

Racquets and Reading

Volume 1, Issue 1

www.sctef.org

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SCTEF Celebrates First Season Results

Programs reach over 1,000 participants

Welcome to our inaugural newsletter. We are extremely proud and pleased to report our results for Summer 2003, our first year of operation. The summer has been packed with tennis and educational activities that have been enjoyed by Suffolk County residents of all ages. We began the season with May tennis carnivals at Port Jefferson Lincoln Mercury and Riverhead's Stotzky Park and culminated the summer programs by presenting our joint awards ceremony with the Suffolk County Junior Tennis League at the TD Waterhouse Cup Family Day event. This newsletter summarizes activities performed during the year. We hope that you enjoy reading about our accomplishments and encourage your participation on the courts and in the classroom.

As you read through our newsletter, feel free to contact us if something sparks your interest and you would like to see events or programs at your school district or community.

We also welcome comments, suggestions, and volunteers!

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Thanks to our Sponsors:

UNITED STATES TENNIS ASSOCIATION
ARIAS TENNIS CORP.
TD WATERHOUSE CUP
TOWN OF RIVERHEAD
ROBERT STERLACCI

Who We Are:

The SCTEF is a non-profit organization committed to building stronger communities by providing athletic and educational opportunities to Suffolk County residents, regardless of race, socioeconomic status, age, or ability.

SCTEF provides financial support for community tennis programs, and scholarships to help all families enjoy the sport of tennis. Our fundraising activities, program development, and community outreach efforts are helping to enrich existing programs, combining the best elements of tennis and education.

The founding directors are Jeff Sterlacci, Carol Sterlacci and Arthur Hutton. In 2003 we have volunteered our time to start the organization. With the help of a committed group of volunteers and paid service providers, we have had a successful first year and look forward to many more to come.

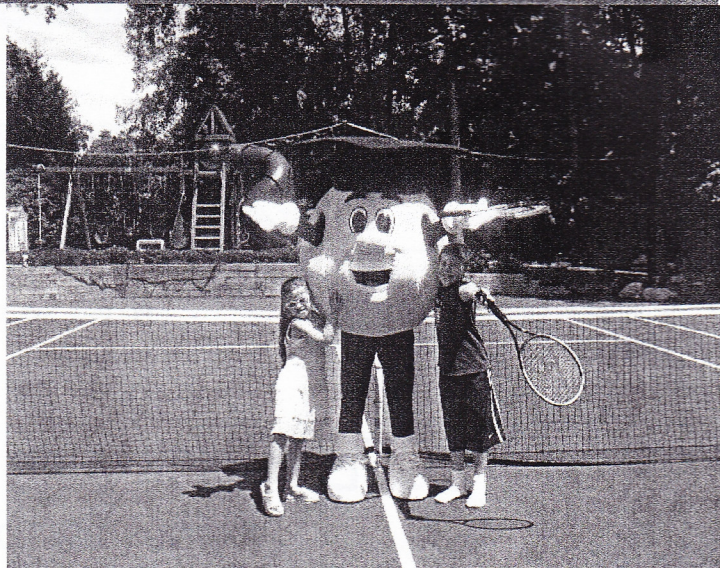
Deuce

Who is that lovable, giant tennis ball with the hat on his head?

That ball is Deuce – the official mascot of SCTEF. Deuce has made many appearances over the summer and will appear at the TD Waterhouse Cup Family Day and Kids Day events.

Deuce proudly wears a graduation hat to show off his love for education and learning. Arthur Ashe once said that “for every hour spent on the court, two should be spent with a book”. Deuce symbolizes the balance between athletics and education that our organization represents.

Deuce will be available for elementary school visits beginning in Fall 2003 and is currently working on his own educational book series. Deuce’s visits include a book reading and a brief talk about tennis. Deuce also presents a fundraising opportunity for the school district. Schools, PTOs, and PTAs may contact us if interested in a visit.



Building a Network

Suffolk County is rich with established organizations that provide excellent programming, curriculum, and resources. SCTEF seeks to align ourselves with these groups to provide the broadest array of opportunities for our participants. We are proud to have formed relationships with the following tennis and education providers:

Tennis

United States Tennis Association
Arias Tennis Corp.
Suffolk County Junior Tennis League
TD Waterhouse Cup

Education

New York State Summer Reading Program
North Shore Public Library
Riverhead Public Library
Town of Riverhead
Alternatives Counseling Centers
Long Island ScienCenter

We look forward to an expanded list of programs and activities in 2004. Please contact us if you are interested in joining our effort.

Programs

Family Tennis

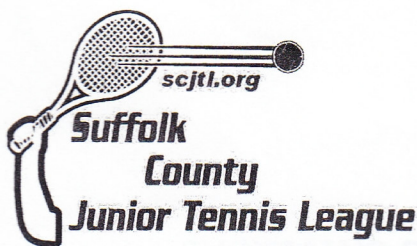
Family Tennis was created as a way to provide an event that emphasizes tennis, self-esteem and civic responsibility, while having all family members on the court together. With the exception of several rainy days, Family Tennis has been running since June 14 on Saturday mornings at 9am at Riverhead High School. Five sessions of Family Tennis were also held at Shoreham-Wading River High School on Friday evenings.

Family Tennis is free, with canned food donations collected as a joint effort with TD Waterhouse Cup to benefit the Interfaith Nutrition Network.

The weekly sessions include a unique lesson program in which family members serve as “coaches” for each other, led by a group instructor. The results have been great as families are enjoying the game and relying on each other to improve their skills.

An additional component has been group self-esteem and team building activities introduced by Beth Maccagli of Alternatives Counseling Centers. Beth spends approximately 10 minutes at the beginning of each session with a group activity, which has been entertaining and enlightening for our families.

Suffolk County Junior Tennis League



Our relationship with Arias Tennis Corp. and the Suffolk County Junior Tennis League has brought significant

opportunities to beginner, intermediate and advanced players.

The Suffolk County Junior Tennis League (SCJTL) (www.scjtl.org) is an established, successful organization which had a summer enrollment of over 500 participants. SCJTL is a network of tennis sites that have intersite and intrasite matches over a 6-week period, culminating in a year-end Challenge bringing all sites together for a friendly competition.

Our association with the SCJTL included sponsorship of the Riverhead, Shoreham-Wading River and Hauppauge sites. SCTEF subsidized enrollment fees in Riverhead and Shoreham, and awarded 20 full scholarships to financially disadvantaged families. We also sponsored the SCJTL Tennis Academy and SCJTL Challenge matches at Stony Brook University.

Racquets and Reading

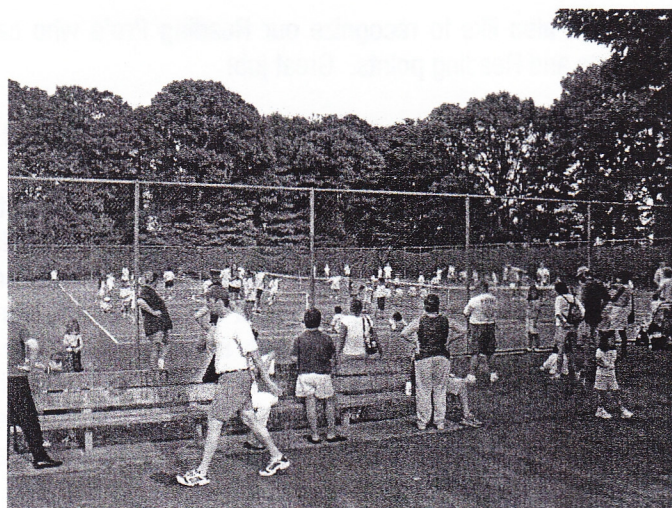
Staying mentally active over the summer is just as important as staying physically active. Studies have shown that students who read over the summer do better at school when they return in the fall.

Racquets and Reading is a summer enrichment program developed by SCTEF that reinforces the New York State Summer Reading Program. SCJTL players won prizes by reading, writing, drawing, and visiting their library. The program is flexible, allowing children and teens to select from a variety of reading, academic, and artistic activities. The program was available to all SCJTL participants, who tracked their reading progress throughout the season.

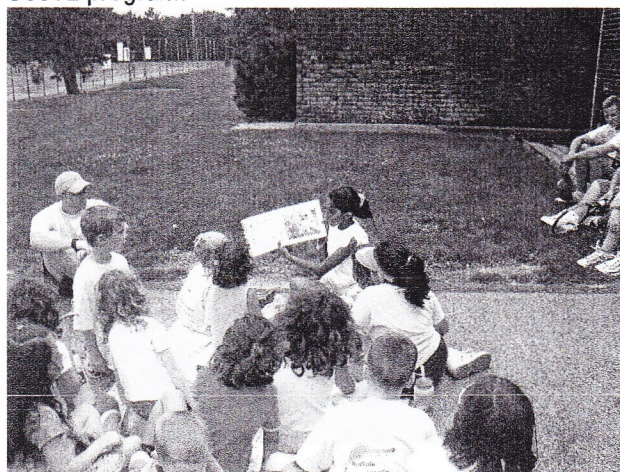
Players who accumulated 60 or more Racquets and Reading points received their completion prize at the Awards Ceremony at Family Day of the TD Waterhouse Cup on August 17. Green and Red division players received a Deuce backpack, a can of tennis balls, Smarties® candy, and a copy of the latest edition of Tennis magazine. White and Blue division players received a one-year USTA

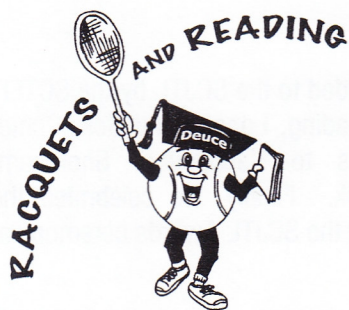
Additional activities were added to the SCJTL by the SCTEF, including Racquets and Reading, Long Island Sciencenter exhibits and Deuce visits to Hauppauge, Shoreham, Riverhead and Stony Brook. Finally, we celebrated the culmination of the season at the SCJTL Awards ceremony at the TD Waterhouse Cup.

We look forward to working with Arias Tennis Corp. and the SCJTL in 2004. We plan to expand educational activities and provide further opportunities to those who otherwise might not be financially able to participate.



membership, which includes a subscription to Tennis magazine, a gift certificate to Modell's Sporting Goods, and a can of tennis balls. In addition, all participants completing the program received a \$10 coupon toward next year's SCJTL program.





Winners!

SCTEF would like to congratulate our Reading Champions for their exemplary reading accomplishments. In addition to the above prizes, each Reading Champion will receive a \$25 gift certificate to Borders Books and Music, and a ½ hour private tennis lesson with Jeff Sterlacci, Executive Director of SCTEF. Congratulations!

We would also like to recognize our Reading Pro's who earned over 200 Racquets and Reading points. Great job!

An on-site Racquets and Reading program was developed and piloted in Riverhead and Shoreham. A limited version was also introduced in Northport and Hauppauge. Coordinators regularly checked the progress of program participants in these sites. Green and Red division participants received racquet stripes to display their progress, and received carnival prizes and stickers when they brought in their reading cards. Courtside community readings were held regularly in the Green Division throughout the program, and participants designed book covers that were displayed on our Racquets and Reading Book Quilt. Reading and activity backpacks were loaned to Green Division participants, and tennis- and sports-related books were loaned to those in the Red Division. White and Blue Division participants received tennis articles during the season.

SCTEF would like to thank Audry Horan, Jane Jones, Beth Maccagli, and Carol Sterlacci for volunteering their time as Racquets and Reading coordinators. We would also like to thank SCJTL staff member Lauren Capotosto for coordinating Racquets and Reading in Northport and Hauppauge.

READING CHAMPIONS

Green Division (Over 300 Points)

Liam Mears, age 6 ½, Shoreham
 Connor Mears, age 4, Shoreham
 Isabella LoPiccolo, age 6, Riverhead
 Kyra Mears, age 5 ½, Shoreham
 James Kehoe, age 5 ½, Shoreham
 Dylan Micucci, age 5 ½, Shoreham

Red Division (Over 500 Points)

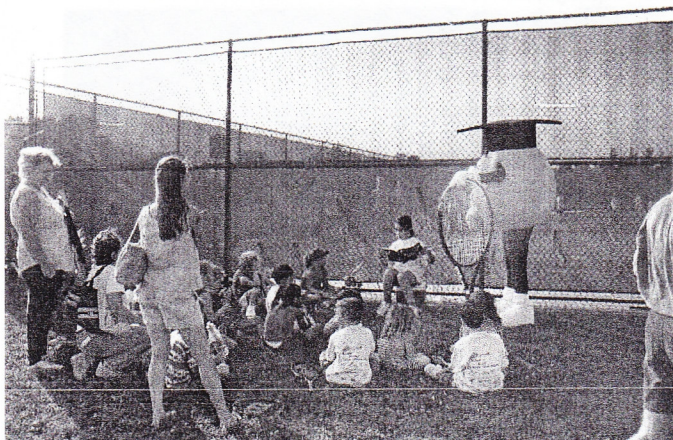
Cortney Crespo, age 10, Shoreham
 Maya Fink, age 10, Port Jefferson
 Ariana DeLuca, age 11, Shoreham
 Kayla Neville, age 8, Northport
 Erin Neville, age 6, Northport
 Abigail Vellon, age 6, Northport
 Kayla Myers, Riverhead
 Peter Kowpak, age 11 ½, Riverhead

White & Blue Divisions (Over 200 Pts)

Haley Sousa, Riverhead
 Lindsay Sousa, Riverhead
 Christina Hoffmeister, Riverhead

Reading Pro's

- Emily Belfiore, Red Division, Shoreham
- Nicole Cortina, Green Division, Shoreham
- Michael Kowpak, Red Division, Riverhead
- Alycia Kratoville, Red Division, Riverhead
- Samantha Kunz, Red Division, Northport
- Brenna Latour, Green Division, Riverhead
- Mark Peragine, Red Division, Riverhead
- Jyl Ristau, Red Division, Riverhead
- Andrew Sterlacci, White Division, Shoreham
- Anna Sterlacci, Green Division, Shoreham
- Klaudia Szczerba, Red Division, Riverhead
- Sarah Vitacco, Green Division, Shoreham

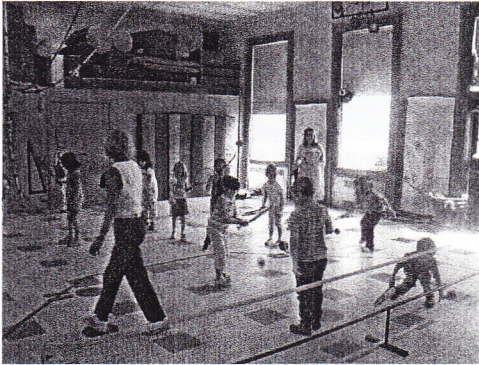


Schools and School Programs

Please join us in thanking Riverhead, Shoreham-Wading River, and Hauppauge school districts for use of their facilities this past year. If you enjoyed the programs run at your district, let your Athletic Director know that you appreciate their allowing us to use the facilities, and show your appreciation by always cleaning up the courts when you leave.

Shoreham-Wading River

In June, the SCTEF and Physical Education Instructor Di Gilroy performed a schoolwide assembly during gym classes over a two-day period at Briarcliff Elementary School. Over 200 children enjoyed group instruction and games using a mini-net and special indoor balls.



Jeff Sterlacci also performed Community Readings at Briarcliff (Mrs. Jacobs's kindergarten class and Mrs. Malave's 1st grade class), in which the children learned about some tennis players and heard a story about "Curious George".

Brookhaven Country Pre-School

In May, SCTEF was at the pre-school and kindergarten classes at Brookhaven Country Pre-School. Mr. Sterlacci read "Curious George" to the children in Miss Catherine's

toddler building and then set up a mini-net system on the grass play yard, where 30 children enjoyed tennis games and relay races.

Riverhead After School Children and Learning (RASCAL)

On Tuesdays and Fridays in May and June, SCTEF was at the Roanoke Avenue Elementary School in Riverhead to run an after-school tennis program in the school play yard with a mini-net system. Approximately 50 children enjoyed a lesson and rallyball program, which was offered as incentive after the children completed their daily homework assignments.

USTA School Programs

The United States Tennis Association (USTA) publishes a comprehensive school tennis curriculum that is available to any district. Additional resources, including instructors, racquets and mini-nets are made available through the USTA and SCTEF to provide the schools with an assembly and physical education teacher training so that the tennis program may be matriculated into gym classes. Please contact the SCTEF for additional information.

SCTEF Events

Long Island ScienCenter

The Long Island ScienCenter provided courtside exhibits at our Riverhead Tennis Carnival, as well as at SCJTL

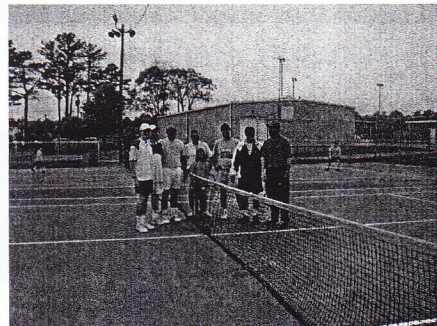


Riverhead and Shoreham sites during the summer season. Special thanks to Art, Linda and Denise for setting up displays and interacting with the children during their water breaks.

A supplemental education program, "The Physics of Toys" was held on July 22 and July 24 at the Long Island ScienCenter in Riverhead. Thirty SCJTL players attended the program and learned about physics and its applications to tennis. Thank you to Susan Frank for teaching our children, and to Chris Karcher for organizing this event.

Riverhead Tennis Carnival

In what proved to be a day that would be typical of the weather pattern for the season, a downpour preceded the



event and stormy skies threatened cancellation.

However, the rain held out for 3 hours and with the help of Jim Janacek, his crew of Town

Recreation

workers and some power equipment, the courts were dried and readied for play. Approximately 100 children and families attended the event and were treated to an exhibition match between John and Bill Cook (Long Island's own nationally ranked doubles team) and Town Supervisor Robert Kozakiewicz and Planning Department Director Richard Hanley. Additional activities included parking lot mini-tennis courts, fast serve court, Scooby Doo target practice, rally court and "hit with the pros" court.

Support SCTEF

We relied upon individual donations from families and friends for the majority of our funding this year.

To expand our tennis and education programs, we will need further support from individuals and companies. If your family has enjoyed our programs, please consider making a contribution. Your support will help us continue existing programming and expand our programming in the future.

We are seeking corporate sponsorship of Racquets and Reading, Family Tennis, and SCJTL programs for 2004. Please contact Jeff Sterlacci, SCTEF Executive Director, at 929-8339, ext. 1 to discuss your future support.

Web Site

As of the date of this publication, our web site (www.sctef.org) is still under construction. We would like to thank Bob Lovinger for donating the site hosting service to our organization. We will be performing a massive update to the site and expect all information to be input and running by September 1.

A color copy of our newsletter will be available on the website. We would love to speak to anyone interested in helping to keep the site up to date.

In the words of a participant...

The best way to close this newsletter is with the words of one of our participants. Cortney Crespo, a player in the Suffolk County Junior Tennis League at Shoreham, had this to say:

SCJTL

Hi! I'm Cortney. This was my first time in the red division of the SCJTL. Upon joining, I didn't know what to expect. I did not play tennis but I really wanted to learn how. When I walked into the court there were many kids. I thought they'd be much better and have a lot more experience than I do. As I kept practicing I realized that they were at the same level as me, but that's a different story. So, then we began stretching and took a lap around the courts. I didn't know what was to happen next. Then the instructors split us up into groups. My instructor, Lindsey, is really nice. I'm sure the other instructors are too. Every week we practice our forehands, backhands, and volleys. Then, we play some games like Queen of the Court, Around the World, and racquetball. Every Monday and Wednesday I bring in my Racquets and Reading card to earn points. I think I'm doing a really good job. Well, I'm sure there's tons more I could say about this great league but I would be here all day! I wish it could last all year. I know I will definitely be back.

— By Cortney Crespo, Red Division, Shoreham SCJTL Site

