

TRY TENNIS TESTIMONY

USTA NORTH CAROLINA

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Jon Theisen

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Jon Theisen, a former Try Tennis participant, reflected on his time completing the program and how he became involved with USTA tennis. Read his testimony below.

"As we approached the event, there was a buzz in the air, the crowd was thickening and you could feel the anticipation. It was a perfect fall day: the smell of clematis in the air during a calm fall evening. The lines were growing but well worth the wait for a ticket. My wife and I had been looking forward to this all week.

As we made our way with the crowd to find our spot, we paused for our first refreshment. The first sip is always the best. It was the perfect pour of my favorite local IPA.

Everything was great. That sip hit the back of my throat and suddenly I heard "Hey you - have you ever tried tennis?"

As I gagged, the carbonation expanded into my upper nasal cavity. A strong sting ensued followed by uncontrolled tearing. While I was temporarily incapacitated and pausing to regain my composure, it was already too late. It was the perfect time for my lovely bride to swing into action.

Before I knew it, we were signed up for "Serve Aces," or what I like to call "beer tennis." At least it wasn't another set of Cutco knives! If you like craft beer, hanging with new friends and old, the outdoors and pretending to work out, you will love Serve Aces. We are in our fifth season and it is a blast. It's a real USTA thing. Look it up and sign up.

Well, that led to "Try Tennis." Hey, if we can compete while holding an IPA in one hand; why not try the real thing! Try Tennis was a series of group lessons for beginners - also a program offered through USTA. However, they really frowned on beer during practice. That made for an awkward first day but we bounced back. It was very inexpensive, lots of fun and the instructors were great.

At this point, it has barely been three years. My wife set up her own USTA women's team, I am on two Compass draw teams, I just won the men's singles 2.5 Spring League and we both are on a social team that gets together about once a week. Neither of us had ever played tennis before!

Before I forget, that first event where it all started - was it a tennis competition? Nope. It was just a little craft beer festival in Cornelius, NC. Who would have known? Just another beer success story! Time to go - we are going to be late for beer tennis!

