

KELLY'S CORNER

by Jan Kelly

Dragonflies and damselflies complete the picture of the mid-day pond stilled by heat and direct sunlight. The wind reduced to a breath, the only sounds are the buzzing and humming of insects. The only visible motion is that of the whirling winged flight of the dragonflies and the smaller, more delicate damselflies. They are not the male and female of the same species as the names might lead many people to think, but are two separate species in the order *Odonata*.

Both species are territorial predators, and they're cannibalistic. You can be grateful that they relish mosquitoes. They stalk not only the open and muddy areas of ponds, but open fields, trees, and bushes. The males are territorial and can defend up to fifteen square yards from his peers. The females are allowed to fly at will. The male and female in passing may both be inclined to mate. If so, the male will begin a dancing flight. If the female joins the flight, the male will dip his uplifted abdomen into the water and show a luminous color. The male will clasp the female at the neck with his rear grippers. When the female clasps, they form a wheel. This method is peculiar to both species. The larger dragonfly can do it in flight.

After mating, the male hovers over the female as she deposits the eggs into plant stems beneath the water surface. The damselflies sometimes do not separate, but united, skim over the water surface and deposit eggs. That action of tandem flight invites other males to join in. The eggs will go through larval and nymph stages. This aqueous life lasts from a few weeks to between one and three years. When they mature, they shed that skin with great effort and for an exhausting few hours they shed and pump blood into their wings. When their coloration arrives after several hours, they are considered sexually mature. In that adult state, they may live two to three years.

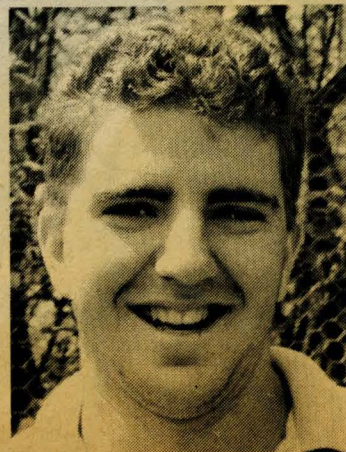
Dragonflies and damselflies are ancient in form, showing no significant change since the Jurassic Period. Their flying apparatus is admirable and is adapted to flying at sixty miles per hour, making sudden stops and turns, and backward flight, vertical flight, and "Shot out of a cannon" flight. Their wings are veined and able to withstand such violent changes. Their flight is noiseless because the wings beat more slowly than those of other

insects. Both have two sets of wings which move simultaneously except when hovering. Many species spend their entire lives in flight, stopping only for bad weather.

Their eyes are probably the best in the insect world. They have ten thousand to thirty thousand facets and are atop an extremely mobile head. Their head can move in all directions and sideways up to one-hundred eighty degrees. Their visual field covers almost the entire face, but they see best above and forward so they attack their prey from below.

Dragonflies and damselflies are found throughout the world, even as far north as the Arctic Ocean, though the majority of the 4500 species lives in the tropics. In the north temperate zone they can be found at saltwater marshes and saltwater lakes, or at hot springs as I have seen them in Guatemala. Their territory expands to woods, fields, and inner city neighborhoods wherever the food source lures them. When you go to one of our local ponds, the aerobicic helicoptic flying action may be of most interest to you. The iridescent coloring is obvious in its beauty; the visual rotations take a bit of watching. On a calm, hazy day it may be the only active wildlife to view.

The Provincetown Tennis club has opened for its forty-eighth season. An enthusiastic and hard-working board of governors met often during the winter discussing and solving the many problems of running a suc-



Jack Dunham



David Kay

successful seasonal club of five clay courts and two hard courts. Policies, prices, tournaments, and general management are the serious aspects to a game which is so much fun. The schedule is set and posted, and individuals are planning their leisure time around them. We are happy to say that Nute Reeves has returned as manager for his sixth season, and Robert Frank is his assistant manager. The young "Bert", as we call him, returned as "the wild one" this year on a motorcycle.

The Boys 14 "B" Necta Tournament was held June 5-7. Now the infamous yearrounders tournament is on. The finals are played during the July 4 President's Cocktail Party. That audience becomes more vociferous with each sip. That's a fun tournament, as is the Artists' and Writers' Tournament in August. Immediately after hangover time, the Women's "B" Tournament begins. That is held on July 4 and 5 and the Men's "B" Singles will be held July 11 and 12.

There will be a tournament each weekend and the public is invited to attend. You are invited at all times to the Provincetown Tennis Club. On July 25, take part in the club's gala fundraiser. It's a dinner dance that features great food, great company, and great reggae music. That gives us all a chance to see what we look like in "muftie" or out of tennis clothes. I promise you the talk won't be all tennis.

The club runs smoothly year after year with only minor changes. This year we have a major change: two pros rather than one. You can develop a varied and accelerated game this season under the tutelage of both David Kay and Jack Dunham.

David Kay has been playing tennis since the age of two. He played his first tournament at the age of ten and finished his career as a junior competitor at age eighteen with a ranking of eleventh in the Middle States Tennis Association and with a ranking of second in Philadelphia. David was coached by Nick Bolleteri who is the coach of Carleen Bassett and Jimmy Arias.

Locally, David was coached by former head-pro of the Provincetown Tennis Club, Chris Busa, for ten years. David was the teacher of Chao and Jay Erving, sons of Julius Erving, "Dr. J", famed basketball star of the Philadelphia 76ers. David Kay's philosophy of tennis is a game of hard-lined, well-disciplined Zen tennis. He believes that once you reach a certain level everyone has good strokes and can get the ball back, and at that level tennis becomes a "mind game." David said, "Tennis becomes chess with boundaries, racquets, and balls as opposed to kings, bishops, and knights. As a former coach once told me," he continued, "Tennis should be fun. If it feels like work, then you are doing something wrong."

David is in the process of becoming a United States Professional Tennis Association (USPTA) certified professional. He will be using video as part of his teaching program.

Jack Dunham was the owner and teaching pro of the Academy Tennis Camp, Cheshire, Connecticut. He was also the owner of a sporting goods business, Dunham Sports. For seven years Jack was manager and head-pro at the Cheshire Tennis and Swim Club. For two years, he was head-pro at the Great Racquet Club in Bristol, Connecticut. The following year he was a self-employed teacher at the Cheshire Indoor Tennis Club, and from 1982 to 1986 he was the pro at the Bissell Tennis Club in Provincetown.

He has been a member of the USPTA for thirteen years and was a member of the Yamaha teaching staff. Jack Dunham has been ranked in New England for many years: nineteenth in junior varsity singles; fourth, fifth, and seventh in doubles; twelfth in senior 45s presently. He teaches during the summer in Provincetown and winter at Tennis Island, Windley Keys, Florida. Jack stresses realistic improvement in all the technical aspects of tennis and the enjoyment of tennis as a life-long sport.

So this summer you have the opportunity to develop your game from two points of view. Both David and Jack are available daily as it fits your schedule. The more you improve, the more you enjoy the game. You can show up for an introduction at the club at 286 Bradford Street or call 487-9574 for a scheduled lesson. We always enjoy fresh camaraderie and competition. ◀