



PASSING SHOTS

WINTER 2017

With our tennis season over (except for those hardy and determined few) and with

Christmas music already in our ears, here's a year end edition of Passing Shots with some thoughts for the New Year and flashbacks from an exciting year at the club.

WHAT'S COMING UP

Of course, the **Christmas Party!** Hopefully the date is firmly in your calendar - **Saturday December 9 at 7pm.**

Your contribution of an appy or a dessert would be much appreciated and if you wish to participate in the gift exchange, bring a gift under \$10.

And in January comes the **Annual General Meeting.** Here's your opportunity to find out so much more about your Club, voice your opinion and perhaps think about how you might contribute. Stay tuned for more details.

2017 TOURNAMENT AND CLUB AWARDS

The Ladies '**Most Improved Player**' award is shared by **Anne Wong** and **Fanny Chu**. Both women were virtually beginners when they joined the Club. **Anne**, after 4 years, is playing with Div. 3 (Div. 2 in 2018!) and advancing rapidly up the ladies' rankings. **Fanny** who has played for only one season, achieved runner-up position in Ladies 3.5 Singles and is challenging many more experienced players.



Art Wlodyka is the recipient of the Men's '**Most Improved Player**' award. His determination to improve was rewarded in the club tournament. Much more on Art in further chapters.

Aleike Stubbs Award - this special award for "For dedication and contribution to the New West Tennis Club and the game of tennis", was presented jointly to **Wendy and Rob Sider**. Between 2008 and 2016 Rob and Wendy served a combined total of 7 years as President of NWTC. Wendy was Junior Program Director for many years prior to taking on the principal role. We thank them both for dedicating so much time and energy for the benefit of our club.

WINNERS AND CHAMPIONS IN ALL BUT TITLE.

Bravo all winners! A few special stories and commendations associated with some very exciting and hard played matches are offered by Tournament and Organized Play Director **Adi Madhavan**:

... *Men's Singles 4.0.* Congratulations to **Jorge Mendoza** for employing great consistency to win the title against **Arthur Wlodyka**. A side story to this finals match and a testament to his 'Most Improved Player award' is Art's tenacity and hard work to topple reigning champion **Steve Bower** in a very exciting and intense semi-final. The score - 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

... kudos to **Marilyn Aldworth** for her *Women's 50+ singles* win and to **Lori Beechinor** for giving a hard time to both Marilyn and **Amelia Weatherbe** (many times NWTC ladies winners) with her consistency, improvement and shot making.

... Credit also to **Janet Dickie** for her win (*Women's singles 3.5*). To quote Adi, "Seeing Janet's recent form, I would be afraid to play against her if she had more opportunities to play tennis!"

Special recognition goes to **Robert Gottfried** and **Gyver Sang** who won the *Men's 3.5 doubles* as a debut team. Adi's comment: "nice to see new team combinations doing so well."

AND A PARTY NOT TO BE

MISSED.... (I'm so sorry I did!). In the words of Social Director, **Lee Stevens**, "some of the best tennis finals matches I have ever seen, a great turnout, overflowing tables of potluck dishes and drinks and musical entertainment from our own fabulous band the *Let Chordes*, headlined by **Steve Hilliam** on sax with able assistance from instrumentalists **Jeff Cathcart, Andre Scali, Andrew Wiese, Lee Stevens** and vocalists, **Arwi Kaur** and **Pam Hollo**".

Lee also wishes to thank **Anne Wong** for all her support and culinary skills; **Fanny, Arwi, Juanita, Marilyn, Terri, Monica** and **Lisa** for jumping in and helping out when needed and **Mike Major** who once again so generously sponsored our event and cooked up tacos and wonderful smoked chicken wings.

One more 'tournament' thank you - to **Don Campbell** and **Dave Frolik** who received the Tournament Director's *Squeegee Champ Award*; volunteers just quietly doing the job.

and MORE CHAMPIONS....

outside the club our members have also excelled. In Whistler in August Our *New West Daredoubles* team won the **Miele Cup** in their Div 3 division. With New West and Coquitlam tying for points it was a nail-biter, finally won by our team in a tie-break! It seems that bunking together in an 8 bed 'dormitory' with one or two bottles of wine may have contributed greatly to the team spirit and success on the tennis court! Many congratulations to Captain **Signy, Amelia, Lori, Marilyn, Sharon, Sheila, Terri and Vicki**.

At the **55+ Games** in Vernon we came away with a little hoard of medals! Kudos to **Marilyn Aldworth** and **Chris Morrey-Jones** for winning **Gold** in *mixed doubles*, **Marilyn** and **Vicki Condon** for **Silver** in the *Ladies Doubles* and **Vicki** and **Chuck Condon** for **Silver** in *Mixed Doubles*.

The Webster Cup - WOW! With the decision to put 'best players' on the courts this year, we took the cup with great conviction, winning all but two matches! Bravo to all players and to all those who came to cheer and brought tasty snacks.

OTHER REFLECTIONS ON 2017

Organized Play Director **Adi** is delighted with the way both men and women have embraced the many 'organized play' events, particularly **the 'ladder'**. 18 women signed up this year and he is hoping for more in 2018.

Those who enjoyed the chance to **swap or sell tennis gear** this year or who were disappointed at missing the opportunity, you will be happy to know Adi is planning to do it again in 2018.

MEMBERS AS CHAMPIONS OFF THE COURT...

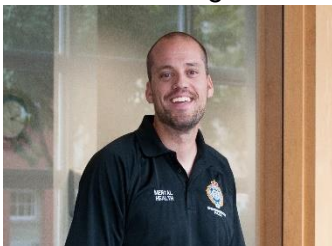
When were you last at the Vancouver Aquarium? A strange question for a tennis club newsletter you may think...well, long-time NWTC member, **Nicole (Nikki) Clouthier** can probably persuade you it's time for that visit. Nikki was recently honoured at the Aquarium for **50 years**

volunteer service!

She has assisted there in so many ways including feeding and helping to raise orphaned harbour seal pups, delivering interpretative programming, training marine mammals and improving the aquarium's information booth. You may currently find her at 'Our World is Research' and 'AquaNews' exhibits. That is quite a feat Nikki - congratulations!



Art Wlodyka is not only acknowledged this year for his progress in tennis! Art, as many of you know, is a New West cop. In 2013 he pushed for the creation of the NW *Police Department's mental health unit*. He now has a team of officers handling incidents involving people with mental health issues. Recently he was named by the Toronto-based *Centre for Mental Health and Addictions* as **One of 150 Canadians** making a difference in mental health across



the country. To quote NW Police Chief Dave Jones, "not only have people experiencing crisis benefited from meeting Const. Wlodyka, but his work and studies on first responders' mental health has been equally important."

Art, we too congratulate you.

AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE AND COURTS

An unfortunate sign of the times - we've had *3 different break-ins*. Buildings and Grounds Director **Terri Welch** reports, "They have done serious and costly damage to court lighting. We are putting on locking caps for insurance purposes and lights won't be fixed until they are installed".

Our Executive has also been looking after other necessary club maintenance - amongst other things, the *clubhouse exterior* has been painted, *deck flooring* repaired, *new patio doors* installed, rotted *railway ties* replaced, *front pavers* leveled and did you notice.... the *post on court 3* which has looked like the Leaning Tower of Pisa, is now straight as a die!

JUNIOR PROGRAM

Report from Program Director, **Deborah Pettigrew**.

This was my first year volunteering for the Junior Program and I learned a lot and it was fun. We were very fortunate in having only two rain-out days. Thanks Shelley for your devotion to the children and to all 3 coaches, **Shelley, Djordje** and **Adi** for doing an awesome job teaching the kids. It looked like they all learned new skills and had fun doing it.

I would like to personally thank **Anne** for her endless efforts in helping me organize the program and also to **Executives** and **Chris** for their assistance.

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The wind-up BBQ was a huge success. Thanks to **Juanita Nolan** and **Marija Kos** for their help in the kitchen, **Djordje** for cooking up the hotdogs and to all the parents who brought a dish or two to share and stayed to enjoy.

Congratulations to all tournament winners and special kudos to our own Junior club members who took home a prize: **Madeleine Nolan, Devon Pettigrew** and **Kaia Parsons**. Well done! Those there to watch got to see some exciting matches. Way to go Juniors! See you next year. Deborah

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Membership Director, **Pierre Robinson** reports that 32 new members joined this year and we welcome them!

The NWTC Executive has worked hard this year to find ways to meet the challenge of retaining new members and the establishment of the **Fitness Gym** downstairs at the Club is a great example. Have you tried it out?

Pierre comments, "we hoped that we could retain our non-playing (injured) players, provide fitness opportunities to members year-round and as a bonus, perhaps add some revenue from Krassimir's *one-on-one fitness* sessions. We are pleased to announce that the gym is being used by members and that we have added 12 members specifically drawn to the club for the gym room."

Krassimir has given much thought to the equipment he has supplied at no cost to NWTC."

If you are using the fitness room, please be sure to use the ventilation fan.

And that's it for Passing Shots in 2017. A Merry Christmas and a wonderful holiday season to everyone and we hope to see you on *December 9* to celebrate the Christmas season!



December 2017
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