

## FALL OF 1974

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In the fall of 1974, a group of girls at Fort Myers Racquet Club with the cooperation of the YMCA organized a competitive "A" tennis league. Although this was only for members of the Fort Myers Racquet Club, it was so successful that membership was extended to Lee County and surrounding areas in 1975.

## 1975-1976 SEASON

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Still working closely with the YMCA and because membership had grown, the Y collected \$20 from each team to defer the costs of operation. There was a member fee; however, records are not clear what this was.

Six teams participated that season:

Team	Captain
Caloosa Bayview	Fran Thomas
Sandpiper	Barb Dunlap
YMCA	Brenda Herndon
FMRC (White)	Mary Lou Hill
FMRC (Red)	Jane Christie
FMRC (Blue)	Sue Smith

The rules and format of play were simple:

1. All A level players
2. Play was on Wednesday
3. Teams fielded 3 singles and 2 doubles
4. Played by strength
5. Player has to be 21 years of age or older
6. Scoring was by number of matches team won

## 1976-1977 SEASON

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Officers

President	Joanne Couse
Vice President	Sylvia Bartlett
Secretary	Diane DeBoest
Treasurer	Diane Richards

Rules were still simple:

1. Included were all of the rules listed above
2. USTA "Rules of Tennis" apply
3. The officers set a \$5 entry fee

## 1977-1978 SEASON

Because the league had grown so rapidly, it became necessary to split into A, B, and C leagues. The entry fee is still \$5.00 per member with a \$40.00 maximum per team.

### Officers

President	Sylvia Bartlett
Vice President	Unkown
Secretary	Diane DeBoest

There were six clubs represented in the A League:

Cypress Lake	Port Charlotte
Landings	Rangoon
Lehigh	YMCA

There were ten clubs represented in the B League:

CCYC	PG1
Cypress Lake	FMRC
Emerald Pointe	Rangoon
Landings	Sanibel
Lehigh	YMCA

Although a C League was mentioned, there are no records indicating one was formed at this time.

### Rule Changes:

1. A and B Leagues would now play four doubles teams.
2. Players had to be 18 years of age or older.
3. The YMCA would continue to rule the league at least for this year.
4. A person playing for a college or high school could only play in the A-League.
5. The two leagues would remain separate entities and each have their own governing body.
6. A and B Leagues played on the same day – Wednesday.
7. A player had to belong to a sponsoring club.
8. The Board was composed of a representative from each team who in turn would elect a chairman. Decisions regarding league play would be made by this board.
9. A-League could draw subs from B-League.

## 1978-1979 SEASON

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### Officers

A Division President	Mary Lou Hill
B Division President	Jennifer Rhea
C Division President	Joey L. Maples

### Highlights of the Year:

1. The YMCA felt they needed to raise their fee from \$10.00 to \$25.00 because the tennis association had grown so much. The members voted unanimously to discontinue the sponsorship of the YMCA. The association became officially known as Lee County Women's Tennis League with A, B, and C Divisions. Note: Now there were divisions within the League.
2. A set of By-Laws and a Constitution (obtained from the East Coast of Florida by Mary Lou Hill) were adopted as well as a set of Rules for Play.
3. In January of 1979 the Executive Board was created for Lee County Women's Tennis League. In the beginning, the President of A-Division was the Director. This meant Mary Lou Hill was the first director.
4. By the end of the 1979-1980 playing season, Mary Lou had stepped down from the A-Division to B-Division. Since the By-Laws stated the President of A-Division had to be an A player, the By-Laws needed to be revised.

By-Law Changes: The director would be chosen from past or present board members.

### Rule Changes:

1. The entry fee was \$5.00 per member or \$40.00 per team to be tendered to the Board. If monies were left over at the end of the season, they would be returned to each club on a pro-rated basis.
2. A match would consist of one singles and three doubles.
3. A nine-point tie-break was used.
4. Residents and winter residents of Lee County could play in LCWTL, but not weekly visitors.
5. If a team won 2 years consecutively, it had to advance to a higher division.
6. Lineups had to be exchanged immediately upon arrival at the court.
7. A provision for grievance handling was established.
8. Teams consisted of at least one player for each position with no maximum.

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## 1979-1980 SEASON

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### Officers

Director	Mary Lou Hill
Secretary	Madge Stillman

Membership: 325 members, 27 teams, three divisions

### Highlights of the Year:

1. B-Division changed play day from Wednesday to Tuesday.
2. Play day for the C-Division was Thursday.
3. Matches now were to consist of four doubles.

### By-Law Change:

A Scheduling Committee was created to do the scheduling for all divisions.

### Rule Changes:

1. Changed from the 9-point tie-break to the 12-point tie-break.
2. No division could end in a tie; thus, the following practice would be used to solve a two-way tie:

If both teams at the end of the season are tied with equal number of points and are both either hard or clay court clubs, the toss of a coin shall determine home courts for the playoffs. If one hard court club and one clay court club are tied, the playoffs shall be held at Fort Myers Racquet Club (since they have both surfaces available) and position of surface would be determined by drawing from a hat.

Or if a three-way tie:

A round robin would be played with the total points determining the winner. If this also results in a tie, the team with the least number of sets lost would be the winner; or further, the team with the least number of games lost would win. This situation would also be used in the event a two-way tie was unresolved after the playoff match.

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## 1980-1981 SEASON

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### Officers

Director	Pam Thompson
Secretary	Kathy Peschel

Membership: 350 members, 29 teams, and 13 participating clubs

### Highlights of the Year:

1. Membership is limited to only Lee County club members. This meant Burnt Store Golf and Racquet, Emerald Pointe Racquet and Port Charlotte Country Club were eliminated from our league.
2. A new division called 50+ was added. They played three positions.
3. All other divisions would play doubles, so more girls could play and only the minimum number of courts at any club would be tied up.
4. The club pros were asked to donate a \$10.00 gift as a prize at the spring luncheons.

### Rule Changes:

1. The penalty for playing a non-member would be a defaulted match.
2. If a player switched divisions, she had to pay another \$5.00 entry fee.

By-Law Changes: All divisions were programmed to give out trophies/awards at the end-of-the-season luncheon. The treasurer was responsible for this luncheon.

## 1981-1982 SEASON

### Officers

Director	Madge Stillman
Secretary/Treasurer	Mary Lou Hill

In September of 1981, a great sadness came upon the tennis members. Pam Thompson, who had been Director the 1980-1981 playing season passed away. It was unanimously agreed by all players that Lee County had lost a fine tennis enthusiast.

### By-Law Changes:

1. The position of Treasurer was added to the Executive Board and it was combined with that of Secretary.
2. All League members must be from a sponsoring body in Lee County.

### Rule Changes:

1. The entry fee was increased to \$6.00 per member but the maximum amount was discontinued.
2. On May 15, 1991, the League voted to accept teams from Lee County Parks as part of the League.
3. The minimum age for a player was raised to 21.
4. USTA ratings were established for each division
  - A = 4.5 maximum dropped. It was made an open end.
  - B = Maximum of 3.5
  - C = Maximum of 2.5

5. Each club pro would rate all playing members according to NTRP.
6. Rosters were limited from 8 to 16 players, except 50+ which was 6 minimum with 12 the maximum.
7. New team members could not be added during the last month of play.
8. The limit on the number of times a sub could play up was removed.
9. A pro should be available when a match is played.

## 1982-1983 SEASON

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### Officers

Director	Norma McAllister
Secretary/Treasurer	Kathy Peschel

### Highlights of the Year:

1. The first yearbook was printed, however, no copy remains.
2. The B-Division split into B-1 and B-2.
3. To have more standardization of player ratings, it was thought everyone should be NTPR rated. Therefore, one day was set apart as the time for NTPR rating. This did not turn out to be feasible and a little later on it was rescinded in favor of each pro being responsible for rating his players.
4. In August when the B-Division split, the Director appointed officers for the new B-2 Division without consulting the already elected B-Division officers. This caused a flare up of tempers and some hurt feelings. In reality the Executive Board should not have participated in the division elections. The new division would hold its own election and the 30-day prior notice requirement would be waived.
5. Also it was thought because Park players were not paying membership fees to a club, they should pay \$25.00 to the parks for upgrading the facilities. The Waterway Team really put in a protest against this action, because prior to this they had asked to move their playing field to Rutenberg Park because the restroom facilities at Waterway were bad. The Director said "no" because there already was a team at Rutenberg. Waterway even took their plea to the Parks and Recreation representative, telling him they should have first-come preference for Rutenberg since they were a three-year old team. The representative told them these kinds of matters should go through the League Director. At this point problems also arose between League and the Lee County Parks.
6. The \$25.00 fee for non-clubs was later rescinded by the Executive Board, but not until there were yet many more hurt feelings.
7. The wording on the rosters was changed and there was a mix-up about whether to list players by team strength or individual strength. It should have read to list by

individual strength. The B-1 Division voted to drop roster system of listing by individual strength.

8. There were so many problems interpreting the rules, a Rules Committee was set up – consisting of one member from each team by division.

In March of 1983, the “A” division withdrew from LCWTL.

## 1983-1984 SEASON

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### Officers

Director	Norma McAllister
Secretary/Treasurer	Kathy Peschel

### Highlights of the Year:

1. A C-2 Division was formed. They played 2 positions.
2. The B-Division split again, adding a B-3 Division.
3. At the beginning of the season the B-1 Division withdrew from the League, because they did not approve of the weighted match score system.
4. Since B-1 had withdrawn, the B-2's would now be called A-2's and the B-3's would be known as the B-Division.
5. Since some problems arose, it was suggested it would be in the best interest of the League, if a player did not serve as a captain of a team if she was an officer in the League. (For example: Sheelah O'Neill was Secretary/Treasurer of A-2 and captain of the B-2 team at the Forest.)
6. In August 1983 once again a joint board meeting with pros was held at Cypress Lake Country Club.
7. In October 1983 Dorothy Hamlin resigned as president of A-2's (B-2). However for whatever reason this did not happen.
8. In April 1984 Norma McAllister resigned as League Director. Pat Hammond was elected Director with Rickie Daugherty as Secretary/Treasurer.

### By-Law Changes:

1. A quorum of the Executive Board would be 50%.
2. Added Article VII: The standing committee shall be the Scheduling Committee.
3. Election of division officers changed from spring luncheon to fall before start of play.

### Rule Changes:

1. Players no longer had to play in roster order. This allowed pros to use an open line-up, thus eliminating playing by strength and the controversial sandbagging rule.
2. A weighted match score system was used by all divisions except B-1:

- 1<sup>st</sup> position = 4 points  
 2<sup>nd</sup> position = 3 points  
 3<sup>rd</sup> position = 2 points  
 4<sup>th</sup> position = 1 point

3. The list of minimum ratings for a division was dropped from the rules because it was on the roster form.

## 1984-1985 SEASON

### Officers

Director	Pat Hammond
Secretary/Treasurer	Rickie Dougherty

Because there was no yearbook printed this season, the following is a list of the officers for all divisions:

B-2 Division		C-1 Division	
President	Sheelah O'Neill	President	Pat Robertson
Vice President	Marilyn Erickson	Vice President	Clare Gray
Secretary/Treasurer	Sheelah O'Neill	Secretary/Treasurer	Sue Doing

B-3 Division		C-2 Division	
President	Diane Bostick	President	Mary West
Vice President	Carol Lee	Vice President	Hilda Guidrey
Secretary	Pat Hammond	Secretary/Treasurer	Patti Mitchell
Treasurer	Judy Persons		

50+ Division	
President	Midge Farias
Vice President	Barb Byster
Secretary/Treasurer	Helen Weile

### Highlights of the Year:

1. The 50+ division divided into A and B sections.
2. The New Press said they would only print scores once a week from now on and that they must be submitted in writing. In February 1985 a letter was sent to the president of The News Press regarding the lack of printing of tennis scores in the paper.
3. Because the League Board was becoming unwieldy, they would no longer act in a supervisory capacity. Each treasurer was to keep the \$1.00 earmarked for the League.
4. No handbook as such was printed; however, the C-1 Division printed their own.

5. The B-3 Division made a couple of rules of play for themselves.
  - A sub may be used four times
  - A sub must be rated lower than a B-3 and play in 3<sup>rd</sup> position.
  - The grievance committee for this year was the seven team captains in B-3.
  - They played their third round for fun.
6. Some girls attempted to start a summer league.

By-Law Changes:

1. Responsibility of the spring luncheon and trophies/awards went from Secretary/Treasurer to division president.
2. Any college player, coach, or teaching pro receiving payment for instruction, regardless of their rating could not play in any division of LCWTL.
3. If either the Director of League Secretary/Treasurer were no longer members of LCWTL, an Executive Board Meeting would be called to elect a new officer, who would then serve out the remainder of the term.
4. A quorum of the Executive Board would be 51%.
5. If a divisional meeting was called it had to be with a minimum of 30 signatures of members from 3 or more LCWTL participating clubs.
6. The objective of the League changed to read for the purpose of promoting competitive tennis among *Women* instead of among *Clubs*.
7. The immediate past director was to be considered an exofficio member of the board, voting only in case of a tie.
8. Standing committees such as Rules Committee to be appointed by the Director.

Rule Changes:

1. NTP rating system applied and all members had to be rated by their club pro or coach.
2. Each captain was to carry a copy of the USTA Code and LCWTL Rules of Play to all matches.

The future of Lee County Women's Tennis League seemed to be in jeopardy. There was unrest among the members and unity seemed to be falling apart.

Three proposals were made as to what to do:

1. Dissolve the Lee County Women's Tennis League entirely, with each division functioning on its own. There would be no director and no executive board.

2. Continue operating as they had been during the 1984-1985 season, with an Executive Board and Director. Each division would run their own scheduling, make their own rules, etc. There would be no league dues. (This had been \$1.00 per member.)
3. Return the League to what it was during the 1983-1984 season; i.e., the Executive Board and Director would make decision and govern all divisions. League dues would be payable and any money over \$10.00 remaining in a division treasury would be returned to the League at the end of the playing season.

These proposals were voted upon at each division luncheon. All divisions accepted Proposal #2 which meant some By-Law changes had to be made for the 1985-1986 season.

## **1985-1986 SEASON**

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There were 30 teams from 14 clubs with 295 names of players in the book.

This is the first yearbook that we have on file with 24 pages. The Rules are listed on four pages.

Changes this Season:

The Executive Board consisted of a Director and Secretary-Treasurer with three officers from the B-2, B-3, C-1, and 50+ (who returned to one section) Divisions.

Teams consisted of 6 to 12 women.

## **1986-1987 SEASON**

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There were 43 teams from 14 clubs with 389 names of players in the book. The yearbook still has 24 pages.

Changes this Season:

This year saw the addition of the C-2 Division. A team now may consist of 4 to 12 women. The entry fee was raised to \$7.00 per member up a dollar from the last increase in 1981.

## **1987-1988 SEASON**

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There were 43 teams from 12 clubs with 381 names in the book which still has 24 pages.

Changes this Season:

This year saw the addition of the Associate Director and the Golden Girls (60+) Division.

## 1988-1989 SEASON

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There were 52 teams from 14 clubs and 518 names in the book which has increased to 32 pages.

Changes this Season:

This year the executive position of Secretary-Treasurer divided making one position for Secretary and one for Treasurer. The B-1 division came back. The first Annual Fall Workshop was held at Fiddlesticks.

## 1989-1990 SEASON

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There are 59 teams from 16 clubs and 553 player names in the book. The book still has only 32 pages.

Play continues as before with no major rule changes.

## 1990-1991 SEASON

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There are 530 women listed in the yearbook on 56 teams from 17 clubs. The book has increased to 36 pages.

Changes this Season:

Divisions consisted of B-1, B-2, B-3, C-1, C-2, 50+, and Golden Girls (playing every other Thursday)

## 1991-1992 SEASON

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The 58 teams from 18 clubs have a total number of 636 players listed in the yearbook. The yearbook now has 40 pages with only five pages devoted to the rules.

Changes this Season:

Divisions consisted of A, B-1, B-2, B-3, C and 50+ divisions. A team now may consist of 4 to 14 women. An A-Division formed with 8 teams to play on Thursday.

## 1992-1993 SEASON

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There are 651 players listed in the yearbook from 21 clubs on 61 teams. The yearbook still has 40 pages.

Changes this Season:

The fees were no longer called *entry fees* but called *dues*. The dues were raised to \$10.00.

## 1993-1994 SEASON

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The 66 teams from 19 clubs have 710 player names listed in the book. The yearbook now has 44 pages.

Changes this Season:

Levels of play for divisional organization were defined. Divisions still consist of A, B-1, B-2, B-3, C and 50+.

## 1994-1995 SEASON

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There are 80 teams from 19 clubs with 848 player names listed in the yearbook. The yearbook has 46 pages.

Changes this Season:

Divisions now consist of: Dynamo, 4.0, 3.5, 3.5 minus, 3.0, 2.5, and 50+ Gold and 50+ Silver. This was the first and last season for the 2.5 Division until they started up again in 2001-2002. A rule was added to allow a 50+ player to also play on one rated team. The Sportsmanship Award was started. The computer rating system was purchased.

## 1995-1996 SEASON

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The 79 teams from 18 clubs have 905 names in the yearbook. There are 52 pages in the yearbook. No great changes this season and play continued as before.

## 1996-1997 SEASON

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The number of players has increased to 1,026 from 92 teams and 23 clubs. The yearbook now has 56 pages.

Again no major changes so play continues as before.

## 1997-1998 SEASON

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This season there were 105 teams from the 23 clubs with 1,190 players on all teams. The yearbook still has only 56 pages.

Changes this Season:

Rule change making the highest rating of 3.5 minus to play 50+ Silver. Rules requiring verified ratings were added.

## 1998-1999 SEASON

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The number of teams increased to 114 from the 23 clubs with a total number of 1,285 players on all teams. The League celebrated the start of their 25<sup>th</sup> season. The yearbook now has 62 pages.

Changes this Season:

Ratings were established for Senior Division play. This is the first year for the Senior Platinum Division.

## 1999-2000 SEASON

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There are 113 teams from 24 clubs with 1,276 player names listed in the yearbook. The yearbook has 68 pages.

Play continues as before with a few minor changes.

## 2000-2001 SEASON

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The clubs increased to 27 with a total of 118 teams. The yearbook lists 1,381 player names and has 82 pages.

Changes this Season:

Rule change suggestions must be presented to the Rules Committee by January 15.

## 2001-2002 SEASON

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There are 1,507 players from 129 teams from 28 clubs. The yearbook again has 82 pages.

Changes this Season:

Teams may now have from 4 to 16 players. This is the first season for the 65+ Division.

## 2002-2003 SEASON

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There are 133 teams from 27 clubs with 1,595 players listed in the book which has 77 pages.

Changes this Season:

This season saw the return of the 2.5 Division. The Dynamo Division became known as the 4.5 Division. Points for positions won were changed to 1<sup>st</sup> = 8 points, 2<sup>nd</sup> = 7 points, 3<sup>rd</sup> = 6 points, and 4<sup>th</sup> = 5 points.

## 2003-2004 SEASON

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The 1,636 players in the yearbook come from 136 teams and 29 clubs. The yearbook now has 80 pages.

Changes this Season:

The year 2003 saw the website LCWTL.com up and running allowing captains to input match results directly to the website thereby streamlining the rating system. The dues were increased to \$12 for the next season to help pay for the maintenance of the site.

## **2004-2005 SEASON**

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There are 155 teams from 34 clubs. There was a total of 1,860 players on all teams (1,333 ladies at the start of the season). The yearbook has 108 pages.

Changes this Season:

This is the first year of play for the 50+ Bronze Division. The 2.5 Division will now become known as the 3.0 Minus Division.

This is the first year that captains have been able to populate their teams by using the website. No longer are the teams with players and phone numbers hand typed for the yearbook as this information is now pulled directly from the website.

## **2005-2006 SEASON**

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The total number of teams is now 163 from 34 clubs. The total count of players listed in the yearbook is 2,020.

The yearbook has a new look this year with the new logo printed on the cover and now has 124 pages. Design of the logo was initiated by the 3.0 Minus and Bronze Divisions and was designed by Herb Young, husband of Betty Young from Breckenridge Golf and Tennis Club.

Changes this Season:

The By-Laws were changed to allow divisions to contribute funds to charities by a majority vote of their captains.

Teams must have from 8 to 16 players on their rosters except for the those divisions fielding three positions only (they may have a minimum of 6 players).

A player who is 65 or older may play in a 50+ division and also a rated division.

A rule was added that all new clubs to LCWTL must have clay courts and reside in Lee County.

An alphabetical player directory is added to the yearbook.

## **2006-2007 SEASON**

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There are 2,055 players in the yearbook playing on 162 teams from 36 clubs. This was the first year for the spiral binding on the yearbook as it had grown to 128 pages.

Changes this Season:

This is the first year for the use of the Coman Set Tiebreak.

## 2007-2008 SEASON

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The number of players on all teams is 2,177 (1,472 ladies at the start of the season) playing on 168 teams from 35 clubs. The yearbook now has 132 pages.

Changes this Season:

A team must have at least 2 players for the rated division they are playing in.

The 4.5 Division has gone back to being called the Dynamo Division.

The 65+ Division is now the 60+ Division and play will not be calculated in a player's computer ratings.

## 2008-2009 SEASON

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The number of teams is 178 from 37 clubs. The number of players on all teams is 2,266 (1,579 ladies at start of season). The yearbook contains 140 pages.

Starting this season, the dues were increased from \$13 to \$15 per player with no refund once the roster has been submitted to the division. Of the dues, \$8 goes to the league and \$7 remains with the division.

Changes this Season:

The rating restrictions were tightened for the 50+ senior divisions.

## 2009-2010 SEASON

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We have grown to 186 teams from 36 clubs with a total of 1,603 women. Many play on multiple teams making a total of 2,360 players at the start of the season. The season ended with 1,729 players.

The 50+ Silver Division is the first division to have 27 teams with the 3.0 Division closely following with 26 teams. It was decided that any division with over 24 teams should split into two divisions.

Changes this Season:

A 2.5 Division was created and will play on Tuesdays starting the 2010-2011 season.

## 2010-2011 SEASON

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The number of teams remained the same at 184 from 36 clubs. The total player count at the start of the season was 1,606. The player numbers increased with 2,365 players on all teams – this could mean playing on one rated division, one 50+ division and the 60+ division. The yearbook now has 140 pages with the addition of the newly formed 2.5 division.

No significant changes were made this season with the exception that the meetings are now being held at The Landings Yacht, Golf and Tennis Club.

## 2011-2012 SEASON

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Again we have 184 teams from 39 clubs. The total player count at the start of the season was 1,660 and 1,761 at the end of the season. We started with 2,431 players on all teams and ended with 2,583 players.

Changes this Season: Due to the large number of teams on Silver and Bronze, the 50+ Copper Division was created and will start next season. This division will play Fridays and will fall between Silver and Bronze divisions.

Because the League had grown so large, it became necessary to have a By-Law change allowing the Executive Board to make changes to the By-Laws instead of requiring a written ballot from a two-thirds majority of the League membership. A special By-Law vote was taken by written ballot with 1,638 ballots received allowing the Executive Board to make future changes to the By-Laws.

## 2012-2013 SEASON

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For the first time, the number of teams went over 200. There are 201 teams from 37 clubs. The total player count at the start of the season was 1,750. We started with 2,612 players on all teams and ended with 2,804 players. The yearbook contains 154 pages now.

Changes this Season: This will be the first year that a 10-Point Match Tiebreak will be used by all divisions for the third set. The first year of the new Copper division started with 24 teams.

Roster submission for this season was submitted using the website for the first time.

## 2013-2014 SEASON

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For this season rosters for 204 teams were submitted from 38 clubs. The total player count at the start of the season is 1,860 with 2,745 players playing on all teams. At the end of the season, the total player count was 1,943 with 2,869 players playing on all teams.

Our website has undergone great changes to make it more user friendly.

## 2014-2015 SEASON

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This season saw an increase to the teams. We now have 215 registered teams from 38 clubs. At the start of the season the total player count was 1,875 with 2,810 on all teams. At the end of the season the total player count had increased to 2,005.

Website change: This season allowed captains to register their team and add their players to their roster – all done on-line. No more paper copies!

The dues remain the same at \$15; however, \$10 instead of \$8 of the dues will go to the League.

## 2015-2016 SEASON

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There are 211 registered teams from 40 clubs. The season started with a total player count of 1,942 and 2,754 players on all teams. The season ended with a total player count of 2,071.

The yearbook rules, guidelines, etc. have a new look this year making the book more user friendly.

Two new divisions have been added to the senior divisions – Cobalt (4.0 minus) and Nickel (3.0). Also the 60+ division was eliminated.

## 2016-2017 SEASON

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We had a record 221 teams registered from 40 clubs. The total player count at the start of the season is 2,018 ladies. The total of players on all teams in the 15 divisions is 2,887 players.

New this season is a rule change making the job of secretary/treasurers a bit easier when doing transfers of players. Transfers between two divisions are still available to our players under certain circumstances, but the secretary/treasurer will no longer transfer the division portion of the money to the player's new division. Since the amount was only \$5, the writing and mailing of a check is no longer necessary.

## 2017-2018 SEASON

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The League celebrated 40 years this season. The yearbook included a letter from Jill Denson, Director, thanking our volunteers and players. One paragraph read:

“Through the dedication and hard work of many women volunteering their time and talents over the years, we have become a well-organized and respected league in Florida.”

At the start of the season, 221 teams were registered from 42 clubs with 2,065 players. By the end of the season the registered players increased to 2,174.

Many changes went into effect this season. First the senior division minimum age was increased from 50 to 55. Second, the rating range of subs was changed, specifically some lower-rated players are no longer allowed to sub in the highest-rated divisions.

Our major change was the incorporation of the league. This resulted in the per-player fee being eliminated and a team fee of \$180 was put in place. The division officer position of secretary/treasurer was renamed to secretary since the incorporated league holds all funds.

## 2018-2019 SEASON

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The league set a record this season with 228 teams registered from 41 clubs. The registered player count was 2,114 at the start of the season, and at the end of the season it was 2,230.

There were no major changes for the year.

## 2019-2020 SEASON

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Again, the league set a record with 230 teams registered from 42 clubs and facilities. At the start of the season the registered player count was 2,120.

One change this season was the removal of schedules in the yearbook as they were available on the website.

Another change made by our web team streamlined team registration by incorporating PayPal at the time of registration thereby eliminating the need to send team payment checks to the league treasurer.

Out of an abundance of caution, all league play was halted and suspended in early March due to the pandemic caused by the Chinese virus known as Covid-19 leaving us a few matches short of completing the season. The league pushed forward with administrative functions required to transition into the upcoming season.

## 2020-2021 SEASON

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This was an unprecedented year for the League due to the pandemic. In May, there were 219 teams registered. Throughout the season teams were required to adjust participation based on individual club restrictions and player availability. By January 2021, 177 teams were competing in full league play.

As of 8/1/2020, the registered player count was 2,063 from 45 clubs and facilities. At the beginning of January 2021, approximately 1,250 players had participated in league play with more expected to join upon the return of many of our snowbirds and the rollout of the Covid-19 vaccine. The ease on substitution restrictions allowed teams to more readily field courts for teams short on players.

The yearbook this year was scaled down and did not include the club names, teams with captains, or the player directory. All this information was available on the website and by a new app. The league added many new website enhancements including blast-email ability and individual club master match calendars. In addition, the league has a social media presence on Facebook.

## 2021-2022 SEASON

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The League had 228 teams register from 39 clubs and facilities. There were 2,135 players registered at the start of the season and 2,229 players at the end of the season.

Many changes were made this season. For one, the team registration fee was reduced from \$180 per team to \$125 this year.

Another change was the yearbook previously distributed is now available on the website.

For distribution to all players is a new book called *Court Rules* which is smaller in size. The *Court Rules* contains information that players may need while on the courts.

New online this year is the *LCWTL Procedural Handbook*. The main purpose of this book is to gather all the procedural information that LCWTL follows in one place. It provides a reference to executive officers, division officers, captains, and players and outlines the various job descriptions, timeline of activities, and rating information with all the detailed information of each process.

## **2022-2023 SEASON**

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The League had 228 teams registered from 39 clubs and facilities. There were 2,163 players registered at the start of the season and 2,229 players at the end of the season. The total number of players playing on all teams at the end of the season was 3,023.

In September of 2022, Hurricane Ian hit Lee County damaging many tennis courts affecting play. It was a very unusual season with some clubs playing only away games and some clubs not playing at all.

## **2023-2024 SEASON**

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There were 40 clubs this season with a total of 228 registered teams. As of August 1, 2023, there was a total of 2,100 players playing on at least one team. By the end of the season there was a total of 2,216 players.

Since the league had three unusual seasons with Covid, loss of Canadian players, Hurricane Ian as well as player concerns about playing split schedules, it was decided that split schedules will be eliminated this season. Teams had voiced concerns about playing the split schedule because some teams played weaker teams twice while others played stronger teams, and this skewed ratings. This change for the 2023-2024 season should give more accurate rating data for all players at the end of the season.

## **2024-2025 SEASON**

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Registration began May 7 with players added to teams beginning June 10, 2024. This is the largest number of teams so far with 238 teams from 43 clubs and facilities. At the start of the season there were 2,148 players on at least one team with a total of 1,513 total on rated divisions and a total of 1,612 on senior teams.

Rule Changes Effective April 2024: The rated 2.5 division is now a senior division known as the Steel Division. Appeals to play below rating will no longer be accepted. The substitute requirements changed to allow a maximum of two levels below the team for which they are subbing. Defaults do not count against the player's 6-time substitution limit. New players to LCWTL must rate no lower than a half step below the highest rating allowed for the division she will be rostered.

The following women have served as directors of Lee County Women's Tennis League:

PLAYING SEASON	DIRECTOR
1978-1979	Mary Lou Hill
1979-1980	Mary Lou Hill
1980-1981	Pam Thompson
1981-1982	Madge Stillman
1982-1983	Norma McAllister
1983-1984	Norma McAllister
1984-1985	Pat Hammond
1985-1986	Pat Hammond
1986-1987	Midge Farias
1987-1988	Midge Farias
1988-1989	Peg Barrett
1989-1990	Ernie Bengelsdorf
1990-1991	Betty Meintz
1991-1992	Sandy Fields
1992-1993	Gwen Zimmerman
1993-1994	Gwen Zimmerman
1994-1995	Chris Nellans
1995-1996	Dottie Krieger
1996-1997	Linda Bozwell
1997-1998	Karen Diamond
1998-1999	Maxine Brown
1999-2000	Joyce Artis
2000-2001	Chris Nellans
2001-2002	Jeri Vahrenhorst

PLAYING SEASON	DIRECTOR
2002-2003	Jeri Vahrenhorst
2003-2004	Elsie Violette
2004-2005	Judy Perlstein
2005-2006	Beth Behrhorst
2006-2007	Anita Straney
2007-2008	Dee Cseh
2008-2009	Beth Behrhorst
2009-2010	Kelly Bishop
2010-2011	Gloria Nelson
2011-2012	Elery Shaw
2012-2013	Dorrie Hill
2013-2014	Dot Osborne
2014-2015	Elery Shaw
2015-2016	Marianne Crouch
2016-2017	Maria Schmidt
2017-2018	Jill Denson
2018-2019	Kim Bauman
2019-2020	Terri Rabicoff
2020-2021	Tiffany Gaede
2021-2022	Charlene Morris
2022-2023	Pat Burnell
2023-2024	Pat Burnell
2024-2025	Georgene Hildebrand