A new 65-and-over mixed doubles USTA League launched on Long Island this summer, the first time this category/age group has been organized on Long Island. It is the only one of its kind in the Eastern Section.

The league has grown to two teams with about 35 participants who play mostly out of Hempstead Lake State Park. According to Al Silverstein, League Co-Creator, “What is unique about this group is that the league does not consist of only Long Islanders. There are people from Brooklyn and Harlem traveling to play with us. Also, because many of these players spend time in Florida, there has been interest in creating a New York vs. Florida ‘league’ with a couple of Florida clubs.” In fact, the group has already launched plans to play in Palm Beach Gardens this winter.

Silverstein was joined in starting the league by Susan D’Alessandro and David McKean, who also saw an opportunity for older players to play tennis outdoors. “It has grown into a successful league supported by USTA Eastern and League Coordinator Kathy Miller, who has been storing the match results on the USTA system,” Silverstein said.

The teams are led by Co-Captains Bob Nathan, Pat Molloy, D’Alessandro and Silverstein. They play one USTA match every Tuesday in the park, and every other Thursday they play another USTA match at The Tennis King @Roslyn Estates.

“Since our league does not progress to a Sectional event, because there is no other 65 and over mixed 8.0 league on Earth, we concentrate on playing as much outdoor tennis as possible,” Silverstein said. “Many of our registered players are playing USTA League tennis for the first time. With the unflinching support of Kathy Miller and USTA Eastern in keeping the registration fee to $10 (this is not a misprint), we expect to see more serious senior tennis players signing up, and playing alongside our recreational players,” he added.

According to D’Alessandro, “We have met some wonderful new players who immediately have something in common ... (they) love the fact that they are 65+ and still playing tennis competitively,” she said.

A summer highlight was a League BBQ in August, organized by Nathan and attended by many in the league.

If you’re interested in joining the 65-and-over Mixed Doubles League or just want more information, please email asilver1118@aol.com or suedaless10is@optonline.net...
Get Your NY Open Tickets!

Tickets for the 2019 New York Open are now on sale. The tournament, which brought professional tennis back to Long Island in its inaugural event in 2018, will return for its second year on February 9-17, 2019 at NYCB LIVE, the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum, in Uniondale. Once again, the New York Open will kick off with the New York Tennis Expo, sponsored by Long Island Tennis Magazine, on Saturday, February 9. Tickets for the tournament may be purchased at Ticketmaster.com, NewYorkOpen.com and NYCBLIVE.com, or by calling Ticketmaster at 1-800-745-3000. Tickets can also be purchased in person at the Ticketmaster Box Office at NYCB LIVE. Individual ticket prices start at $15 for the main draw during the early bird period. Last year’s champion Kevin Anderson is scheduled to play again and will be joined by Sam Querrey and Bob and Mike Bryan. Additional player commitments and other event highlights will be announced in the coming months.

LI Juniors Compete at US Open

Three local juniors had very short commutes to the 2018 US Open at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park: Cannon Kingsley, 17, of Northport; Lea Ma, 17, of Dix Hills; and Neel Rajesh, 17, of Oyster Bay, competed in the boys/girls draw of the US Open. Also competing at the US Open was Merrick’s Noah Rubin, 22, who competed in the Men’s Main Draw.

Kingsley and Rajesh, who train together at Christopher Morley Tennis, both played in the Boys’ Competition. Kingsley, a high school senior, received direct entry into the US Open, where he reached the third round of play. So far this year he also has competed in Wimbledon Juniors and the French Open Boys’ competition. He will be attending The Ohio State University next year as a member of their tennis team.

“This year has been an amazing experience for me in so many ways,” Kingsley said. “At the beginning of the year my expectations were not nearly as high as what I ended up achieving, competing in 3 of the 4 Grand Slam events and winning my first grade 1 ITF title. I think being at Grand Slams and experiencing the life of a professional tennis player being on the road and facing adversity has really helped me grow as a person and a tennis player. I want to thank my Coach Christian De Los Rios because I would not be here without him and also Christopher Morley Tennis for all the endless support they have given me for the last few years.”

Rajesh, who attends Syosset High School, won a wild card entry into the Open after winning the Kalamazoo 18s. “I was excited to be the 2018 National Clay court champion which gave me a wild card to play at the US Open Juniors,” Rajesh said. “My dream has always been to play a Grand Slam, and getting to play the US Open was the ultimate. I started focusing on preparing for the US Open and as I got closer to my match, I found myself getting very nervous. As I walked onto the court I found myself overwhelmed by the moment. While disappointed with the result, I reflect on the amazing run I had from June-August and am very proud of my accomplishments. Winning the National Clays and having an opportunity to play at the US Open Juniors was an incredible experience that I will cherish for my entire life.”

Ma, a high school senior, received direct entry into the US Open Girls’ Competition, and reached the third round. She previously competed in the French Open Girls’ Competition and Wimbledon Juniors this year.
Summer Fun for Kids

The USTA Long Island Region, together with Long Island Tennis Magazine, threw three big kids’ tennis parties this summer. Nearly 500 children participated in Nassau Kids’ Day at the Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury and Suffolk Kids’ Day at the Hamlet Golf & Country Club in Commack. New this year was Eastern Suffolk Kids’ Day at the Shinnecock Tennis Club in the Hamptons. The free Kids’ Days are annual events on Long Island.

“USTA Long Island and our volunteers are proud to bring these free Net Generation clinics to our Region,” said Jonathan Klee, USTA Long Island Region President. “Teaming up with our beautiful outdoor clubs makes it a wonderful first experience for many of these children who have never played the game. It’s all about the kids, and getting them exposed to tennis at an early age is fundamental to growing the game.”

Activities across the three events included tennis lessons provided by USTA volunteers, games, drills and clinics for both newcomers and those with experience, and lunch, plus games and activities – including face painting, music, dunk tank and other outdoor games -- provided by Long Island Tennis Magazine. Children from several summer programs attended one of the three Kids Days. Participating organizations included Circulo de la Hispanidad Summer Camp, AMC Child Care, Alliance Tennis Foundation, Hicksville Community Tennis Association, Daniel Burgess Freeport Tennis Camp, Future Stars Tennis Camp, Suffolk County YMCA, Suffolk JCC in Commack, Central Islip Community Tennis, Burn Exercise Group, YES and Girls Inc.

“As always, it is the volunteers and tennis pros that make up the event. And without the kids, this could not have happened,” said Terry Fontana, USTA Long Island Kids Day Chair.

“It’s wonderful to see the smiles on the kids’ faces at Kids Day. I marvel at their enthusiasm, both from seasoned players, to the novices who have never before picked up a racket,” said Randi Wilkins, Suffolk County Kids Day chair. “Every year, we surpass the previous year’s attendance, and hopefully we are growing tennis on Long Island through these events.”

Tennis for All at Hofstra Summer Camp

Hofstra University’s Summer Camp introduced tennis to every camper, not just those signed up for the tennis specialty, for the first time this year.

Sunny Fishkind, who has led the Hofstra Tennis Camp program for 33 years, said “This summer, I had the idea to introduce the children to try tennis,” Fishkind said. “I asked Terry Ryan, the director of Hofstra Camps, to schedule the recreation groups to come to tennis once during the summer. He thought the idea was great and even helped me set up a demonstration in the gym while the children were getting to camp in the morning. I called up children and had them play some Net Generation games so all the campers could see the fun.”

About 1,800 children attend one of Hofstra’s many Specialty Camps. Each child chooses a specialty (such as tennis, arts and crafts, etc.) for half the camp day and enjoys recreation and swim the other half of the day.

Fishkind and tennis instructor Heather Corriel gave lessons to non-tennis campers, using the games and character building skills of Net Generation. “I have had wonderful support from USTA Eastern and Net Generation, which supplied most of the equipment,” Fishkind said.

Tennis for All at Hofstra Summer Camp

The campers were on board for tennis fun. Nine-year-old Rylie said she was surprised to find that she liked tennis. “It was fun,” she said. “I liked hitting the ball to my partner and bouncing the ball on the racket. I am going to ask my mom to sign me up for lessons after camp.”

Lilly, also age nine, said tennis “was fun!” She especially enjoyed “rolling the balls to the colors. I will definitely play tennis” after camp, she said. TJ, also nine, added “I liked hitting the ball over the net and I liked hitting the colors. I liked everything. It was fun!”
On The Ball: News from Eastern

USTA Eastern Summer Kids’ Highlights

US Open Events
This summer, USTA Eastern offered several “once in a lifetime” US Open experiences to Net Generation providers and clubs throughout the Section.

US Open Experience
The US Open Experience at Brookfield Place took place in August. The Suffolk County Junior Tennis League brought 12 players ages 8 to 12 to participate in this event, a kickoff to the US Open, in downtown Manhattan.

Arthur Ashe Kids Day
Arthur Ashe Kids Day took place on August 25th, with three Long Island participants: Shiv and Ansh Chadha from Carefree and Saje Menun from Sportime. The participants interacted with all the top players including Serena, Federer, Nadal and Djokovic and were an integral part of the show.

Net Generation Demos
USTA Eastern held Net Generation Demos at the US Open from August 27th through September 3rd. The following Long Island clubs and providers brought their junior players to participate: Ross School Tennis Academy, Huntington Indoor Tennis, Sportime, Carefree Indoor Tennis, Robbie Wagner, World Gym Setauket and ER Tennis. The juniors played on the US Open courts before the morning matches, selected one player for the coin toss and received a free day pass for themselves, one parent and their coach.

Eastern In the Zone
The USTA Zone Team Championships (Zonals) is a five-day national team competition held annually that emphasizes singles, doubles and mixed doubles play against other section’s teams. Eastern sent four 14s Zonal teams to compete against Midwest, New England and Northern USTA sections participating and two Eastern teams played each other in the Zonal 14s Final. Coach Ari Roberts’ team competed against Coach Tom Battaglia’s, with Ari’s team taking the win. At 12 Zonals, with two more Eastern teams in the finals, Coach Peter Green’s team took home the win. And again at 16 Zonals, Eastern “Team A” coached by DJ Wilson won the championships against Southern 10-8 in the finals. Zonals provides a platform and location for play that fosters team work and healthy high-level competition and match results count toward National and Eastern standings.

Juniors Compete
Eastern juniors also enjoyed competitive success at events this past summer.

Clay Days
The City of Delray Beach hosted the 52nd anniversary of the USTA Boys’ 18 & 16 National Clay Court Championships July 15 – 22, 2018. This prestigious event, consisting of more than 440 of the top-ranked Boys 18s & 16s in the United States, is the only combined 10-day ATP World Tour Event and ATP Champions Tour Event in the world. Neel Rajesh (at right in photo below) of Oyster Bay won the Boys 18s Championship.
LI Teams Compete at Summer Sectionals

Long Island enjoyed a successful USTA League summer season. Winning Regional teams (Sectional winners in blue) were:

18 & Over

2.5 women: Long Beach, Capt. Patricia Hoeffner

3.0 women: Sportime Lynbrook, Capt. Rosalynn Steele & Diana Hensley

3.0 men: Sportime Lynbrook, Capt. David Schulman

3.5 women: Sportime Lynbrook, Capt. Shanon Blue

3.5 men: Deer Park, Capt. Kuldeep Barot

4.0 women: Sportime Syosset, Capt. Dawn Schosberg & Gigi Banks

4.0 men: Christopher Morley, Capt. Joseph Bullaro

4.5 women: Sportime Bethpage, Capt. Suzanne Markowitz & Marsha Silverman

4.5 men: Carefree, Capt. Adam Kolenberg

5.0 women: Sportime Lynbrook, Capt. Tina Buschi & Hali Katz

5.0 men: Carefree, Capt. Ben Marks

40 & Over

3.0 women: Carefree, Capt. Helen Pappas & Cathy Simon

3.0 men: World Gym Setauket, Capt. Mike Sloan

3.5 women: Carefree, Capt. Grace Granito & Nicole Kamelhar

3.5 men: Deer Park, Capt. Kuldeep Barot

4.0 women: Sportime Kings Park, Capt. Angela O’Leary

4.0 men: Sportime Syosset, Capt. Ken Schoen & Jerry Grossman

4.5 women: Carefree, Capt. Donna Ryan & Sally Disabato

4.5 men: Robbie Wagners, Capt. Lionel Goldberg

4.5, 4.0, 3.5 Tri-Level

Men: Sportime Syosset, Capt. Ian Shapiro

Women: Sportime Lynbrook, Capt. Suzanne Markowitz

55 & Over

7.0 men: Sportime Kings Park, Capt. Tim Consiglio & Dalmain Fenton

8.0 men: Garden City Rec, Capt. Rich Pashayan

9.0 men: Carefree, Capt. Don Wall & Adam Kolenberg

6.0 women: Sportime Bethpage, Capt. Mary Alice Ruppert

7.0 women: Carefree, Capt. Bonnie Kolenberg

8.0 women: Sportime Lynbrook, Capt. Beth Costa & Nayana Brahmbhatt

65 & Over

7.0 men: Bethpage State Park, Capt. Bob Nathan & Robert Morgillo

8.0 men: Long Beach, Capt. Al Silverstein & Ken Luba

65+ 8.0 men

18+ 3.0 ladies

18+ 3.5 ladies

18+ 4.0 ladies

18+ 2.5 ladies

18+ 4.0 ladies

40+ 3.0 ladies

40+ 4.0 ladies

18+ 4.0 ladies

18+ 4.0 ladies
Next Stop Nationals!

Twelve LI teams won their Eastern Sectional championships and will head to Nationals this fall! Congratulations and best of luck to:

**18 & over**
- Sportime Lynbrook 18+ 4.0 women, Capt. Tina Buschi & Hali Katz
- World Gym Setauket 40+ 3.0 men, Capt. Mike Sloan
- Robbie Wagner’s 40+ 4.5 men, Capt. Lionel Goldberg
- Garden City Rec 55+ 8.0, Captains Rich Pashayan
- Carefree 55+ 9.0 men, Captains Don Wall & Adam Kolenberg
- Bethpage State Park, 65+ 7.0 men, Capt. Bob Nathan & Robert Morgillo
- Deer Park Indoor 18+ mixed, Captain Suresh Patel
- Sportime Lynbrook 18+ 10.0 mixed, Captain Danny Casesa & Shanon Blue
- Sportime Syosset 40+ 7.0 mixed, Captain Dawn Schosberg
- Deer Park 40+ 9.0 mixed, Captain Roslyn Chua
- Sportime Syosset men’s tri-level, Capt. Lionel Goldberg
- Sportime Lynbrook women’s tri-level, Capt. Suzanne Markowitz
- Sportime Syosset men’s tri-level, Capt. Ian Shapiro
- Sportime Lynbrook women’s tri-level, Capt. Suzanne Markowitz
- Sportime Syosset men’s tri-level, Capt. Lionel Goldberg
- Sportime Lynbrook women’s tri-level, Capt. Suzanne Markowitz

**40 & over**
- Sportime Lynbrook 40+ 7.0 mixed, Captain Dawn Schosberg
- Deer Park 40+ 9.0 mixed, Captain Roslyn Chua
- Sportime Syosset men’s tri-level, Capt. Lionel Goldberg
- Sportime Lynbrook women’s tri-level, Capt. Suzanne Markowitz
- Sportime Syosset men’s tri-level, Capt. Lionel Goldberg
- Sportime Lynbrook women’s tri-level, Capt. Suzanne Markowitz
- Sportime Syosset men’s tri-level, Capt. Lionel Goldberg
- Sportime Lynbrook women’s tri-level, Capt. Suzanne Markowitz
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- Sportime Lynbrook women’s tri-level, Capt. Suzanne Markowitz
- Sportime Syosset men’s tri-level, Capt. Lionel Goldberg
- Sportime Lynbrook women’s tri-level, Capt. Suzanne Markowitz
- Sportime Syosset men’s tri-level, Capt. Lionel Goldberg
- Sportime Lynbrook women’s tri-level, Capt. Suzanne Markowitz

**Celebrating Sportsmanship**

USTA Eastern honored several Adult League captains for their sportsmanship at Eastern Night at a July New York Empire match. Representing Long Island was Deb Trimboli, a captain out of Sportime Bethpage for more than 10 years. She said, “I was so touched. I should be thanking USTA for introducing me to a sport I truly love and for the lifelong friendships I now have. Standing on the court in that arena was a feeling I won’t forget.” Trimboli captains three Bethpage teams, a 3.5 level 40+ team and two 3.0 level teams (40+ and 18+). She also is co-captain of a 3.5 (18+) team and plays on a ladies’ day team out of Sportime Syosset.

Caption: Deb Trimboli (third from left) is honored by USTA Eastern on court at a NY Empire vs. Washington match in July.
Around the Region...

Tennis Great Emil-io Sanchez Vicario visited World Gym Setauket to host a weekend-long junior tournament and fund-raiser, kicking off the U.S. portion of the 2018 Casper Tour. The event included tennis play, fund-raising and other activities. Sanchez Vicario, owner of the Academia Sánchez-Casal in Naples, Florida, spent the weekend at World Gym helping with the event. The Casper Tour is a series of junior tennis events being held to honor the life of Casper Fernandez, a student at Academia Sánchez-Casal, who passed away last July after a battle against bone cancer at the age of 16...

USTA Eastern seeks awards nominations to recognize greatness, both on and off the court.

Who do you know who has made a significant tennis impact this year in your community? The awards ceremony at the Eastern Tennis Conference will take place on Saturday, January 26, 2019. Individuals may be nominated for more than 20 awards, including Tennis Woman of the Year, Tennis Man of the Year, Tennis Family of the Year and Member Organization of the Year. The deadline for 2018 award nominations is Friday, October 5. Click here for a list of all awards and their descriptions. Click here to look back at past award winners...

The 2018 North Shore Men's Tennis League Champions, for the second time in three years, are: (top row, from left): Mitchell Low, Jon Bonnet, Jeff DeWeever, Justin Skidmore (future member), Dave Boliver, Terry Kosseg, Kenny Krutzler and Gerry Maida. Middle Row (from left): Allan Silverstein, Mark Troiano and Rob Volpe Bottom Row (from left): Brian Connor, Rich Young, James O'Sullivan and David Grossman. Not pictured: Scott Wiss, Chris Colesanti, R.J. Narciso, Christopher Wolfe, Paul Kutasovic, Ian Shapiro, Jerry Wasserman, Randy Willet, Mitch Klein, Brian Quiban and Rich Bustamante...

Have you visited the USTA Long Island Facebook page recently? The page, along with the USTA Long Island Twitter account (@USTA_LI) and web site (www.longisland.usta.com), is updated frequently with events, news and activities of Long Island's clubs, league teams, players and more. Click here to check it out.