

Totally Tennis

February 2015

America's #1 Local Tennis Magazine

Past champions: Kei Nishikori, Sam Querrey, James Blake, and Nick Kyrgios



Jim Driscoll

Lakewood Ranch Country Club Hosts the
SARASOTA OPEN
at the New James T. Driscoll
Centre Court Stadium ***April 11-19*** Page 9

RAIN DOESN'T STOP USPTA PROFESSIONALS



LESSONS FOR LIFE started in 1998 when USPTA announced they would join the American Cancer Society to help stomp out cancer. Since then, the local pros in Sarasota County have done just that.

Brenda Mertz, a USPTA tennis professional and a cancer survivor herself, took the rackets by the handle, and alongside the tennis professionals, has earned more than any one club in the U.S. for Lessons For Life.

On November 8th at **The Landings Racquet Club**, the top area tennis professionals did it again. Knowing the rain might come didn't stop the pros. Everyone showed up with hoppers of balls in hand and a smiling face and put on their Lessons For Life tees.

The silent auction was set up by **Michelle Young**, Brenda's daughter, who has been by her side since the first event, and **Lolita English**, her right hand woman.

The food table was ready with **Laurie Mooney** and **Bridgette Bressler** (14 year vets) waiting to serve food donated by **PDQ**.

As the people started coming in, so did the rain, but so what? The participants had 50

minutes with misting rain and didn't blink an eye. Everyone was flying high including all the balls while the enthusiasm from the pros showed the love of giving.

The kindness these pros' demonstrate at this event year after year is infinite. Many cancer survivors themselves thinking about what they can do to help grounds us all.

Brenda Mertz quotes: "I personally choke up inside when I see the pros arriving with tennis balls in hand, smiles on their faces. Some of the pros

have never missed in all these years. It's so hard to do this when they leave their own clubs, lessons, and family, but we know we are fortunate to be on this earth and able to help."



PHOTO BY LAURIE MOONEY

Participating Pros: 1st row left to right: Charlie Sandomenico (Venetian), John Janes (independent), Julio Moros (Sarasota Racquet Club), John Woods (Resort at Longboat Key), Ron Smith (The Landings); 2nd row: Joe Venezia (The Landings), Mexdy Karbid (retired pro), John Bloom (Cascades); 3rd row: Sergei Klimantovich (retired pro), Mike Smith (Heron Creek); 4th row: Mohammed Chaouq (United Tennis Club), Adam Zastempowski (Jacaranda West), Jim Mertz (Mertz Tennis Academy), Don Caprio (The Meadows), Greg High (Palm Aire), and Pancho Williams (Boca Royale)



Co-chairs Brenda Mertz and her daughter Michelle Young



Mohammed Chaouq and Pancho Williams conducting a clinic

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