

Tennis Week 2011 wrap-up

Mother Nature was a little out of sorts this tennis week, reminding us that she is the ultimate decider of all outdoor activities. She cancelled a day and a half of tennis by unleashing her arsenal of lightning, thunder and RAIN on Monday and Tuesday. She wasn't mean about it, though, and provided glorious weather for the rest of the week, including the August Soiree.

Eighty-eight main draw matches were played by 93 players and teams (ladies singles 13 players; men's singles 19 players; ladies doubles 15 teams; men's doubles 17 teams; mixed doubles 29 teams). Twenty-six players entered all three events. Consolations in all doubles events added another 25 matches to a crowded schedule.

Members were treated to great tennis on Championship Saturday. In the opening match at 9 a.m., Simmy Pink provided worthy opposition to Claire Webster. In a contest featuring long and hard-hitting rallies, Claire's combination of accuracy, creativity and consistency won the day, 6-1, 6-1. Simmy has reached the final in two of the last three years. Will she be a contender again next year? We think so.

The men then took the court for their doubles final. Phil Coté and Chris MacDonald had the formidable task of attempting to dethrone defending champions Ewen and Phil Cameron. This was a repeat of last year's final. It was not to be on this day, as the Cameron twins prevailed once again, 6-2, 6-4. The challengers got three more games than last year. Our calculation is that if this trend continues, the twins will be in trouble in 2014.

Claire Webster wasn't satisfied with a singles trophy. She returned to the court an hour later to team with life partner Stuart to defeat Kate

and Geoff Molson in a rematch of last year's "all Massawippi" mixed doubles final. This year, Kate and Geoff extended Claire and Stuart to three entertaining sets. The score, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 was indicative of the play, with the outcome in doubt to the very end. Look for more of the same in 2012.

Occupants of the members' gallery dined on cucumber, chicken salad, mushroom, ham and cheese and egg salad sandwiches, served at the tennis shack operated by volunteer junior members under the supervision of Nancy Wells. Lemon squares by Nancy and Amanda's chocolate/caramel squares were a hit. Members who were not fortunate enough to get to the shack before Neil Riddell, buying for the family, settled for Lebaron's.

The men's singles final got under way at 2:45 p.m. This was David Marosi's third attempt in four years to wrest the trophy away from Matt Price-Gallagher. For a time, it looked like he might be successful, breaking serve twice in a first set and extending it to a tiebreaker. Matt then raised the bar to win the tiebreaker, 7-1. In the second set, all was even at 2-2, when Matt took the last four games for a 7-6, 6-2 victory. Researchers are at work to determine when, if ever, Matt has lost a singles match during tennis week.

It was 4:00 p.m. when the ladies returned to the court for the final match of Championship Saturday; top seeded Claire Webster and Kate Molson opposing the third seeded Wells sisters. Nancy and Sue won the first two games, causing murmurs in the members' box. Was this to be an upset? Not to be, it turned out, as Claire and Kate regrouped to run the table, 6-2, 6-0. Lots of solid net play by both sides and crisp forehand groundies produced a crowd pleasing match.

Worthy of note: Claire won all three events in which she entered. She is on a streak of five events entered and won over the past two years, with the very able help of hubby Stuart and friend Kate in four of

these. It will be a formidable task for someone to derail this train in 2012.

All matches were under the supervision of the newly formed North Hatley Club Tennis Umpires Association. Like the NHC, it is a truly international organization. Saturday's umpires were from Florida (Ruth McGurk), Virginia (Jack Wilmer), California (Sue Tunnell), Brooklyn N.Y. (Rowland Stebbins) and Berlin, Germany (Flippi von Linsingen).

There were consolation tournaments in all three doubles events. In ladies doubles, Megan Dunn and Erika Grace bested mother-daughter team of Maggie Webster and Karen Moffatt, 6-4 and 6-1. This was Karen's second straight trip to the finals. In the men's consolation doubles, Adrian and Peter Dunn earned a tough three set victory over Jeremy and John Oldland, 6-1, 1-6 and 10-8 in the third set tiebreaker. The consolation mixed went to Hilary and dad Peter Dunn, who defeated Andi Carter and other half Rod Allatt, 6-1, 7-5. Hilary and Peter also won last year's consolation mixed. Is a main draw victory in the offing? A side note – This was Peter's fourth match of the day. He looks and plays more like 36 than his birth certificate certified age of 66. Kudos to Peter!

Tournament surprises and hilites:

- ~~€€€€€€€€~~Anthea Oldland's upset victory over Sylvie Schelling.
- ~~€€€€€€€€~~Jack Wilmer spoiling Stuart Webster's early lunch plans with a surprising first set win and near upset, 5-7, 6-2, 6-4 for Stuart.
- ~~€€€€€€€€~~A great semi-final doubles between Phil Coté/Chris MacDonald and Geoff Molson/Stuart Webster, won by Coté/MacDonald 6-4 in the 3rd.

•~~€€€€€€€€~~In Diane Elsliger's first tournament ever, she played in three events and won (with husband Tim Bradley) a hotly contested doubles match against Hilary and Peter Dunn. Way to go, Diane!

•~~€€€€€€€€~~Every Oldland above the age of reason participated in the tournament. That's eight Oldlands. That's Participaction!

At the Soiree, Matt Price-Gallagher introduced Jean Wilmer as this year's Honorary Chairwoman. It was noted that she won the mixed with her son Jack 41 years ago. Jean presented trophies to elegantly dressed finalists and winners in the main draw. Gifts were awarded to consolation winners. The Len Barrett and Elizabeth Dohan plaque for sportsmanship in competition was awarded to a very deserving Anthea Oldland, who played in three events, surprised more than one opponent and participated with good sportsmanship throughout. Congratulations to Anthea!

Appreciation goes to Jack Little and Matthew Trnkus, who did great work as masters of ceremony in introducing the players and umpires.

All the main draw tournament results are shown in the Tennis section of the club website.

Until next yearGo forward!

Brian.