

GODDARD TENNIS CLUB

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HOW THE CLUB WAS STARTED AND BUILT

MARCH 8, 1991 PRESENTATION BY ROBERT E. DAVIS

- 1 - IDEA - LATE 1965, "GSFC NEEDS TENNIS CLUB" (TOM BUTLER/BOB DAVIS)
- 2 - STUART SNYDER ON GEWA COUNCIL WAS INTERESTED IN TENNIS/1ST PRES
- 3 - GSFC QUESTIONNAIRE SHOWED WIDE INTEREST IN TENNIS COURTS WITH PREFERENCE FOR (1) HARD, (2) HAR-TRU, & (3) CLAY SURFACE
- 4 - BOARD ESTABLISHED IN EARLY 1966 - DRAFTED CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS
- 5 - GEWA DONATION FROM PROCEEDS OF VENDING MACHINES/CAFETERIAS USED FOR CLEARING/GRADING FOR FIRST FOUR COURTS
- 6 - DECISION TO BUILD SOFT COURTS & NOT COMPETE WITH PUBLIC FACILITIES
- 7 - GEWA FUNDS SHORTAGE CAUSED ONLY TWO HAR-TRU COURTS TO BE CONTRACTED AND PAID FOR BY GEWA FOR \$10K
- 8 - COURTS #1/#2 OPENED FOR PLAY DURING WEEKEND APRIL 23/24, 1966
- 9 - CLUB NEEDED MORE COURTS SO VOLUNTEERS SOLICITED TO BUILD CLAY CTS #3-#5, BASED ON DAVIS' EXPERIENCE WITH PGC & CHEVERLY SWIM CLUBS
- 10 - RESERVATION SYSTEM ESTABLISHED - ALBERTA MORAN IN DIRECTOR'S OFFICE WAS FACULTY ADVISOR - DIRECTOR'S SECRETARY TO HANDLE RESERVATIONS - THIS LASTED ONE DAY! HONOR SYSTEM THEN ESTABLISHED AT COURTS
- 11 - S/D CHALLENGE RULES & LADDERS SETUP - 60% OF CLUB PARTICIPATED!
- 12 - HENRY OBLER/NELSON POTTER PLANNED AND BUILT MAINTENANCE/DRESSING SHED WITH VOLUNTEER HELP
- 13 - MEMBERSHIP WAS 78 AT END OF 1966 (FIRST) SEASON
- 14 - LATER, THREE MORE NATURAL CLAY COURTS #5-#7 & PRACTICE AREA WERE BUILT BY CLUB VOLUNTEERS
- 15 - CLINICS, PRIVATE, & GROUP LESSONS WERE HANDLED BY TENNIS PROS
- 16 - THREE TEAMS WERE FIELDDED IN GWTA MEN'S INTERCLUB LEAGUE AND A TEAM WAS ENTERED IN THE GOVERNMENTAL DOUBLES LEAGUE
- 17 - A LARGE VARIETY OF SINGLES, DOUBLES, AND MIXED DOUBLES TOURNAMENTS WERE HELD FOR MEN AND WOMEN THROUGHOUT THE YEAR
- 18 - DUE TO MORE FAVORABLE DRYING CHARACTERISTICS, COURTS #3/#4 WERE CONVERTED TO HAR-TRU BY VOLUNTEERS FOR ABOUT \$3,000 PER COURT
- 19 - LATER, THE PLANNED PRACTICE AREA WAS MADE INTO COURT #8 (CLAY)

- 20 - AROUND 1975, DR. TOM KELSALL LED VOLUNTEERS IN CONVERTING COURTS #5-#7 TO HAR-TRU FAST DRYING SURFACE
- 21 - HENRY OBLER INSTALLED AN IMPROVED SPRINKLER SYSTEM ON ALL EIGHT SOFT COURTS
- 22 - IN 1978, THE CLUB CLEARED AND GRADED FOR THREE NEW COURTS WHICH WERE TO BE #9-#11
- 23 - COST OF THREE ASPHALT COURTS WERE TOO GREAT SO TWO COURTS WERE TO BE INSTALLED WITH AS MUCH VOLUNTEER LABOR AS POSSIBLE. THIS WAS NECESSARY SO THE BUDGETED PAYMENTS COULD BE HANDLED OVER THE YEARS. GEWA GAVE GTC SOME MONEY AND A LARGER INTEREST FREE LOAN. BY THIS TIME, ALL CLUBS HAD TO HANDLE THEIR OWN IMPROVEMENTS AND MAINTENANCE COSTS.
- 24 - FOR ASPHALT COURTS #9/#10, VOLUNTEERS DID FOLLOWING: PLANNED CTS; LAID GRAVEL BASE; INSTALLED CONCRETE CURBING, NET POST SLEEVES, NET ANCHORS, AND LIGHT FOOTERS.
- 25 - CONTRACTORS INSTALLED ASPHALT SURFACE, COLOR COATS & LINES, FENCE (WITH PROVISION FOR LATER INSTALLATION OF DEVOE OUTDOOR FLUORESCENT LIGHTING SYSTEM, USING EXTRA FIXTURE ON EACH SIDE FOR BACKLIGHTING.)
- 26 - AROUND 1980, THE DIRECTOR, DR. BOB COOPER GOT GEWA TO DONATE \$10K FOR THE LIGHT FIXTURES FOR THE ASPHALT COURTS.
- 27 - VOLUNTEERS RAN THE H-V CABLE THROUGH THE WOODS DIGGING BY HAND AND AIDED IN INSTALLING THE POWER TRANSFORMER BASE
- 28 - GSFC ELECTRICIANS HELPED DESIGN AND INSTALL THE DAVIT ARMS AND CATENARY SYSTEM FOR THE LIGHTS. GSFC AND THE CLUB WERE REPRIMANDED FOR USING GOVERNMENT PROPERTY AND PERSONNEL TIME - HOWEVER, THE LIGHTING INSTALLATION HAD ALREADY BEEN COMPLETED!
- 29 - ABOUT A YEAR LATER, VOLUNTEERS HELPED CONVERT COURT #8 TO HAR-TRU
- 30 - PRESIDENT BOB PRICE BROUGHT IN A LIMITED NUMBER OF OUTSIDE MEMBERS TO HELP PAYOFF GEWA LOAN ON THE ASPHALT COURTS.
- 31 - USING CONTRACTORS, THE ASPHALT COURTS WERE RECOATED LAST YEAR FOLLOWING REPAIRS TO THE SOUTH CURBING.
- 32 - LAST YEAR, PRESIDENT DAN MANDL BOUGHT A BALL THROWER AND ITS SHED FOR MEMBERS USE AND HAD AN IMPROVED SPRINKLER SYSTEM INSTALLED.
- 33 - THIS YEAR, THE MAINTENANCE CREW WILL FINISH THE PAINTING OF THE COURT FENCES.

AFTER COMPLETION OF THIS COMPLEX, WORTH OVER \$300K REPLACEMENT COST, WE WERE TOLD THAT HEADQUARTERS APPROVAL WAS REQUIRED FOR ANYTHING BUILT AT ANY CENTER FOR OVER \$5,000!

I WISH TO COMPLIMENT THE OFFICERS, MEMBERS, & GEWA FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT IN MAKING THE GODDARD TENNIS CLUB ONE OF THE FINEST PLACES IN THE COUNTRY TO PLAY TENNIS!

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March 8, 1991 Presentation by Robert E. Davis

LIST OF SLIDES

- 1 - Initial Pair of Courts (Har-Tru) #1 & #2
- 2 - 4 Courts (2 Clay/2 Har-Tru) #1, #2, #3, & #4
- 3 - GTC Challenge Ladder
- 4 - Maintenance/Dressing Shed
- 5 - Two Har-Tru & Six Clay Courts #1 through #8
- 6 - Professional Davis Holding USPTA Free Clinic
- 7 - GSFC/Edgemoor A Interclub League Match  
(Sonntag-Davis vs Sherfy-Addie)
- 8 - Conversion of Clay to Har-Tru Courts #5, #6, & #7
- 9 - H-V Power Line Trench For Courts #9 & #10
- 10 - GSFC Electricians Wiring Courts #9 & #10
- 11 - GTC Lighted Asphalt Courts #9 & #10
- 12 - GTC Sign/Bulletin Board