

OUTSIDE TRACK . BERT WOODARD

Tennis anyone?

The Charlotte area has many leagues for the tennis enthusiast to choose from, but the Queen City Tennis Club is different from the rest. They're the only club where the GLBT community can come together in a relaxed atmosphere, be themselves and enjoy the sport of tennis.

QCTC is a membership organization of tennis players that has been around for two years. The group started out very small, but has grown steadily to include about forty individuals. With this growth, the group has become more organized, recently forming a leadership team and adopting the following mission:

"To transform the Queen City Tennis Club into one of Charlotte's most enjoyable venues in which to socialize with gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender people, foster new friendships within this community, and experience various

levels of competition within the sport of tennis."

The club's current play schedule includes "Open Play" every Sunday from 10 am to noon at Park Road Park. Players are matched according to skill level and then rotate every half-hour to play against others. This format is a great way for players to test their skills against a variety of strategies and to socialize with different people.

As the club grows and the demand for varied playing opportunities increases, the club plans to add more programs. Therefore, in addition to Sundays, QCTC is planning to add Wednesday nights to its play opportunities this summer.

The club is more than just about tennis though. Members often enjoy a good laugh at missed overheads, botched volleys or "hitting one outta the park!" So, play isn't too serious. Members also come for the social aspect. A cookout social is scheduled for May 4 at Park Road Park to give everyone a chance to wind down and to

socialize with other members after two hours of fun tennis. You are encouraged to come on out and play and help QCTC achieve its mission.

So, whether an avid player, feisty competitor or someone looking to dust off the old racket and start playing again, Queen City Tennis Club is a viable choice. If you are interested in playing some great tennis and meeting even greater people, contact the Queen City Tennis Club and find out about all the membership benefits.

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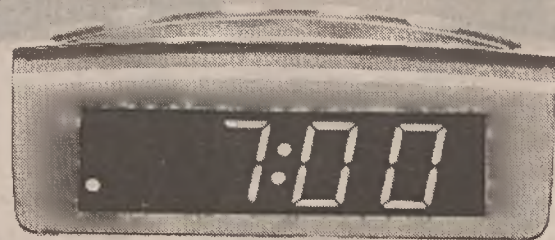
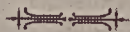


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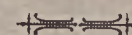
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