like to suggest that members visit our recently revised and updated GR website for information on interesting reference materials, articles, and planned GR current events.

The next BOD meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 9, 2019. The meeting will include a discussion on whether to open up GR membership. By the time of the meeting, we should know how many people have signed up for the summer venues, and that information will have a major impact on this decision. I encourage more people to sign up as a regular players vs. as a sub for summer tennis play. Typically, there is a large sub list of players so finding a sub when needed is generally easy to do.

Suggestions and ideas for the benefit of GR are always welcomed. If you have something to recommend, please email [tomburroughs@cox.net](mailto:tomburroughs@cox.net).

Tom Burroughs  
Acting President Golden Racquets

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## Reminder to All

The GR BOD would like to remind all members that the GR directory is published for the use of members only for contacting other GR members about tennis matters. Please note and abide by the disclaimer at the top of the directory, which states the following:

"Golden Racquets publishes this seasonal roster as a service to members who wish to contact other members to pay for substitutions, other reasons related to tennis activities, or for personal contact between members. It should **NOT** be used as a mailing or contact source for commercial, religious, political solicitation, or any other purpose."

## Summer Tennis

by Dave Fleming

As the winter tennis sessions wind down, preparations for the summer sessions are well underway. The summer venues have been selected and the summer sign-up form sent out. Members are encouraged to make their selections promptly and return the form with payment as soon as possible. As a reminder, your annual dues of \$20 must be included with the completed sign-up form.

This summer's venue selection process took longer than in the past. Obtaining summer indoor venues proved to be a major challenge due to the impact of the Four Seasons closure, resulting in an increased demand for court space from summer tennis camps and other tennis groups. Despite those challenges, the GR venue selection group succeeded in securing an excellent variety of indoor and outdoor venues. Venue selection decisions are guided by the following general criteria: (i) a minimum of four courts; (ii) weekday mid-mornings for outdoor play and mid-day for indoor; (iii) a minimum of ninety minutes; and (iv) located within a reasonable driving distance for members.

Working with the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA), we were able to get our regular venues at Wakefield on Mondays and Fridays and Mason District on Thursdays, as well add a new venue at Nottoway Park in Vienna on Tuesdays. Nottoway is a four court 3.5 and above venue, and is located at 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna, VA. Further details and directions to Nottoway Park are provided in a separate article in this newsletter.

Securing indoor venues was more involved than in past seasons. The good news is that the Fairfax Racquet Club (FRC) was able to offer the same arrangement as last summer and the Arlington YMCA was able to provide us with four courts on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. We are grateful

to the management of FRC and Carlo at the Arlington YMCA for their generous support of Golden Racquets.

An overview of our summer outdoor and indoor venues is shown below. For specific details on each venue, refer to the sign-up form. Please note the times for all outdoor venues will be 9:00-10:30am. Contact Joe Wittling at 703-973-2560 or [josephwittling@gmail.com](mailto:josephwittling@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

| <b>Outdoor Venues</b> |                     |            |              |                    |                                                   |
|-----------------------|---------------------|------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Level of Play</b>  | <b>Location</b>     | <b>Day</b> | <b>Time</b>  | <b># of courts</b> | <b>Dates</b>                                      |
| 3.5 (Ladder)          | Wakefield Park      | Monday     | 9:00-10:30am | 4                  | May 6-August 26                                   |
| Open to All           | Wakefield Park      | Friday     | 9:00-10:30am | 4                  | May 10-August 23                                  |
| 3.5                   | Mason District Park | Thursday   | 9:00-10:30am | 5                  | May 9-August 29                                   |
| 3.5                   | Nottoway Park       | Tuesday    | 9:00-10:30am | 4                  | May 7-August 27                                   |
| <b>Indoor Venues</b>  |                     |            |              |                    |                                                   |
| 3.9 (Ladder)          | FRC                 | Monday     | 1:30-3:00pm  | 4                  | May 13-August 26                                  |
| 3.5                   | FRC                 | Wednesday  | 1:00-2:30pm  | 4                  | May 8-August 28                                   |
| 3.9                   | FRC                 | Thursday   | 1:00-2:30pm  | 4                  | May 9-June 13 -- this is a special 6-week session |
| 3.5                   | Arlington YMCA      | Monday     | 12:00-1:30pm | 4                  | May 13-August 26                                  |
| 3.0                   | Arlington YMCA      | Wednesday  | 12:00-1:30pm | 4                  | May 8-August 28                                   |
| 3.7                   | Arlington YMCA      | Friday     | 12:00-1:30pm | 4                  | May 17-August 30                                  |

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## **Summer Tennis at Nottoway Park in Vienna**

by Adele Neuberg

GR is excited to announce there will be a new 3.5 and above outdoor venue for tennis this summer. This new 4-court venue will be at Nottoway Park in Vienna, VA, and will run from May 7-August 27, 2019, at 9:00-10:30am. Nottoway Park is located at 9537 Courthouse Road and can easily be reached by taking the following directions:

- 495 (the beltway) to exit 49, which is Route 66 west;
- then take the first exit off Route 66, which is Nutley Street north (Route 243);
- after going through a few traffic lights, turn left on Courthouse Road;
- the park entrance will be on the left, and there is parking near the courts.

Aside from tennis, Nottoway Park also has softball, basketball, volleyball, garden and picnic areas, a fitness trail, and a nature path available to patrons. In addition and during the summer months, Nottoway Park also hosts "Nottoway Nights," a series of weekly, free public concerts featuring a variety of musical acts from across the United States and around the world. Hunter House, a turn-of-the-century historic mansion once owned by immigrant John C. Hunter, is located on park grounds and is available for private and corporate rental.



At age 88, Bob plays tennis (and several other sports) at least once a week. He believes that friendships, health, and exercise are critical for a good and well balanced life. Aside from the many friendships he has developed, GR has provided Bob with the opportunity to stay current with computer programming, maintain good physical and mental health, and enjoy regular exercise, and for all that he is grateful! GR and I are fortunate to have Bob Dineen as a critical member of our team and organization.



## **And Now, Heeerrreee's Ed!**

by Mel Kollander

There are many "long time" members of GR, but few have had a bigger impact on GR than Ed Byrne. Ed heard about GR from a friend with whom he played tennis and joined as soon as he was eligible. During his time in GR, Ed has been both president and vice president of GR, operations director, a member of the BOD, a venue captain, chair of the ratings committee, and key to gaining several courts at the Arlington YMCA. Long before it became an official social event for GR, Ed started and was hosting the popular New Years Day tennis outing.

At the time Ed became a member of GR, there was no rating system so the pairing up of players was done randomly. Since that time and the implementation of the rating system, player pairs and venues have become much more balanced and competitive. Ed was the first Rating Committee Chair in GR. Also during that time, Ed was instrumental to the creation of a position known as Operations Director. This position was created so that responsibility for important parts of GR could be handled by an experienced leader who understood the mission of GR and had the ability to properly pair seniors for doubles tennis. When it was announced that Four Seasons Tennis Club would be closing, Ed headed up the group who made initial contact with the Arlington Y and the discussions to obtain courts at "The Y" began. Without Ed's forward thinking, the number of courts available to GR today would be substantially reduced.



Ed is retired from the military, but during the 1980s he was an appellate judge for the Navy Marine Corps Court of Military Review. Later, he was promoted to Chief Judge of the Navy and Marine Corps Trial Judiciary. During this time, Ed was involved with or presided over many interesting hearings and cases.



Ed is currently unable to play tennis due to some medical issues he is experiencing. However, he has now been prescribed new medication by his doctors that he hopes will allow him to play tennis at some time in the near future. Ed loves GR and the friends he has made over the years, and he looks forward to joining them on the tennis courts again soon. And his friends look forward to that, too!



# GR Code of Conduct

(extracted from USTA Code of Conduct)

The highest type of sportsmanship is expected from every player. An understanding of and a commitment to the points highlighted below are part of your responsibility as a player at Golden Racquets venues. Remember, a week after your match no one will remember who won or lost the match, but they will remember the behavior of the players.



- Once you have committed to a venue, honor your commitment. Exceptions should occur only in cases of serious illness, injury, or personal emergency.
- From the beginning of a session, play must be continuous. Attempts to stall or to extend rest periods for the purpose of running out of time will not be tolerated.
- Intentional distractions that interfere with your opponents concentration or effort to play the ball are against the rules.
- Players are expected to put forth a full and honest effort regardless of the score or expected outcome.
- Players are expected to maintain full control over their emotions and behavior throughout the sessions. Do not stall, sulk, complain, or practice gamesmanship.
- If you have any doubt as to whether a ball is in or out, you must give your opponent the benefit of the doubt and play the ball as good. You should not play a let.
- It is your obligation to call all balls on **your** side of the court and to help your opponents makes calls on **their** side of the court **only when requested**.
- If you call a ball out and then realize it was good, your much correct your call.
- If you call a ball out and your partner calls it good, the call must go in your opponents favor.
- Any "out" or "let" call must be made instantly -- otherwise play continues.
- To avoid controversy over the score, the server should announce the set score before starting a game and the game score prior to each serve.
- If players cannot agree on the score, they may go back to the last score on which there is an agreement.
- Wait until the players on another court have completed their point before retrieving or returning a ball from or behind their court.



**IS YOUR COURT BEHAVIOR & DEMEANOR SOMETHING YOU WOULD BE PROUD FOR YOUR MOTHER (OR YOUR GRANDCHILD) TO SEE?**

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## Caring & Sharing

Marion MacRae, Chair

**WELLNESS+**  
**RECREATION**

Former Caring & Sharing Chair, Bala Balakrishnan, received a request from the son of long-time GR member James Glassco, Sr. asking for assistance with collecting used tennis balls to be used on the walkers of residents. After the passing of Mr. Glassco, Sr., his wife moved to a senior living community where many of the residents used walkers. Mr. Glassco, Jr. noticed that many of the walkers used by residents were not of a high quality, and frequently did not have wheels on the front two legs, making mobility a challenge for some. Mr. Glassco, Jr. learned from the physical therapy department at this senior living facility that they could cut tennis balls in such a way to put them on the front legs of these walkers, making mobility of the residents much easier. Bala is happy to report that over 50 used tennis balls were donated to the physical therapy department. They were thrilled with the donation and send their great appreciation to the members of GR for their willingness to help. They will let GR know if there is a need for more tennis balls in the future.



GR has learned of the passing of Gary Wilson, husband of long-time member Betty Wilson. Our heartfelt condolences are sent to Betty and the entire Wilson Family.

If you wish to contact Marion, she can be reached at 703-751-4994 or [mmMacrae@comcast.net](mailto:mmMacrae@comcast.net).

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## Words Really Do Matter

contributed by Bob Westall

We have all heard the saying "it's not what you say, but how you say it." Tone does matter, of course, but words really do matter as well. Read the following (actual!) newspaper headlines from around the country and decide for yourself.

- "Murder Victim was Alive Hours Before His Death"
- "Bugs Flying Around with Wings are Flying Bugs"
- "Federal Agents Raid Gun Shop, Find Weapons"
- "Marijuana Issue Sent to a Joint Committee"
- "Homicide Victims Rarely Talk to Police"
- "Bridge Helps People Cross the River"
- "Man Accused of Killing Lawyer Receives a New Attorney"
- "Barbershop Singers Bring Joy to School for the Deaf"
- "New Sick Policy Requires 2-Day Notice"
- "Parents Keep Kids Home to Protest School Closure"
- "Rally Against Apathy Draws Small Crowd"



**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.**



**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.GoldenRacquest.org>. Officers and committee chairs are as follows:**

**Acting President:** Tom Burroughs  
**Vice President:** Laura Riesenberg  
**Special Assistant:** CJ Dieteman  
**Recording Secretary:** Leigh Albert  
**Treasurer:** Al McFarland  
**Membership Chair:** Adele Neuberg  
**Rating Committee Chair:** Tom Burroughs  
**Social Committee Chair:** Howard Ho  
**Caring Committee Chair:** Marion MacRae  
**Chief Information Officer:** Joe Wittling  
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**Web Site Manager:** Joanne Hensley  
**Newsletter Editor:** Connie Dineen

**To have an article or picture of interest considered for inclusion in the Golden Racquets Newsletter, please send them 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.

