**FINAL REPORT**

**SLYC TENNIS**

**AUGUST 17, 2019**

**Overview**

Summer 2019 has been our best summer to date. Numbers and feedback suggest that we’ve had the best eight weeks of tennis to date.

Court One refurbishment was finished on time and well by Drain Bros and Tennex. The area around the court got a facelift and many thanks for John MacKay and Scott Wootton for ensuring that we had a court in use by the end of June.

The Stony Slam, in its second year, was a resounding success with 48 players of all levels playing a team tennis-style tournament on June 29. As well, we ran an early bird junior clinic during the SLYC social which was well attended and got things off to a positive start.

The new pickle ball court, funded largely by Kawartha Lake Construction, saw a lot of play and will continue to grow.

**Junior Classes**

Junior tennis continues to be popular with our numbers staying basically consistent from last year.

2018 after 6 weeks: 1190 units sold

2019 after 6 weeks: 1108 units sold

A rainy week in August (8 classes cancelled) accounts for the difference.

Our ongoing goal is to keep kids playing tennis and given the number of teens coming out to play each evening, I’m optimistic that this is being achieved. Our stated goals for junior tennis are:

* love of the game
* fun
* skill acquisition

I think we can check each of these boxes and will continue to expand on what we have built thus far by offering even more opportunities to advance match skills.

Tournaments were played in Girls’ and Boys’ Singles and Girls’ and Boys’ Doubles.

**Adult Clinics**

We continued with our usual offering of adult clinics and attendance continues to grow year upon year.

**After six weeks:**

2016: 716 units sold

2017: 836 units sold

2018: 904 units sold

2019: 1062 units sold

Three advanced clinics and two novice clinics were included in the weekly schedule and we will work toward providing levelled clinics as much as possible.

Men’s Drills and Ladies’ Night remain our most popular clinics, showing that tennis on Stony is as much about the game as it is about the people.

**Going Forward**

In recent years, we have moved to a more development-based model: identifying our on-lake talent, hiring a pro who is experienced and mature enough to provide excellent professional coaching/professional development, and then offering our on-lake pros the bandwidth to try things out and hone their skills within a supportive environment.

A huge kudos to head pro, Matt Halder: Matt has spent countless on-court hours teaching our junior pros how to teach tennis, showing them how to use humour, empathy and connection to create an environment that’s both fun and educational. To watch our Stony kids become comfortable in these leadership roles is something that fills me with enormous pride. I hope that we never lose sight of what the objective is outside of simply playing a summer of tennis: allowing our young people the opportunity to grow in ways that genuinely make a difference in their lives. It’s our responsibility to champion their efforts every chance we get.

Our tennis crew this year - Matt Halder, Chris Plant, Cassie King, Aidan Quennec, Ben Rush (with Johnny Scace on Men’s Drills and Ladies’ Night, and Carter Davis in the Hut) - show up every day ready to work and ready to pass on their love for the game. Avery Morton and Trevor Smith round things out with their invaluable administrative expertise. Most of all, everyone works as a real team and my appreciation and gratitude to each of them runs deep.

As my term as tennis director comes to a close, I’d like to thank the membership for all their support over the past four years. It’s a wonderful thing that we’re able to offer so many program options with such good coaching, but it wouldn’t happen without all of you. As well, the SLYC Board under the leadership of Scott Wootton has provided valuable guidance and insight. They are a hardworking group of volunteers and I’m grateful for their time. Thank you.

Enjoy the last week!

Carrie Scace

Tennis Director