

INSIDE THE LINES

The Quarterly MTC Newsletter

MTC President's Message

MTC President: Jody Osterweil

Happy New Year everyone! Here's to a happy, healthy, active, and prosperous 2023 ahead. Though it's hard to argue with our ongoing need for yet more rain and snow, as of this writing it has gotten kind of dreary. I would be more skittish with the lack of court time, except for the fact that I'm on Injured Reserve awaiting a total hip replacement in a few weeks. For the rest of you, keep stretching and do your best to stay in shape before returning to playing, which presumably occurs before the next Millennium!

2023 will continue to be one of progress on a few major fronts at MTC. As I alluded in my end-of-year recap, we'll continue with the long-term House & Grounds site plan which is being conceived in concert with the 7-year CapEx budget and project priority timetable, jointly determined by H&G along with the Finance Committee, for ultimate approval by the Board.

The spring should also see an expansion of both adult and junior tennis instruction under Anton's auspices and, perhaps, the addition of another tennis instructor to meet growing demand for lessons and camps.

The Board's Strategic Plan aims to continue to enhance our institutional knowledge and to develop longer-term blueprints for future development so that new members on the Board and in our committee-structure don't constantly need to reinvent the wheel. Of course, they will amend and adapt those plans as needed, as current circumstances change. But it is very helpful to have a well-thought-out underpinning as a basis for future decision-making.

MTC CORE VALUES

Joy of Tennis
Friendships
Community
Competition



MTC President: Jody Osterweil



MTC needs an engaged membership to keep on thriving.

- Jody Osterweil
MTC PRESIDENT



To that end, we've tasked Chris Horne with working with all the Committees this year to develop and write a "how-to" manual for each, delineating membership, leadership, process, and purview. There is always some overlap in roles, and it will be invaluable to actively discuss which committees want to assume which priorities in the coming year, to try to avoid duplication of effort and confusion.

Speaking of Committees, the Board has authorized a new standing-committee beginning this year. The **Marketing and Development Committee**, under the leadership of Linda Gordon, will be responsible for developing all our media; written, online social, pictorial, advertising, etc. to assist in recruiting and making new members aware of our programs, procedures, and opportunities for play, socializing, and getting involved.

Lastly, January marks the second year of a formal 3-year term-limit plan for committee chairs. So sometime in the not-too-distant future committees will likely be promoting internal members. And new blood is always needed to succeed the current governing volunteers. Please make it a point to look into getting involved. MTC needs an engaged membership to keep on thriving. Our governance depends on an informed and actively participating vox populi, and don't hesitate to add your voice if you have a positive suggestion for improving the Best Tennis Club in Marin!!

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

New Year MTC!

Hard to believe a year has swept by in the blink of an eye! What a year 2022 was at MTC. Some of my individual highlights were:

- The complete renovation of Courts 10 through 12 which completed plexi-cushioning of all our courts with the exception of Court 4.
- The search and hiring of our new Tennis Director Anton Stryhas and launching our new MTC Tennis Department!
- We welcomed 30 new memberships into the MTC family!
- Promoted William to MTC Operations Manager!
- Donated to date over 80,000 used tennis balls to the Wilson Recycle Balls program!
- Hosted one of the best Holiday Parties complete with Live music from one of our own members Katie O'Leary!
- Fielded 54 USTA teams and 6 Ladies League teams!

These are just a few benchmarks of many that happened in 2022! What is in store for 2023:

- New access-controlled entryway to be installed and operating by April. This has been two years in the planning stages and now it comes to reality. The MTC Board in 2020 approved installing a controlled access point at the front walkway for added protection for the membership and the club. Members will be able to access entry by using the bar code on their phone MTC App. If you have not downloaded the App, please take a moment to do so. The App has great features! MTC staff is here to assist you. The House and Grounds committee will be providing a more detailed explanation of the project and how it will be implemented. Stay tuned.
- The addition of a new standing committee: MTC Marketing Committee. This committee will be tasked to help promote MTC both internally and externally. Member recruitment and retention will be their primary goals. Improving all avenues of MTC social media, updating of the MTC website, MTC newsletter production, and much more!
- An exciting slate of social events, both on and off the court, presented by your Social Committee!
- The first full year of our New Tennis Department headed up by Tennis Director Anton Stryhas!

In closing, I would like to share one personal item that took me off guard and was totally unexpected. I recently received an email from the USTA of Northern California notifying me that I was selected as the recipient of the 2022 USTA NorCal Aces Award for Outstanding Community Tennis Volunteer. I am very proud to be selected out of many who are deserving of this award. I share this honor with you as it recognizes my passion to grow this amazing game of tennis both privately and publicly. My goal is to continue to provide opportunities for all to play tennis regardless of the limitations and obstacles that may be in the way.

—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, Norma Brewer
Peggy Hodel, David Wilson, Vlad Matyurin

The Finance Committee, working with our Treasurer Joe Rusbarsky, completed the 2023 Operational budget in the 4th quarter of 2022. The budget was approved by the Board and implemented this month.

In 2023, a subcommittee with David, Vlad, Frank, and Stuart will continue to work with the House and Grounds committee to finalize a 7-year capital expenditure plan. The purpose of this plan is to better understand how and when approved short, medium, and long-term capital expenditures can be made. The overall goal is to fund these expenditures, designed to enhance the member experience at the club, from internally generated funds and at the same time pay off the club's existing bank debt.

We welcome Norma Brewer to our Finance Committee



Norma has worked in the financing industry for over 25 years. She currently works for the Ritter Center as their Accounting Manager

Norma writes "Moving out to California in 2001, not knowing anyone – figured I play tennis to meet people and build relationships from a sport I enjoy playing. My interest in joining FC serves a dual purpose for me, my love of numbers (budgets & balance responsibilities) and building friendships with my Tennis Community."

Another recent new member to the Finance Committee is Jeff Loebbaka – who apart from playing tennis is the Chief Commercial Officer at AMP Robotics. He brings years of experience in sales management and finance.

Of particular interest to MTC is Jeff's experience working in the solar industry. The club's lease on our existing solar energy system has a "buy out" option in mid-year 2023, and Jeff's expertise with this industry will help Chris and the committee understand the options of renewing our current lease, purchasing the system, or considering an upgrade and making a recommendation to the Board.

-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 Membership Committee for the past three years has been focused primarily on the Ambassador Program. We instituted that program in Jan 2020 which has helped us reach our goal of making sure that new members feel welcomed and integrated into our community. We will also continue to use round robin activities to welcome new members and brand merchandise to build a sense of comradery and market ourselves to the larger tennis community.

Moving forward in 2023 we plan to focus our efforts more on retention. As our Ambassador Program has become more efficient and easier to manage, we are turning our attention towards ways to improve member experience at MTC. We are contemplating new ideas including adding a formal orientation process and a formal exit interview. That accompanied with making better use of data analysis will likely point us in the direction we need to head. We will be fine tuning our goals over the course of the next month and will be using the Board's Strategic Plan to ensure a consistent vision.

—Francie & Thomas



GERVAIS TOMPKIN
Architect



REINHARD LUDKE
Structural Engineer

MTC House and Grounds Committee Update

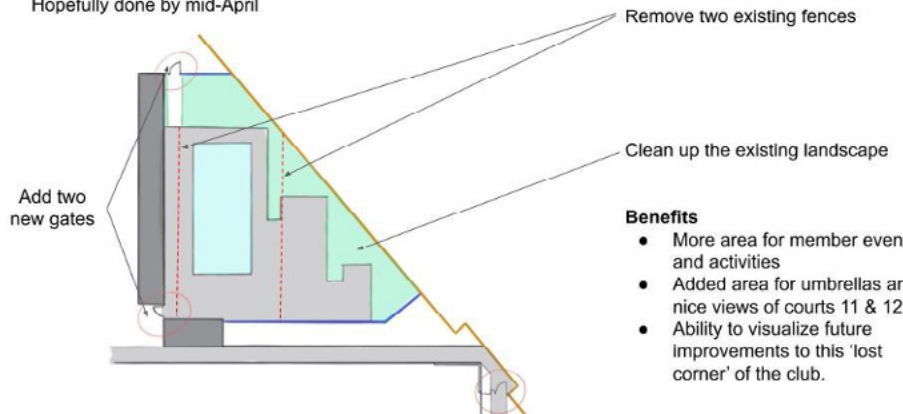
House & Grounds Committee Happy New Year Update



What we hope to do in 23-24!

- Expanded area by the pool
 - Remove fences, new gates (code required), clean up the landscape area
- A new secure entry gate
 - Use your MTC app to enter, control who comes in
- An improved entry experience
 - A wood trellis, update signage, a shaded place to wait for a ride
- Own our solar, benefit financially
 - Buy out our service contract
- Shade by our back courts
 - A nicer experience for the back courts

Opening up the Pool Area Hopefully done by mid-April



Benefits

- More area for member events and activities
- Added area for umbrellas and nice views of courts 11 & 12
- Ability to visualize future improvements to this 'lost corner' of the club.

Entry Access Gate Hopefully done by early May



A new gate along the main entry walkway. Located near the baselines of Courts 9 & 10.

- Members use a barcode on our MTC phone app to unlock the door
- Guests ring a video doorbell to enter
- Once unlocked, one can use the door handle or an auto-open button
- When exiting, one can use the door handle or an auto-open button

Benefits

- Keep members safe, control who is allowed in
- Better management of guests and visitors

MTC Marketing Committee

Chair: Linda Gordon

The Joy of the Game can be found alive and well at MTC!

The Board of Directors has formed a Marketing Committee to address membership development. The focus is on recruitment, whereas the current Membership Committee will continue with membership satisfaction and retention.

Several members have volunteered to help (not all will be attending meetings):

Linda Gordon - Chair
Rob Ahearn - BOD Liaison/Branding
Missy Kiesewetter - Photography/PR\$
Susan Ferrington - Sales
George Jackson - Sales
Patti Lee. Website/Public Relations
Rob Cochran - Business Strategy
Joe Rusbarsky-Pricing/Member Categories
Sarah Blevins-Copy Editor Newsletter
Aric Clark - Website
Kristin Morrell - Consultant
Fred Saland - TV monitor/brochure/posters
Molie Malone - Instagram (on Membership Committee)

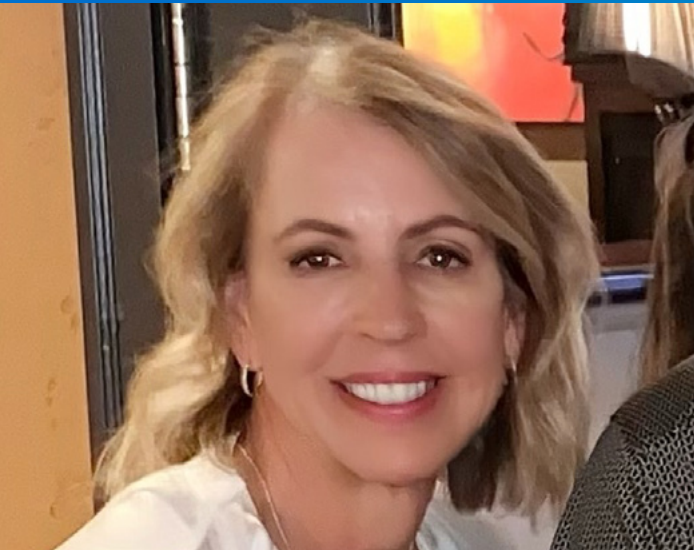
All ideas are welcome. If you wish to serve, please contact Linda Gordon at Lkrgordon@comcast.net.

Stay tuned.



LINDA GORDON

Chair



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

Dear MTC Clubmates: The Tennis Committee has several projects it plans to tackle in 2023. As always, we are responsible for USTA team formation and captain selection. We refined the process at the end of 2022 and will monitor it and adjust if needed. In case you missed it - captains now sign on first and then members go directly to the website to sign up for their team/captain.

We also plan to create captaining guidelines, update ladies league rules, and review non-member policies.

We will also publish a calendar which will include USTA league dates and special club events in conjunction with other committees and our Tennis Director, Anton.

Finally, the Tennis Committee and I invite you to share your thoughts and concerns with us so we can continue to make improvements and create a positive tennis environment at MTC.

Tennis Committee: Chair - Jamie Papadimos, 5.0 and 4.5 Women: Kristin Morrell, 5.0 Men - pending, 4.5 Men - Chris Trepte, 4.0 Men - Mike Lustenberger and Dave Hirschkop, 4.0 Women, Margo Holt, and Francie Burkhard, 3.5 Men - Elliott Magnuson, 2nd liaison pending, 3.5 Women Molie Malone and Kari Chao, 3.0 Women Whitney Johnson and non-USTA member at large - John Michelson.

-Jamie



MTC Tennis Director Update

Dear MTC Members,

I hope everyone is staying safe and dry in this rainy weather. This season brought us much needed precipitation, but also limited everyone's court time. I trust many of you found alternative ways to exercise and stay in shape.

In the past quarter, we have had several exciting events happening at the club and enriching everyone's tennis experiences. Calcutta brought out loads of emotions with many people bonding and having a great time. We had new team captains and first-time participants who really enjoyed the competition and social play. Matches were very dynamic and entertaining with displays of some high-quality tennis.

One of the world's top competitors, Jenson Brooksby visited MTC over the holiday season, and that event was a major success, both educational and entertaining. Jenson really enjoyed his time at the club, engaging adults and juniors in his routine, and we were able to create a great connection between MTC and one of the most promising American tennis players today. Since playing at Marin Tennis Club in December, Jenson has been selected to represent the United States in Davis Cup and just reached the semifinals of the ATP250 event in Auckland, New Zealand, defeating Fognini and Schwartzman along the way. For those of you who wish to show him your appreciation, it is still not too late to donate to Jenson's non-profit organization, Future Tennis Fund (FTF), supporting young American tennis players in their journey to the top. Follow the link for more information: <https://gofund.me/9e5aa6a6>

I am very much looking forward to a stop in the rain so everyone can get more time on the courts. A new clinic schedule coming out this month will reflect some adjustments. You can now register for clinics through the MTC app on your phone or through your member portal. All you need to do is go to "Daily Tennis Clinics" and click "Sign-up Now." A new junior program is expected to kick off in February; look out for a brochure outlining its details. We are revamping the ladder in February as well with improved format and play-offs at the end of the season. Our first annual MTC pickleball tournament will take place on January 28th, check your emails for announcement of the format. Also, a new event calendar should be posted in late January.

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 Strayhas
TENNIS DIRECTOR

TOP CONTRIBUTOR



CONGRATULATIONS TO:
DAVID HIRSCHKOP, CHRIS HORNE, AND
STUART LUM AT THE
**MARIN TENNIS
CLUB**
SAN RAFAEL, CA

A huge round of applause and a warm thank you to another one of RecycleBalls top contributors, David Hirschkop, Chris Horne, and Stuart Lum at the Marin Tennis Club! Your unwavering support and partnership have helped us reach new heights and achieve this crazy goal of recycling all the tennis balls! We are so thankful you have been a part of what we are doing since 2019!

[#recycle](#) [#sustainableliving](#) [#zerowaste](#)[#reducereuserecycle](#) [#circulareconomy](#)[#upcycled](#) [#sustainablelifestyle](#)
[#sustainable](#)[#recycleballs](#) [#recycletennisballs](#)