

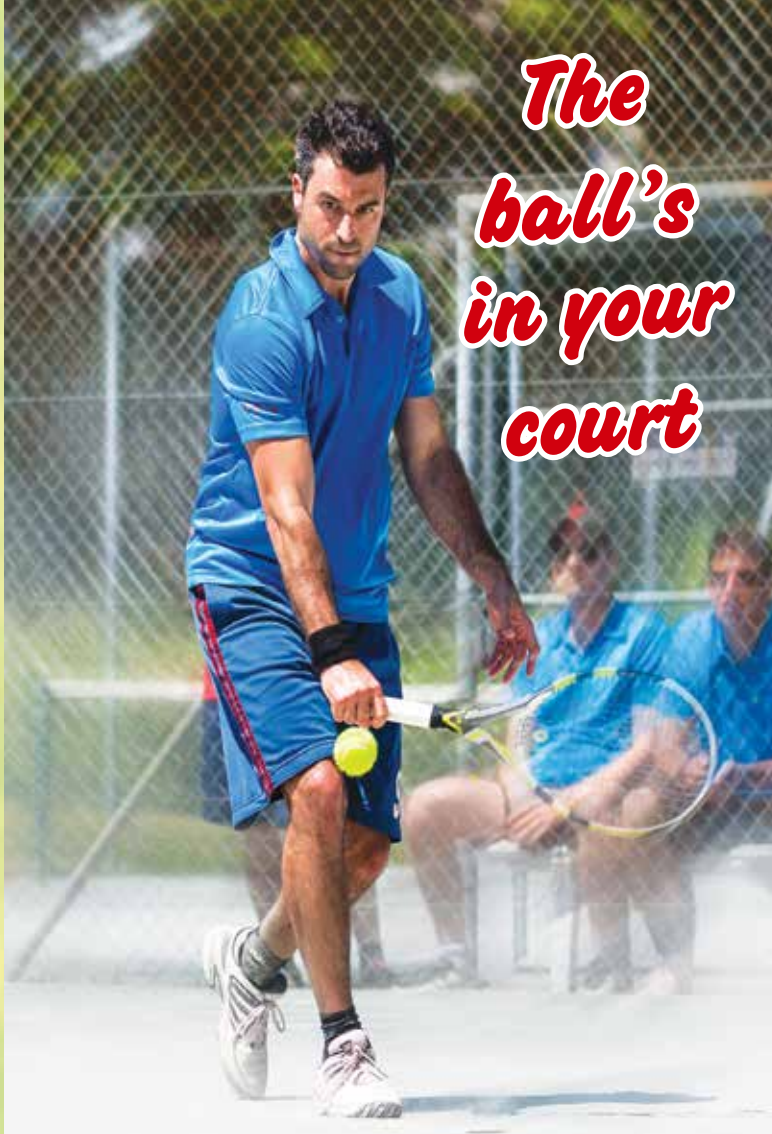


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*The
ball's
in your
court*

*The ball's in
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Like every major sport, tennis has a language all of its own.

‘New balls please’, ‘let’ and of course, ‘game, set and match’ are all very familiar expressions, each with their own special meaning.



However, when we're told, ‘the ball's in your court’, we're expected to respond one way or another.

Rules

If tennis is to be played properly, every player must abide by the rules of the game. In the same way God has established rules for living and He has the right to do so because ...

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it...

Psalm 24:1

And He has appointed His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to be ruler of this world, with the authority to order our lives...

... at the name of Jesus every knee should bow...

Philippians 2:10





Faults

The number of faults that are played ultimately determines the outcome of any match.

In life however, we've all rebelled and gone our own way.

Not one of us is beyond reproach as a result of these 'unforced errors'...

...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

Romans 3:23

The evidence of this we can't deny...

The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, ...hatred, ...jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, ...envy, drunkenness...

Galatians 5:19-21

...with unthinkable consequences...

...people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment.

Hebrews 9:27

Thankfully, God has an answer to our problem which is to our everlasting advantage...

Achievement

To reach the top in tennis today demands considerable sacrifice. But the greatest sacrifice of all took place on the wooden Cross of Calvary, where the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished the most incredible achievement for us...

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.

1 Peter 3:18



Tie Break

This has become the way to decide the most closely fought sets. If however we are to enter a right relationship with God, we must be prepared, with His help, to break the ties we have with all in our lives which we know to be wrong...

He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness ...

1 Peter 2:24

Beginning a new set can give the opportunity to put past failures behind us and mount a fresh counter-attack.

By asking Christ Jesus into our lives as Saviour and Lord we not only receive forgiveness, but also a brand new start...

...if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:

The old has gone, the new is here!

2 Corinthians 5:17

First Service

The way in which a player serves usually determines the course of each game. Although we must accept all that was accomplished at Calvary as a free gift, the Lord Jesus calls those who would be His true followers to give His service first place in our lives...

Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.

Luke 9:23-24

One Love

In the sporting scene, only the most able go on to achieve great victories.

However, in the challenges of life and death, our 'victories' or 'defeats' will depend, not so much upon our ability, but our response to the Lord Jesus Christ... and the greatest act of love the world has ever known...

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

John 3:18

The ball's in your court!

