

Club Champs Will Battle At The Meadows

There are usually perks that accompany being a club champion at a tennis facility.

Sometimes it is seeing your name on a plaque. Or maybe there are special parking privileges at the club.

Often it is just the knowledge that you are the best player at the club.

In a little more than a week, those club champions will get a chance to prove they are truly the best of the best.

Next weekend, The Meadows Country Club will host the 2009 "Battle of the Club Champions." The two-day event brings together club champions in doubles -- both men and women -- from 10 area facilities to determine the top teams throughout the area.

The teams will battle Oct. 31 and Nov. 1 in a tournament that began last year and has become an annual event.

It's a fun event which we began last year in order to bring together the club champions and top men's and ladies doubles teams from many of the local area tennis clubs," said Don Caprio, who is the Director of Tennis at The Meadows Country Club as well as the USPTA District President.

The teams will compete in a compass draw over the two days to determine the champions.

In the first year of the event, River Strand swept both the men's and women's titles. Axay Kalathia and Mark Bessette teamed to take the men's title while Cindy Bessette and Julie Wolfe captured the women's championship.

This year, River Strand will be challenged by teams representing The Meadows, Laurel Oak Country Club, Serendipity Racquet Club, Jacaranda, University Park, Courtside Tennis Club, Longboat Key Club, The Landings Racquet Club and The Oaks Country Club.

The event is open to the public at no charge. Call The Meadows Tennis Center at 378-5265 or visit www.meadowsc.org for more information.