

# Neighbours of Tuxedo

Serving the Neighbours of Tuxedo | May 2020



Tuxedo Tennis Club  
- A Neighbourhood Gem





“The public is always welcome, with or without a member, for a \$10 guest fee.”



Tuxedo Tennis Club Members

Photos courtesy of Tuxedo Tennis Club



# Tuxedo Tennis Club

## - A Neighbourhood Gem

By Sharon Chisvin

Usually at this time of year, as snow and ice melt and daylight hours extend well into the evening, Tuxedo Tennis Club members are eagerly preparing to arrange matches and lessons and sign up for leagues and tournaments.

While it may take a little longer than usual for players to get out on to the outdoor courts this spring, the Tuxedo Tennis Club will retain its reputation as the gem of the neighbourhood.

Tuxedo Tennis Club (TTC) is located at 370 Southport Boulevard, adjacent to the Tuxedo Lawn Bowling Club and the Tuxedo Community Centre. The not-for-profit organization is run by a volunteer Board of Directors and has been a community institution for almost half a century.

The club's four original shale courts have been updated and upgraded over the years, as have all of the nets and fencing. In 1980 two more courts were added in response to demand, and in 2008, the clubhouse – which had previously served as a hockey warm-up shack -- was replaced with a repurposed Short Game Golf Corp building. In 2017 the club installed new LED lighting to improve night vision and encourage more players to come out and play in the evening.

TTC typically has about 170 members each year, ranging in age from three-years-old to well into the 80s. Many of the members have been playing tennis for years and many of them live in the Tuxedo neighbourhood. Others come from nearby Charleswood, Lindenwoods, River Heights and other neighbourhoods.

A lot of the club's members play indoors during the winter, and some are fortunate to be snowbirds and play down south all winter long. But many TTC members do not have opportunities to play at all between October and April and so really look forward to the outdoor courts opening in the spring.

At TTC, they can drop in whenever they want, or choose to play during designated singles and doubles playing times, or participate in lessons, ladders and tournaments. The club provides opportunities for men and women to play separately and together, and hosts Tennis Manitoba sanctioned junior and adult tournaments.

The club also welcomes new players to the game. In fact, for the second year in a row, TTC is running a FAST clinic. This clinic – Fun Adult Starter Tennis - is designed for starter players to quickly learn the fundamentals of tennis. The program runs for six weeks, uses the newest teaching techniques and equipment, and has players serving, rallying and scoring right from the start.

TTC is also dedicated to developing young players and talent. It offers children's lessons, an after-school program and a summer camp, as well as mini tennis for children as young as five and a high performance player development program for children between eight and sixteen.

All lessons are taught by Coach Nelly Dvornicka.

Nelly grew up playing tennis in the Czech Republic, ranking among the top players there as a 16-year-old. She played tennis for Washington State University and Eastern Washington University, and then taught the game in British Columbia for eight years before coming to Winnipeg. Nelly began her Winnipeg coaching career at Taylor Tennis Club and moved to Tuxedo Tennis five years ago.

TTC board vice-president Sheila Malcolmson and board past-president Gladys Stewart emphasize that it is not necessary to be a member of the club in order to take lessons, register for programs or play.

"The public is always welcome, with or without a member, for a \$10 guest fee," they explain.

Those guests, however, are limited to playing three times a season and encouraged to consider membership if they wish to play more often.

The club's official opening this spring was to take place on May 9, but that has now been postponed. Once the courts are open for business, players will have access to them until the snow arrives again in the fall.

The Open House is just the first of several social events that the club hosts throughout the season. It has a 'Welcome' social evening for new and returning members, as well as Round Robin evenings for members and their invited guests. There are also two sessions of Team Tennis that run one evening a week for six weeks with a pizza party on the last evening.

Club tournaments also have a social component, Sheila and Gladys say, as all members are encouraged to come out to watch and cheer on their friends, and join in the refreshments after the games.

*For further information about TTC, please visit [tuxedotennis.com/](http://tuxedotennis.com/)*