

Top ranked success

Local junior tennis players on the rise

Thanks to an annual junior tournament and several top-ranked junior members, the Tsawwassen Tennis Club (TTC) is making its mark in the Lower Mainland's world of junior tennis.

In August, the club hosted the third annual Bob Putnam Junior Challenger, attracting 62 players from across the region including Bellingham, Washington, West Vancouver, Abbotsford and Coquitlam. Because the tournament is officially sanctioned by Tennis B.C., the results are counted toward each player's ranking with Tennis B.C.

"We're proud to have a Tennis B.C. tournament right here in Tsawwassen," says Steve Kemp, Tsawwassen Tennis Club's junior program director. "It's a great opportunity for our juniors to compete on home courts and it gives our juniors tournament experience."

In its third year, the Bob Putnam Challenger is organized by Vincent Deslauriers, the club's tennis pro, and a long list of club members and parent volunteers. The Bob Putnam Challenger is named after long-time Tsawwassen resident and TTC member Bob Putnam. Putnam coached tennis at the high school level for many years while pursuing his tennis career, eventually being ranked number one in B.C. in his age group for both men's singles and doubles.

As a Level 2 coach, he also ran the junior programs at Richmond Tennis Club and in Tsawwassen. Putnam, now retired, was on hand to congratulate the winners and finalists and to present their awards.

Among the winners were two junior members of Tsawwassen Tennis Club who received a Bob Putnam Challenger trophy this summer.

Jack Matthews, 12, beat his West Vancouver opponent to win the boys U12 singles category. **Sydney Delaney**, 14, won the girls U18 after

defeating her 17-year-old opponent from North Vancouver 6-0, 7-6.

Matthews and Delaney are among several juniors from the Tsawwassen Tennis Club who have reaped impressive results from a summer of tournaments. And they have achieved solid rankings in B.C. Matthews is ranked number one in the boys U12 Challenger category and Delaney is ranked first in the girls U14 Challenger category.

At the B.C. Junior Hard Court Challenger tournament in Coquitlam, Matthews was a U12 singles finalist as well as a U12 doubles finalist with fellow Tsawwassenite **Scott Bailey**. Bailey, a 12-year-old ranked in the top five in the Challenger category, played his way to the final match in U12 singles.

At the 77th Stanley Park Open, Delaney placed first in girls U14 singles as well as first in U14 doubles with partner **Laura Burns**, also a ranked junior from the Tsawwassen Tennis Club. **Reece Long**, a keen eight-year-old from Tsawwassen who often has to compete in U12 because U10 categories are rare, was a finalist in the Stanley Park Open's U10 Challenger. Last year, Scott Bailey won the U12 Rookies.

At the 20th Annual Junior Grass Court Championships in Duncan, Delaney and Burns placed second in girls U14 doubles. Delaney also won U14 and U16 singles; Burns made it to the semi-finals in U14 singles. Scott Bailey was a finalist in U12 singles and Jack Matthews was the U12 singles consolation winner. Bailey and Matthews also teamed up to compete in Boys U14 doubles.

Another Tsawwassen Tennis Club junior to watch is 13-year-old **Rory Long**. He and Scott Bailey were Boys U14 doubles finalists at Sunshine Hills Futures Doubles tournament in July. At the Richmond Junior Open Championships, Rory Long reached the semi-finals in U14



NET RESULTS—Local tennis players making an impact on the court are (clockwise from far left) Rory Long, Laura Burns, Sydney Delaney, Scott Bailey, Reece Long and Jack Matthews.

Contributed photo

doubles with a partner from Calgary.

"It's incredible that Tsawwassen Tennis Club has several high ranked juniors at the same time," says Deslauriers. "These are great kids and great competitors. Tsawwassen should be proud."

To excel, these juniors compete in tournaments, take private or semi-private lessons from professional coaches and each of them was enrolled in the Tsawwassen Tennis Club's junior program. The program, which is coached by Deslauriers, features bi-weekly lessons from late June until late August, offering children ages six to 18 with instruction and practice. This summer, more than 40 children participated.

"Tennis is a great sport," says Deslauriers, "and participating in sport is a great way to develop an individual. Our junior program encourages juniors to play tennis for fun and enjoyment with a small dose of healthy competition."

DELTA ICE HAWKS PLAYER OF THE WEEK



Nick Sadowski
Goaltender

Providing solid goaltending that helped the Delta Ice Hawks to a three-game win streak earned Nick Sadowski the honour of being named the team's player of the week. Over the three game run Sadowski—who is in his third year with the club—posted a goals against average of 2.98 and a save percentage of .912.

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