

Rockcliffe Lawn Tennis Club Spring Report
April 2, 2020

Dear RLTC Members,

On behalf of the Board of Directors at RLTC, I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and in good health. On behalf of our membership, I would like to share our immense gratitude to the incredible nurses, physicians, cleaning staff, essential service suppliers, and other front-line workers. They deserve our respect, admiration, and our unwavering commitment to physical distancing. Please help them in their challenging work to keep us all safe.

COVID-19:

As spring approaches, our members are naturally eager to get back to playing outdoor tennis. While we certainly hope the Club can open as scheduled on Saturday May 9th, we are acutely aware that the COVID-19 health crisis is a fluid situation which is evolving on a daily basis. We may need to make adjustments to the opening season based on government-mandated rules and regulations. Additionally, the National Capital Tennis Association (NCTA) will be advising us of updated tennis-specific protocols based on best practices around the globe. At the moment, there are more questions than answers, but in the coming weeks we hope to gain clarity on how this will affect our membership and upcoming season. As we receive firm guidelines, we will update you on our opening day, changes to programming, updated protocols, and revised policies. We will all need patience during these trying times.

In preparation for the season, we hope you will show your commitment to our Club and renew your membership on-line at www.rltennis.ca. We have **extended the early bird special deadline until May 15th**. Rest assured, the Board of Directors is communicating closely during this time. Should our season be reduced significantly in length, we will ensure members are reimbursed appropriately. We will additionally proceed with programming registration, such as summer camps, though be advised we may have to make adjustments as we receive more information and direction from the government. Any programs cancelled will be reimbursed in full. While the drastically different global situation has created uncertainty, RLTC is committed as a community club to making the best of a challenging situation.

Update On Lighting:

At our December 2019 AGM, the membership voted unanimously to proceed with the installation of lights on our middle two clay courts, for which RLTC has a valid permit to conduct the work as issued by the City of Ottawa Built Heritage staff. With approval from the membership at the AGM, the Board was mandated to levy \$100 per adult member. This will be added to your registration fee automatically and will go toward the payment of lights and other capital improvements.

Recently, you may have become aware that some neighbours have taken issue with our lighting and have sent around a neighbourhood petition requesting a meeting with the club. In addition, a small group of neighbours have asked the City and our Councillor Rawlson King to invalidate our permit on the grounds that it infringes on Rockcliffe Park's Heritage Conservation District Plan (HCDP). The City of Ottawa heritage staff have reiterated to RLTC that we have their support for this permit, and our lights do not infringe on the Heritage Plan. At this time, the Board has been made aware of the potential of a legal challenge to the permit from two neighbours and is working toward a resolution on the matter.

Although we had planned to host a community information session in March about the impact of lights on the immediate neighbours, it was cancelled with the increasing COVID-19 precautions. We had

hoped this would be a time of open, calm discussion about our current lighting heritage permit, its potential impact on neighbours, and steps taken by the Club to mitigate any negative consequences. We plan to reschedule this information session as soon as is appropriate.

As a result of the petition, the Board has collected statements from Rockcliffe Park residents, both members and non-members, who are in support of lighting. This already includes a significant number of households. These statements will be sent to Councillor King as evidence that the petition does not speak on behalf of the entire neighbourhood. If you are a Rockcliffe Park resident and would like to submit a statement of support for our court lighting addition, please contact any Board member or send an email to president@rltennis.ca.

Due to the recent COVID-19 developments, including the work restrictions of various suppliers and uncertain season timing, the Board of Directors has decided that although we will be preparing preliminary work on the tennis grounds in the spring, the Club will hold off on final pole and light installation until circumstances are more stable. We hope the membership understands this decision to move carefully and prudently in a time of great uncertainty. We will keep you updated on the progress of this work.

Please feel free to track updates on our website www.rltennis.ca and through twitter @RLTCOttawa.

Familiar Faces For The Season!

Finally, we are pleased to welcome back Chris Hannant as our Club Manager for his third season. Chris' bright smile and kind demeanour will be a welcome sight for members returning to the courts this year. Additionally, we are thrilled to welcome back Zhenya Kondratovski as Tennis Pro and Head of Junior Development. A versatile and skilled coach with more than 30 years of experience, Zhenya will be heading up both the Junior Recreational Program and the Junior Advanced Program. Finally, we look forward to inviting experienced and patient coach Miguel Macias Carrasco as Tennis Pro and Head of Adult Development to actively engage our intermediate and adult members. We are ready to start our season with a competent, enthusiastic group of staff members ready to engage our tennis community!

Indeed, community is more important now than ever. Please find ways to safely communicate with your friends and loved ones while drawing strength from the virtual community around you. With luck, this challenging time period will soon come to a close and we will meet again on the courts. Until then.



Louise Malhotra
President, RLTC