

Head Professional - Brian Panovka

Brian has been playing tennis since he was able to hold a tennis racket. Brian played competitively as a Junior in his native South Africa, before being recruited on a tennis scholarship to Oklahoma State University. He was a conference singles and doubles winner whilst at OSU. Brian spent time playing the professional Satellite Tour (now known as the Futures Tour) where he played against numerous future world renowned tennis players.

Brian is a certified Professional Tennis Coach with over 30 years experience on the 'fun' side of the net. 2020 will be Brian's 18th year as Head Pro of the Valley Tennis Club. Besides everything to do with tennis including his knowledge of the ATP tour, Challenger tour, Futures tour, WTA tour, and an collector of wooden tennis rackets, Brian is an avid soccer player, and an awful skier. He also takes a big interest in golf, cricket, and rugby, and anything remotely to do with sport.

Over the past years Brian has contributed thousands of used tennis balls to communities in Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Jamaica, Big Brothers and Sisters in Ontario, as well as to the National Bank school ball program.

Brian and his wife Leigh were thrilled to be guests at Nelson Mandela's 80th Birthday Party after Brian did work for the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund. Brian is fortunate to have travelled extensively as a Tennis Pro and mountain trekker. He singles out the Canadian Rockies, south island of New Zealand, Nepalese Himalaya, and Paris as his most inspiring places to visit.

Brian was honoured to have been appointed the Canadian Men's and Women's Tennis Coach for the Maccabiah Games in Israel in 2013 and 2017.