

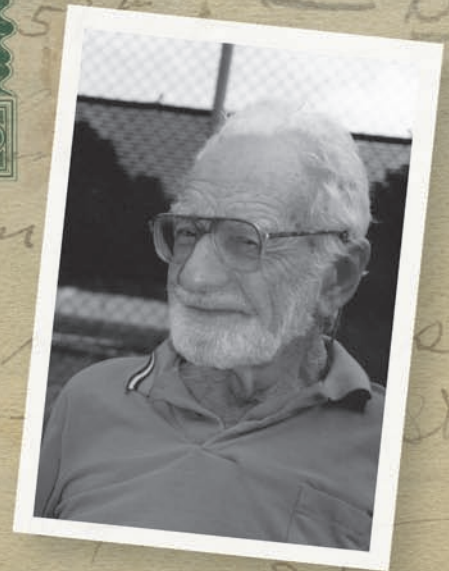


100

IDLE HOUR
Tennis Club
Since 1911

CELEBRATING
THE FIRST
100
YEARS

1911-2011



Cardiology Consultants of Philadelphia

wish
Idle Hour Tennis Club
a wonderful
100th Anniversary!



Kimberly Campbell, M.D.
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Walter A. Komienko, M.D., FACC
Edward W. LaPorta, M.D., FACC
Domenic Pisano, D.O., FACOI
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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

I am pleased to send my congratulations to you on your anniversary. As you celebrate this important milestone, I hope you will look back on what you have accomplished with joy and pride. I wish you all the best for continued success and happiness in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Barack Obama", with a stylized flourish at the end.

LETTER FROM GOVERNOR TOM CORBETT



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HARRISBURG


THE GOVERNOR

GREETINGS:

It is my pleasure to congratulate the members and administration of the Idle Hour Tennis Club on its 100th anniversary.

For the past 100 years, the Idle Hour Tennis Club has been one of the premier tennis facilities in Southeastern Pennsylvania. The Idle Hour Tennis Club provides people with an outlet to release stress, exercise, and improve their overall health. By contributing to the health and wellness of the Drexel Hill area, you have helped citizens improve their quality of life.

On behalf of all Pennsylvanians, it is my pleasure to congratulate the Idle Hour Tennis Club on achieving its 100th anniversary. Best wishes for an enjoyable celebration and many more successful years ahead.


TOM CORBETT
Governor
August 2011



LETTER FROM IDLE HOUR PRESIDENT

September 16, 2011

Dear Members, Friends and Patrons:

As we culminate the Centennial celebrations with the Centennial dinner and dance, we are pleased to be able to present this unique history of Idle Hour Tennis Club for your enjoyment. Built upon the body of research and personal experience penned by George Jacoby in February 1972 capturing approximately the first 60 years of our existence, the Club history subcommittee has developed an exceptional work documenting in pictures and experiences the evolution of our Club. Throughout the journey from modest origins, in and out of two World Wars and into seamless periods of expansion and consolidation, the Club has prospered in its role as a recreational and social cornerstone of the Greater Philadelphia tennis community. The atmosphere of the Club today would certainly be recognizable to our founders; the Idle Hour paradigm for success is much in evidence... camaraderie and competition, relaxation and recreation... and their defining vision happily endures.

As the following history was developed, the "history production" team, assembled by Tennis Committee chair Paul Painten, leveraged a large group of current and past members as contributing writers, photographers, and editors in developing this enduring remembrance. Editor-in-Chief Barry Raff, production coordinator Bob Simons, and photographers Paul Cohen and Charlie Fiore worked tirelessly throughout the summer assembling the many artifacts contained herein. The Board of Directors extends its thanks to all members, past and present, who gave so freely of their time and energy.

In addition to these dedicated persons, we are immensely grateful to our many contractors and suppliers as well as the businesses of the Drexel Hill, Springfield, Media, and surrounding communities that contributed to making this presentation possible. A special "thank you" to Barbara Bosha and her graphic design firm for guiding us in the development and production of the final product.

Please enjoy this special gift from us to each of you!

Sincerely,



Robert J. Celani

President, Idle Hour Tennis Club

Board Members

Bottom Row (L to R); Carol Wenner (Vice President), Bob Celani (President), Maryrose Sheppard (Treasurer), Audrey Reinsel (Secretary)

Top Row (L to R); Joe Soohoo, John Ferrigno, Emilio Cortez, Alan Soffer, Paul Painten, Larry Knox, Dom Sciubba, Alice Ciccarelli, Jack Higgins, Bob Simons



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Barry Raff, Editor/Writer

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From Our Pro

I came to Idle Hour Tennis Club in June of 2005 after the unexpected passing of the long time and well liked Club Pro/Manager, Harry Smaltz. I knew that taking his place would be quite a challenge. However, I felt up to the task.

After a short period of time, I began to see that there were many current members at IHTC who were members of Delaware Valley Tennis Academy, the Club that hired me at age 21 from Boynton Beach, Florida as Director of Tennis in 1984. This certainly made the transition a bit easier.

Idle Hour has encountered its share of challenges in recent years, from a bad economy to the flood of October 1, 2010 but we are still here and continuing to grow with new members. With my lovely wife, Zdenka, running the Pro shop and our beautiful four year old daughter, Emma, keeping members busy on the porch, this job is a family affair.

We are all grateful to be part of the oldest tennis only Club in the entire Philadelphia region and are delighted to join the members in celebrating Idle Hour's 100th Anniversary.



Dennis Olenik



The History



The First 100 Years

The Early Years

(Originally written in February 1972 by George Jacoby)

This Club is one of the few still remaining which was organized and maintained solely for tennis. It has survived through good times and bad without the benefit of a bar, a swimming pool or the addition of other sporting facilities such as golf, squash, rifle ranges or bowling. Many things vie for people's time besides the arduous task of earning a living, but enough people have had sufficient interest in tennis to keep the Club going over the years. There were times, though, when some would wonder how.

Presently (1972), we are operating 14 clay courts and two hard courts. There is additional room here and elsewhere on land we own for more. This represents a fair scale operation in a rather narrow activity. From the present enthusiasm, the future of tennis never looked better.

Founding of Idle Hour

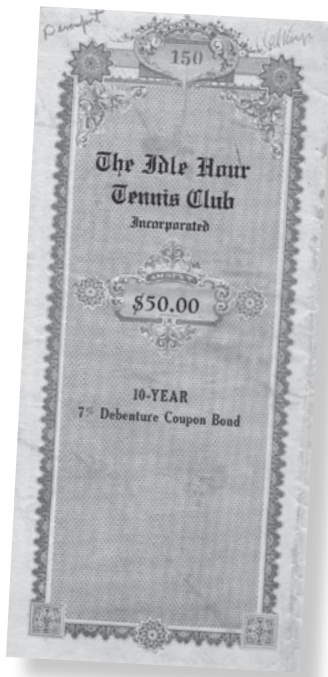
The Club was chartered in 1911. It was started in Philadelphia by a group of about 20 men. Mr. C.H. Keelor, the Club's first President, together with H.W. Weber, R.M. Bell, Aaron L. Burtis, John Toram Jr., and a man named Townsend, as well as a dozen and a half others, first conceived the idea in a cold February, sixty-one years ago this month. Some in the Club today knew Aaron Burtis and William E. Achtermann, who were charter members. These men have all passed on.

Ground was rented for two courts on the north side of Sansom Street, between 55th and 56th streets, Philadelphia. Membership grew from about 25 and in 1913, ground for six more courts was acquired on the north side of Chestnut Street, between 55th and 56th Streets. The original group continued expanding, using these eight courts until 1917, when the country entered World War I, at which time the ground was sold for building purposes.





Norman Bramall, "A" Champion, 1923, 1928



Jasper (Jack) Richardson, Don's father, was an early member of the Club when it was at Millbourne.

In February 1917, ground was rented for tennis courts in Millbourne. Aaron Burtis became President the following year. The new courts were on the site of the present Sears, Roebuck, just west of 63rd and Market Streets. Five courts were originally constructed.

The Club purchased a tent for use as a dressing room, but it was stolen the first night. Money was quickly raised through the sale of \$10 certificates of indebtedness, and a prefabricated structure was purchased from Sears. This became our first Clubhouse.

Another court was added in 1918, then the seventh in 1919, and the eighth in 1921, when the two Sansom Street courts were given up. In the meantime, the Clubhouse was enlarged. Two dressing rooms, a storeroom, and a boiler room were added. Tennis balls were purchased by the Club and the members assessed for them as used. Dues were \$10. The membership totaled 140.

Drexel Hill (Springfield) Location

In still another February, this time 1928, the Club received notice to vacate the Millbourne site. The lease expired in July, right in the middle of the tennis season. In August, our front tier of courts was constructed at the Darby Creek (State Road) site, and the Clubhouse, as we know it, was erected. This was fast action!

Minutes of a meeting held June 7, 1928 are quite interesting. Bill Achtermann was President, Norman B. Bramall was Vice President, and Louis F. Kruger was Secretary-Treasurer. Aaron Burtis was on the Board of Directors. Business was confined to plans for the new location. The purchase involved 4¹/₄ acres of land for approximately \$24,000. The building of eight courts was approved for \$2,500. The Clubhouse cost about \$5,000. Fences were moved from Millbourne and erected for \$600. Plans were studied for raising \$35,000 to cover all these costs.

Within a short period of two years, membership was built up from 150 to 200. A groundskeeper was retained for \$140 per month. Five courts were rented to Friends Select School two days a week from mid June at \$150. Lansdowne High School also rented three courts, on a more restricted basis, for \$50.

In November of 1928, authorization was granted by the Board to proceed with the construction of the second tier of courts. Dues were increased to \$25 and entrance fees to the same amount.

Aaron Burtis was again elected president as Bill Achtermann became ill. Mr. Burtis was to hold this office until 1940. Bill was named Vice President and Lou Kruger, Secretary-Treasurer.

In 1931, a real depression year, our budget was geared to expenditures of \$5000, but due to dwindling receipts, a \$1200 deficit resulted. Court rentals took on an added importance. The Club came back somewhat in 1932 and with careful management was able to match expenditures with receipts. As for other economics of the times:

Balls were \$3.75 per dozen.

The groundskeeper's salary was reduced from \$140 to \$125 to \$100 per month.

*Men's dues in 1934 went down to \$20 from \$25 to attract new members
and entrance fees were waived.*

In 1935, we engaged a groundskeeper at \$80 per month.

In 1937 George (Dad) Hanson was retained at \$85 per month.

Dad was to be with us until 1959

In 1938 the Club was in a financial bind. Members were asked by a vote of 25 to 10 to make a contribution of an amount equal to 50% of their dues to carry us through the emergency. As the dues were around \$25 at the time, this was not a lot in dollars.

These conditions are described in some detail so that members today may know what Idle Hour faced several decades ago. The operation of the Club in those years was not an easy matter. We were held together by the indomitable will of a small but determined group of tennis fanatics who resorted to sacrifices, court rentals, self assessments, blanket clubs, theater benefits—anything to garner extra dollars to keep going. All the while expenditures were scrutinized very closely. The order of the day was “do it ourselves if it has to be done.”

A flood came along about this time (1938), which made a bad situation worse. We had to contract for some of the rehabilitation work (as hard up as we were) to R.M. Lane and Sons who reconditioned some of the courts and made certain property repairs for the grand sum of \$325 plus \$25 for material costs. The following year we again diligently explored which steps must be taken to have a settlement of the notes held by the Pennsylvania Closed Bank Division of the State Banking Department. A resolution of the Department finally tolled the Statute of Limitations for six years on our two notes, due in 1933!

At the time of our annual meeting in 1942, 17 active members were in the service of World War II. This was another blow to our receipts and income was a little more than \$2800. Our deficit was \$230. Dues were again \$25 for men and \$15 for women. Dad Hanson was asked to do the groundwork for \$100 per month, with an additional \$50 to operate the store.

In June the following year, we faced an \$800 deficit. A real financial reorganization became essential to avoid bankruptcy. Fixed charges and the property debt were too much to carry with available income. The mortgage was now \$12,000. The annual interest was \$360. We had \$10,280 outstanding in bonds with \$10,000 accrued interest due.

We decided to get an appraisal of the property and then approach the FDIC (holders of the mortgage) in an attempt to convince them to take a reduced mortgage (\$4000-5000) with interest in the neighborhood of \$200 annually. Edward H. Smoker headed up a newly appointed finance committee to work out a financial reorganization. The following served with the chairman on what was perhaps one of the most important committees of the Club: Dr. Fred S. Hunlock,



Idle Hour 1938



Cliff Owen



Play in the early days at Idle Hour



"Doc" Hunlock



John Benn

Allen Grant, Esq., George B. Jacoby, Carleton A. TerBush, and Louis F. Kruger. Our survival as a Club depended on what this committee was able to accomplish. We were able to obtain an appraisal of the Club's value to be used in our attempt to deflate the mortgage and bonds and thus reduce the interest. To quote directly from the appraisal from a registered realtor:

"...The only user (of the Club property) I can see at this time is a tennis club whose members love the game so much that they would be willing to put up with the job of removing the mud deposited on the courts and the floor of the Clubhouse, which now occurs about every two or three years, since the State provided an additional span on the bridge over Darby Creek. If you can get \$1500 for the works, I would take it."

When one relates this appraisal to subsequent offers we have received (even the \$25,000 appraisal of 1955), one can only wonder in amazement at the variance. (The Club is presently-1972-entertaining an offer of \$290,000 for the same property). However, the \$1500 appraisal served the purpose in its day.

A Closer Look Into the 1940s and '50s

In 1945, we entered into an agreement with the Sinclair Oil Company whereby we received \$471 for a twelve foot right of way on the rear of our property for a pipeline. This money was put in the mortgage retirement fund.

In 1946 the Club entered into an agreement with the three Betson brothers to operate the store upon the payment of \$500 in advance. The boys agreed to assist Dad Hanson (when necessary) on the courts and in the locker rooms. Under this arrangement, the store did not sell racquets or do restringing. This work was done by Jasper Richardson, Don Richardson's father.

We also entered into an agreement at this time with the Atlantic Refining Company, under which their employees could use our courts on the basis of 60 cents per head per time played. The women played on Monday evenings and the men on Saturday mornings.

Thursday evening Club dinners commenced on June 18, 1946 and were to last several seasons under the leadership of Aaron Burtis. It was difficult to plan these dinners with any certainty, for if it rained on a particular Thursday, people stayed away.

Membership had now climbed to 230. At the end of 1946 dues were raised to \$35. The \$25 entrance fee was restored for senior members. This was the year we ended with 97 old members and 132 new members, perhaps the greatest influx in any one year. The reason was no doubt tied to the end of the war and the general economy of the times.

In 1947, we rented four courts to the Haverford Township Senior High School from 3 to 5 p.m. weekdays (except Saturdays and holidays) for seven weeks in the Spring. The rental was \$25 per week. At the annual meeting we first gave consideration to obtaining a Club professional. Don Richardson became the Club professional the following year in 1948.

The store, for the time being, was to be operated by a committee chaired by Erling "Hobby" Haabestad.

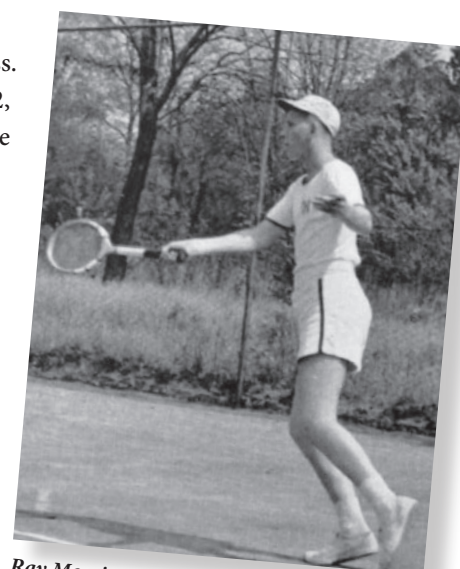
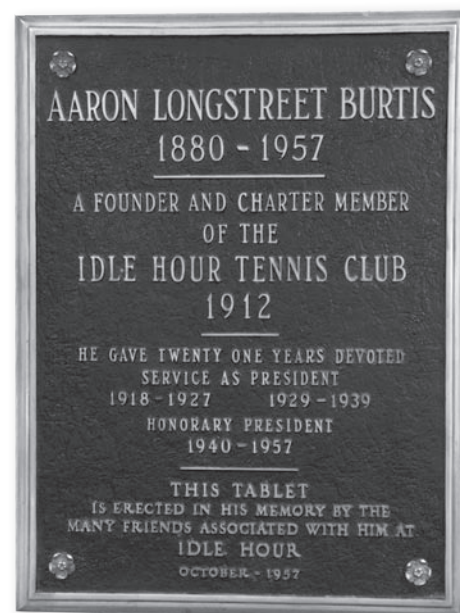
The Club operated the store at a profit of over \$600. All 14 courts were resurfaced and the backboard erected. The first stage of the flood protection program was undertaken by the building of a dike along the north property line from the creek to the slope of the hill on the Mozino property. There was also a dike constructed along the creek to the highway bridge.

In 1948 Dad Hanson's salary was increased to \$140 per month. Every year Dad was presented with a purse made up of contributions by the members. This presentation was a ritual at many annual meetings.

In 1950, there was considerable talk of a possible relocation as we had received an offer to exchange our ground for another parcel nearby. Upon further investigation, the matter was dropped. It was decided we would ultimately gain by sitting tight until a better proposition came along. At the annual meeting Aaron Burtis requested that his name be withdrawn as Director, as he had been an Officer or Director since before 1915. As Aaron was honorary President at this time, he was privileged to attend Board meetings as he saw fit, so his name was officially withdrawn as requested.

Membership was down again to 166 and we were just breaking even. However, "Hobby" Haabestad showed another store profit, this year over \$575 (1950). One wonders what his profit would have been with a membership of 400 as at present (1972).

In 1951 the membership slipped below 150 and a deficit developed. The Club received an offer of \$28,000 for its property, which was declined in the hope of better things. Thursday night dinners continued but with only mediocre success. The store profit was \$750 and court rentals helped considerably as well. In 1952, while we only had 144 members, the store profit was \$718 and we wound up the year \$300 to the good. We entered into a contract (\$6519) for two hard courts behind our rear tier. Membership increased to 168 in 1953 and the store profit to \$1,073, thanks to "Hobby." In 1954 after completing eight years of successful operation of the store, Erling ("Hobby") Haabestad was presented with an engraved silver plate. A dinner was also given in honor of Dad Hanson's 85th birthday that year.



Ray Morris



*Middle States' Team 1948
Third from left—Dottie Smoker
Fifth from left—Audrey Smoker*

The Floods

The first flood was in 1928 when Lane was still working on the courts. Others occurred in 1938, 1944 and 1950. The highest water came in 1955, however, and this was the one doing the greatest damage. Joel Leeds did considerable work for the Club in this emergency, far more than any other individual. While some stood around spreading complaints, Joel was out spreading slag.

In the 1955 episode, the water rose to the lobby window sills on the State Road side. The water was eight feet deep at its deepest and was midway up the porch window on the court side.

Dad Hanson, our groundskeeper, was marooned in the lobby. He could not swim. He was 85 years old at the time. George Stevens called Dr. Hunlock to the rescue. "Doc" arrived in his bathing suit and after attaching a line to the front flagpole was able to guide Dad to safety through water that was neck high and swirling treacherously. It was a dramatic moment considering the amount of water, the fact that Dad could not swim, and the age of the principals involved.

We suffered through three major catastrophes during these years. In addition to 1955, there were floods in 1959 and 1971 (two floods a few days apart), as well as several minor ones. There were no Federal or State funds we could fall back on for help nor was any flood insurance available. These avenues had been searched out to no avail.

The floods are bad enough but when the waters recede, every court, net, lawn, porch, furniture, Clubhouse,

and floor is coated with foul, heavy, slimy silt, sludge and mud. This has to be hosed off the floors and furniture and peeled or shoveled off the courts when dried to the proper consistency. It is then piled up to be hauled away onto the dikes.

We have installed dikes, ditches, flap valves, etc. to control rising water, but in crash rains of the right duration, and previous saturation, violent waters flow in from all sides to the lowest point, and one might just as well attempt to hold the water level down with the palms of his hands. Besides the damage to the courts, fences, net posts and nets, inside and outside furnishings are tossed about. Then there is the time the courts are unusable, and the vast amount of toil, sweat and frustration involved.

Because of the constant threat of flooding, and due to the proposed highway coming through part of our property, we began in earnest to consider relocating. In 1969, the Club procured about nine acres on Route 252 near Springton Dam, Marple Township (our present site is about four acres). There is room for 19 courts, an ample Clubhouse,

and adequate parking. Present plans call for three banks of courts of three each, three banks of two each (to the right) and two banks of two each (to the left). Past presidents John Benn, James Buckley, Walter Milbourne and Frank Braceland, along with others have worked hard and well to bring about these developments.

As pressure on the highway extension lessened, moving became less urgent. We have just repaired our backstops by replacing the light gauge wiring with hurricane fencing. A green insulated coating is applied to the section in front of the courts to afford better visibility from the porch. Architectural plans have been drawn up for the new Clubhouse and courts while we linger at our present site, awaiting the most advantageous offer. In the meantime, the value of both properties continues to go up.

At present, the Club has close to 400 members. What a far cry from the past! The financial bind has vanished; surpluses are the order of the day. May we have the ability to run the Club as judiciously in the future days as we hope we did in the past.



Idle Hour 1938

Memorabilia

Carleton TerBush was perhaps the first Club champ, before we had a Board of Champions. Besides being an excellent Secretary-Treasurer for many years, he was the Club auditor, a good chess player, and he played on several teams in the tennis league. Terby was also an ordained Methodist minister.

Lyman “Jake” Trewain is remembered for his mastery of the lob, his keen analysis of the game and players, and his thick mane of gray hair.

Then there was old **Tom Cook**, well-built, straight and strong, and a Director long, long ago. Remember “**Rev.**” **L.K. Richardson**, of the fallen leaf service fame; **A.G. Blakely**, the chop and slice artist; and **Al Shriver**, forehand and backhand chopper. And **Gil “Pancho” Gonzalez**, of the western grip.

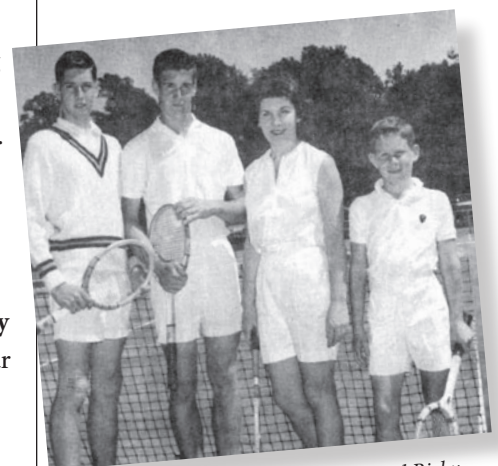
There are other indelible memories which tug at the writing hand to be sketched in: the **Smoker family**, all in white—Ed, big and little Dottie, and Audrey, playing in one foursome in the evenings. The **Mullan family**, the parents, Dick and Peggy, then Mike and Kathy, all playing on different courts at the same time, but playing well and hard. Young **Walt Milbourne**, not up to his Dad’s shoulders, being put through his paces on court eight, paces which later paid off so well. **Gil Gonzalez** and **Cliff “Footsie” Keegan**, on the center court slugging it out in singles and calling them close. **Don Barr** unwrapping his racquet from the net post. The little **Renz girl**, no higher than her racquet, walloping them across the tape to her Dad. Little **Diane Armao**, so-high in pigtails, flailing away at the backboard, alone—now she can take her dad, big Dr. Joe and many other top flight men players.

The cocktail parties on the long porch, candles aglow, bridge parties, Halloween parties, annual meetings when 20-25 were present... Sunday cocktail parties and annual awards dinners, thanks to **Beverly Scarani**. **Roy Shaw** (a faithful worker on the Grounds Committee and Club leader) and **Joe Gach** tangled in their everlasting singles feud. The working parties after the floods. Victory parties behind the courts during World War II... Painting parties (locker rooms and outside) when we could not afford to pay for the work ...the roof lettering job by **Forrest Jacobs**... Big and little **Hobby (Erling and Harold)** brothers, playing singles on court nine. The overcast day **Gil Gonzalez** shouted across the courts: “The President of the United States (F.D.R.) is dead” (F.D.R. would be 90 today). The Saturday morning **Bill Achtermann** died (the other three of his regular foursome did not have their hearts in the game that day)... The exhibition match one Saturday morning involving **Ethel DuPont**... The day the cesspool backed up in the middle of tournament week... The afternoon **Grandma Roberts** dozed off in the sun and dropped her knitting... The Saturday morning **Ray Morris** took **Harry Hoffman** apart in thirty minutes in a team match on the rear tier... The rose bouquets “Doc” brings Joyce “for the store”... The gabbing sessions in the sun on the lawn in the afternoons... The October tapestry of trees forming the backdrop behind the courts... The day “Terby” played Vic Seixas in an early round of the Eastern States... **Allen Grant** in his yellow sweatshirt playing Burtis on number five... **Frank McIntosh** perfecting his stroking, constantly



Diane Armao

The Mullan Family—Mike, Peggy, Kathy and Dick



The Swift Family—Bill, Bob, Dottie and Ricky

Patrons

U.S. Open

Jack Higgins

Pete Leon

Jack O'Donnell

French Open

Bob Celani

Ned Larkin

Bob Swift

Australian Open

Scott Edelman

Dave Hill

Ron McMullen

Davis Cup

Bonnie and Mark Cochard

Mark Dang

Idell and Marvin Rosner

Audrey Spitko

Philadelphia Cup

Steven Beispiel

Jordan Fogel

Meredyth and Tom Graham

Bob Hemphill

mumbling "all righty, all righty"...Humming **Joe Finerty** rolling around like a tumbleweed... hard hitting **Dick Sanders** and **Dyson Herting**, and that perfectionist **Bob Petterson**... **Hughie Davis**... **Clarence Potteiger**... **Burt and Ruth Parshal** (she is a former women's Club Champion)... **Clyde Beaver**... The tough doubles team of **Kruger** and **Jacobs**. Two fisted **Rolf Hartman**, an old-timer, the only ambidextrous player in the Club.

This could go on and on as there is more and more, but we better take leave of memory lane. These recollections were jotted down as they came to mind. They are not complete and they are not in any chronological order.

Present

The present is a far cry from sixty-one years ago. As stated previously, our membership is now almost 400, and we have had to close it.

In 1971 we fielded four men's teams and two women's teams, all of which involved 60 or 70 of our better players. We had several intra-club matches besides the league play, and hosted two outside tournaments. Dick and Louise McGuinness have been valuable members of the Tennis Committee, and have helped in many other capacities.

We recently entered into an agreement of sale of our present site, for \$290,000, pending zone approval for high-rise apartments. If this approval is not forthcoming, the potential buyer is given time for one appeal. If approval is not given by 1973, the purchaser will forfeit to the Club \$10,000 of the \$20,000 held in escrow to bind the contract. As indicated, in the meantime, the value of both properties we own is going up and up as ground becomes more and more scarce. It would appear, then, we have made an excellent hedge for staying or moving. We need be in no hurry to move and can carry on until the best deal presents itself or comes to fruition.

Written in February 1972

George B. Jacoby



*Walt Milbourne, Ken Adelberg,
Ed Tatios and Jack Richardson*

Idle Hour Notables, The Early Years

This history would be incomplete if special mention were not made of several old timers who have done so much to make Idle Hour what it is today. It may be unfair to single out some at the risk of overlooking others, but perhaps you will pardon the writer for making a few observations.

Aaron L. Burtis

He must be designated number one as far as Idle Hour is concerned. He was its founder. Aaron's life covered a span of 77 years. He was President for 21 years, carrying the burden almost single-handedly during the formative years, especially financially. No one else gave so many years of service. He was not only a Charter Member but an Honorary President for life from 1940 until his death in 1957. He was the donor of the Burtis Bowl, awarded annually to the winner of the Eastern States Clay Court Championship. An indomitable, persevering spirit, he never went halfway for anything; he always worked through to a conclusion. He would never let a person up until they did what was expected, and he always went the last mile himself. The interest of Idle Hour was placed on one of the highest pedestals of his active life. Were that there were more like him.

Dr. Fred S. Hunlock

Born in 1882, he is the Club's oldest living member playing tennis until a few years ago when he was past 85. "Doc" has perhaps played more sets during his long, active career than anyone else around. He first played for the Club in 1922 when it was

located at Millbourne. He is one of a few Honorary members and is the donor of the Hunlock Bowl awarded yearly to the Senior winner of the Eastern States Clay Court Championships. He has served the Club as President, Director, and Chairman of the Property Committee for many years. Perhaps the Club's first doubles team of renown played at 55th and Sansom streets in 1921 and consisted of Norm and Jack Bramall, Rev. Edward Jordan and Dr. Hunlock. It would be difficult to find anyone who gets more out of each allotted moment of the day, and over so long a span, than Dr. Hunlock.

Joel H. "Adonis" Leeds

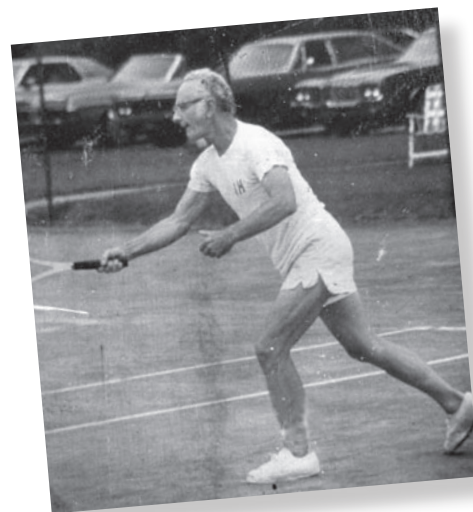
He has had the interest of this Club closer to heart than most others by far. He has literally given hundreds and hundreds of hours to its physical betterment. There has never once been the thought "What's in it for me?" He joined Idle Hour in 1938, was President in 1959, but will always be remembered for work on the Property Committee. Joel is always there in an emergency. It is doubtful if there will ever be another one like him. In appreciation, he was awarded an inscription at the 1971 annual meeting. He shrugged this off as though all he has done was "nothing special." Joel, like Dad Hanson, is another one who kept the Club going when things were really bad. Some people are talkers, others are doers. Joel does his share of the former, but more than his share of the latter. In my book, such an individual has room to talk.

Aaron Burtis

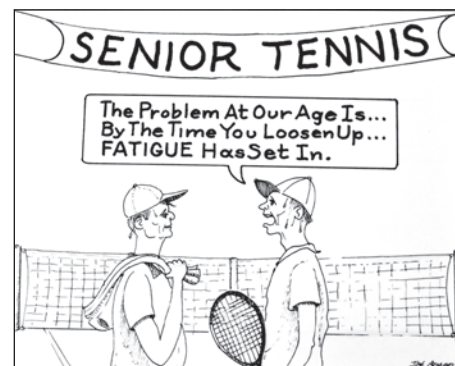
Served as President for 21 years.

C.H. Keelor

Served as President for eight years.



A younger Joel Leeds





Don Richardson, Walt Milbourne, Ron Ryan



*Two of our best:
John Benn and Don Richardson*

Louis F. Kruger

Lou is such a mild and modest gentleman that many are unaware of his physical stature. Lou, born in 1901, still plays good doubles. He is not only a past President, Director, Secretary-Treasurer, Chairman of several important committees, presently director of several major tournaments, an Honorary member, but beyond question, he has contributed more good tennis over a longer period than any other member in the Club's history. Yet no one is more modest of his achievements than Lou. Kruger was always a loose and free swinger, never out of position, and he always had the right stroke for the occasion. A man of fine temperament, he had the softest, but most deadly, angled overhead.

Lou was born ten years before the Club was conceived. He has been Club champion 10 times over a span of twenty years, 1929-48. No one has approached this and it is not likely anyone ever will. The nearest approach was made by Walter Milbourne who has been Club Champion six times.* Lou won this honor four straight years (1937-40), the longest consecutive streak. But more noteworthy, he is the oldest to win the Club Championship. This occurred in 1948 when he was 47 years old.**

Lou also won the National Clay Court Veterans Championship in 1949. His trophies, citations and awards are numerous.

Editor's Note:

** Milbourne won his 7th (and final) Club Championship in 1974 after this was written. Joe Ferrigno has won 8 titles (see the profile on Joe Ferrigno).*

*** John Benn is currently the oldest player to win the Club Championship. He won it last in 1976, at age 56 (his 5th Championship).*

William E. Achtermann

His name is scattered throughout the Club's history. He played strong tennis up to his death in 1968, at the age of 75. Bill was a charter member. A past President (1928) and Secretary-Treasurer for six years, he served the Club well as Director for years, and in many other capacities. Bill played on Club teams in the league for some time, and was strong on full and half volleys. He was also one of the best bridge players in these parts. He was always dependable, consistent, blunt, and never afraid to stand up for what he believed was right. Bill established and maintained the Board of Champions in the lobby.

William L. "Big Bill" Nassau

He represented Idle Hour in league play and must be mentioned for two national titles he acquired while a member. One was in 1942 when he became the US Lawn Tennis Association Veterans Champion at Forest Hills New York. The other national championship came in 1947 in Cleveland, Ohio. Bill won the Hunlock Bowl six straight years until beaten in 1947 by Lou "Pappy" Kruger. Nassau was a proponent of the steel racquet when it was a rarity. After decades steel came back and today it outnumbers wooden frames.

George (Dad) Hanson

Dad did not play tennis. He was much more than a groundskeeper however. Indeed he was Mr. Idle Hour to the hundreds who have come and gone through the Club over the years.

Dad was born in England in 1870 and came to the United States in 1900. He was a tree surgeon and landscape

gardener by profession. Dad or “Pop” was active at Idle Hour from 1937-59. Were it not for him there is some doubt we could have held together in the lean years. Some of us remember all too well when this elderly gentleman almost single-handedly brushed, hand rolled, and lined 14 clay courts, cleaned the Clubhouse and porch including the locker rooms, administered guest fees, took applications from prospective members, and tended the store. Days unbroken by sickness or absence, unless it rained, Dad trekked out to the Club on public transportation, from 63rd Street above Market Street. He would be at his work from 9 or 10 a.m. seven days a week until the last lingering player had showered and gone home.

Dad passed away in 1966 at the age of 96, several years after he left our employ, when he was 89 years old. There are few men like him anymore. A beautiful photograph of Dad hangs in the lobby. One could not capture a better likeness of the old man. (Thanks to Eddie Dowling who has also taken other pictures on display in the Clubhouse)

Erling H. “Hobby” Haabestad

He is our oldest active player. Hobby joined Idle Hour in 1915. He had just graduated from high school and assisted part time in maintaining the courts in Millbourne. For many years, he ran the Club store with excellent results. Hobby was also a team player at Idle Hour and is perhaps best known for his mastery of 59 different strokes. He was also good at weight control.

The Richardsons

Don, the “old Pro” has been the Club professional since 1948. He and his wife, Joyce, have been substantial assets to the organization, rendering professional licensed tennis instruction, maintaining and operating the Club store, and otherwise enhancing the stature of Idle Hour. It has been a pleasant sight over the years seeing Don bring his three children along in the game. Now Joyce tutors the “old Pro.” Many wonder what the fees are in such an arrangement.



Don Richardson

Epilogue

It has been enjoyable delving into musty records and old memories. Many of the elder members have been helpful in bridging certain gaps in the records. Then, too, with the familiarity of the writer with the Club's past, it is hoped we have been able to tie together something of interest to the members. Having joined the Club in 1940, and been privileged to serve on the Board for 17 years since 1942, Secretary-Treasurer for eight years, President for three years, and served on innumerable committees along the way, much of the Club history came into focus with little prodding.

Perhaps we may be permitted one reflection. It is not difficult to find fault with what has been done. It is more difficult to continually make the proper decisions along the way. Paying dues is no license to be overly critical. The officers and workers pay dues also. Perhaps occasionally we should ask ourselves: “Have I done as much for the Club as the Club has done for me?”

*Play tennis and live—
happier, healthier,
and longer!*



Ed Dowling, surrounded by nine of his fans



Frank Braceland, Bob Jackson, George McFadden, Joe Armao, Leo Confoy



Claire Kirpich joined the Club in the mid-'60s and is still a very active player.



Al Saluti

The Modern History

Introduction

The "Early History" of Idle Hour, encompassing the year of its establishment in 1911 through 1972, was written by Idle Hour member George Jacoby. In the interest of time and space, his original fourteen page documentation has been edited and abridged to its current size but we have attempted to stay true to his voice and the essential historical facts that he so ably conveyed. This whole project would, in fact, have been more difficult without his excellent contribution about the first 60 years. (Note that the entire early history is available on the Idle Hour website).

Upon going through the early years, however, it was felt that a major deficit was the lack of pictures of any persons or the Idle Hour Tennis Club facility of that time. This section, commencing with 1972 and extending until the present year, attempts to address that problem with an abundance of pictures of many involved persons and the Club itself from the earliest times until the present era.

It is our intention and hope that our efforts will prove to be as lasting a record as George Jacoby's documentation of the early years has been for us. This should make it easier for future "historians" of the Club looking back at the first one hundred years from their perch in the future, when Idle Hour is celebrating its second, third, fourth and beyond hundred years.

The committee, Bob Simons and I, decided (it is easier to work with smaller committees sometimes) that it would be most expedient to work with a decade by decade approach and therefore our chapters are divided accordingly, into the 1970s, 1980s, 1990s etc. Interspersed among the decades' historical events you will find profiles of four extraordinary Club members, people who were chosen for their high level of accomplishment on the court (Joe Ferrigno and Audrey Reinsel) and for their outstanding service (Joe Armao and Doris Coppock). Even among the notoriously tough to please Idle Hour crowd, there are not many people who can argue with these selections.

Mixed Doubles in the '70s



1972–1980

It was the best of times, it was the best of times. (Apologies to one of my favorite authors, Charles Dickens). But it was true. Tennis was booming both nationally and locally at Idle Hour in the 1970s.

The wall between the amateur and the professional tennis player was abolished. In 1968, Arthur Ashe, a member of the US military at the time, defeated Tom Okker to win the new US Open Tennis Tournament, then played at Forest Hills. The next year, Rod Laver won his second Grand Slam. Soon thereafter, Jimmy Connors was fueling the excitement of American tennis on the men's side and Chris Evert, "America's Girl" was doing the same on the women's side. Their romantic involvement only added to the public's love affair (pun intended) with all things tennis.

Idle Hour reflected the high popularity of the game. Membership was rapidly increasing and Juniors were joining at such a fast rate that rules were instituted limiting their number to no higher than 160, which was fifty percent of the Senior membership of 320 at that time. The waiting list was consistently in the range of 100 or greater and (similar to the present) the male to female ratio was approximately two to one with 214 male and 114 female Senior members. Courts were filled routinely with rules instituted limiting players to one set of singles or two sets of doubles on those occasions. It was seriously suggested that a bullhorn be purchased to announce the courts as being full. (This was tabled with the option to revisit at later time). A Red Flag was employed to signal the frequent occurrence of fully occupied courts. Despite this, however, there were complaints that the Red Flag was often ignored. These rules were not being followed satisfactorily, according to many members.

Because of these frequent infractions, in September of 1979, at the suggestion of Ed Algazy, the Red Flag system was replaced with a sign-up Board to be initiated in the 1980 spring season.

The locker rooms were very basic and did not even have weight scales. In May of 1976, a request was made for scales in both men's and women's locker rooms. New scales were felt to be too extravagant, and the plan was to purchase used ones. In June of that year, a motion was put forth to purchase a used scale for the Clubhouse. This motion was defeated. Fortunately, the frugality did not extend to a drinking fountain which was agreed to at that same meeting.

The consistent popularity of the game resulted in frequently full court use requiring much use of the "Red Flag." This created the idea of using time as opposed to a set (for Singles) and two sets (for Doubles) again emerging. For the first time, it was suggested in 1976 that "when the Red Flag is up... Singles play will be limited to 45 minutes and Doubles to one and a quarter hour on a trial basis." This system did not take off, however, and the "set" system was still the law despite concerns about the Red Flag simply being ignored. The passion for the game was so strong that in 1978 when it was suggested that racquetball (remember this sport?) be added, there was absolutely no interest and this measure was promptly defeated, never to be revisited at Idle Hour again.

Present at the Creation



Joseph Armao, M.D.

You would never know Joseph Armao, known to everyone as Joe, was 88 years old, and among IHTC's oldest members when you meet him.

He is living proof of the benefits of tennis as a lifetime sport: "Live happier, healthier, and longer." You would also never know that he is Irish (well, he's not), but he was born on St. Patrick's Day, where else but on South Broad Street, Philadelphia?

The second oldest of four children (two sisters and one brother), Joe began playing tennis in his late twenties while a medical student. He honed his game as a serve and volleyer as an Intern ("between patients").

Joe joined IHTC in 1956. Why else? "To improve my game." He realized quickly that the clay surface was made unplayable by any water, even a brief rain shower. It became his mission to spearhead the tennis courts' changeover from clay (known to Joe as mud) to Har-Tru prior to and during his Presidency.

He has had numerous other service achievements at IHTC, including longest serving Board member, but his true legacy is clearly among the major leaders resulting in the transition from clay to Har-Tru. (See *The Har-Tru Story*, pg. 29)

Where did Joe develop his discipline and leadership qualities? Before

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(Continued from page 13—Armao)

medical school at Jefferson, he graduated from the United States Naval Academy (1945). He received much needed financial support from both his (physician) father and the G.I. bill because he already had two children by 1949, while entering medical school.

Joe is justifiably proud of both his family and his IHTC achievements. (He met his lovely wife Lynn right here at IHTC (1983). He has six children including two active tennis players who grew up on the IHTC courts. Diane was a highly ranked Middle States player and received a scholarship to the University of Miami. She has carried on the family doctor tradition (working in neuropathology and as a medical illustrator). Joe's son, Chris, played for Cardinal O'Hara High School, and still plays despite a double hip replacement.

They are all high achievers including another physician (Frank, a Psychiatrist), two teachers (Cheryl and Gene), a lawyer (Joe Jr.) and a physicist (Chris)!

Joe has considerable professional achievements. He was a family practitioner from the early 1950s until his retirement at age 82 (2005) as well as former Medical Director at Fair Acres Geriatric Center, (Lima, PA). Tennis honors include winning the IHTC "A" doubles (with Joe Gach) over Cliff Owen/Ray Stratton around 1970 and mixed doubles with Lynn in 1979. However, his "major achievement" is raising his six children— "no druggies, alcoholics, or mass murderers to date." I think we would all agree that Joe has a lot to be proud of.

Then, as now, the Club had many strong players. Among them were Cliff Owen and Rolf Stensrud. These two players were selected in 1975 to play in the Pro/Amateur Tournament with Cliff teaming with Vic Seixas and Rolf with Arthur Ashe. Both of our Idle Hour stars got to the semi-finals. Owen/Seixas had wins over pros Marty Reissen, Roscoe Tanner, and Tony Roche and their respective partners. (They lost to Tom Okker, the "Flying Dutchman" and his amateur partner.) Stensrud/Ashe had wins over Stan Smith and Bjorn Borg!, and their respective partners, losing their semis to Cliff Richey and his partner. Not a bad showing for the Idle Hour crew.

As the decade drew to a close, two other major issues emerged. The first was the need for a new Pro/Manager. In 1978, Don Richardson submitted his resignation, stating that "the revenue from the position was significantly less than the time involved." It was noted that, "At the present, the Pro position offers modest income and would satisfy only a person who is a tennis enthusiast, loves Idle Hour, and can work long hours." Because of the Richardsons' long service (from both Don and his wife, Joyce, who also served the Club for many years as Don's assistant and in the Pro shop), lifetime Honorary Membership was awarded to both of them. However, the search for a new Pro/Manager was made necessary by Don's resignation. It was unclear whether one individual should fill both positions or whether there should be a Tennis Pro and a separate person functioning as Club Manager. Several men assumed the job briefly, including Tom McCulley and Ed Tatios. Julian Krinsky also briefly served in this capacity. This was not fully resolved until the hiring of our own Harry Smaltz (more on that later in the 1980s) as both the Pro and Manager in one person.

The other major, and in fact, revolutionary issue of the 1970s which, in fact, defined the decade and subsequent years at Idle Hour was, of course, the transition from clay to Har-Tru court surfaces.

The first mention of a court surface switch was noted in March of 1975. A question was brought up about changing the clay court to some other type of all-purpose court. Clay was simply too unplayable with any rain, a problem with which Idle Hour had more than a passing familiarity. The search was on (the details of which can be found by referencing our chapter, the "Har-Tru Story," written by our President at the time, Joseph Armao).

The decade ended with the transition from the red clay which had been in existence since Idle Hour's founding in 1911 over to Har-Tru, with which the decade of the 1980s would commence.



Rolf Stensrud to Arthur Ashe: "Arthur, any tips you can give me on my tennis?"

Arthur Ashe to Rolf: "It's too late! But you can sure play net for me any time."

The 1980s

In 1980, Bjorn Borg was attempting to win his fifth consecutive Wimbledon title. That summer a rising young American star by the name of John McEnroe continued the excitement of American tennis. In what is widely considered to be the greatest match of all time, McEnroe defeated Borg in an amazing fourth set 18-16 tie breaker only to have the King reclaim his fifth consecutive Wimbledon title in a five set classic. In 1981, McEnroe would finally dethrone the Champion who shortly thereafter made his exit from tennis at the ripe old age of 25. Jimmy Connors, however, was continuing strong even as he was approaching 30. On the women's side, the Chris Evert/Martina Navratilova rivalry continued to enthrall the tennis world.

At Idle Hour, the new Har-Tru surface was proving to be a major success and as was stated in the annual meeting that year on November 9th, the Har-Tru courts "have been finished and were a great asset to the membership this year."

Reflecting the general tennis boom and the popularity of Idle Hour with its wonderful Har-Tru surface, the waiting list continued to increase with people from as long ago as 1974 and 1975 only being admitted at this time in 1980. By the end of 1981, all 14 courts (initially only the front seven were converted to Har-Tru due to a combination of costs and to ensure that the conversion was successful) had been changed to the new surface. Continued popularity mandated that the Club increase its membership from the previous 360 up to 400 senior members. Sixty- two new members were admitted in 1982 alone.

The search for a Pro and Manager, or Pro/Manager (one person assuming both positions) was continuing. In 1981, Walter Swank was employed as the Manager and Harry Smaltz as the Pro, each holding a separate position. With Swank's resignation as Manager in 1982, Harry took over both jobs (after a unanimous vote of approval from the Board) starting in the 1983 season. Along with the conversion to Har-Tru courts, this would prove to be among Idle Hour's most fortunate decisions. Already by April of 1983, the consensus was that Harry was "a true sportsman," and it was stated by the Club leadership that "he is not only skilled as a tennis professional but as one of the few people who may be able to fill Walter Swank's shoes" (as Manager).

By the end of 1983, the Har-Tru courts were in full operation and in superb shape... "The contractor finds our courts to be in the best shape of any with which he has closely worked." Because of the new court surface, both Intra and Inter-Club play were prospering. The Eastern Seniors' Tournament which Idle Hour has hosted since the 1930s (largely under the auspices of Don Richardson) was now taken over by Cliff Owen for whom it was subsequently named. Bill Rasdolsky was instrumental in having the tournament renamed in Cliff's honor in the late 1990s, while Cliff was still alive. (Cliff Owen died in 2001). Rasdolsky worked together with Cliff during this time, and had been running the tournament until recently when it was taken over by Paul Painten. Other prominent tournaments included the Eastern States Open (run by Ed Behl for many years), as well as Philadelphia Districts and the Mother and Daughter Tournament, under the direction of Louise McGuinness.



Max Botel, Ridge McLaren, Andy Harmelin and Steve Herman



From the early '80s



Some doubles specialists—George Cowdright, John Benn, Don Richardson, Rolf Stensrud

Two out of three ain't bad



Joseph Ferrigno

In the "Early History," George Jacoby makes three observations in discussing his contemporary, the great Louis F. Kruger (one of only three IHTC members to have been both a Club President and a Club Champion, the other two being John Benn and Walter Milbourne).

- #1. Nobody will ever achieve as many total championships (Lou Kruger had ten).**
- #2. Nobody will ever get close.**
- #3. Nobody will have as many consecutive titles as Lou (Lou had four).**

George Jacoby, you were right on #1 (at least after 100 years) but wrong on #2 and #3. Joe Ferrigno is the guy (the only one), who has proved you incorrect on those counts, with eight IHTC Club Titles and four consecutive—twice! Joe Ferrigno is, aside from Louis Kruger, the most successful male player in the 100 year history of IHTC (in fact, there is only one other player who has more than five titles—Walter Milbourne at seven).

Now 55, Joe Ferrigno is the 3rd oldest of four brothers—they are affectionately known at IHTC as the "Flying Ferrignos."

(Bob, the oldest, is a new IHTC member. Appropriately enough he won the Men's B title this year. John, the second oldest, is a Board member. Jim

(Continued on page 17)

The courts frequently received compliments as "the greatest" around. The demand for admission to the Club continued to grow with need to increase membership again suggested and the wait list usually hovering at about 100 plus. In 1986, the wait to enter the Club was routinely three years or longer. Idle Hour prided itself on being among the last Clubs to "close" and the first to "open" every year. Membership was increased to 425 due to its increasing popularity. For the first time, in "the interest of youth," a special wait list was devised for those 35 and under to permit easier and quicker admission to the Club. As it was noted, "membership is top heavy with people over 50 years of age." Three separate waiting lists needed to be employed. One for regular admission to Senior memberships, one for family members or former members, and a third for those 35 and under. People were admitted off each list one at a time. The only persons able to bypass the three year or longer average wait were Juniors less than 21 years old, who were admitted immediately in the continuing quest for younger players.

In the second half of the 1980s, Idle Hour received two major honors. Member Cliff Owen was voted outstanding Senior player in 1986, and in 1987, Idle Hour was voted the Philadelphia Club of the Year by the Philadelphia Tennis Association.

Despite the long outdoor season, the love of the game and the Har-Tru surface resulted in serious consideration for the building of a "bubble" to enable not only the hard court surface, but the Har-Tru courts as well, to be used all year long. It was only because of the extreme expense of bubble construction that this proposal was voted down.

By the end of the decade, the Idle Hour courts were the envy of virtually of every other club in the Greater Philadelphia region. In August of 1988, the Chairman of Merion Cricket Club called and asked "how do we keep the courts in such good condition?" Usage was so high that consideration was given toward reducing membership from 425 back down to 400 members. No decision was reached.

By decade's end in 1989, the wait list was again up to 150, equating to five years long, even with the increased membership numbers. The Club was becoming too popular! There were votes considered to both close the applicant list and increase the initiation fee to reduce the number of applicants. If only we had that problem now!

Mixed Doubles in the '80s



(Continued from page 16—Ferrigno)

The 1990s

In 1990, despite the winding down of the careers of Jimmy Connors and John McEnroe, a new group of stars including Andre Agassi, Michael Chang, Jim Courier, and the great Pete Sampras rejuvenated American tennis. They would each go on to win Grand Slam Tournaments and have superb careers. Chang was the first to strike, becoming the youngest winner ever of the French Open. Then in 1990, Sampras did the same in the US Open at the age of twenty, becoming the youngest person to ever win this event.

This enthusiasm fueled continued saturation of the Idle Hour Membership, particularly with the courts being increasingly noted for their excellence and the Har-Tru being praised uniformly as the best around. The waiting list was up to 150!

In 1991, because of the six year wait list to obtain Club entrance, membership was increased from 425 up to 450. The goal was to achieve “new faces, increased use, maximum utilization of courts, and general growth.” The idea of a “bubble” was again raised, but it never did see fruition. It was noted that in a twelve year span from 1980 to 1991/92, membership increased from 360 to 450 members. Fifty new members per year was generally the norm.

About the middle of the decade, popularity was such that there were further motions to increase membership to 500. Initially, this was not approved. But by mid 1995, there were in fact 500 members with an additional 100 people on the wait list. Formal approval up to 500 members did not actually occur until November of that year, despite the fact that there were more than the officially agreed upon number. At the same time, it was decided that a Junior member could sustain that status up to age 25 (formerly it was 21).

Shortly thereafter, however, as the decade and the Millennium drew to a close, “since interest in tennis is waning, a suggestion was made to discuss increasing membership.” These included a reduction of the initiation fee, especially for those less than age 35, as well as the introduction of various incentive plans. The boom had turned into a bust. What had happened?

Three tournaments were cancelled due to low interest. There was certainly no problem with the Idle Hour courts themselves. It was noted by Dave Heckman that “I have received many complimentary remarks related to the excellent condition of the courts from the Club members as well as visitors.” The Club itself continued to improve, with a new practice wall as well as the new Richardson path from courts five through seven.

Why was this occurring? There were numerous reasons, including the emergence of the Internet, Tiger Woods and the increasing popularity of golf, and other non-tennis pursuits, as well as the general aging membership of Idle Hour. There were only sixty members in the Club less than forty years old. The most prevalent age group was between 60-69 at 100 members, and the next was 80 members between 50-59. Approximately half the membership was over 50 years old, and with continued aging, retirement, movement out of the area, and death, the need for a youthful group was clearly essential, but it was not occurring.

is the youngest.) He started playing tennis at the relatively late age of 16 but clearly learned fast, beginning with the Springfield High School Team. Over the next few years, at the local public courts and parks, his game improved quickly. As a high school senior, Joe was part of the team that won the Central League Doubles title (1974). Much team success followed including the Eastern Pennsylvania Community College Conference Championships in 1976.

Joe joined IHTC as a junior member competing in both IHTC and USTA/MS tournaments. Despite playing on a slow clay surface (and the Har-Tru after the transition), his philosophy to “control the net” paid big dividends with his eight singles as well as two mixed doubles championships. (Joe notes that he found the doubles competitions more stressful than the singles).

Joe has been happily married to his wife, Diane, for 28 years. Their initial meeting was at Hoffman Park (Lansdowne) where Joe was routinely doing what else—playing tennis of course. They live in Springfield and have 3 wonderful children (Joe—26, Jena—22, and Anna—13).

Joe notes that his tennis recently has unfortunately been limited secondary to “life’s changing priorities” compounded by injuries. He concludes with the following:

“Idle Hour is a terrific Club with 100 years of history and tradition. I am convinced that its best days are ahead. I am honored to be part of its history.”

Joe, we are proud to have you as a part of our history, as our winningest active men’s member.

“Have I done as much for the Club as the Club has done for me?”



Doris Coppock

There are not many of us who can answer the question above (originally asked by George Jacoby in the “Early History,” as a paraphrase of JFK’s 1960 Inaugural Address) as positively in the affirmative as our first female president, Doris Coppock, who served from 2000-01, as an appropriate statement to the new Millennium.

Doris was born in Philadelphia, the oldest of three children. Confirming many theories on eldest children, she is clearly a high achiever from an early age, graduating from Lower Merion High School and then the University of Pennsylvania.

She was “always athletic” and initially played multiple sports including field hockey, lacrosse, and volleyball. Her father piqued her interest in tennis and she discovered “no other sport interested me.” Some of her earliest lessons were with IHTC’s own Joyce Richardson. She was hooked, playing USTA, IHTC, as well as on several Florida league teams. She only stopped playing last year in her 70s! (We won’t reveal her exact age).

She joined IHTC pre-Har-Tru courts but felt even the red clay was great, along with “wonderful people and great tennis.” She was spending so

The year 1999 itself was an extremely eventful year. The resignation of Don Ziegler after his excellent service as Treasurer for ten years was unfortunately overshadowed (as was everything) by the flood to end all floods, brought to us with Hurricane Floyd, which occurred in mid-September of that year. Total damages were estimated at \$150,000. Devastation was everywhere, including the courts and Clubhouse, as most of us well remember. Amazingly enough, many of the Har-Tru courts were playable several weeks later due to the efforts of both members and our wonderful Pro/Manager Harry Smaltz.

A letter by Jeanie Wechsler summed up the consensus on Harry’s performance at the time of the crisis. “Harry has always been such an asset to our Club, but never more so than since the severe damage caused by Hurricane Floyd.”

Dick Gillespie was more succinct but with the same sentiment, saying “Harry comes through.” Many members showed their “true grit” during this time and were singled out by the Board for special recognition. Among these were Joel Leeds (who, despite being 86 years old at the time, continued with his selfless devotion to the Club, particularly when it was most needed).

The decade had therefore closed with a true bang in the form of Hurricane Floyd. On the positive side, however, both the Pro/Manager and the general membership responded admirably. Unfortunately, the problems of an aging membership and a declining interest in tennis in general were not about to disappear. New and bold leadership were required. This would come, along with the new Century, in the form of our first female President, Doris Coppock. We were ready to face these challenges. ***Bring on the new Millennium!***

2000–2010 Idle Hour members pulled together admirably, clearing debris from the courts as well as the Clubhouse where water had been up to 10 feet high. While all members ought to be praised for their efforts, several in particular were especially mentioned by the Board and Club leadership including Dick Gillespie, Dave Heckman, Dan Longo, Jordan Fogel, Rich Rosenfeld, and Carol Silberman. There was unanimous praise for our wonderful Club Pro/Manager, Harry Smaltz, as was previously noted.

By early 2000, it was stated that “the property, Clubhouse, and tennis courts are as good or better than before the flood.” However, the flood damage had been costly and was well over \$100,000.

The rest of the decade can best be described as challenging. There were several more floods, as we well remember, although none as destructive as Hurricane Floyd. Continuing problems with maintaining adequate membership numbers, as well as several high profile deaths and major Club controversies, made the years from 2000-2010 among the most difficult in Idle Hour’s history. In spite of this, it was stated in 2002 “we have been able to maintain our maximum Senior membership of 525, although other tennis clubs have not been as fortunate.”

Despite the death of long time Idle Hour member and tennis legend Cliff Owen in 2001, the Senior tournaments that he so ably ran for many years continued their success and, in fact, were renamed in his honor, as previously mentioned.

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(Continued from page 18—Coppock)

Clayton O'Neill steered the Mens' 60 and over Doubles teams to its third straight championship in 2002. Charlie Fiore, a relatively new member at that time, was given special praise for "a lot of work in organizing and running the tournaments." He has of course, continued to do so and even expanded his role over the decade.

It was mentioned that the Club was still maintaining a financially healthy position but the need for younger membership was again emphasized. It was pointed out that there was nobody less than 35 years of age on the waiting list, which itself was too small. "More people are needed on the waiting list."

As if these membership challenges were not enough, another flood occurred in early August of 2004, resulting in Mens' Doubles of that year being "flooded out." Recovery was rapid, however.

The continuing concerns regarding membership decline and possible need to cut expenses in 2005 were soon eclipsed by a totally unexpected tragedy. On May 2, 2005, our beloved Pro/Manager Harry Smaltz died suddenly way too young, less than sixty two years old. It was indeed unfortunate and ironic that Harry, one of the proponents of the AED program (Automatic External Defibrillator), was not able to benefit from this.

The following year saw the death of Idle Hour's longest serving member, Joel Leeds, at the age of ninety-three. He was the one member who truly spanned the early and modern years of Idle Hour, having been associated with the Club approximately 70 years. His contributions to the 1999 Hurricane Floyd cleanup, even at the age of 86, were among the most spirited of all the Club members, and added to his tradition of service.

The second half of the decade did not see any relief in declining membership. Proposals to increase new members included financial incentives such as free racquet stringing as well as "special membership" for a seven week period for only \$50. Other ideas included advertising in the paper as well as on various Web sites including the USTA site and our own Idle Hour website, which by now (2006-2007), under the leadership of Bob Celani (our Centennial President), was up and running. Bob was thanked by then President Jack Higgins in early 2007 for "creating, implementing, and managing the website." This has proved to be of increasing value to the Idle Hour Tennis Club on numerous fronts.

Of all the proposals, however, the most effective appeared to be incentivizing current members to encourage persons to join, including \$75 for each new member and \$100 given for husband and wife.

In other areas we were doing quite well. We had an enthusiastic and well liked new Pro, Dennis Olenik, who certainly had his challenges in trying to fill Harry's big shoes. However, Dennis brought his own unique assets to the position (including his wonderful wife Zdenka) and has nicely rejuvenated many of the instructional programs, particularly among the junior set. His barbecues have won high praise as well.

The year 2008 started benignly enough with a relatively mild winter and no flooding. Improvements to the Club continued, including the recent addition

much time at IHTC that she felt it was only right that she should get more involved. Did she ever, serving on the Board three times and of course, was our first female President (the other being Suzi Paulin in 2004-5), having to deal with the effects of the worst flooding in IHTC history, Hurricane Floyd. She notes that the membership pulled together amazingly well, and the \$40/year (for three years) assessment was paid without any complaints or resistance.

Doris thinks Dennis and Zdenka are "terrific" and have been instrumental in the recent infusion of "younger ladies."

As noted, Doris has seen the Club evolve from its pre Har-Tru days. The Club continues to be great, in her opinion. She only wishes that more present members heed the words of George Jacoby and "do as much for the Club as the Club has done for them" by volunteering to serve on its committees and Board and maybe achieve the Presidency. After all, two female presidents in 100 years is not that many.

Doris currently enjoys well deserved relaxation time in Florida with her two grown daughters who live near by. She met her husband Walt at where else? Idle Hour Tennis Club, of course.



Men's '60s Doubles Team, 2005

***The fourteen ... OOPS...
I mean fifteen times
Women's Club Champion***



Audrey Reinsel

If you are not quick enough, it is easy to fall behind on Audrey's rapidly expanding number of Club titles. As this profile was being written she had just won another and shows no sign of stopping. In fact, for the last twenty-five years, if the Women's Championship was played (some years there were too few participants) Audrey was either the Champion or the Finalist. There is simply no comparison on the Men's side with Audrey's current stronghold on the Women's title.

Audrey Reinsel was born in Philadelphia. She joined Idle Hour at age 16, while she was a student (and on the tennis team) at Merion Mercy Academy. She remembers "Mr. Idle Hour," Joel Leeds, helping her with her game, all the while referring to her as "Keed." She went to St. Joseph's University and played tennis on the team there as well.

Despite her talent, success at IHTC was not immediate. Audrey notes that she initially played the Women's Tournament in the early 1980s, but did not attain the Finals until 1984. Since then, however, she has not been less than a Finalist, and more likely Club Champion.

(Continued on page 21)

of awnings and a porch painting in mid 2007, as well as the upgrade of the hard courts to "US Open" blue in early 2008.

Despite statements that the Club provided "more tennis for less money" than most, if not all, other clubs and that the "financial position is still good," it was noted in 2008 that for the last six years expenses had been greater than revenues, with resultant reduction of savings. A \$40,000 deficit had developed secondary to a combination of reduced income because of lower dues and membership, less rental income, and increased real estate taxes.

To rectify this savings drain, in October of that year, it was voted both to increase dues and eliminate family benefits, all of which would save substantial monies (estimates of up to \$34,000).

On top of these financial woes, Hurricane Hanna hit in September 2008 with resulting flooding, and once again there was flooding in 2009. Fortunately, Dennis and his superb groundskeeping crew including Walt Kaminski, Joe McKenzie and his son Joe Jr., and Harry Postles had many courts playable in two days.

Economic concerns continued. Membership was continuously declining in all area clubs, and the best that could be said about Idle Hour was that it was "less bad than the others." The causes included those previously mentioned as well as both a significant economic recession on top of membership injuries and aging.

The idea of a dues increase was once again raised in early 2009 from \$280 up to \$350 per year. It was felt that "Idle Hour Tennis Club at \$350 is less expensive and a greater value than other comparable clubs." The need to maximize adding potential members and minimize loss of existing members was especially on the mind of the Board and Club leadership. Membership had dropped almost one hundred members from a peak of 525 about 10 years earlier to 427 in 2009.

The decade closed with what else—another flood of course—(September 30th-October 1st of 2010), and one that we all remember well. Damage to the Clubhouse was \$222,000 but once again, because of amazing member volunteers, our hard courts were ready to play one week later. On the positive side, the membership incentive program was very successful, and 2010 saw an incredible 80 new members join the Club. Elimination of the initiation fee for new members certainly helped in this regard. In 2011, another 80 new members joined the Club.

It was noted that "a new member promotion has been an overwhelming success." Much praise went to our excellent membership chair, Minda James.

The final piece of good news for the Club was the distinction of being voted "Club of the Year" in 2010 by the Philadelphia Tennis Association.

2011–Present

The current decade, our 100th year Anniversary, begins with the challenges that I have outlined previously, including damages from the recent flood and the continuing need to rejuvenate our membership. The incentive/referral programs as well as on-line applications and general use of our website has resulted in 54 new members this year, and total membership is up to close to 500 members, a healthy number. Our average age, however, continues to be a bit higher than we would like with existing membership at a mean of 62 years and new membership only one year younger at 61. The Club is still here and on the rebound, both financially and with improving membership numbers. As always, the various challenges of nature (recurrent flooding) as well as the economy (a national recession) and membership controversies have been met with bold leadership and appropriate decision making bolstered by our Bylaws.

Our Centennial events, under the direction of Chair Paul Painten, have been initiated with a very successful “Golden Age of Tennis” on June 4th with the employment of wooden racquets and early 20th Century tennis white clothing, honoring the memories of C. H. Keelor, William Achtermann, Aaron Burtis, and other founders.

Press coverage of our Centennial has included favorable articles in both the *Delaware County Daily Times* and the *Springfield Press*. Centennial events will culminate at the Springfield Country Club Dinner Dance on September 16, 2011 under the capable direction of Chair Lynn Armao, and her Co-Chair Adriene Higgins, and their committee.

Despite knowing full well that she was coming, and despite all human precautions possible, we were unable to prevent the flooding and resultant destruction to the Club on August 27th and 28th by Hurricane Irene. In an ironic twist of symmetry, Mother Nature has had the (near) last word in our present history, as she had the early word on this site, in 1928, when the Clubhouse was first built here. However, I am sure the courts and Clubhouse will both be back to pre-storm conditions in no time. After all, we have more experience in post-flood cleanup than any other Club. More than 80 years of it!

As we can see from this recounting, the Club has weathered many storms (pun intended). However, for these many years, I do believe Idle Hour has achieved its stated purpose which is to “promote tennis, sportsmanship, fair play, and social responsibility.”



We will now conclude this history with neither my words nor that of my stalwart co-author Bob Simons, but instead with those of two individuals who are far more articulate than either of us.

One is from the reflections of a former Junior member. The other is from a Senior member who had been at the Club for more than 50 years. They each bring very different, but extremely well stated perspectives, of the wonderful and oldest “tennis only” facility in the Greater Philadelphia region that we call our own.

(Continued from page 20—Reinsel)

Her lefty power tennis game has brought her not only the 15 Women's singles but also Doubles Championships including Mixed, all many times over. She has also been ranked #1 in the USTA/MS (Philadelphia District) in the 35 and 45 year old divisions, as well as Philadelphia District teams, traveling to the Nationals many times.

Holding a Masters from St. Joseph's University in science and education, Audrey is teaching science at Interboro High School. She is married to Bob Hughes whom she met—guess where?—at a tennis club (Cape May) where they were (no surprise here) the Mixed Doubles Club Champions.

Audrey's success at IHTC is not confined just to the tennis court. She is presently a Board member and our Club Secretary. There is no clear end in sight with Audrey's tennis or service success.

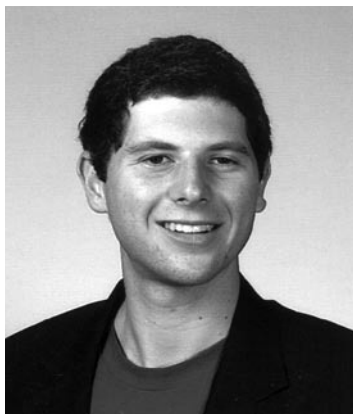


New Members 2011



The Flying Ferrignos—Bob, John, Joe and Jim

Happy 100th Anniversary to the Idle Hour Tennis Club!



Josh Raff, 1999 “A” Champ

A Junior Member’s Perspective

September 16, 2011

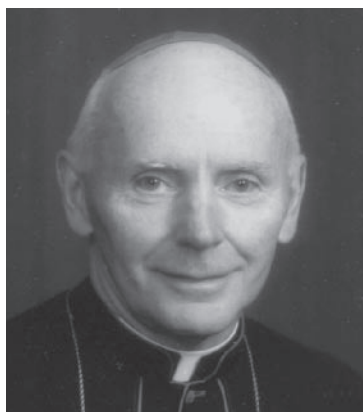
Idle Hour Members,

By the time I was 14, my passion for tennis had been ignited and burned with a fire that was a distant second only to my father’s! When I jumped into the A Flight in 1999, I walked into the first round not cocky, but prepared, and more importantly, humbled (after having lost in the first round of the B tournament in both 1997 and 1998). I did not take my opponents for granted and I gave every point my all. Winning the Tournament that summer ranks among my most fond and memorable tennis accolades.

Idle Hour was a place where I would hone and attempt to perfect my skills every spring and summer for a decade, until the time I left to play tennis at the Division I level. The no frills atmosphere has a grittiness and realness to it that makes the softness of the clay a delicate and beautiful juxtaposition. There were many reasons to go to Idle Hour, but each of these sprung from one root: Tennis. The chalk board, the big cups, the Pro shop, the TV room, the 14 beautiful Har-Tru courts, four hard courts, the gravel-infused parking lot—all of these things represent a place that has through and through stayed true to its purpose, and its passion. In turn, it has helped me stay true to my own.

Thanks for the memories, and here’s to another great 100 years.

Josh Raff



Ed Hughes
Bishop Emeritus
Metuchen, New Jersey

A Senior Member’s Perspective

February 23, 2006

Dear Friends at Idle Hour,

Idle Hour has been part of my life for over half a century, and I am grateful for the friends I have made there. I also appreciate the opportunity to change the world by our conversations and decisions on the front porch. (It’s just too bad that the leaders of the world do not always see the value of our suggestions!)

My time at Idle Hour goes back to the days of “Dad,” Doc Hunlock, Rev. Richardson, Hobby, George Jacoby, and of course, Idle Hour’s past and present, Joel Leeds. I believe I benefited much from the friends and tennis experience at Idle Hour, and I know that I will miss it. It is time, however, for me to move on.

It is my prayer that we will meet someday in heaven. I understand that there are no double faults there, no bad line calls, no blown set points, no rainy days, and nobody ever gets mad. Indeed, I hear there are no losers in the heavenly matches and, somehow everybody on both sides of the net turns out to be a winner. At any rate, I hope that all of us get together there some fine day. It’s good to have been part of the Idle Hour family.

With appreciation, I am Gratefully yours,

Ed Hughes

Idle Hour 100th Year Official Trivia Quiz

The following are 12 questions that all informed Idle Hour Tennis Club members should be able to answer after reading this book.

1. In what year was the Idle Hour Tennis Club founded? (This is clearly what is known in the business as a “freebie.” Anyone who does not know the answer to this question, please give your complimentary member history book to someone more deserving).
2. Who was Idle Hour’s longest serving President?
3. What is the name of the original full time groundskeeper initially hired in the 1930s? (Hint: he stayed until 1959).
4. Who is the present longest serving Idle Hour Club member?
Bonus: How many years has he/she been a member?
5. In what year was the Idle Hour Club House built?
6. Who was the longest serving Pro at Idle Hour Tennis Club?
Bonus: How many years did he/she serve?
7. Who has the most Club Tennis Championships?
a) For Men?
b) For Women?
Bonus: How many titles for each?
8. How many female Presidents have served in the Idle Hour 100 year history? Who are they?
9. Who is the youngest person to become Idle Hour Club Tennis Champion?
Bonus: How old was he/she?
10. How many members have been both Club President and Tennis Club Champion? Bonus: Name at least 2 of them.
11. Who is the longest serving member in the Idle Hour Tennis Club 100 year history?
Bonus: How many years was he/she a member?
12. How many members have won the Club Championship 5 times or more?
a) For Men?
b) For Women?
Bonus: Name at least 3 of them.

(For Answers: See page 58)



Ray Walker, Harry Morein, Charley Morrow and Howie Atwater

Senior Tennis

by Bill Rasdolsky

The Cliff Owen/IH Men’s Senior Championships is one of the longest running tournaments in the United States—now in its 81st year.

Begun in 1930, it attracts the best Seniors in the area. Several top nationally-ranked players such as Newt Meade, Don Richardson, John Benn, John McGrath, and Bob Jordan have competed in the recent past.

Jordan, a lifelong area tennis player and author, is the father of Barbara and Kathy Jordan who played on the professional tour. Kathy was once ranked number five in Singles play and won seven Grand Slam Doubles titles. Barbara won the Australian Open Singles in 1979.

John Benn and Don Richardson were long-standing members of Idle Hour and outstanding contributors to the rich history of the Club. In addition, they were a nationally-ranked Doubles team and played on the Senior Davis Cup team.

Newt Meade, a local and national legend, is still an active participant in our tournament well into his 80s.



Bob Betson and Newt Meade

Presidents 1911-2011

Most, if not all of these members have held other offices in the Club besides the Presidency. Many have also served on important committees for many years. There were also many others who were never President but who served long and well in other vital areas. Carleton TerBush, William H. Budd and Alan D. Shriver contributed much as Secretary/Treasurer. The list would be too extensive if mention were made of those who were chairmen of such committees as Property, Membership, Tennis, Social, etc.

C.H. Keelor
1911-18

Walter C. Reed
1955-56

Aaron L. Burtis
1919-28, 1930-40

Jack C. Betson
1957-59

William E. Achtermann
1929

Joel H. Leeds
1960

Edward H. Smoker
1940-43

Richard L. Mullan
1961-63

Louis F. Kruger
1944-46

John L. Benn
1964-65

Fred S. Hunlock, M.D.
1947-49

James C. Buckley, Esq.
1966-67

George B. Jacoby
1950-52

Walter R. Milbourne, Esq.
1968-69

Charles B. Maits, Jr.
1953-54



Bob Celani, President
2010-2011

GALLERY OF PRESIDENTS



*J. Frank Braceland
1970-71*



*Bernie McDonnell
1984-85*



*David L. Heckman
1998-99*



*Herman Berg
1972-73*



*Jack Trexler
1986-87*



*Doris Coppock
2000-01*



*Richard C.
McGuinness
1974-75*



*Tom Stitchberry
1988-89*



*Dick Wenner
2002-03*



*Manuel Baltaian
1976-77*



*Andy Harmelin
1990-91*



*Suzi Paulin
2004-05*



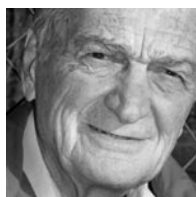
*Alan N. Cohen
1978-79*



*Charley Morrow
1992-93*



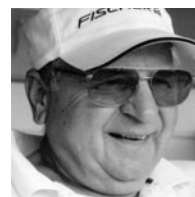
*Jack Higgins
2006-07*



*Joseph J. Armao,
M.D.
1980-81*



*Bob Simons
1994-95*



*Bob Cramer
2008-09*



*Robert Braunfeld,
D.O.
1982-83*



*Dick Gillespie
1996-97*



*Bob Celani
2010-11*

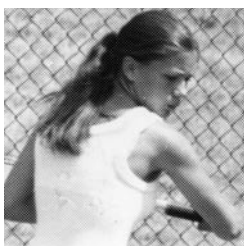
Parade of Champions

1975-2011

Ladies "A" Champions



Shirlee Hurst
1975-76



Debbie Coe
1980



*Maura Gillespie
Aliano*
1995, 1997



*Beth
McCormick*
1977



*Carole
Braunfeld*
1982-83



Audrey Reinsel
1987-88,
1990-92, 1994,
1996, 1998,
2000-02, 2004,
2008, 2010,
2011



Mo Mondschein
1978



*Joyce
McMenamin
(Ramamurthi)*
1984-86, 1989



Michelle Savage
2003, 2006



*Lynn Kallam
(Armao)*
1979, 1981



*Margaret
Cassidy
McNicholas*
1993

1970-2011

Mens "A" Champions



Marty Gilbert
1970, 1972



Ken Adelberg
1982-83



Josh Raff
1999



Brian Engel
1971



Tim Everett
1988-89,
1991-92



Matt Cherner-Ranft
2001



John Benn
1973,
1975-76
(also in 1958
and 1959)



Don Grosser, Jr.
1990



Josh Cohen
2004-05



Walter Milbourne
1974
(also in 1953,
1960, 1962-64,
and 1967)



Jim Rosser
1993-95, 2003



Marc Adelberg
2006



Jim Stairiker
1977



Neal Bozentka
1996-97



Gary Solomon
2007-08,
2010-11



Joe Ferrigno
1978-81,
1984-87



Steve Savran
1998, 2000,
2002



Josh Rubens
2009

PIAA Champions

For nearly a century, the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) and its member schools have been known for some of the nation's most highly regarded and competitive high school sports programs. Seven of our IHTC members have won PIAA tennis championships.

Singles



*Bob Betson
1942
Lansdowne High School*



*Dick Betson
1944
Lansdowne High School*



*Mike Mullan
1966-67
Springfield High School*



*Rick Swift
1970
Springfield High School*

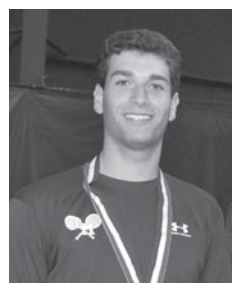
Doubles



*Ray Morris
1942
Upper Darby High School*



*Bob Swift
1962
Springfield High School*



*Matt Savran
2009
Lower Merion High School*

The Har-Tru Story

By Joe Armao



The international controversy involving the use of atomic weapons was a mere fizzle when compared to the havoc that ensued from the proposal to replace our existing clay court surface with Har-Tru.

A group of members headed by none other than Mr. Idle Hour himself, Joel Leeds, vigorously opposed the idea, despite the fact that following a sizeable rain our courts could not be played on for days at a time. Our so-called clay courts had become mud over the years. We could not afford resurfacing periodically as recommended. The white tennis balls, used at the time, became brown with mud. Aside from the damage and dampening effects on the stringing, the balls quickly became too heavy.

The objections of Joel's group were reasonable but not valid. They believed that a major flood would leave a layer of silt atop the Har-Tru thus destroying the filtration properties of the Har-Tru, despite the denials of the Har-Tru people and the experiences of surrounding clubs.

The expense of such a major undertaking was also a deterrent. Expected expense per court was approximately \$6,000. This amount could best be spent to repair the courts at the time of the next flood, an argument tough to refute. In all fairness, the opposing group had the best interests of the Club at heart. Their objections were well founded. A certain amount of risk was involved.

The rationale utilized in eliminating the need to excavate all of our present courts was as follows. It encompassed a curb of concrete being constructed around the courts so that no excavation was necessary. This concept was never considered in the past. Having no idea as to the feasibility of such a plan, I sought out an expert in this field, Dan Acchione. He was a contractor, avid tennis player, Club member, and good friend. Dan encouraged me to proceed with my plan. Dan freely gave of his time throughout the entire project. He located a retired concrete man, non-union, who gave us the best price. Later when the union threatened to close the project, Dan interceded successfully. His services were invaluable to me and the Club.

At this point, I resolved to resign my membership if this project was deemed a nightmare rather than a dream realized. My plan was to join some distant club in order to avoid listening to the constant haggling of the dissident group. Fortunately, after the Har-Tru was installed, we enjoyed a period of approximately 10 years before a major flooding took place. This period elapsed despite the frequent rain dances by Joel and company. Actually, this group then became Har-Tru advocates once they learned that play could resume shortly after a rain.

Idle Hour's courts sit on the lowest-lying property in the entire area. This constitutes a built-in drainage problem. With a storm of any size, the adjoining creek will overflow onto our courts. The bulk of the water, with a forceful current, will advance on Idle Hour from a turn in the creek upstream. This flow rages through Springfield's park area. It advances from a northeast direction carrying large quantities of debris and silt from the park. The debris ranges in size from fine vegetation to large sections of tree trunks.

In addition to the above flow, we experience flooding from Township Line. The highway's sewer system would be over-taxed, and the excess will spill onto our courts from an easterly direction.

As explained in the following notes, it is essential that the sewer system be cleaned out periodically as part of the maintenance. The final result—less water on our hallowed ground.

Following are the actual notes made at the time interspersed with my remarks:

05/09/79 – Before undertaking a project of this magnitude, the Board felt it advisable to consult an engineer who might help us with the drainage problems. A Mr. Chas Pennoni was recommended. A committee was formed consisting of Al Cohen, Manny Baltaian, Mike Bradley, and Ed Tatios. This group visited nearby Har-Tru courts, namely Springton and Radnor Valley. George Maguire who installed the courts at Radnor was present; he gave us some pointers concerning Har-Tru and was to bid on our installation.

05/13/79 – Our courts are unplayable, Dan and I checked Springton only to find Don Richardson, John Benn and the Shapiro brothers playing Doubles in a light drizzle. What better testimony to the efficacy of Har-Tru?

05/14/79 – Called the Har-Tru people in Maryland just to re-establish my confidence and to put an end to my nightmares of rain dancers.

05/15/79 – Called Lane Company, tennis court contractors; Mr. Snyder

will give us an estimate. Lane Company is an old, established company we have dealt with in the past.

05/18/79 – Mr. Pennoni and Mr. Snyder both requested plot plans of Idle Hour. A routine request, the response was anything but. I requested same from the following: John Benn, Mike Bradley, Don Richardson, Joel Leeds, George Safford and Manny Baltaian. All claimed to have faxed a copy, but could not locate same at the moment. John located his copy a few days later; I promptly distributed same upon receipt.

05/22/79 – Met with Mr. Snyder who gave an estimate of \$84,000 for 14 courts. Our committee agreed to take this figure to the Board for approval. Mike Bradley secured a slightly lower figure from George Maguire, but the group felt more comfortable with Lane's bid. Lane is a well established business, and we knew their work to be satisfactory.

05/23/79 – Met with Snyder and reviewed plans to complete the front tier once the curb was completed.

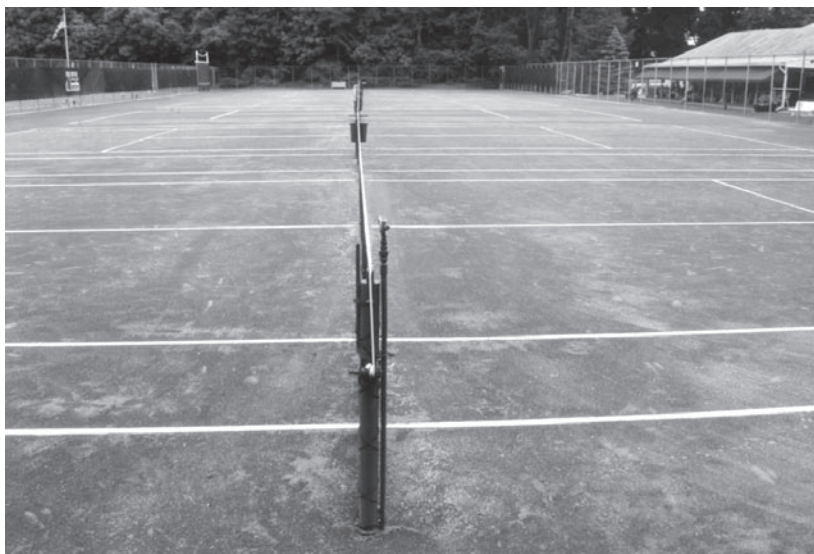
06/03/79 – Called on Pennoni for his drainage plans. Not yet completed.

06/10/79 – Met with Dan who now feels cinder block may be the best for the curbing. We will consult with the concrete man.

06/13/79 – Board approved all plans so far. Awaiting Pennoni's plan. Mr. Abbonizio decided on concrete over cinder block. Many calls to Pennoni's office but report still not ready. Also, talked to George Safford who recommended using concrete pipe to line our spillway. Half pipe was also discussed for easy clean out. Buried pipe would be more cosmetic, but cleanup would present a problem. Will await the drainage report. George also recommended Crown Vetch on all the elevations adjacent to the drainage ditch.

07/02/79 – Can't believe my ears! Joel and fellow naysayers are coming around to our way of thinking. My nightmares will lessen to just an occasional bad dream.

07/10/79 – Pennoni presented his plan, a very comprehensive one, but not one easily implemented and very expensive. We will present same to Board.



07/11/79 – At a Board meeting, we presented Mr. Pennoni's plan. The plan reads as follows:

The large sump tank, 10 ft. x 15 ft. and 10 ft. deep, would be located at the southeast corner of the parking lot. This sump tank would contain two large pumps capable of pumping flood waters upstream. This system would go into action as soon as the creek overflowed. The construction would also require necessary piping. This solution, if allowed, would upset the entire water table in the area. The expense of such a system was much beyond our means. This setup would also disperse additional amounts of water onto the neighbors' already flooded properties. The Board also rejected Safford's plan to use the half concrete pipe in the drainage ditch. Besides the cosmetics, they felt once the flaps closed, due to the rising creek level; the water would be trapped in the ditch. No further drainage could take place until the water level receded.

07/16/79 – At Dan's home, he and I and a contractor friend of Dan's met to discuss the plans. The contractor agreed with our plans but warned us to be certain to dig below the frost line with the curbing. We engaged B.P., no, not the outfit that drilled into the Gulf water, but beer and provolone; we washed that down with homemade blueberry pie. Tess Acchione is a skilled cuisine contractor in her own right.

07/18/79 – I met Jack Weymouth, a drainage expert recommended by Al Cohen. Jack had nothing to add. That very afternoon there was a flash flood. We were flooded with water coming from the highway, not from the creek.

07/20/79 – I met with our State Representative and very good friend, Mary Ann Arty. She assured me action would be taken. Mary Ann and I had served on the Board of Health in Springfield. I was certain she would be of help.

7/23/79 – I met with Tom Benke, Springfield Engineering, who agreed the state must be involved. The sewers needed to be cleaned out. Three of the courts had been covered with three inches of silt.

7/31/79 – I met with Mr. Abbonizio, the concrete contractor. We went over his plan with our committee, they all agreed with the plan.

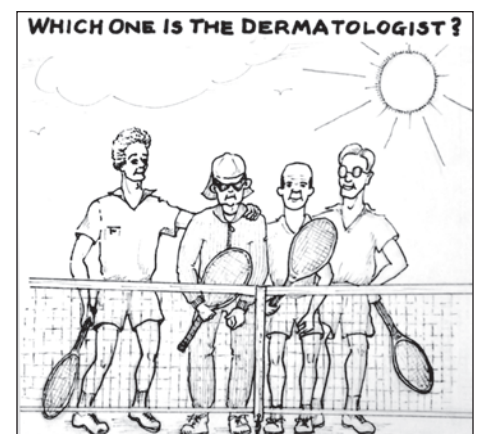
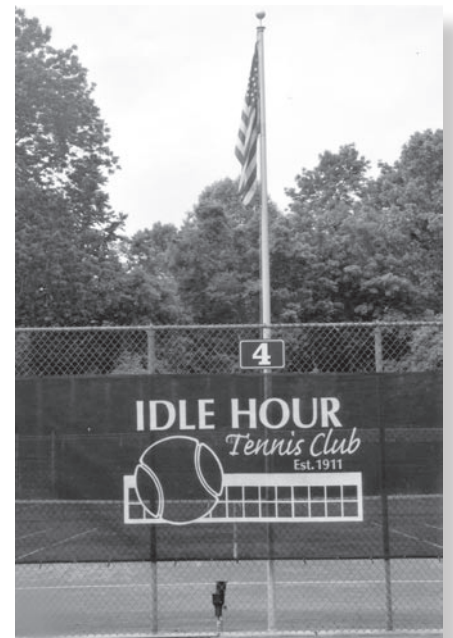
8/09/79 – I met with Bud Humbert and Joe Winchester, both from the state, and Dan for about one hour. Bud agreed to have the sewers cleaned out within the next week.

8/13/79 to 8/27/79 – Five entries—all meetings taking place at Idle Hour. Spoke to Snyder, Har-Tru people, Abbonizio, Humbert, Safford and Mike Bradley.

8/29/79 – Bud Humbert assured us that the sewers had all been cleared. Bob Braunfeld and I proceeded to Springton after a rain, to check their courts. Two of the courts, which are tiered, were flooded on the lower level.

8/31/79 – Dan and I checked the grading of our ditch from end to end. Conferred with Bob Braunfeld about another type of surface. Har-Tru seemed to best fit our needs at a lower cost.

9/03/79 – The best way to insure proper drainage from the highway sewer system was to have





Bud Humbert join the Club—his wife Marie was already a member.

9/05//79 – Hopefully, the sewers will remain cleaned out now that Bud is a full dues paying member.

11/07/79 – Broke ground for the new surface. Some disturbing moments arose. Will the plastic pipes for our sprinkler system withstand the weight of the loaded concrete trucks (25-30 tons)? Snyder checked it out and finally gave the okay. Front and side fencing down—to the back courts for play.

11/15/79 – Curb construction started with curbing 11 inches wide by 36 inches deep. Neighbors stopped us from moving dirt to build up our creek barrier. They feared the barrier would throw more water their way at the time of flooding.



11/20/79 – Front and side curbing completed. Fence posts incorporated in curbing, more union trouble; Dan advised Snyder on how to deal with them, work resumed. Weather is co-operating and work proceeding as planned.

4/20/80 – Resumed work filling in the curbed area with various sizes of stone topped with Har-Tru.

05/04/80 – Finished five courts, but not playable yet. Sprinklers out of order, courts very slippery when dry.

05/14/80 – Three courts open to membership, others to follow by end of May. The back tier is to be completed at a future date.

Eureka! – Idle-Hour membership discovers the benefits of Har-Tru.

Addendum

Idle Hour, following the installation of the Har-Tru, has been blessed with the best playing surface in the area. This fact has been substantiated by many of our members who have played on different surfaces throughout the United States and abroad. Our courts are second to none with surfaces as smooth as pool table tops. These ideal surfaces are the result of painstaking experimentation on the part of our ground crews, such as changing roller weights and sprinkler heads plus varying the amount of water used to dampen the Har-Tru. There is some advantage, in my opinion, to being located in a flood plain. Har-Tru is best when kept damp. This is always easier in a flood plain or low lying area. The same natural forces that cause flooding periodically contribute to the packing characteristics of damp Har-Tru. Whatever the reason or reasons, our membership has bragging rights with regard to our courts. Brag on you tennis stalwarts. You may not always play your best, but you play on the best!

As with any undertaking of this magnitude, it took many sacrifices of time and applications of expertise on the part of many Idle Hours members. I wish to acknowledge the following members for having given freely and enthusiastically to the cause:

**Dan Acchione, *George Safford, *Manny Baltaian,*

**Bud Humbert, Mike Bradley, *Joel Leeds,*

Bob Braunfeld, Ed Tatios

**deceased*



The People of Idle Hour 2011









The Porch

"It is not necessary to understand things to argue about them."

The ancient Greeks had the Aeropagus for discussion and debate with Aristotle, Plato, and Socrates as back-up resources. For the Romans, it was the Senate. Closer in time to us, we had the Round Table at the Algonquin Hotel in New York City, where the wits and wags gathered in the 1920s.

And, of course, there's the Institute for Advanced Study in nearby Princeton.

For us it's **The Porch**.

A gathering of the world's pre-eminent authorities on any and all topics of interest. Subjects range from world and national affairs to the latest buzz on what the Board has done this time. For us, this is the "go to" place.

Anything can be addressed, argued, discussed, and dissected although nothing ever seems to get resolved—that's the way of **The Porch**.



Encomium to the Porch

The porch at Idle Hour—frequented by self-proclaimed leaders of industry, giants in the field of medicine, the humanities, other scientific areas as well as a great source for current local gossip. In short, every discipline known to man is represented in this esteemed group.

No subject matter is exempt. No topic is too convoluted or abstruse to be discussed and dissected by our members. A physician in this group was known to put aside his medical books and extensive education after a certain disease was discussed by the porch's medical section. The discussion was so detailed and erudite, so much more useful than the internet resources or than his notes provided, that he decided to present all of his patients' medical problems initially to the porch group.

This group has no counterpart—no taboo or verboten subject matter. We have never experienced a drop-out from this group. Death has taken its toll but there is little doubt that these discussions are continued in that heavenly porch in the sky. Hopefully none of our members will end up on that other porch complete with heated seating. —**Joe Armao**

While Idle Hour helps fulfill the physical and social needs of my life as a player, I go to the porch to discuss the panorama of life. This is the time when I can relate to my extended family for advice that helps to restore the balance of life. I know it saves me a great deal of money for psychological counseling. —**Vince Mancini**

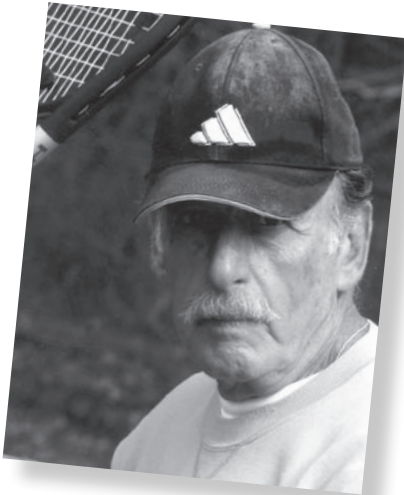
I was very comfortable from my earliest days at the Club. Personalities were very diverse. Over the years I have found that we have blended very well together and enjoy one another's company, both on the courts and especially on the porch. —**Alvin Neiberg**

Nothing is sacred on the porch or safe in the refrigerator. You do not have to be intelligent on the porch because someone will interrupt you before you can make a point. —**Clayton O'Neill**

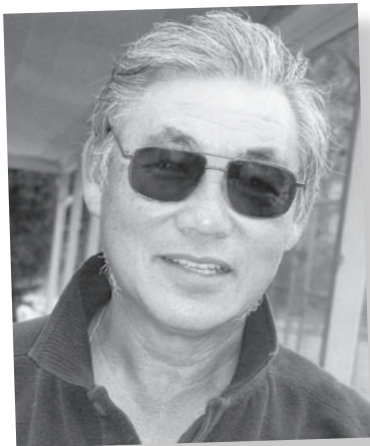
The porch at Idle Hour is one of the best places to spend some idle time and to see good tennis being played from a very good vantage point. It, to me, seems serene at times and with the porch being surrounded by trees it makes you feel as though you are in the mountains on vacation. The most enjoyable part of the porch are the many viewpoints that you get from the expert members that congregate before and after their tennis matches. They give their opinions on world history, current events, and even give medical advice. Though we have lawyers and doctors as members, some of this advice should not be taken at face value, but simply by some who think they know it all but in a humorous fashion. All this leads to some give and take bantering that goes on, and is all in very good fun and many good laughs. We know who we can joke with which makes it very special. And jokes, well all I can say is that there are many jokes told and all this helps making spending time on the porch enjoyable. On most days you can



Gene Pasternak



Bruce Poland



Tony Soong

see red tail hawks flying about and sometimes even landing on our fences that border the courts. In summary, the porch to me can be best described as a home away from home and with some very good friends. —**Gene Pasternak**

Each day at noon, weather permitting, I join an informal community of Idle Hour members on the porch. For the next several hours this unprepossessing structure, survivor of numerous floods, becomes the epicenter for my daily dose of fellowship and laughs. Quotidian concerns are put on hold—halcyon moments await.

During the customary court watering and grooming, there is the meet and greet and ritualistic doubles pairing. After this comes a potpourri of banter, gossip and jokes, tall tales, acerbic wit, sarcasm, high jinks, mythomania, and bold-faced lies—all evoked with levity and mischievous amusement. Also, if one is listening acutely, someone will be dispensing gratuitous medical advice, exhibiting scars and all.

After the matches conclude, the kindred spirits repair to the porch for the requisite post-mortem—recapitulation of the winners, mishits, and dubious excuses. The porch time is a blessing for a quasi-troglodyte like myself—an antidote for the blues. May the tennis gods look with favor upon the porch for another century. AMEN! —**Bruce Poland**

It is a great place to hang out with a view of the best tennis courts around. —**Jim Rosser**

The porch represents the font of all knowledge. Anything you want to know, accurate or inaccurate, can be heard there. It's also a wonderful place to meet and greet and watch the world go by. Nothing could be finer than to sit with friends and watch other people make the same mistakes on a tennis court that you do. You come away comforted by the whole experience. —**Abbie Rowley**

I have enjoyed the excitement and enthusiasm of the players on the porch. However, some sportsmanship and civility would be helpful. —**Tony Soong**

The great porch enabled you to watch seven matches simultaneously and also keep an eye on the back seven courts at the same time. I've played at many clubs in my day and that porch set-up was unique. It was the primary reason that made IHTC not only a great place to play but to watch fine tennis.

—**Jim Stairiker**

Five of Emilio's 30 Reasons Why Things Did Not Go Well on the Court:

1. I felt sorry for the guy so I let him win.
2. My opponent wore a green shirt—I hate green.
3. A strange sound unnerved me—someone opened a can of new balls.
4. The guys on the porch groaned when I called out the score.
5. An attractive woman kept looking at me.



Remembrances

Diane Armao

Idle Hour Tennis Club may not have had the grace of Merion Cricket Club, or the opulence of Philadelphia Cricket Club, but to me it was better. Idle Hour was a work of art. The Porch will be etched in my memory forever. In the spirit of the Greco-Roman tradition all the men, prior to and following their matches, would practice the art of rhetoric. Actually, they didn't need much practice, and mostly they argued. But they were always important arguments. As we all know, close calls can be quite irksome and persist as timeless philosophical struggles. One of my most favorite philosophers of all time was Joel Leeds. Joel is, as always was the case, engaged in heated disclosure, being a bonehead as my dad, Joe, would fondly call him, and enumerating his point on his fingers. I was always fascinated by Joel. We all loved him very much and miss him too because he had a big heart. And then there was Ed Tatios. Nothing was sacred for Ed when it came to losing his concentration. For instance, small birds or tiny crickets chirping may be the cause of Ed's demise on any given day. Last, but not least, is Jordy Fogel's many ice packs piled under white towels to temper the presumed aching of Jordy's joints. But to me, when I watched him play, not to mention playing against him, he ran around so damn fast, and hit the ball with that walloping topspin, it was really hard to believe his joints hurt that much.

Anyway, when you think about it, Idle Hour wasn't just a Tennis Club, or even a work of art. It was a home to me—the home of life.

Herman Berg, by Walter Bodek

Herman, as Vice President under Frank Braceland, helped him in his endeavors. When Herman became President he actually implemented the refurbishing of the courts, and the Clubhouse.

Walter Bodek

As an Idle Hour member of over forty years, I was first introduced to the Club by the late Dr. Miles Sigler. I got involved in politics and helped elect Herman Berg to be President. Then I was on the Board when he was President. I was named Chairman of the Tennis Committees and as such I supervised all tournaments in-house and outside. I was captain of the "B" team that won its title. I also formed another "B" League. My claim to fame was to have my "A," "B," "C," and "D" teams all win their league titles in the same year. This feat was never done before or since. Later on Bob Braunfeld, President, asked me to be Chairman of the Rules Committee.

But the one important thing I did for Idle Hour and my family was to secure a junior membership for my cousin, Eve Ellis, when other clubs had turned her down. She later went on to Yale and played on its tennis team. She was just recently honored by the Jewish Hall of Fame in Philadelphia for her tennis activities.

At Idle Hour, she won the Women's championship title and played in the Mixed Doubles Championship final with her cousin, Walter Bodek.

Frank Braceland, by Walter Bodek

As President of Idle Hour, Frank accomplished many things for the Club that no other person did. As an insurance executive, he was the first to get government-subsidized flood insurance for the Club that has served us well over the years.

When the State Highway Department threatened to come through our property, he bought ground in Newtown Square as a potential location. He later sold it at a large profit that enabled us to buy the property on City Avenue. This gives us rent each year and insures right of way entry for our members. Also the extra money helped refurbish our courts and the Clubhouse.

Matthew Cherner-Ranft

I've always loved playing at Idle Hour, and some of my fondest tennis memories are when I competed for the Men's Singles Championship. The crowd really knew their tennis and were always enthusiastic, even when it was pretty steamy out there and getting late. Everyone was so friendly and knew my name and seemed to know my game. Having played so many different places and in so many tournaments, it was always good to be at Idle Hour and to feel like I had returned home.

Debbie Coe Napoletano

- Joel Leeds' stories about the Club's history: the flood
- Doubles with Robin Riehl—my dear friend
- Tennis lessons with Don Richardson and his gracious manner
- Vigorous workouts with Bobby Fagan
- Mixed Doubles with my dad—Bob Coe
- Mother/Daughter tournament with my mom—Ann Marie Coe
- The wonderful members of Idle Hour who enriched the Club—Mo Mondschein, Cliff Owen, Paul Solari, George Dulgerian, Harry Coslett
- My 1980 Women's Singles Championship win

Doris Coppock and Suzi Paulin

Mother Nature said, "If Idle Hour elects a woman as President, there will be a flood." Doris Coppock served as the first woman President in 2000-2001 and Mother Nature's prediction came true. Mother Nature said, "If they do this again..."—Suzi Paulin was elected for the 2004-2005 seasons and there were more floods. All joking aside, we have considered it an honor and a privilege to serve on the Idle Hour Board of Directors in many capacities. We have also enjoyed not only the tennis related activities, but also the many social events, the professionalism of the staff, the willingness of the members to help in times of adversity, and the caring attitude toward each other.

Bob Cramer

Ever wonder what we "hackers" would do during the day if there wasn't this great place... a club, and people, who let us pretend we're better players than

we are and don't laugh too loud when we hit those lousy shots!

About 10 years ago, my wife and I found out about Idle Hour which rescued us from not having a place to play tennis with friendly people.

We live only one block from Rose Valley Tennis Club where we and our children played for 30 years with friends and neighbors. Over the years, the membership and playing opportunities declined. Then, some friends told us about Idle Hour but I thought that there must be something wrong with it—that many courts, a Clubhouse, and a very modest entry fee and annual dues!

I made the move and joined first and appeared on "The Porch" all dressed in my best whites and was greeted with, "You're a new member, wanna play?" And that's how it started. Eileen saw that I survived and soon also joined the Club. During our time here, I was able to serve on the Board and even was President for a couple of years. Now I'm back as just one of the players but glad to be part of this unique tennis club, our "Idle Hour."

Dave Delman

Idle Hour memories? I cherish this one. It's the story of how in 1981 Mel Brecher and I came scandalously close to making off with the "B" Doubles title with only one earned win to our credit.

That happened in the tournament's first round. Our next three matches resulted in forfeits for one reason or another, and so there we were, where we certainly never expected to be smack dab in the finals, waiting for our opposition to materialize.

And waiting... just sitting on the porch and waiting... an eon went by.

Or maybe only a thirty minute eon.

Mel and I looked at each other, then looked away, then looked at each other again, then started to giggle, both thinking the same thing—that we could legitimately lay claim to championship.

But, of course, we couldn't.

Ten minutes or so later our opposition—our considerably younger opposition—showed up and beat us handily.

Jordan Fogel

You could say I grew up at Idle Hour. I was 34 when I joined and was lucky enough to have some of the best tennis players and wisest mentors a fellow could have. The top seven players in the Club—Joe Armao, Cliff Owen, Don Richardson, Ed Behl, Bob Betson, Walt Milbourne, and John Benn—for some fortunate reason they would hit with me and tutor me either verbally or by example in strategy and tennis etiquette. I'd be remiss if I did not mention Joel Leeds, who helped so many hackers like me learn the game. These fine men and superb athletes helped me progress to six Club Championships, which I hold the Club record for losing. But I gained experience and friendships that have lasted to this day.

When I first joined Idle Hour the courts were clay and the slightest rainfall would shut them down for one to three days. So we started a search for a different surface. Wanamaker's Department Store was demonstrating a tennis court laid down like an erector set with little squares of rubber-like tiles with holes in them. They played like a very soft hard court. Court 15 was surfaced

with the material; they played great, and after a rain, they would dry within a half hour or so. Problem was some members were getting dizzy while playing on the court. Finally our present Har-Tru surface was used on seven of the courts. Before the summer was over, no one wanted to play on any of the other courts, so all were resurfaced and what you see now are fourteen of the best tennis courts you could possibly play on anywhere. To me, Idle Hour is, as its name states, a place you can idle away an hour or two, forget the concerns of daily life, and enjoy good competition and wonderful tennis people, as well as good friends.

Meredyth Graham

One of my first memories of the Club was when I first arrived as a young bride in purple shorts. At that time Idle Hour was an all white Club, and Joyce Richardson told me that my shorts were unacceptable, so off I went and got some white gear. Tom had been a member as a bachelor and when we got married he was on Herman Berg's team. Tom would leave our apartment at eight on Saturday morning and would not return 'til five—having played Singles and Doubles for the team. Idle Hour was our playground.

One time I played singles with someone 25 years my senior. She had told me she had not slept a wink and I thought, "Ho, ho an easy match." Wrong! Later, we mowed her lawn in Havertown for \$10. A nice way to earn some extra cash in those days.

I have made cherished friends along the journey at Idle Hour. When the children came along, I would put Katie in the ladies room in her

playpen with Libby Lieberman's daughter, Vicki. When Margaret was about two, I put her up on that high green referee's chair while I played. I'll never forget the scolding I got from dear Wilma Behl, when I left the girls in the car—windows opened, of course, with lots of goodies. They had chickenpox and Wilma was not pleased. Boy do I miss her. She gave me the best tips. "Put your fanny in the alley" was one of them. She also had wonderful recipes. We had so much fun on the court.

My first partner was Lois Dabrow. She put up with me for eight years. We drove everybody crazy. Our matches were at least three hours long. Lois looked the same when she got off the court as she did when she got on.

Those Interclub days were fantastic. I had some great partners—Sandy Stone, Eleanor Bellis, to name a few, but after 38 years, it was time to say adieu. The member/guest parties were also great. I had a wonderful time with Rose DiMascio, trooping around with the girls' teams.

What fun I had with Louise McGuinness. She used to get me out in the middle of winter on those hard courts. What joy it was joining her Mother/Daughter tournaments either with Katie or Margaret. Oh, those were the days. Idle Hour is a Club to remember and will always be close to my heart.

"Dad" Hanson, by Dick Gillespie

Dad worked at the Club seven days a week for many years. I don't know how old he was but he never stopped working. He took care of the courts (with Joel's help) and ran the store,



Walter Bodek and Herman Berg



Tom and Meredyth Graham



Jordy Fogel



Bob Cramer

all for very little money. When Dad started at Idle Hour we had 14 courts but courts eight through fourteen were nothing but waist high weeds. In Dad's first summer at the Club, without being told, and in his spare time, he cleared all of the weeds and made the courts playable. Know anyone who would do that today?

Andy Harmelin

I have been a member of Idle Hour Tennis Club for 35 years and enjoyed every season, both on the Har-Tru and hard courts. Although many people have told me that our Har-Tru courts are the best in the city, I believe that the membership makes the Club even more enjoyable.

I was proud to serve on the Board of Directors for six years and as President for two years; I wish to note that my Vice President, Charley Morrow, whom we all miss, was a tremendous help during my tenure.

Many of my happiest times have been spent playing against Cliff Owen, Bob Braunfeld and Jordy Fogel, among others. Best of luck to everyone for another 100 years.

Dave Heckman

During 1998 and the first nine months of 1999, the various events held at the Club functioned well. Unfortunately, on September 17, 1999, a major flood deposited three feet of water over the courts and many inches in the clubhouse. After the water receded, two to three inches of mud covered all the courts. Dick Gillespie and a large group of volunteers removed all the mud by December 4th, thus saving the Club about \$30,000.

By spring, the Clubhouse was restored and ready for a summer of tennis at Idle Hour. I really appreciated all of the help I had in restoring the Club.

Jack Higgins

My most challenging experience was serving as Property Chairperson during the three floods we encountered within eight months... August 2004, October 2004 and April 2005. In addition to temporarily leaving our courts unplayable, each flood deposited water and other stuff throughout our Clubhouse. The flood of October 2004 caused the most damage. However, the flood of April 2005 was the most frustrating, as it occurred about one week after we completed the extensive repairs, including the installation of new carpeting throughout the Clubhouse, necessitated by the October flood.

Without question, the most negative experience I encountered was the unexpected death of Harry Smaltz, our long-term and highly regarded Director of Tennis. Having had the genuine pleasure of working closely with Harry for several years, I was shocked and saddened by his sudden passing, on Club property, one week after he helped repair the damage to our Har-Tru courts caused by the April 2005 flood.

My most rewarding experience was the many new friendships resulting from the privilege of working with a remarkable group of talented Board members, who also contributed their time and expertise to help manage the day-to-day operation of our Club.

I would urge any member who appreciates what Idle Hour represents

to consider volunteering to serve on our Board. There's no better way to give something back to our unique, member-owned Club.

Walter Milbourne

As for memories, the flood in the late sixties when I was President stands out. We bought a property near Springton Reservoir to build a new club. When that did not prove to be necessary, we sold the property and made a profit of about \$50,000.

My other memories are my rivalry with John Benn. We played each other in the finals for seven or so years. Joe Armao was always on the porch as a spectator.

I belonged to Idle Hour for at least 40 until we moved to Wayne. I have many great memories of it and its members; the oldest was Doc Hunlock who must have lived to be 100. It is my favorite Club.

Mike Mullan

Idle Hour was a second home for me and my sister and we grew up on the "dirt" courts, "clean" from time to time by the floods, in the late 1950s and early 1960s. I learned how to play, first hitting against the wall, later with my Mom and Dad, and then taking lessons from Don Richardson, our Pro. Many members took time to hit with me as I became a player—John Benn, Cliff Owen, Ron Ryan, Walt Milbourne, and countless others—who encouraged me and my sister and took interest in our tennis games. On weekends, I recall that some Club members and I often pitched in to roll and line the courts after it rained as we were eager to hit the courts. Joel Leeds rolled the courts, and I helped him with the lines from time to time.

The Club hosted Junior tournaments, and we played in those and others in the area, Kathy and I were ranked first in Middle States in the 16s and 18s as we finished our junior tennis years at Idle Hour.

The Club had a great communal spirit housed in an unpretentious Club-house, populated by members from all walks of life who came together to simply play and enjoy tennis. For me, Idle Hour Tennis Club represents the best in tennis clubs and was a place of learning and inspiration.

Alvin Neiberg

Approximately 17 years ago, I joined Idle Hour Tennis Club. The Club was primarily made up of players of middle age. It was very interesting to find such a diverse group of people gathered in a setting of mutual interest and leisure time. I believe that Idle Hour Tennis Club has shown us an American mixture in a positive way with humor, a desire to succeed, and yet be gracious with our fellow members.

Some of our members have made great efforts to help the Club while others have enjoyed the benefits of their efforts, and they are to be applauded for making those efforts to make all of us very comfortable. Overall, as I reflect on the years gone by, I have found being a member of Idle Hour to be one of the most rewarding experiences I have enjoyed.

We all have had problems and heartaches at home and in our lives and the Club has given us the opportunity to set aside our problems and have some fun and enjoy some of our most rewarding hours.

I indeed feel very privileged to have met a number of people at the Club whom I truly enjoy and consider friends. I hope the Club continues to prosper for another 100 years and that many others may have the enjoyable times that we have all been privileged to have.

Jack O'Donnell

In 1993, I was invited to play at Idle Hour. It was a great afternoon. I had to wait three years before becoming a member. Since then, I've played a lot of tennis, and it's been great!

Barry Raff

Shortly after being admitted to Idle Hour in the late '80s (under the 35 and under accelerated policy I still waited, I believe two years or so to get in), I decided to test my skills in the "A" Club Championship. Having played high school and some college tennis, I had a fairly high (apparently misguided) opinion of my ability and figured I would advance at least several rounds among these "older" players. After all, if nothing else, I was young and fast, and I could run them around and wear 'em out.

In the first round I drew a guy named John Benn. I knew only the handful of members who had sponsored my admission and nothing of the fact that Benn, about 70 years old at that time, had been Club Champion five times. When I saw him, all I noted was an old guy, and I figured this would, as the saying goes, be "a piece of cake."

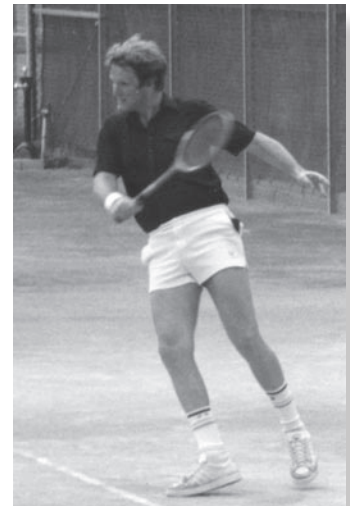
It was—for him! Consistently perfect drop shots, followed by pin point lobs over my head, if I managed to get the drop shot back at all, had me "sucking air" by the end of the 1st set. The



Alvin Neiberg



Jack Higgins and Suzi Paulin



Charley Morrow—Served as Club President in 1992-93. After a four sport career at Central High (at six feet, two inches tall, he jumped center against Wilt Chamberlain) he was an all-Philadelphia small college basketball star at Drexel. He later played for the Quantico Marines.

After his military service, he resumed his tennis interest and was an outstanding Singles and Doubles player in the Middle States in the 35s, 45s, and 55s age competitions. He also played regularly in the National Senior Grass Court Tournaments hosted by Germantown Cricket Club.

A formidable force on the courts, he extended his skills and talents to everything he undertook.



Barry Raff



Maryrose Sheppard—Maryrose and her husband Steve joined Idle Hour in 1991. She immediately got involved by attending Board meetings as a new member. Two years later, Maryrose joined the Board and began serving on the Property Committee. From there it was Membership Chair (1994) and in 1999, she became our Treasurer, immediately after Hurricane Floyd hit.

In the last twelve years, Maryrose has served six Presidents and provided our membership and Club with a full range of financial services in a completely professional manner. The automated systems and reports she developed give us accurate, current, and complete financial information that help manage the Club efficiently.

Thanks from all of us for two decades of service and accomplishments.

second was pretty ugly, as I recall (not that I want to). Future “A” tournaments were not much better as I always seemed to draw in the 1st round (at least in my rationalization) a former Club Champion such as Steve Savran (1-6, 1-6), whose serve should be declared a lethal weapon.

This year, still attempting to at least win a round, I entered the “A” again. My opponent was a very new member (only 2 months) and not known to me at all. I asked my friend Mark Dang about him. He had played against him many times. His assessment of—“You’re in trouble”—were not the words of encouragement I had expected. Lets just say I am still looking for that 1st round win! (Actually I was up 4-1 in the 1st set, but then I realized that, and came back to Earth quickly).

In sum, my tennis experiences at Idle Hour over the past 25 years have made me realize either that my own game is not nearly as strong as I had always thought, or that the Idle Hour Club is full of outstanding players. I am sure it is the latter. Happy 100th!

Joyce Richardson

Don Richardson’s dad, Jasper (Jack), was a member of the Club in the ’20s, ’30s and ’40s, including when the Club was in Millbourne. Like Don, Jasper was a teaching pro who later moved to Florida and taught tennis to Arthur Murray and his wife, among many others at several different locations.

Jim Rosser

I have enjoyed playing at Idle Hour over the years, although it was a struggle at first. My first three years at the Club, I lost in the first round of the “A” tournament every year. In the

fourth year, I was able to make it to the finals. I lost the first set 6-0, but I just wanted to win a game to save face. Somehow I turned it around and ended up winning the match—my first “A” tournament win!

Maryrose Sheppard

My husband and I joined the Club in 1991. We played mixed doubles for about two years and then our daughter was born. We used to bring her to the back courts in her baby carriage so we could hit balls and listen for her cries. In 2000, Lynn Armao and I would meet at the Club to play tennis with her granddaughter (and member) Lindsay Murdock. She and Stephanie would play dolls for hours. Now, the girls are going off to college, but Lynn and I are still playing tennis together.

Alan Soffer

About 25 years and 40 pounds ago, I used to play singles. In my last singles tournament match at the Club I was slated to play a good friend, George Dulgerian. While I had a really bad cold, I thought that a little antihistamine could get me through the match.

Neither George nor I had anything resembling power, topspin or put-aways but we could keep the ball in play forever. George was faster, stronger and in better condition, through his work in construction, while my sedentary work in dentistry did just the opposite. I, however, was psyched and ready to play my favorite kind of opponent—very competitive and trash talking.

George took the first set handily and I won the second with great effort. As we began the third set, the effects

of the cold, the medicine, and fatigue from work began to take its toll. My head was spinning and my muscles felt like jelly, yet I was still in the match. I can't remember the final score except that it was close before George gradually pulled away to victory. I was pretty close to hospitalization but unable to ask for help—or anything else.

Upon my recovery and more lucid analysis of the event, I realized that I should never play in a singles tournament again as I am just “too dumb to quit.”

Jim Stairiker

Idle Hour Tennis Club was a unique Club in that you could go down the hill and just pick up a match with whoever was on the porch at the time—pre-arranged matches, while prevalent, were not necessary to get a game. Great players of the day were many—most notably Cliff Owen, John Benn, Walter Milbourne, Don Richardson, Ray Morris, and Bobby Lapowski; Kenny Adelberg, Billy Schmucker and Diane Armao were great players, too. A number of other challenging players at that time were Paul Solari, Jordan Fogel, Walter Swank, Bill Peck, Bill Davis, Roy Shaw and his brother, Ed Tatios, Lee McIlvaine, Jack Richardson, George Shapiro, Bobby Fagan, Doc Armao, Chris Armao, Peter Morris and many others I fail to remember. This crowd knew how to play on clay and play well. They taught me how to play both baseline and serve and volley. These two styles were needed when the brown clay was in different stages—smooth, dry and fast, wet and slow, or somewhere in between.

Rolf Stensrud

George Cowdright and I joined Idle Hour in 1973. One of our first matches was with Joe Armao in the men's “A” Doubles tournament. I warmed up with his partner, who later told Joe that we weren't very good! We won the first tournament that year, defeating John Benn and Don Richardson. We won again in 1974. Nineteen years later, Dr. Greg Hillyard and I won the “A” Doubles. It was probably a highlight of my tennis game, being down 5-2 in the second set tiebreaker and winning the next five points. We then won the third set. Don Richardson, Club Pro, told me I had the distinction of having the longest period between tournament wins at 19 years. I am not saying whom we beat in the tournament after being down 5-2 since he is on the Centennial Committee. It's KILLING me! (Editor's note—it was Bob Simons partnered with Charley Morrow). Idle Hour has been such a big part of my life, spending more time there than anywhere else, with great people.

It's a great Club at a fantastic price. Congratulations on 100 years. I thank all those officers and directors who volunteered their time.

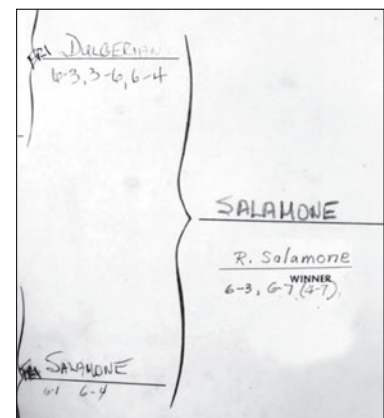
(Rolf passed away earlier this year after almost 40 years as a member.)

Rick Swift

Most of my best friends then and today began as acquaintances on the tennis court. I taught both my children how to play the game knowing it would last them a lifetime. I tell them no matter where they live as adults, they can always find friends on a tennis court, just as I did at Idle Hour.

In spite of my advancing age and weakened body, I will always play

tennis. My respect for the game and the people I met through tennis helped define me and my life. Idle Hour Tennis Club was and continues to be a rare and special place in this world. The Club's only discrimination was that you play the game, and that obviously still applies today. From my first memory of the Club at age six when my mother tossed balls to me on the back courts, I'm proud to have spent much of my youth playing and working at Idle Hour. Congratulations as the Club celebrates 100 years with best wishes for the next 100!



**Ralphie Salamone—
King of the Bs, FINALLY!**



Herman Berg—Our Club President in 1972-73, died peacefully on August 6, 2011. Herman and the Club jointly celebrated a Centennial birthday. In a conversation a few weeks before his death, Herman described his time at Idle Hour as, “some of the best years of my life. I feel like I spent as much time at the Club as I did with my family. My congratulations to all on this significant milestone.”

Joel H. Leeds

For about seven decades, Joel Leeds lived for Idle Hour, doing anything and everything he could to help the Club. We dedicate this page to him and his contributions to Idle Hour's proud history.

Joel's life was Idle Hour. He was there every day. He worked with and trained every person the Club hired to work on the courts. He rolled the courts, mended fences, and fixed the gates when the Club had no money to do it.

After the flood of 1955, the Club did not have any funds to repair the courts. There were six to eight inches of mud on all the courts. All the fences were down. The Clubhouse was a mess. Joel was there every day cleaning up. He made a drag from a large timber with spikes driven through it and used his own car to drag the courts to loosen up the mud.

On the porch Joel was a fountain of information. He would go to the library on the way to the Club and study up on some subject (any subject). When he got on the porch he would tell everyone about it in detail. You had to listen because he would hold onto your arm so you could not leave.

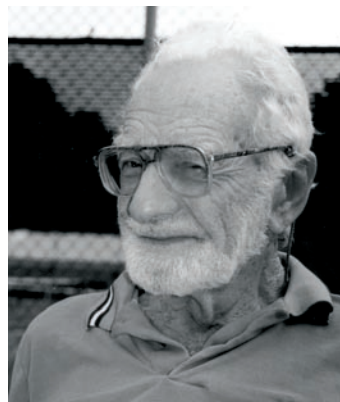
Joel's effort at the Club over the years is the only reason Idle Hour is still here. —**Dick Gillespie**

We all miss Joel. —**Clayton O'Neill**

The most cantankerous man you'll ever meet. Also, the most direct and honest person I've ever known... completely devoted to the Club in a way that shames most of us. A great friend and a boon companion. We will not see his like again. —**Bob Simons**

Jim, on defeating Newt Meade when Jim was 16. "My advisor, consultant, and guru, Joel was in 7th heaven when his 16 year old pupil had spanked Newt who was then the top-ranked player 45 and over in the MSTA. Joel loved nothing more than to see the young guns beat the old guard. Joel helped me not only with my tennis but also with growing up."

—**Jim Stairiker**



Himself



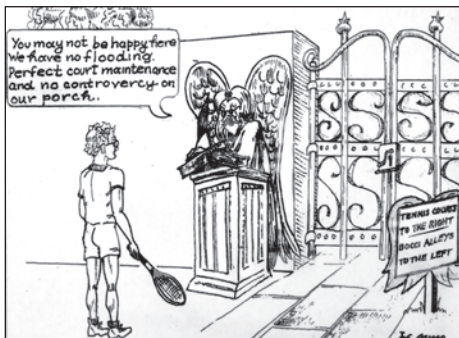
Joel with Dottie Braceland (L) and Margaret McIlvaine (R)



Celebrating his 90th



Dan Longo, Mike Manoogian, Joel, Joe Armao



winter tennis

Dating back to the times when no indoor courts were available in our area, the tennis troops would get very antsy during the winter. Some wanting to play could not endure the cold; others enjoyed the outdoors no matter what the temperature.

And then there was the snow!

No problem for a hardy group of about eight who would pick up a shovel and clear the courts.

Others wanted to play but weren't interested in shoveling. They'd sit in their cars, watch the shovelers finish their work and then show up to play. As you might imagine this didn't (and still doesn't) sit too well with the shovelers and caused many an altercation.

A partial solution was put in place: A sign with a skull and crossed tennis racquets underneath was hung on the net of a cleared court with the following inscription, "This court reserved for shovelers from 3-5 p.m. Enjoy the tennis at other times." And it worked—sometimes.

So, the next time you non-shovelers (you know who you are) show up to play, offer thanks to those who both shovel and serve.

And, a hearty welcome to the shovelers class of 2011, led by Bruce Poland, Charlie Fiore, and Ed Wright.



*Clayt O'Neill—
Man with a Shovel*



The Porch—Winter version



*Rocky Scuibba, Bill Watson, Joe Armao
and Joel Leeds*

The Pro

Don Richardson, by Bob Simons



For more than 30 years the title, “The Pro” meant only one person at the Club. Don as the Club professional, giving lessons and stringing racquets, helped by his wife Joyce, was at the very core of Idle Hour. Like his dad, Jasper, who played and taught at the Club, Don brought to his work a unique blend of athletic skills and a quiet, but exacting, set of standards that set him apart.

It’s difficult to meet anyone from this area who played tennis, or knew anything about tennis, who didn’t recognize and respect Don. The number of players whom he influenced and taught the game he loved still recall him and his teaching gifts fondly. An exceptional player into his early 80s, he won several championships over the years. He was more than a tennis player. He was an all-around athlete, a friend, a teacher, and a tennis executive whose style and elegance on and off the courts marked him as a very special person.

Harry Smaltz, by Dom and Aletha Sciubba



When we think of Harry, two things come to mind: dedication and sweetness. You all can see Harry with his small smile, head in hands, looking out over the courts from the pro shop counter. It was a sweet smile which went along with his penchant for sweets like cream donuts with chocolate icing and jimmies. Behind that sweet smile was the man who managed to keep the courts in magnificent shape day in and day out.

You all must remember seeing Harry digging out the mossy growth along the fence lines, repairing worn spots on the most used courts and, of course, on his hands and bad knees with his hammer and screw driver draining puddles after a big rain; all so that we, the impatient members, could get onto the courts sooner. Harry was so dedicated to Idle Hour that he almost didn’t make it out of the Clubhouse when Hurricane Floyd hit us in 1999. That’s dedication!

Harry was also involved in the celebrity life during his term as Pro from 1983 to 2005. He regularly played tennis with Gene Shue, then head coach of the 76ers, as well as the Reverend William Gray, congressman at the time. Of course, Harry low-keyed all of this. Harry never caused an issue and with a smile let things go by, which endeared him to just about everyone in the Club. He was good to all the young people who worked for him in the pro shop and court crew, and in turn, he had great loyalty from them. And speaking of dedication, Harry was on the job as he silently, without a lot of fuss, left this world in the Idle Hour driveway. Some of us remember our tennis game being interrupted by Walt Kaminski giving us this sad news. We stopped for a moment and said silent prayers for his immortal soul, and then continued our games as he would have wanted.

Dennis Olenik, *by Jack Higgins*

For more than 25 years (the last six at Idle Hour) Dennis has served as a Tennis Director/Coach with several local organizations. He also worked as an Assistant Tennis Pro in both Boynton Beach and West Palm Beach, Florida.

Jack Higgins describes how Dennis became affiliated with Idle Hour: “Four weeks after the third flood in eight months deposited a foot of water in our newly carpeted Clubhouse, unexpectedly, and very sadly, Idle Hour’s Board was faced with an even greater challenge... finding a replacement for Harry Smaltz, our Director of Tennis for 22 years, who passed away on Club property on May 2, 2005.

Early May is considered the beginning of our prime tennis season, so Suzi Paulin, our President, immediately formed a search committee to fill Harry’s position. The committee, composed of Joe Beller, Jack Higgins, Jean Raum, Marvin Rosner, Carol (Silberman) Wenner and Dick Wenner, was charged with filling Harry’s position as soon as possible.

The committee quickly agreed that the top priority was finding someone with the experience and skills to properly maintain our Har-Tru courts. All other candidate attributes were secondary. Several approaches were considered. One idea was to divide Harry’s former role into two separate functions: a Tennis Pro to oversee all tennis related activities, and a Facilities Manager to oversee the support of all Club property, with maintenance of our Har-Tru courts being the primary function.

For various reasons, locating the right individuals for the two positions didn’t happen within the expected time frame. Consequently, the committee re-directed its forces to selecting and recruiting a tennis professional experienced in maintaining Har-Tru courts. Eight individuals applied for the position. Most applicants had no meaningful Har-Tru maintenance experience. After interviewing the final four candidates, the committee selected Dennis Olenik, our current Director of Tennis, as its choice for recommendation, and Dennis was hired effective June 1, 2005.

Dennis’ past Har-Tru maintenance experience enabled him to quickly adapt to Idle Hour’s methods and expectations. In addition to the skills and commitment Dennis brought to Idle Hour, our Club has benefited immensely from the presence and services of his spouse, Zdenka. Together, and along with our darling little mascot, Emma, the Oleniks make a great team... a team that would be very difficult to replace. Hopefully, our Club won’t have to deal with that issue for many years.



The Olenik family

The Achievers

Idle Hour's name and fame have extended beyond the Club's confines. We have had many players whose skills and accomplishments have been seen and appreciated in many tennis venues. Here are *some* of them and *some* of their achievements:



Diane Armao

Tennis scholarship, University of Miami Women's team ranked #4 in U.S., 1978
Ranked #2 in Middle States Junior Girls: 12s, 14s, 16s, 18s
Ranked #33 in USTA National Girls, 18 and under
Head Coach Women's Tennis, Florida International University, 1979-81



John Benn

A member of IHTC for more than 50 years, John won the "A" singles 5 times over a 18 year span, and was the oldest player (56) to be an "A" champion
Winner in 2001 of a World Championship with partner Charles Roe in the 80s Grass Court Competition
A National Champion on both clay and grass in the 70s, 80s, and 85s age classes
Winner, with daughter Betsy Woodrow, in the Father/Daughter National 80s Competition in 2007
Still playing regularly at 91



Josh Cohen

Outstanding record in the Juniors in every age group
Made the round of 16 in the U.S. Open Junior Singles
Quarter finalist in the French Open Junior Doubles
Winningest player in the University of Miami's Tennis history
He earned All-American honors in Doubles
Currently assistant coach at Penn



Julia Cohen

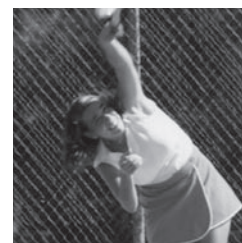
At age 9 won the Little Mo National Championship
at age 14, ranked as one of the top 15
Juniors in the world
With her father, Richie, won three consecutive
National Senior titles in 2007-09
Won a qualifying match in the 2011 French Open



Richie Cohen—In 2007, Richie Cohen won consecutive National Father/Son and Father/Daughter titles in the Senior Clay Courts Competition... the first time in USTA history that this has been accomplished.

Shirlee Hurst D'Ambrosia

IHTC Ladies Champion, 1975-76
Varsity tennis at West Chester University
2 National USTA Championships at 4.5 level



Mike Green

Played at IHTC as a Junior
Member of UCLA's 1956 NCAA Champions
Played Davis Cup for U.S.
Had career wins over Rod Laver and Roy Emerson



Jim Lipschutz

"2 more serves, some overhands, and a few volleys and I'm almost ready!"
In the 1980s and 1990s, Jim played on several Middle States Teams in the
National 4.5 competitions in California and Arizona
Ranked #1 in Singles and Doubles competition in
Middle States in the 50-65 age groups
In 1997, won 2 Silver Medals in the Maccabi Games in Israel
"Now, maybe just a few more to my backhand."



Neil Lucera

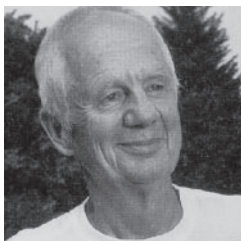
Outstanding Junior player in Philadelphia area and Pennsylvania in mid 1950s
Middle States Boys Championship, Singles and Doubles and
Middle States Juniors, 18 and under, Singles and Doubles
Pennsylvania Boys (15 and under) and Juniors (18 and under)
Champion, Singles and Doubles
Played #1 for Temple University (1958-1961)



Ray Morris

PIAA Doubles Champion in 1942
4 time "A" Singles Champion at IHTC
Played #2 Singles to Vic Seixas at the University of North Carolina
Played regularly and competitively against Gardner Mulloy
who was #1 in the World in 1952





Mike Mullan

PIAA Singles Champion, 1966-1967
 Ranked #1 Junior in Middle States
 3-time IHTC "A" Singles Champion
 Played #2 Singles and #1 Doubles at the University of California at Berkeley, 1968-1971
 Played in the main draw of the U.S. Open and regularly against Jimmy Connors, Roscoe Tanner, and other greats
 Swarthmore College coach for more than 30 years,
 produced 52 Division III All-Americans



Josh Raff

Youngest "A" Singles Champion (14½ years old) in Club history
 Playing for The Haverford School, was undefeated from 9th grade on
 Inter-AC Champion, All Main Line, All Delco
 Voted *Delaware County Daily Times* Player of the Year (2003)
Sports Illustrated "Faces in the Crowd" honor, June 23, 2003
 4 years Varsity at Cornell; #1 Doubles all 4 years and all Ivy League his last 3 years,
 MVP sophomore year; best Doubles record Cornell history junior year;
 Captain and #1 and #2 Singles senior year



Audrey Reinsel

Winner of 15 "A" Singles Championships at IHTC, more than any other individual
 Winner of many tournaments in Philadelphia Area Tennis District, Middle States Competition, and in Cape May
 PATD #1 in 35s in 1999; #1 in 35s and 45s in 2007 and 2009
 Middle States, #1 in 45s in 2009



Don Richardson

"The Pro" at the Club for over 30 years
 Winner of New England Intercollegiate Tennis Championship
 Winner of Bermuda Tennis Championship
 Coached The Haverford School to District titles more than 14 times
 Served as President of Middle States Professional Tennis Association
 Always in upper ranks of Eastern States 45s and 55s age brackets
 National Senior Doubles Champion

Eric Rosenfeld

Outstanding player in the area as a Junior
4 years Varsity player at Stanford (1983-1986)

In the words of his college coach, Dick Gould, Eric was a 4 year starter at Stanford, and was one of the gutsiest performers I ever had the pleasure to coach. Although he was never our #1 player, I could always count on him for maximum preparation, effort and almost a "sure" win! His performance led to NCAA team Championships in his freshman year-1983 (a team which had five freshman in its top seven, and which absolutely stuns the tennis world with its victory, thanks largely to Eric). He had one of the biggest competitive "Hearts" I have ever had the pleasure of coaching, and was an outstanding young man off the court as well.

Gould's teams won 17 NCAA Division I Tennis Championships



Bob Swift

Won the 1962 PIAA Doubles Championship
#1 Singles at Haverford College for 4 years

Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) finalist in 1966;

Semi-Finalist, Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference (ECAC), in 1967

Major role in the formation of Arthur Ashe Tennis Center

Recipient of the International Tennis Association (ITA) 2010 achievement award



Rick Swift

PIAA Singles Champion in 1970

4 years Varsity at University of Virginia, captain in junior and senior years

Teaching pro at Greenwich Country Club in Connecticut

In 1983 Rick and his wife won a National Husband and Wife Tournament

Part of a group that helped grow University of Virginia's tennis program into one of the top programs in NCAA Division I



Andy Yates

Late starter, began tennis play at the age of 40

Consistently ranked among the top players in all Senior age competitions

One of the top Middle States player in the 70s bracket for 4 years

Finalist in National 70s tournament in West Virginia

Winner of three 75s tournaments this year, including the 2011 Cliff Owen
Tournament at Idle Hour



The Floods

An update

Don't underestimate the power of floods: six inches of fast moving water can knock you down; two feet of water can float most cars away—our Club's roller and Harry Smaltz's car prove that point.

Just as Noah at least got some advance warning, maybe we should have paid attention when our property got its first flood in 1928, the year before we opened at our current location. Elsewhere in this history you can read of earlier floods, but our major floods in 1999 and 2010 (with several smaller floods in between) confronted the Club with significant challenges.

In 1999 it was Floyd! Dan Longo and Dick Gillespie led our efforts, assisted by many members, to repair and refurbish our courts, fencing, and Club-house. For our most recent flood last year, it was Carol Wenner who served as our point person and directed the entire effort hiring and overseeing a full team of contractors. In both cases, we showed that Idle Hour has a can-do, will-do membership.

In both 1999 and 2010, we had our four hard courts available for play within a week of the floods—and all work completed in time for the spring season.



Hurricane Irene, August 2011

Dick Gillespie and Dan Longo



Carol Wenner

Maintenance & Beautification

Two areas that we take for granted at Idle Hour are our grounds and facilities. We're able to enjoy and use them because of the efforts of a body of hardworking and conscientious employees and volunteers. From the days of our one man crew of Dad Hanson to today's team, we're grateful for all they contribute to the Club and its environment—from Walt and Harry and Joe to our Beautification Committee volunteers and the young people who help with the courts and pro shop duties. Next time you see them, give them a well-deserved, "Thank You."



Centennial Ground Crew and Pro Shop workers



*Dick Pickett
1970s-1980s*



*Lynn Grace and Jim Burke
Our Centennial Beautification Committee*



Harry Postles and Walt Kaminski



Allie Hess



Angel DeAngelis, Carol Wenner, Carol Mattheiss



*Joe McKenzie
Night man extraordinaire*

Since 1971...

a pictorial look-back at the last 40 years



Debbie McGuinness Benedict



John "Where's the Rest of Me" Parke



*Paul Painten—
Chair, IHTC Centennial Committee*



1998 Interclub Grass Court Champions



Mixed Doubles, 1972



Centennial Mixed Doubles—August 2011



The Ladies of Idle Hour



Meredyth Graham and Wilma Behl



"Happiness at the Net"



*Ken Adelberg (1982-83)
and Marc Adelberg (2006)
are the only father/son to win
"A" Singles Championships at
the Club.*

More Ladies of Idle Hour



Harold Haft and his daughter Adele

In Memory Of...

Ed Behl, Harry Coslett, and Norm Rubin
—Dom Sciubba

Wilma Behl, Leslie Joachim, Margaret McIlvaine, Hilda Savar, Bonnie Webb, Ed Behl, Frank Braceland, Joel Leeds, Frank Lombardo, Charley Morrow, Jack Rich, Don Richardson, Al Saluti, and Rolf Stensrud

—Eileen and Bob Simons

Harriet Bernstein —Bernie Bernstein

Annette J. Brenner - My Friend, My Colleague, My Tennis Partner, My Tennis Opponent. She very much enjoyed her too brief time as a member of Idle Hour Tennis Club. —Nikki Marx

Pete Colyvas —Mark and Bonnie Cochard

David Crouse —Carol Crouse
—Ron McMullen

Sabatino DiMascio —Rose DiMascio

Family and Friends
—Jeanie Wechsler Ginsberg

June Isaacson —Dr. Howard Isaacson

Natalie Isenberg —Stan Isenberg

Joel Leeds —Joe and Lynn Armao
—Charlie Fiore

Joel Leeds and Margaret McIlvaine
—Elaine Farashian

Joel Leeds, Al Saluti, and Rolf Stensrud
—Dick Gillespie

Don Richardson and Harry Smaltz
—Carol and Steve Solotoff

Hilda Savar—You couldn't be with a nicer person on court than Hilda—as a partner or an opponent. We had thirty plus years of great tennis times, even when we played mixed doubles with our husbands!
—Doris Coppock

Rolf Stensrud - Rolf, Top Seed
—Bill Kupprion and Neen

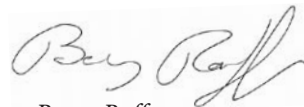
Final Thoughts

When I first volunteered to help with the Centennial history book, I e-mailed Centennial Chair Paul Painten and asked him, "When and where is the committee first going to meet?" His response was, "Barry, there is no committee. You are it." Gulp! That fortunately did not last very long. Shortly after interviewing Bob Simons and Joe Armao and taking some pictures, the committee was quickly formed of two writers (Bob and me) and two photographers (Paul Cohen and Charlie Fiore).

I know for Bob this was truly, as the cliché goes, "a labor of love." I would not go so far as to characterize my own labors in such terms. Reading through over 40 years of monthly Board meetings, minutes, and letters was, in fact, however, more interesting than I would have expected. It has given me a new appreciation of the hard work our volunteer Board members have done over the years and familiarized me with the evolution of the Club from its rudimentary beginnings to its current complex operation.

The flood plain has certainly been a mixed blessing. The downside is obvious but, in fact, the moisture helps create the excellence of the Har-Tru courts that we have enjoyed these many years. In addition, the Club members are never more unified than after a flood. The common goal, often in the face of extremely difficult conditions, is a rapid return to playing tennis. Incredibly enough, this is usually achieved within several days to, at most, weeks.

It is almost enough to make me want to do this again in another 100 years. Congratulations Idle Hour Tennis Club on your first 100 years! With our excellent leadership, there is no reason to think that we will not continue to prosper for many hundreds more.



Barry Raff

September 16, 2011

Trivia Quiz Answers (quiz on page 23)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. 1911 | 9. Josh Raff – 14 1/2 years old (1999) |
| 2. Aaron Burtis (1880-1957) – Served as President (according to the "Early History") from 1918-27 and 1929-39 and then as "Honorary President" until his death in 1957 | 10. Louis Kruger (President, 1944-46)
John Benn (President, 1964-65)
Walter Milbourne (President, 1968-1969) |
| 3. "Dad" Hanson | 11. Joel Leeds – "Mr. Idle Hour" – Served at least 68 years to more than 75 years (depending on your source). |
| 4. Dick Gillespie – 60 years (since 1951) | 12. Men – 4:
Lou Kruger (10)
Joe Ferrigno (8)
Walter Milbourne (7)
John Benn (5) |
| 5. 1928 | Women – 1:
Audrey Reinsel (15) |
| 6. Don Richardson – served 30 years (from 1948-78) (died in 2009) | |
| 7. Men – Lou Kruger – 10
Women – Audrey Reinsel – 15 | |
| 8. Doris Coppock (2000-01)
Suzi Paulin (2004-05) | |

For those of you who did not obtain a score of at least 75%, your assignment (punishment?) is to re-read this book in its entirety.

Acknowledgments

This may be the most difficult page of all because, by itself, it could go on for at least five times the length for which we have space. Let me start with the Idle Hour Board members who granted us a vote of confidence to proceed with this history book at the May 2011 meeting. Hopefully, our efforts and the end results will have justified your faith.

Members of our wonderful sister Club, the Cynwyd Club, need to be specially mentioned. My long standing friend, Sandy Harrison, was instrumental in procuring the Cynwyd Club sponsorship, as well as that of several other area tennis clubs including Radnor Racquet Club. He was also an excellent general sounding board and extra proofreader. Also at the Cynwyd Club, appreciation goes out to Newt Meade, Middle States Hall of Fame tennis player and all around classic "great guy." He unselfishly devoted two hours of his time to an interview process, providing great memories of his interaction with Idle Hour players of old, especially the Betson brothers and John Benn, one of only three Idle Hour players to have been a Club President and Club Champion.

Special thanks also to John Scherf, Vice President at the Delaware County Memorial Hospital, who so generously gave his support to our project. More thanks to Julian Krinsky, as well as Greg Ranieri of the Bryn Mawr Racquet Club. In fact, all sponsors and advertisers, whether individuals or businesses/corporations, have our sincere appreciation and thanks.

Several individuals need to be singled out for their contributions to our Centennial birthday. Among them are our wonderful photographers Paul Cohen and Charlie Fiore. A big thank you also goes out to Barb Bosha whose discounted labor and expertise enabled us to become financially feasible. (Bob Simons and I heard that she can't wait for us to all work on the five year update together in 2016). A major thanks to my secretary, Judy Barlow, whose numerous hours of dedicated typing enabled this book to be completed on time. Patricia Prestel, grammarian extraordinaire, can not be praised enough.

Those members (present and past) who searched their memories (and their attics) to provide us with their thoughts and pictures for this Centennial history are to be specially commended as well.

Finally, but not least, Bob Simons. His persistence, diligence, organizational skills, access to numerous members and events of old and recent, supplemented by his clear love of the Idle Hour Tennis Club, were evident throughout, and this book simply could not have been written without him.

Thanks for all the great times...

Maura Aliano
 Jim Boerckel
 Dennis Brandt
 Patrick Branin
 Karl Buehler
 Bob Caughey
 Paul Cohen
 Angelina DeAngelis
 Dave Delman
 Lee Everett
 Don Evons
 George and Jackie Goldstone
 Nevie Hebding
 Dave Hill
 Harold Jackson
 Shel Jelin
 Sev and Lidia Kohutiak
 Steve Kuhn
 Bill Kupprion and Neen
 Alan Levitt
 Jules Merron
 Connie Meth and Joy Effron
 Harry Pogach
 Mary Ann Rich
 Jay Ross
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 Norm Salvat
 Maryrose Sheppard
 Ronnie Sidebottom
 Bob and Eileen Simons
 Alan and Libbie Soffer
 Steve Solotoff
 Jim and Joan Stanton
 Lou Troilo

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"In our relatively short time here, we have come to understand that Idle Hour Tennis Club is composed of very diverse groups of people that take pride in their club. Throughout the years we have made many new friends and for that we are grateful. We are proud to call Idle Hour Tennis Club our home."

Thank you!

Dennis, Zdenka, Mike, Matt and Emma Olenik

A 3D bar chart graphic with three bars of increasing height, rendered in white with black outlines, set against a dark background with a faint floral pattern.

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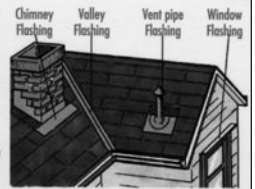
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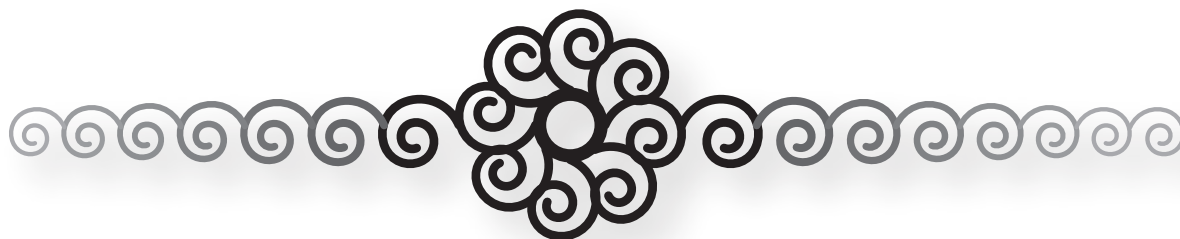
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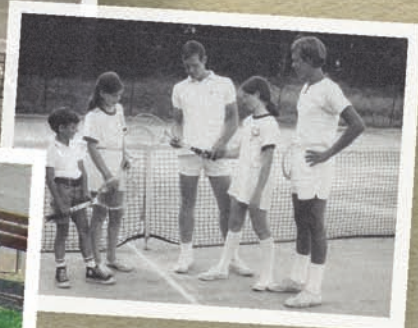
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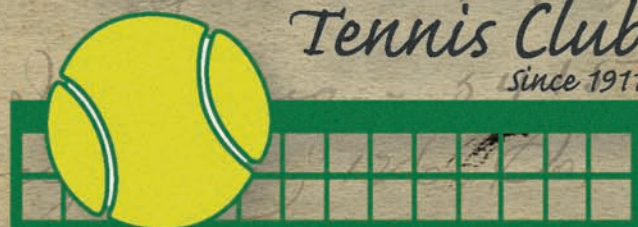
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