

Hilton Tennis Club Newsletter

February 11, 2006

Welcome to another season of tennis at Hilton Tennis Club. The 2006 members of the Board of Directors are:

Dan Sims (President), Carter Ficklen (Secretary), Billy Haigler (Treasurer), Ron Comeaux, Linda Even, Andy Mueller, Glenn Murphrey, Mike Robinson, Norma Sims

Committee assignments:

Membership Committee: Dan Sims (Chair)

Tennis Committee: Glenn Murphrey (Co-chair), Linda Even (Co-chair), Norma Sims, Andy Mueller, Ron Comeaux, Mike Robinson

Grounds Committee: Carter Ficklen (Chair), Dan Sims, Mike Robinson

Thanks: I would like to thank all the **Board Members** for all their hard work in making the 2005 season such a success. In particular, I would like to thank the following people: **Glenn Murphrey** for coordinating all the tennis events, for helping organize the popular Thursday evening doubles league, for all the plumbing projects, and for providing advice and leadership for many club projects; **Bob Spooner** and **Brooks Ryno** for running and scheduling the Thursday evening doubles league; **Andy Mueller** for coordinating the tennis ladder; **Mike Robinson** for directing for the Virginia State 45's tournament, and for running a social; **Norma Sims** for coordinating the Sunday morning ladies league; **Linda Even** for coordinating the scheduling of the socials; **Doug Lising**, **Rene Lising**, **Rol Johnson** and **Linda Even** for running a social; **Lou Garcia** for providing gravel and topsoil; **Gwen Holt** for planting flowers; **Debi Dowdy** for keeping the clubhouse in such good shape; **Bruce Coltrain** for buying and installing a new ceiling fan in the clubhouse; **Robert Lee** for making two court benches in addition to the ones he made last year; **Barry McDade** for supplying the club with ice cream; **John Culotta** for donating the use of his tractor and for the numerous grading jobs; **Ron Harvey** for organizing the Senior Doubles League; **Tom Farmer** for serving as captain of Hilton's Seniors Doubles team; and **Bill Abeyounis** for serving as tournament referee for the Virginia State 45's. Every year the list of volunteers grows. If there is something you would like to volunteer for, let me know.

Courts and Grounds: The major project this year is to top dress courts 1 and 2 and apply new line tapes. This project will begin in late February or early March.

Membership: The Board of Directors has set **March 15, 2006**, as the deadline for returning senior members to renew their membership. Dues received after this date must be accompanied by a \$10.00 late fee.

Our membership dropped from 116 senior members in 2004 to 104 senior members in 2005. The "Membership" page of the HTC website (<http://members.cox.net/simsdn/htc>) includes a promotional flyer. If you know someone who might be interested in joining, please print out and give them the flyer and an application. In order to encourage new membership, the \$25 initiation fee for new members has been dropped for 2006.

Annual Spring Workparty: Our annual Spring Workparty will be held on **Saturday, March 25**, at 9:00 AM (rain date is April 1). Your attendance at this event is necessary in order to get the grounds in good shape. Support Hilton Tennis Club and make every effort to attend! Please bring your own yard tools since the club has limited supply of these items. In particular, bring tools for trimming shrubs. Much of our work this year will involve painting. As usual, lunch and all your favorite beverages will be provided.

E-Mail: I will continue using email to communicate with the membership. If you use email, I encourage you to include the address on the membership renewal form.

Tournaments / Leagues / Socials: This year Hilton Tennis Club will run a men's 50's & 60's tournament. Glenn Murphrey will coordinate this event. The members of the tennis committee have also decided to have a Member/Guest tournament. More specific information on this event will come later. As usual we will be having monthly socials beginning in April. A complete list of all socials and tournaments will be posted in the clubhouse and on our website. If you would like to help run a social this year, contact Glenn Murphrey. Glenn Murphrey, Bob Spooner, and Brooks Ryno will again be running the Thursday Evening Men's Doubles League which will begin on April 27. If you want to join this league, call Glenn, Bob, or Brooks by April 9. Norma Sims will continue to run the Sunday morning ladies "A" league. We are hopeful that there will be enough interest to also form a ladies "B" league. If you want to join the league or need more information about it, call Norma Sims. Hilton Tennis Club plans to participate in the annual Center vs Center event. Glenn is looking for a male and a female volunteer to coordinate this event. Let Glenn know if you are interested. If anyone is interested in forming a new league, the chair of the Tennis Committee, Glenn Murphrey, must approve it. The Tennis Committee is also looking for new ideas regarding tennis related events. If you have a good idea, call Glenn Murphrey. Glenn Murphrey and Andy Mueller are planning to run Hilton Tennis Club's First Annual Golf Tournament. If you are interested, contact Glenn Murphrey.

Tennis Ladder: For 2006 we will continue to use the A / B Ladder format. The "A" Ladder will be open to all players at all levels but is primarily designed for players whose singles ability level is 4.5 or higher (NTRP rating scale). "B" Ladder will only be used by those whose singles ability level is 4.0 or below. Congratulations to Will Haigler for winning the "A" division and to Carter Ficklen for winning the "B" division on the 2005 ladder. As is traditional, the 2006 ladder season will open on April 15. Andy Mueller will be coordinating the ladder.

Other Items: Remember that the most important factor in keeping our courts in the best possible shape is staying off the courts when they are too wet. If in doubt, stay off! Another important factor is using proper clay court tennis shoes. Shoes with the lug soles will not be allowed.

Dan Sims, Norma Sims, and Debi Dowdy will be returning as the club's grounds keepers.

As indicated in the Court and Ground Rules, it is required to post your starting time on the chalkboard before beginning play. Have a great season!

Dan Sims

President