

SPORTS -- TENNIS

Heinz Vogler, President of Richmond Tennis Club,
Clubhouse, Gilbert Road. Interviewed August 30/73

1960: Moved to Richmond from West End of Vancouver and missed tennis. Recreation department said no courts existed but an old lacrosse box could be converted into a tennis area.

Painted lines on lacrosse surface, strung up nets, started tennis at lot at Granville Ave. and #3 Road. Mrs. Eileen Dawson (then Gibson) suggested Vogler form a tennis club.

He started the club with two CP Air friends, Roger Fowler and Ralph Reese, and his wife.

Municipality said c 1947-48 a tennis club started, but failed. Bank account from previous club, held \$13.00 so Vogler's unit used it to form present club. More friends joined after moving here from Vancouver. Newspaper ads brought members, 35 total for first year. Club stayed there 4 years, leasing the land which was municipal.

Present club at Gilbert Road also leases the land, municipality built the courts, the clubhouse owned by the members.

Original tennis area, the lacrosse area had lights installed, which the club used. Only disadvantage was back-space was only 10' behind the base line. This was half normal requirement.

Not a member of a tennis association at that time so invited other clubs to play them. Had no clubhouse so held home garden parties to entertain visitors.

Most of members have remained with the club. David Kimpton who joined the first year is still a junior director (for 13 years.)

1960: In the fall the club joined B.C. Lawn Tennis Association. Offered to hold a tournament because they were the only tennis club with lights then.

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1961: Spring. Club held a provincial tournament. It was first outdoor tennis tournament in 1961. Weather was good. Players from Washington, Alberta. The Richmond Open is yearly scheduled as the first outdoor tennis tournament.

Last two years tennis equipment, racquets, balls in short supply due to demand. Tennis an individual sport played by men at 82. Richmond club has members playing strong tennis to 66 years.

1967: Club bought sales pavilion of Richmond Gardens (a construction company) across Gilbert and moved it to present locale. Changes made included showers, changing rooms and enlargement of pro shop spring of 1973.

1973: Is the first year club hired a junior supervisor for all summer. The club is very concerned with youngsters learning to play tennis. This year membership is 240 adults, 180 juniors. For juniors the supervised play ends beginning of September. Club "never" closes. People even shovel snow from courts in winter.

Heinz has been club president nine years of the 13.

1973: Club spent \$12,000 improving the clubhouse and lighting system.

Bubble to enclose 2 courts now being considered. Jericho club has a bubble over 4 courts. Cost of erecting bubble is \$50,000. An air inflated dome, the bubble has air inside it heated.

Richmond municipality has helped the club tremendously especially Eileen Dawson in the Recreation department. Heinz details an example of this help.

Heinz has appeared before councils at Tsawwassen, West Vancouver and Burnaby to explain procedure in Richmond, building tennis courts on municipal land, holding municipal classes, owning the clubhouse.

Municipal Tennis Lessons or Clinics

There are 5 public tennis courts and 5 club courts. In addition to coaching individual members, the coach has another purpose. The club coach gives public clinics or group sessions: in 1973 twice weekly in 4 areas, Steveston

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Hugh Boyd, South Arm and Minoru. Clinics are composed of about 15 people. First year there was one session or class, this year 6 or 8 groups met for lessons, adults and juniors. Coach is Bob Bardsley, a former Davis Cup player for Canada. In 1972 and 1973 two assistant coaches were hired to handle increased registration in group lessons.

Many who enrolled in public lessons want to join the club but membership is limited to 240 because of limit on courts. 1968: Steveston Community Center asked Heinz to help start a tennis club there. Concept of low fees as Community Center sports not suitable for building a tennis club Heinz believes.

Bubble under consideration sold on lease-purchase plan so club could make yearly payments. Club thinking of separate winter membership, and would probably hire an extra staffer.

1968: Municipality put in recreational intensity lighting, but club paid half costs.

1973: Club stepped up the lighting \$7,000.00 worth making courts establish close to championship lighting.

Membership in Canadian Lawn Tennis Association enables tennis players to play as guests when visiting elsewhere.

Standard of tennis much higher here than on the prairies, Heinz says, because of longer season. Officially the season starts here April 1 but actually people start playing end of February and continue to end of November. A fifth club court is being considered by the municipality when they finish work on two public courts. The usual estimate is 40-50 people can be scheduled to play per court, so with lights 70-80 more people could be accommodated.

Vancouver has wealthier clubs than Richmond's and can pay coaches more money but Richmond's tennis ranking is high in B.C. standards, particularly for juniors. Juniors pay \$15.00 yearly or \$10.00 if parents are members.

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Juniors can stay all day at the club, playing, summer holidays. Supervisor Heather Irvine helps with problems, arranges matches. Junior elect own executive.

Richmond Tennis Club members ranking 1972 in British Columbia:

11th ranked boys under 16: Paul Aberhard

6th ranked " " " " : Trevor Haqq and Mike Kerr

#1 Junior player boys under 12: Mike Kerr

#2 " " " " " " : Trevor Haqq

#5 " " " " " " : Arnold Kettenacker

#9 " " " " " " : Steven Haqq

Note: Number 1 Canadian Junior at 12 years, 14 years, 16 years of age is Scotty Cathcart (now 17 years old). He lives in Toronto, previously played in Richmond Club.

Youngsters start at 8 years; by the time they are 12, they are Jrs.
1972: Girls: B.C. ranked Juniors:

#3 ranked under 12: Karen Kettenacker

#4 ranked under 12: Sigrun Worster

1972: Senior Men's: Vets over 45.....#3 ranked: Jim Hart

1972: Junior Vets over 35: #10 ranked: Jim Hart

#11 ranked: Herb Kettenacker

Municipality's Recreation department helped two Richmond players continue to national recognition.