



What's the Racquet?

INFO ON EVENTS, PLAYERS, AND OVERALL FUN STUFF HAPPENING AT ROGER SCOTT

G'DAY MATES!

Happy New Year! I hope you all bundled up and enjoyed the record-breaking cold holidays with your family and friends. I know some of you were for sure on the naughty list, but we are on to 2023 and we all get a clean slate!

HOUSEKEEPING/CONSTRUCTION

Well, I feel like I've put this section in the newsletter for about ten years with not much to show for it. I THINK this time it's happening.....The most recent bid to redo the lower 12 hard courts came back at a good price. As I write this, construction is set to begin February 10th. Obviously, this is construction and things can and will change, I'm sure. I will keep you all updated as we move forward.

This project will obviously have a major impact on leagues, social play, clinics, tournaments, etc. If things do start on Feb 10th, ALL ladies league matches would need to be played on clay courts. We will do a 10-point tiebreaker for the third set and stagger the matches. It is the only way we could possibly have a league this year. This is the same format that all adult USTA leagues use. If construction starts later, we will utilize the hard courts until the last day.

Megan Frederick with the USTA and Robin Olsson with Under the Hill are aware of the court situations and are in constant contact about how we will proceed moving forward.

Canceling Courts – Now more than ever it will be very important to cancel your courts if you are not using them. If you are a multiple offender in this matter, we will remove your privileges to book courts. It is simply not fair to people who want to play and cannot book a court, and then the court sits empty. Just a little communication is all we are asking for.

Please don't forget to swipe-in at the front desk upon arrival whether you are playing or not. All you people that sneak through the gates.... you are hurting our numbers we turn into the city!

We just have to remind ourselves it is a short-term struggle, for a long-term gain!

WINNERS

GPLTL – Open - Gonzalez (yes, we are taking credit – they take lessons here!) Flight 2 – Team French took the crown after knocking at the door a few seasons! Flight 3 – Team Haigler won as a brand-new team! Flight 8 – Team Lawrence will be taking their talents to Flight 7! CONGRATS TO ALL OF YOU! And a big thanks to all of you for playing and making it another incredible season.

Under the Hill – Team Haigler walked away victorious while Team Whittenberger came up just shy in a tight race. I saw both of these teams at the banquet, and they were stuffing their faces with eggrolls, General Tso's chicken and fried wontons – so I can guarantee it will be wide open race next season!! Again, thank you for your support and congratulations to the champs!

PRO SHOP

We are now the biggest provider for tennis shoes in the Panhandle! Disclaimer, I have no idea if that's true, but it sounds amazing! We have over 190 pairs, so hopefully we have something for you all! We will continue to give member 25% off all clothing for the month of January – Keep the Christmas spirit going!

TOURNAMENTS

Super Bowl Shuffle - 2/11 at noon – This football themed one-day event is for men only, sorry ladies! It is \$30 for members and \$40 for non-members, which includes food and drink. Please get in touch with Patrick (Gulfcoasttennisgroup@gmail.com) if you'd like to play. Sixty spots available.

USTA Adult L5 – Play the Clay – February 24-26th – This tournament is age based and will bring players from all around the country. It is geared for intermediate to advanced players. Sign-up is online through the USTA's website.

St. Paddy's Day Tourney – March 11-12th – Clay court tournament where you will be grouped according to level. Wear your green, drink a cold gold, and have some FUN! We will open registration mid-February.

GRATEFUL

As we set sail on 2023 I just want to thank our amazing staff for an incredible year. The amount of work that goes into Roger Scott is really hard to comprehend until you get in the trenches. Like Debbie says – She's a bartender, weatherman, fashionista, string guru, and vending machine connoisseur! I would put our staff up against any in the country, and I mean it!

Our team had to power through the tragic loss of our friend and colleague, Terry Thrash. He left quite the positive impact with his soft-spoken demeanor, kind heart, and caring personality. Tennis was the avenue that brought most of us together with him, but we will all remember him for his big grin, deep laugh, love for music, rum/pineapple drink, and insane knowledge of grass/trees! Even Terry helped keep my grass alive for 4 months – which was a record for any Sakey in history! He was in such a great spot with his lovely wife, Lisa, and she will remain a member of our Roger Scott family forever. Thank you all for your love and support during this difficult time. He made the most of his time here and left a long-lasting legacy!

Gone, but NEVER forgotten mate!

Brock