

INSIDE THE LINES

The Quarterly MTC Newsletter

MTC President's Message

MTC President: Jody Osterweil

Greetings everyone! Welcome to the inaugural issue of "[Inside The Lines](#)" the MTC Quarterly Newsletter. We hope to regularly entertain, inform you and solicit your input as to the various doings around the greatest tennis club in Marin!!

I think the club looks in the best shape it's been in a long time. Court and clubhouse refurbishment is largely complete. House & Grounds is working on a long-term, comprehensive plan, including a fully designed layout for the pool area exercise facility, a secure entry portal, a member barbeque/dining/social spot that won't have to compete with the commercial kitchen and fully accessible grounds.

This is an ambitious program and will undoubtedly take some time to complete. Our goal is to avoid one-off solutions and stick to a long-term plan that reflects the vision of some very talented people to keep our facility attractive and functional for many years to come.

In the spirit of [Labor Day](#) I'd like to extend a huge note of recognition and thanks to Staff! For the last couple of years, through the pandemic and its myriad gyrations, Staff have done a marvelous and often herculean job in keeping the club open, operable, and hospitable. It's no secret that lately we've been shorthanded and frankly, we have not had much success finding competent replacement people who want to work, despite what a great atmosphere this is. So, to Chris, Elmira, William, Jose, Filemon, Fardous, Hailey, Oliver and all of our support staff...**THANK YOU for a job well done!**

MTC CORE VALUES

**Joy of Tennis
Friendships
Community
Competition**





“

I'd also like to thank “the kids” for being terrific summer help and giving me faith that there are still great young people who enjoy being upbeat and helpful...

– Jody Osterweil
MTC PRESIDENT



I'd also like to thank “the kids” for being terrific summer help and giving me faith that there are still great young people who enjoy being upbeat and helpful...best of luck to JP Tuttle who just entered the University of Oregon...and Julian Ahearn who'll be matriculating to USD in January (with a bit of a sojourn “Down Under” in between).

Speaking of Staff, we want to warmly welcome our newest employees in the Racquets Department, headed by Anton Stryhas. Sam and Cristina will continue under the new program. Unfortunately, despite our best efforts to retain the remaining teaching core, they have chosen to go in different directions. We thank them for having been a great part of the MTC community and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

The revised calendar of clinics has just been published. If you've not met or taken a lesson with Anton, I urge you to do so soon. Feedback on his teaching style has been great and we are just beginning to revamp and revitalize a broad teaching program that will ultimately offer something for all the constituents at the club, including our growing junior population...and will be involved in revitalizing our social tennis events, particularly for those of you who aren't participant's in organized outside competitive tennis.

As you've undoubtedly heard, we needed to postpone [Calcutta](#) for a couple of weeks, and it's now being held the weekend of October 29th and 30th. As happens with any change in the events calendar, we unfortunately have displaced a few people who have made unchangeable plans for those dates. I truly apologize... I know that Calcutta is an event that is near and dear to many...and we did consider alternatives like reducing the number of entrants or teams. Ultimately, we decided that changing the dates will cause the least disruption and will allow us to have the kind of fun and competitive weekend that is the hallmark of the tournament.



We have a very dedicated core of those who serve as team captains, volunteers who serve/chair on our committees and on the Board.

WITHOUT THESE FOLKS THE CLUB CEASES TO FUNCTION.



We have a lot of newer members...that's a great thing! We have many, many long-time members with lots and lots of institutional knowledge and experience. And we have a very dedicated core of those who serve as team captains, volunteer for jobs like holiday decorating, serve/chair on our committees and serve on the Board. Without these folks the club ceases to function.

But let's face it...some of this work isn't exactly glamorous and the pay isn't great either! And it's not too difficult to see why there are those "regulars" who are getting a bit tired of carrying that burden. So, I am asking that if you haven't ever been involved or it's been a while then please consider getting into helping shape our governance. We need fresh blood, new ideas and energy! It's also a great way for you to meet and work alongside others you may only know peripherally or not at all.

It's with great sorrow that I note Ted Smith's passing at age 97. He was a marvelous, energetic member of MTC that lived a rich and happy life. I had him on a Calcutta team I captained several years ago. We should all be so lucky. Ted devoted his time to a charity he founded called Kids Cooking for Life. We are planning to recognize Ted by naming this year's Calcutta the Ted Smith Memorial...and by organizing a campaign to make a significant donation to KCL in his honor. A few of our members (who wish to be anonymous) are planning to match a very healthy percentage of the total Calcutta auction pool...and we'll be working on a GoFundMe site for our members to make pledges to help support that donation to The Ted Smith Legacy Fund. More on that to follow shortly.

Lastly, The Board just held its annual offsite retreat where we discussed our long-term view of the Club's mission and direction. Our Vision is to be the Premier tennis club in Marin for all our Members.

Our Core Club Values

Joy of Tennis, Friendships, Community, Competition

Strategy (1-3 Years)

- Attract and retain members for extended periods
- Proactively invest in value-add tennis facilities/amenities and maintain Club grounds
- Build robust tennis programs to develop member skills and promote enjoyment of the game
- Efficiently run club operations that promote a safe environment and positive member experience
- Develop a sustainable long-term financial plan that supports Club priorities and investment plans
- Create environmental sustainability and promote community involvement.

We are trying to set some blueprints in place for succeeding Boards to adapt and follow, rather than constantly reinvent the wheel...it's a work in progress... but a worthwhile one!!

Be well, see you on the Courts!!

—Jody



Welcome to the first of many New MTC Quarterly Newsletters! With all the exciting things happening at the club, this will be a great tool to keep the membership abreast of the latest and greatest from your Board to your Management team to your committees. This first edition has provided a platform for your Board and committees to introduce themselves and give you an idea of what their purpose is and what they are currently working on. Don't hesitate to reach out to any of our committee chairs or President if you would like more information or how you can get involved. MTC is built on the strength of our volunteers which currently exceeds over 50 with our Board of Directors and committee members!

Couple of quick updates from an operational perspective:

- **STAFF:** I am happy to say that MTC is in one of our strongest positions when it comes to our staff since I became GM in 2017. Lead by your management team: Elmira Dean, Business Manager, William Re, Operations Manager, Filemon Valverde, Director of Maintenance, Anton Styhas, Director of Tennis and Fardous Ahmed and Alesia Charles, Managers on Duty. Your maintenance and janitorial crew that work effortlessly to keep MTC in top shape: Jose Sibrian, Leticia Mora and Darrell Eastman. Our guest services support team: Haley Schmitt, Oliver Demmert-Shelfo and Julian Ahearn.
- **Membership:** MTC continues to grow and add new members. There always seems to be a new prospect waiting in the wings when a membership becomes available, so we continue to maintain capacity! Great to see so many young families joining with juniors to feed our new tennis programs! If you know of anyone who may be interested in joining MTC, have them contact me so they can get on the waitlist. It won't be long till it may take months before a membership becomes available!
- **Suggestions and Feedback:** The management team at MTC is always open to suggestions and feedback from our members. If you have an idea on ways to enhance and add value to the MTC membership I can't wait to hear it! We will do our best to implement your suggestions and improve your MTC experience!

There is much in store for the remaining of 2022 so be sure to take part and participate. If you haven't tried a clinic or lesson from our new tennis department you are missing out. This is the future and foundation for MTC tennis for many years to come! See you on the courts everybody!

—Chris



MTC General Manager's Corner

CHRIS HORNE



MTC Finance Committee Update

STUART KEIRLE



MTC Finance Committee Team

Chair: Stuart Keirle

Members: Frank Battatt, Terry Cush, Ron Stolowitz,
Peggy Hodel, David Wilson, Vlad Matyurin

Members have many years of experience with MTC serving on this and other committees, as well as being Board Members including holding the positions of President, Vice President, and Treasurer. If we added up everyone's time served for MTC this would be well over 50 years.

As per the By Laws of the club the Finance Committee monitors the financial condition of the club and is responsible for the preparation of the Annual Budget. The Finance Committee also reviews monthly the club's accounting reports and from time to time will provide input to the Board on major capital expenditures with their recommendations on how such expenditures should be financed.

The Annual Budget is prepared working closely with the Club manager and outside bookkeeper. Input for the Budget is supplied from the House and Grounds Committee, our new Tennis Director, and the Board. To review and improve this process and obtain a fresh perspective we have recently formed a subcommittee of newer Finance Committee members, our Treasurer, and the Club Manager. It is our goal to have the 2023 Budget completed and approved by the Board by year end.

The Committee meets monthly, reviewing the prior months results and submitting a written report to the Board prior to their monthly meeting.

-Stuart



MTC Membership Committee Update



FRANCIE BURKHARD & THOMAS CHANG
Co-Chairs

MTC Membership Committee Team

Co-Chairs: Francie Burkhard & Thomas Chang

Members: Bee Tan, Liz Tabussi, Derek Boorse, Kevin Dufficy, George Jackson, Whitney Johnson, Patti Lee, Jennifer Merrill-Palethorpe, Kristin Morrell, Tracey Porter

The goal and purpose of the Membership Committee is to recruit, integrate and retain members at our club. We recruit through marketing efforts and by inviting players to the club as guests. Often our reputation precedes us as the premier club to play at in Marin. This attracts every level of player, and it is common for us to host guests at round robin events with BBQ's to follow, which allows for competitive tennis and fun social time on the patio afterwards.

We have added MTC merchandise including sweatshirts, visors, trucker hats and we are about to introduce a beanie for the winter. Also, we have significantly increased our Instagram presence, both intended to highlight our pride in our club and market to the larger tennis community. We've increased our Instagram followers to over 200 and have almost 200 posts.

We focus a lot of time and attention on our Ambassador Program, which was instituted formally when we took over as Chairs over two years ago. Since August of 2020 we have welcomed over 100 new members through the Ambassador Program, which has been overwhelmingly successful. In addition, we hold new members round robin events with a social hour that follows on a bi-monthly basis. These events have been very successful, and we have had as many as 5 courts of players.

The membership committee is asked to oversee membership categories and weigh in on important policies and procedures that impact members. We are currently working on updating and revising our guest policy and membership categories, which will be presented to the Board for approval.

—Francie & Thomas



GERVAIS TOMPKIN
Architect



REINHARD LUDKE
Structural Engineer

MTC House and Grounds Committee Update

Hi everyone! This is a summary of the HG's work this past year. Please pass on any ideas or comments that you have about these efforts to the HG committee. Here is a link to a slide deck with images of a few of the special project design ideas: [H&G SLIDE DECK](#)

MTC House and Grounds Team

Co-Chairs: Reinhard Ludke – Structural Engineer,
Gervais Tompkin – Architect
Team Members: Jason Holmes, Katharine Fisher, Marty Marks,
Jennifer Myers, Betty Roth, Douglas Ferrarelli
Guest Experts: Jeff Kent & Stacy Nimmo

Top Priority

Our primary objective is to provide excellent on court conditions, and to focus on any other issues that would affect the tennis playing experience. Accordingly, the largest expenditures during this last year have been court upgrades and repairs:

- Upgrading courts 5, 6, 7, 10, 11 & 12 to a plexi-cushion surface
- Replacement of timber posts and beams
- Removal of a long hedge whose roots were damaging the court surface
- Subsurface investigations of courts 1, 2, 3 and 4
- Addition of a windscreen between courts 4 and 5
- On the Horizon: A solution to the challenge of losing balls over the northside fence

Maintaining the Club

HG provides review and consultation for club maintenance, repairs and upgrades:

- Locker room repairs and upgrades
- Landscaping improvements and planters
- Painting
- New furniture and umbrellas
- Clubhouse upgrades

There are a few maintenance projects that we will need to focus on in the near future.

Emergency Lighting

A few power outages occurred in the evening this year while members were enjoying post-tennis activities. It was pitch black on the front patio and in the locker rooms. We will be adding some battery-operated emergency lights. Thanks to William for bringing this to our attention.



Electrical Capacity

The extension cords that are strung along fences and beams are a work around strategy for a lack of electrical outlets and circuit capacity. We have reached our electric power service, subpanels, and circuit capacities and will need an electrical contractor's review and recommendations to understand what we need to do.

Walkways Along Courts 1 and 2

Settlement and cracking have occurred. We will budget and repair this ASAP.

Improving the Member Experience

There are a number of new 'special projects' that we've taken on this year. The goal of these projects has been to understand which changes to the club would improve the club member experience...a five-year vision for our wonderful property. The key challenge is to ensure that we are spending money on things that you all want and to align budgets with club/member priorities. The following list is organized by the priority. If you have opinions that the prioritization should be different, we'd love to hear from you.

A five-year Masterplan. Reason: To forecast and budget for our future.

- We are working with Studio Green (San Anselmo based Landscape Architecture firm) to create an updated site plan showing all the improvements we would like to make over time. Due by end of October.
- Work with Studio Green to develop the site improvement ideas to the point they can be priced/budgeted for. This helps us understand what we can afford to do when. Due by end of October.

Tennis Director Office. Reason: We hired Anton!

- Repainting, new flooring and furniture. Almost done, need to add AC

Access Control Gate. Reason: automates club members registration and club security

- A secured, video monitored gateway along the entry pathway

Entry Beautification. Reason: Old peeling sign and low curb appeal.

- A vine covered shade trellis, new signage, with a bench at front parking lot entrance.

Pool Area Improvements. Three reasons: It is the largest, underutilized area of our site. It is a very popular area for families. An opportunity to expand opportunities for court viewing, socializing and exercise.

- Due to costs this will be a multiphase project.
- Phase 1: Redo the fence enclosure and remove storage sheds in order to open up more area around the pool. Upgrade the newly accessible landscaped area
- Phase 2 & 3: Upgrade the pool building and add a covered, enclosed, weather protected trellis structure overlooking courts 10, 11 and 12, suitable for both pool activities as well as tennis warm up activities like exercise and stretching.

Accessible Pathway. Reason: To make more of the club accessible.

- Currently the pool area and entire back portion of the club are not accessible. A pathway leading from the east side parking lot gateway to the northside of Court 1 would solve this problem.

Lazy Acres Upgrade (area behind Ct. 1). Reason: The second largest underutilized area

- Provide a shaded area and furniture to allow club member gatherings, BBQ parties, etc.

People

After multiple years of budget building, painting/post replacements and locker room upgrades, Jason Holmes passed the HG chairpersonship baton to Reinhard and Gervais. Thanks Jason! The current co-chairs, Reinhard (Structural Engineer) and Gervais (Architect), are part of a great team, diverse in club tenure, skills and advocacies. Yong Kim is our board representative. He joins every meeting, contributes great ideas and is a fearless advocate for members' priorities.

—Gervais & Reinhard



MTC Social Committee Update

Co-Chairs: Karen Loebbaka & Liz Tabussi

Members: Liz Collins, Cliff Crowder, Germana Fabbri (new member!)
Linda Gordon, Wendy Jennings, Whitney Johnson,
Katie Magnuson, Carrie Peters, Fred Saland,
Luba Shveyd, Reese Stubbs, Carol Treadway and
Liz Zweben (new member!)

The MTC Social Committee is busy planning events for all members. Liz Tabussi and Karen Loebbaka took over as co-chairs in late July (thank you to Emily Birkenseer for chairing for many years!!!)

The goals of the Social Committee are to provide opportunities for all members to enjoy social time on the courts and in the clubhouse throughout the year. There will be four "major" events each year (Memorial Wknd Tournament, Calcutta, Club Championships, & Olympics) in addition to more frequent and casual monthly and weekly activities (Women's Monday tennis, Sunday Pickleball, Frickin' Fridays).

Speaking of Pickleball, it's at MTC! Every Sunday 2-4 pm on court 4. Anton is there to help teach new players and improve all players' skills. Such a fun mix of people that you might not otherwise cross paths with on the tennis courts!

We had a very successful Sadie Hawkins tournament on August 27 with about 14 teams participating. Anton did a GREAT job with the brackets and helping to manage the flow. A lot of fun was had by all.



We are in the throes of **Calcutta XLV**! There are three Event Directors, led by Peggy Hodel (plus Simone Hughes and Karen Loebbaka). Anton (MTC Tennis Director) is the Calcutta Commissioner. Calcutta was rescheduled from October 8/9 due to not enough captains, and low sign-up, likely due to many of our MTC members playing in USTA Sectionals, as well as scratching their travel itch. The new date of October 29-30 has brought a full complement of captains (8 in total) and we are FULL on signups, with a waitlist! The Draft will be held on 9/29. Get ready for the team parties and Auction night on Friday, October 21 at MTC.



**KAREN
LOEBBAKA &
LIZ TABUSSI**

Co-Chairs



MTC Social Committee Update

There are many opportunities for members to help in advance of and during the event. Please let us know if you're interested in volunteering.

Women's Fun Tennis on Monday evenings 6:00–7:30 pm has returned. All ladies are invited to join in this round robin. Play with new people, have fun, then join on the patio for more social. Great way to find new partners!

Mark your calendars for fall events:

October 29–30	Calcutta!
November 11	Frickin' Friday Tennis
November 19	Turkey Trot Tournament
November 28	Holiday Decorating Potluck
December 2	Holiday Party

January 13	Game Night & Chili Cookoff
February 11	Valentine's Tournament

Look for more details as dates get closer. See you all on and off the courts!

Anyone and everyone is welcome to join the Social Committee! It's a great way to meet new friends and get involved in the club!

–Liz & Karen



MTC Tennis Committee Update

Chair: Jamie Papadimos

Members: Chris Trepte, Kristin Morrell, Margo Holt, Dave Hirschkop, Michael Lustenberger, Kari Chao, George Jackson, Francie Burkhard, John Michelson, Elliot Magnuson, Molie Malone

Responsibilities

The main responsibility of the TC currently is to form USTA leagues at the Club and to a lesser extent, the various women's day leagues. Specifically, we gauge player interest via the internal signups, determine the number of teams, monitor player signups, select captains (when there are multiple volunteers) and oversee non-member management.

Currently, we are refining some of the court rules and creating a captain's guide outlining rules and best practices. Another project we are working on is captain appreciation. Last year, the Club gave MTC water bottles to all the captains from that year. Captains are incredibly important and put in countless (and often thankless) hours of their time to run their teams. We need more captains to volunteer - this year there were some teams that were too big to qualify all players, and this was because only one captain stepped up. Please consider captaining or captaining with a friend and share the work and the experience.

Finally, the TC task everyone loves—conflict management. We're happy to say there haven't been too many but tennis players are a competitive lot that can get passionate from time to time!

Feel free to approach any of us if you have questions about rules, leagues, captaining at Marin Tennis.

Each level and gender has liaisons for members to reach out to for any tennis related questions or issues:

4.5 Liaisons: Chris Trepte, Kristen Morrell

4.0 Liaisons: Dave Hirschkop, Mike Lustenberger, Margo Holt, Francie Burkhard

3.5 Liaisons: George Jackson, Elliott Magnuson, Molie Malone, Kari Chao

3.0 Liaisons: Whitney Johnson and John Michelson.

—Jamie



MTC Tennis Director Update

Dear MTC Members,

It has been exciting three months of getting to know a lot of you and embracing the club's culture. There has been much support and encouragement from everyone to start a new tennis program, and I feel that we are taking steady steps towards that goal. While working with many of you individually and/or in groups, I have been learning more about the tennis needs of the membership and hoping to address them as the program is being gradually introduced to the club. Please, feel free to share your ideas and make suggestions regarding our tennis department, and I will be more than happy to discuss them all.

Meanwhile, the clinic schedule for October is available now. We are learning about different groups' day and time preferences to offer clinics accordingly; therefore, the schedule will keep evolving as we progress. Along with the adult clinics and lessons, we introduced several junior regular group classes. Official brochure for junior tennis programs is coming soon! We are also working on making the clinic sign-up process more user-friendly and flexible. The goal is to make it easy for members to register for a regular clinic through the portal on their computer or through the mobile app. Stay tuned as we figure out the best way to make it happen.

If you are looking for individual lessons or clinics with predetermined players, feel free to contact me at tennisdirector@marintennisclub.com, and both coach Sam and myself will be happy to accommodate you. **See you on the courts!**

-Anton



MTC GROUP CLINICS SCHEDULE

Day	Time	Lesson Name	Coach	Length	# Players
Monday	10:30 AM	Women 3.5+ Clinic	Sam	90 min	4 to 6
	5:30 PM	Men 4.0+ Clinic	TBD	90 min	4 to 6
Tuesday	10:30 AM	Men 3.5+ Clinic	Sam	90 min	4 to 6
	12:30 PM	Live Ball 4.0+	Anton	90 min	4 to 8
	5:30 PM	Women 3.0+ Clinic	Sam	90 min	4 to 6
Wednesday	10:30 AM	Women 4.0+ Clinic	Anton	90 min	4 to 6
	12:00 PM	Men 3.5+ Clinic	Sam	90 min	4 to 6
	5:30 PM	Women 3.5+ Clinic	Anton	90 min	4 to 6
Thursday	10:30 AM	Women 3.5+ Clinic	Sam	90 min	4 to 6
	12:30 PM	Live Ball 3.0+	Anton	90 min	4 to 8
	2:00 PM	Men 4.0+ Clinic	Sam	90 min	4 to 6
Friday	10:30 AM	Mixed 3.5+ Clinic	Anton	90 min	4 to 6
	12:30 PM	Mixed 4.0+ Clinic	Anton	90 min	4 to 6
	2:00 PM	Women 4.0+ Clinic	Sam	90 min	4 to 6
Saturday	10:00 AM	Hit & Run	Herb	120 min	Any

Guests and other non-members will be charged a daily \$10 fee.

Cancel 24 hours before the lesson free of charge; late cancellations will result in a full charge.

10/14/22



MTC TENNIS LESSON RATES

PRIVATE LESSONS

<u>Type of Lesson</u>	<u>Tennis Director</u>	<u>Tennis Pro</u>
Private Lesson 1 – player	\$115/hr.	\$100/hr.
Semi-Private Lesson 2 – players	\$60/hr.	\$55/hr.

GROUP CLINICS

<u>Type of Lesson</u>	<u>60 Min</u>	<u>90 min</u>
3 – players	\$45 per player	\$67.50 per player
4 – players	\$40 per player	\$60.00 per player
5 – players	\$35 per player	\$52.50 per player
6 – players	\$30 per player	\$45.00 per player
7 – players	\$27 per player	\$40.50 per player
8 – players	\$25 per player	\$37.50 per player

TEAM PRACTICE

8 – 10 players	\$200/hr.
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Guests and other non-members will be charged a daily \$10 fee.

Cancel 24 hours before the lesson free of charge; late cancellations will result in a full charge.