



Triangle Tennis Trust
School of Tennis
(Est'd: 1982)



passing shot

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Vol : I Issue No: 1. Dated : 20/03/2008

Foreword

It has been our desire for long to communicate to our trainees, parents and, in fact, to the tennis fraternity in general. Though it has taken quite a while for us to get started, we are happy that the time has indeed arrived for this newsletter. Through these pages, we intend keeping you informed of TTT's activities on a regular basis.

For such of those who are new to Triangle Tennis Trust (TTT), it is a joint venture of the National Council of YMCAs, New Delhi and the family of Late Dr N C Krishnan, an eminent Chartered Accountant from Chennai. The Trust, dedicated to training children under the age of 16 in the nuances of the game, is located on a sprawling campus made available by the YMCA College of Physical Education, Nandanam, Chennai. TTT celebrated its Silver Jubilee in Jan 2007 and, today, trains nearly 300 children in its facility comprising 11 courts.

Our annual junior tennis state ranking tournament, the 24th such event, held during the Pongal holidays in January 2008 was a success. There were nearly 800 entries. The expectations of a TTT tournament are increasing every year and we hope we will be able to

improve in the years to come. The performance of TTT trainees in various tournaments too has improved over the years. One of them has even been selected to the National Under 14 team.

Apart from carrying information about our usual training activities and the achievements of our students, this newsletter also seeks to disseminate information about our off-court initiatives. One aspect that should engage the attention of the tennis fraternity is the future of the markers and pickers involved in the game. This newsletter not only hopes to spread word of what we are seeking to achieve in this direction, but also to enlist the support of the tennis fraternity in this initiative.

Thanks are due to Ms Meera Srikanth for putting together the content for this newsletter, Layam Advertising for its design and Vector Solutions for enabling its electronic delivery.

As always, we look forward to your suggestions.

R M Narayanan
Trustee



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School of Tennis

passing shot

The 24th Annual TTT Junior Tournament

The 24th Annual TTT Junior Tournament was conducted from 12th - 19th Jan '08 coinciding with the Pongal holidays. A tremendous success, the tournament attracted more than 600 players, including 100 players from places such as Puducherry, Vellore, Neyveli, Coimbatore, Karur, Erode, Namakkal, Trichy, Tirunelveli, Bangalore and Tirupathi.

The 'K Kannan' Rolling Trophy for the winner of the 'Boys Under 14' event was unveiled in this tournament. The Trust is thankful to Mrs Kalyani Kannan for sponsoring this beautiful silver trophy, which is modeled along the lines of the Wimbledon Junior Boys Winner's Cup. TTT is thankful to Mr V Kanagasundaram, a TTT parent, for his efforts in crafting this trophy.

Mr Rajesh Lakhoni, Corporation Commissioner of Chennai, inaugurated the event, which was jointly

sponsored by The Sportstar, KLN GM, Tower Construction Company and Karur KCP Packagings Ltd. Mr Pankaj Chandak, Senior Regional Manager - Sales, General Motors India, and Mr K Ravi, Operations In Charge, Tower Construction Company, were the chief guests for the finals.

The winners in the various categories of the singles events were:

Boys Under 16:	Irfan Hussain
Boys Under 14:	R Ramkumar
Boys Under 12:	Vignesh Prabhu
Girls Under 16:	Bhavani Ravishankar
Girls Under 14:	Sai Samhita
Girls Under 12:	Kavya Bharat
Children Under 10:	Bharat Nishok



Winners of various events



Mr Rajesh Lakhoni at TTT tournament inauguration



Players and Parents at Tournament



Triangle Tennis Trust
School of Tennis

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TTT welcomes Doug MacCurdy

Doug MacCurdy, till recently working with the Chinese Tennis Association on coaches' education and the development of players, visited TTT on 29 Jan, 2008.

MacCurdy will assist in the development of Indian tennis in a project offered by the International Tennis Federation (ITF) through the Olympic Solidarity Fund. The training methods would be studied and MacCurdy will work mostly with the coaches and will also assist in talent identification.

As part of this exercise, he visited tennis academies in Chennai to assess coaching methodologies being adopted. He spent time going over our junior programme and offered valuable tips to make the training more interesting for the beginners.

His focus will be on system development, starting with the base to the top of the pyramid. The emphasis is on helping in the transition of the players into the professional league. MacCurdy will be in India for 22 weeks starting this January.

MacCurdy has been Director, USA Tennis Player Development; Director of Development for the International Tennis Federation; advisor to National Associations, and General Manager of the ITF while continuing to serve as Director of Development. He has implemented development programmes, educated

coaches and trained players in over 160 countries. He is a Master Professional of the United States Professional Tennis Association and an International Master Professional of the Professional Tennis Registry. He received the International Tennis Hall of Fame Educational Merit Award in 1993 and the ITF Award for Services to the Game in 1998.

MacCurdy believes that clay is the best surface for male players and pointed at Europe as a classic example.

(With extracts from *The Hindu* online edition dated 5th Oct 2007)



Doug MacCurdy at TTT



Triangle Tennis Trust
School of Tennis

passing shot

TTT trainee in Indian Team for World Championship



One of our trainees, R Ramkumar, was selected by AITA (All India Tennis Association) to represent India in the ITF 14 and Under Asian Championship 2008 (Group 1) at Jakarta (March 2008) and the World Junior Competition in China (April 2008). TTT wishes Ramkumar the very best in his efforts.



Triangle Tennis Trust
School of Tennis

passing shot

People Talk

TTT's senior coach retires

Mr Chellappa, a senior coach at TTT, retired on 29 Feb, 2008. He joined TTT in June 1998.



Born in 1933, Mr Chellappa joined the YMCA College of Physical Education in 1950 for his Certificate Course, which he completed the next year. After a very short stint in Karaikudi, he joined Sri Ramakrishna Mission High School, Main Branch, T Nagar, Chennai, in 1953, where he served till his retirement in

1984. During this period, he was bitten by the tennis bug and started the game at Pachayappas College. Post 1981, he started his coaching centres at Vivekananda and Stella Maris Colleges as well as at St Bede's School. He is credited with organizing the Swami Vivekananda Birthday Tennis tournaments in January every year.

During his school days, Mr Chellappa was a district level champion in athletics. As a tennis coach, he has attended several camps and coaching seminars and has traveled widely. He was deputed by TNTA (Tamil Nadu Tennis Association) as an official to the Asiad held in New Delhi. Mr Chellappa is the proud recipient of the Best Teacher Award in 1983.

For the past 45 years, Mr Chellappa has devoted his time to tennis-related activities. At the time of his retirement, we are thankful to him for his invaluable guidance over the years.

Asst Marker Shankar weds

Asst. Market H. Shankar wedded on 17.03.08. TTT wishes him the very best.

Vocational Training for the Pickers

We are conscious of the fact that not all our Pickers may be able to make a career with TTT. It is necessary that they learn other skills and move out of TTT to more gainful employment. Towards this end, we have identified two of our Pickers, Mani and Yesurathnam, and sent them for vocational training at Thakkar Bapa Vidyalaya, a renowned vocational training institute at

Chennai. They are undergoing training in electrical course which is sponsored by TTT. Upon completion, we will attempt to identify a suitable employment for them. The help of TTT parents will be required to achieve this. One of the Pickers is also being encouraged to attempt and complete the tenth standard examination.

Tête-à-tête with Neelakandan

Neelakandan, a coach at TTT, has had long association with tennis - 35 long years. His career started as a ball boy in University Union way back in 1973. After a few years at Thomas Club, he joined TTT in '82 - at the time of its inception - as a marker. In '92, he became a coach and since then has been training students from 4 to 16 years.

He was trained by CGK Bhoopathy, father of Mahesh Bhoopathy. Neelakandan won the Marker's Tournament in '84-'85 and then in '87, and was a runner up in '86. He also won the doubles in '91-'92.

In addition to being a coach, Neelakandan is also an expert in laying clay courts. "One of my seniors started me off on this, and then I have further developed the skills over a period of time," he says. Several courts in and out Chennai have been laid by Neelakandan.

His family consists of his wife, two daughters and a son. The son is enrolled in BSc. Computer Science, one daughter is a trained nurse and is now undergoing training in computers and the other daughter is in the ninth standard.

He signs off by stressing on the need for fitness before entering the tennis court.

