



Section 3.10 THEME EVENTS

While competitive events are important to some members, keep in mind that a high percentage of your membership will be happy enough to play in fun, social events where actual winning and losing is secondary to playing tennis for enjoyment.

It is important for the programmer to have some innovative ideas for these fun-based activities. An event with a theme is a proven way to get people involved. Here are some ideas!

- 1. Tradition Day**
Players are to wear all whites and bring along wooden racquets. If possible use white tennis balls as well!
- 2. Mini Tennis Day**
This could be both singles or doubles played within the service courts, serving is underhand and the ball can only bounce once. With doubles you may wish to play table tennis format by having the players on the same team alternate shots.
- 3. Theme Days**
Just use your imagination! Have your own Wimbledon morning, wearing whites only and complete it with strawberries and cream. Have a wild t-shirt day where people wear their most bizarre tennis T's. The prizes go to the most bizarre of the bizarre.
- 4. Canada Day**
Have a round robin where everyone wears red and white and brings a pot luck Canadian lunch item.
- 5. Century Cup**
Hold a doubles event where the ages of the teams have to total 100 (or 90, if this works better to maximize participation). This could be Ladies, Mens, or Mixed doubles.
- 6. Adult/Junior Day**
Any event which involves adults and juniors helps to create better interaction and a better relationship between the two ages within you club. Hold an event where partners must have a minimum age difference between them.
- 7. Tennis Marathon**
This could be used as a fundraiser too! Players get sponsorship (could be based on games won during the marathon). A round robin format is great for this and it could be held over 1 or 2 days.
- 8. Multi-Sport Event**
Have a team competition which involves tennis, soccer and volleyball. Any other sport will work as long as you have the playing area nearby. These events are great if you have



limited courts and a lot of participants, everyone is always active and interactive.

9. Team Tennis

This could be run over 1 or 2 days during a weekend depending on the number of courts and number of participants. You may find that no-ad scoring works best with timed rotations anywhere from 30 minutes to 1 hour in length. A team should be comprised of appropriate numbers to tie into the number of courts. Have some singles and doubles matches for the different players and categories of each team. This could also be combined with a multi-sport day.

10. Moms and Tots

This is a great idea for facilities that have either a daycare option or even for a Mom with an older responsible child who wants extra babysitting cash in the summer! Schedule time every week where Moms can come to play a round robin and have their children looked after, all at the same time.

11. Tennis Aerobics

This program could be run by either a tennis or aerobics instructor incorporating shadow swinging of all tennis strokes done to music. Be aware of appropriate times for the routines considering different fitness levels and ages of participants.

12. Midnight Madness

Play tennis beginning anywhere from 7p.m. all the way until 12p.m. Include either an ongoing Bar B-Q or follow the tennis with a "Midnight Snack".

13. Forgot My Racquet Doubles

Play doubles but use only one tennis racquet on each side of the court. Players must alternate shots (making sure not to forget to pass the racquet).

14. Davis/Federation Cup

Make teams from different countries that compete against each other. Players to wear appropriate colours and bring food and drink representative of the country they represent.

Many different scoring systems can be used similar to the ones already described. Generally speaking, try to keep rotations short and give people a variety of partners. It works best when you advertise the exact plan for play on the bulletin board sign up or in the club newsletter.

If you need further details or clarification in any of the areas described, please feel free to contact the **OTA**. Good luck and have **FUN**.