

# Our Athletes

## Kenny Hill: 101 matches

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ing depending on the stock market.

"We're probably going to raise close to \$4,500 this weekend, and that's about 50-50 between donations and entry fees," said Hill. "We've still got a lot of people that used to play in this tournament, but they don't play any more. They're still contributing."

Since moving to the local high school courts, the event has swelled into a town-wide event with current and former varsity tennis stars, parents, instructors, and competitive players joining the nine tournament brackets. This year's competition drew more than 30 new faces and more youth players than ever before. With more than 100 matches over two days, the tournament has become a showcase for local competition.

Nicole Storti went 6-0 to claim the title in the girls singles competition, and John Sadosky went 4-0 to capture the boys division, but Hill said that he was impressed with the parity and the depth throughout both divisions.

"We were finally able to split up the boys and the girls

so that we could have the girls play girls and the boys play boys," said Hill. "Last year, everybody played everybody else. This year, we had two divisions and kept them separate. We saw some pretty good talent. They're coming into the tennis program at the high school level already knowing the game."

Jeremy Reichtahl won the men's single division, and Ron Goodman captured the title in the men's championship bracket. Gail Tuccio swept through the women's singles competition and paired with Libby Canavan to win in women's doubles.

Wint Filipek and Henry Eng won the men's masters doubles. Jim and Joe Mercuri partnered for the victory in the men's doubles bracket. Eric and Sue Henne closed the competition with a championship title in the mixed doubles competition.

"It was great competition this year with lots of new players who brought a lot of new talent. You can see that because the finals of the mixed doubles were all new players that haven't played in this tournament before," said Hill. "We're getting a lot of word-of-mouth outside of town, too. We have people

playing from Hamden, North Haven, Harwinton, and Bristol, so it's gotten around. It's a good tournament, and it's a fun tournament."

Hill said that the non-profit tournament continues to benefit the local tennis community, and he thanks school and town officials, the local board of education, and the many volunteers that help support the event.

"They let us use the facility. That cuts a lot of costs out of these tournaments because, if we tried to do it elsewhere, you're paying for court times and stuff like that," said Hill. "Working with Eric Swallow and the rest of school administration has been great. They've been bending over backwards to try to help us out."

The tournament has struggled in recent years in its battle against Mother Nature. But this year, even she cooperated, clearing away the clouds, bringing out the sun, and shifting the winds to bring a colorful start to each day. The balloonists and players did the rest.

To comment on this story or to contact sports writer John Goralski, email him at [jgoralski@southingtonobserver.com](mailto:jgoralski@southingtonobserver.com).



JOHN GORALSKI

Bob Magyar returns the ball during a Men's Masters championship match on Sunday, Aug. 29.

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