

A Visit With PCCC Tennis Professional Andrew Rolph



Andrew Rolph became the newest member of our Ponca City Country Club family when he began working as our Tennis Professional on November 1st. He was the Head Tennis Professional at Crestview Country Club in Wichita prior to accepting the job here.

Your webmaster recently sat down with Andrew to find out more about his background, goals and aspirations as he begins his stay at PCCC. Please stop by the Tennis Shop at your earliest convenience and meet Andrew. He has a warm personality and a great sense of humor!

Tell us a little bit about your family, where you grew up, and what some of your interests were as a youngster.

I grew up in Sydney, Australia. My parents and three brothers still live there. I am single and have a 7 year old son named Aydan. My interests growing up included golf, tennis, soccer, cricket and art.

When did you start playing tennis? What highlight comes to mind when you reflect on playing tennis while growing up in Australia?

I first picked up a racquet when I was 12 years old. I was selected to represent Australia on the National Team at age 17.

Did you play tennis in college? What was your major? How successful were the college teams that you played on?

I played tennis at Oklahoma City University, majoring in physical education with a minor in art. Our team won the conference title two years in a row. My freshman year I defeated the #9 ranked player in the nation.

Tell us some of the other places you have worked.

Besides Crestview Country Club in Wichita, I have worked at a variety of clubs in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, Florida, and New York.

Ponca City has a long and illustrious tennis history. What ideas do you have to help bring tennis back to its past glory here in Ponca?

Tennis is the only sport that has shown growth in the United States over the last few years with an 8% increase in play. Participation in every other sport has declined. I plan to work closely with the schools, our club's tennis members and the rest of the community in an effort to get more people involved in tennis. Tennis is a life-time sport, for any age, at any level.

What other programs are you going to implement to help increase the amount of tennis played at the club?

We plan on having many fun social events, some U.S.T.A. leagues, round-robin tourneys and pizza party nights for the junior players.

What do you think of the tennis facilities at PCCC?

They are really quite good. Very few private clubs have indoor and outdoor courts that are any better in quality than those we have at the club.

Tell us what your rates are for individual and group lessons.

My rates are \$35 for an individual and \$40 for a group. Private lessons are also available for non-members.

Do you plan on having tennis equipment and clothing for sale in the Tennis Shop?

Absolutely. I will stock the shop with a complete line of Wilson racquets, shoes and clothing.

What is your first impression of our club and Ponca City?

All of the people I have met are extremely friendly and the small town atmosphere is very enjoyable and relaxing.

What other thoughts would you like to share with our members?

I am excited to be here and look forward to working hard and helping to restore the overall level of tennis that Ponca Citians remember from the past.

