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# Court Center

## First Annual Member Picnic

On May 31 BTC will host the First Annual Member Picnic. Hundreds of members are expected to attend the Member Picnic here at BTC on the northeast lawn in front of the teaching courts at 4 p.m.

Dozens of picnic tables will be set up on the lawn so members can enjoy catered Mexican food while listening to Mariachi music!

Conceived as a replacement for the club's Annual Dinner, the Member Picnic seeks to allow members to get a chance to meet off the court to socialize and celebrate the year's accomplishments. *And the cost is only \$12!* The dress code is casual, but for extra fun there will be a contest among those who want to wear traditional Mexican party costumes, and prizes will be given out.

## Balboa Open still getting bigger and better

The Balboa Open has always been our biggest tennis tournament, and in recent years we have worked hard to make the event even better.

Balboa recently received very exciting news when the Maureen

Connolly Brinker Family agreed to be the major sponsor for the event for the second year in a row. Maureen Connolly has been an important part of our club's history, and we are very proud to celebrate her legacy.

The Maureen Connolly Brinker sponsorship, along with booth sponsors, a raffle and donations from players, will allow the Balboa Open to present a check to the Polinsky Children's Cen-

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## “Unforgettable” Little Mo in the movies

In honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Maureen “Little Mo” Connolly's 1953 grand slam win, a documentary film, “Unforgettable, the Little Mo Connolly Story” will premiere in San Diego on Thursday, May 8 at the San Diego Natural History Museum in Balboa Park at 6:30 p.m.

Unforgettable tells the story of Little Mo's early tennis days on the courts of Balboa Park in her native San Diego through her grand slam win.

Most importantly, the film tells of the impact Little Mo's legacy has even today.

Proceeds from the film will benefit Wipe Out Kids Cancer, Children's Medical Center in Dallas, Children's Hospital and Health Center in San Diego and the Maureen Connolly Brinker Tennis Foundation.

Tickets are priced at \$100 for General and \$250 for Patron, which offers preferred seating. Call (760) 434-0094.

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# Calling all green thumbs

Do you know the difference between a begonia and a buttercup? A petunia and a poppy? A lotus and a lily?

For years the Balboa Tennis Club has maintained a number of potted plants throughout our facility. Although these plants often look terrific in our San Diego sunshine, we have never had a committee to oversee their care and help them reach their true potential.

Now our patio remodel has provided us with three large planters

filled with various plants and flowers. More than ever Balboa needs a gardening group to adopt our plants and make sure they thrive.

Do you have the know-how to contribute? Do you enjoy helping things grow? Does an afternoon of light gardening with friends sound like fun? Then maybe Balboa's first gardening group is for you!

For more information, contact BTC President Robin Rodger at (619) 222-5479.

# Sponsorships still available

*(Continued from page 1)*

ter, an emergency shelter for children in crisis. This will be the third year in a row the Balboa Open has supported the Polinsky Center.

Your business can become a Premiere Booth Sponsor for \$500, which includes a trade booth, your logo on the front of the entry form and on our web site — *plus a free private tennis lesson and two clinics!*

Your business can participate as a Regular Booth Sponsor for \$250, which includes a trade booth, your logo on the back of the entry form and on our web site, *plus a free private tennis lesson.*

You can become a General Sponsor for \$100, which includes your name or logo on the back of the entry form and on our web site, plus a free tennis clinic.

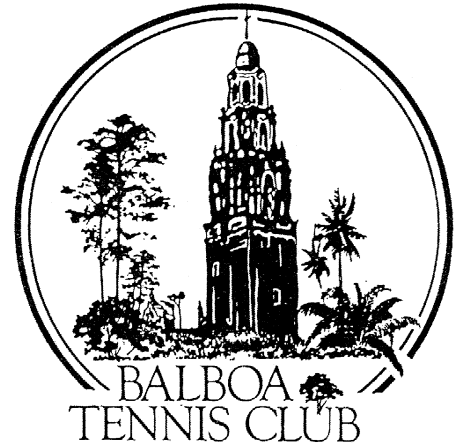
For more information on how you can get involved in the Balboa Open Maureen Connolly Brinker Memorial Tennis Tournament, call BTC Director Kent Sligh at (619) 295-4242.

# A discrete improvement...

All public restrooms are, well, public. But some public restrooms are better than others.

Now the public women's room behind court 18 falls into the "better" category. These restrooms are maintained by the park and, while they are usually very

clean, they have never been very private. Board Member Linda Stadelli contacted our friends at Park and Rec and convinced them to put doors on the stalls so the restrooms out back are more on a par with those in our clubhouse.



2221 Morley Field Drive  
San Diego, Calif. 92104  
295-9278

Robin Rodger  
President

Richard Barndt  
Vice President

Ron Celeste  
Treasurer

Randy Gerson

Annette Howell

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Terry Overbey

Linda Stadelli

Tony Stephens

Board Members

Kent Sligh  
Director

Geoff Griffon  
Tennis Director

Board meetings are at 7 p.m. every third Tuesday of the month in the BTC Clubhouse. All members are welcome.

The BTC Main Office is open Monday through Friday.

The reservations desk is open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday; 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

The club is closed on New Years Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

Office ..... 295-4242

Reservations..... 295-9278

Pro Shop..... 291-5248

Snack Shop ..... 299-8787

Submissions to the newsletter are welcome.  
Call 295-4242

# Ask not what your tennis club can do for you...

**By Robin Rodger, President**

BTC is definitely a happenin' place. The Ribbon Cutting ceremony, which celebrated the completion of our patio project and our light project, was well attended.

It was so great to get the people responsible for these different projects together to meet each other. It was wonderful that Ron Roberts and his aide Jacques Ballard, Toni Atkins and her aide Steven Hill, and Christine Kehoe could all attend.

We appreciate the time they took out of their busy schedules to be

there with us. It was also a history lesson that day.

Arnold Belinsky and his son Larry introduced members of the families whose names are on the plaque under our new tree.

There were some great stories and those of us who are relatively new, myself included, learned more about the terrific people who have passed through Balboa Tennis Club over the years.

Three weeks ago I was up at the club and noticed that something was different. I pondered it for a minute and realized that people

were sitting on the planters. *Yahoo!* I knew we had succeeded.

The new plants are encouraging people to use the planters as seating, which was the original purpose.

This newsletter is full of very important information on future projects.

This is an exciting time to be a member of BTC. Our diversity is our biggest asset — everyone has a talent they can contribute to make BTC a better place.

Don't miss your chance to get involved and make a difference!

## BTC since 1924: What will your legacy be?

What is a Legacy? A Legacy is simply a gift. It is a way for a person to give back to the community in ways that sometimes outlive the giver. For example, our patio remodel was made possible in large part by a private donation. Our new patio will probably be here for us to enjoy for many years to come.

The mission of the BTC is to manage this tennis facility for the City of San Diego, and in a manner which will maintain affordability to the general public.

You would all probably agree that the fees here at the BTC are the lowest to be found anywhere in the area.

These low fees result in the necessity of operating BTC on a lean budget, leaving no ability to pay for substantial capital improvement projects, like lighting improvements, backboard upgrade, etc. The point is, major improvements need an influx of cash from outside sources. Cash donations can play a major part in making necessary major improvements happen.

The newly formed Legacy Committee is responsible for educating and encouraging the general public to make donations to the Balboa Tennis Club.

You no doubt noticed that the lights on courts 1 through 18 have been upgraded. This upgrade was made possible in large part by a private donation made in an individual's last will and testament. As mentioned earlier, the patio upgrade was also made

possible in large part, by a private donation.

The board of directors has shifted its attention to our next major improvement, to rebuild the practice wall. You may have already seen Stan Griffin's model of the proposed new practice wall.

It would be a great overall improvement to the BTC facility, and will be lighted. The board is in the early stages of obtaining bids and engineering designs for our new practice wall. After the practice wall, we also want to light the lower six courts, which will require a substantial expenditure of money.

So how can members of BTC help? There are many ways you can help. You can donate your time if you have specific expertise in critical fields. You can make cash donations, either during your lifetime or at your passing.

If you want to donate money during your lifetime, simply write a check to the "Balboa Tennis Club."

If it is more appropriate for you to postpone any bequest until after your death, you can designate the "Balboa Tennis Club" as a "beneficiary" on your bank account. You could make the BTC the beneficiary of your checking, savings, CD, annuity, IRA, life insurance, brokerage account, etc. In this way, you can assure a legacy to the BTC without compromising your financial welfare during your lifetime.

Can my gift be income tax deductible? Yes. Gifts

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# Take your mother to Tennis Fest!

Forget lunch at the Prado or an afternoon shopping at Nordstrom — this year Mom wants you to take her to Tennis Fest!

On Sunday May 11 — Mother's Day — the San Diego District Tennis Association is sponsoring a fun-filled day of tennis for adults and kids from noon until 4:30 p.m.

Every year Tennis Fest is one of

the most exciting days of the year at the Balboa Tennis Club. There will be trade booths from various sponsors, music, crowds of teaching pros ready to give you a workout — and all of it is free. It's like a huge party dedicated to tennis!

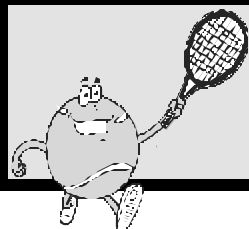
USPTA pros will give you tips and techniques to enhance your game whether you are a beginner

or a seasoned player.

You can play a few points or check out the speed of your serve.

Everyone who pre-registers gets a free t-shirt. You can get a registration form from the Reservation Desk.

And best of all: a free Mother's Day flower to all females who attend.



## Tennis Tips...

### ...from the pros

**By Kevin Johnston  
USPTA & USPTR**

Do you find yourself hitting your forehand late or being off balance when making contact with the ball?

If one or both of these occur more than you wish, you may not be using your non-dominant arm correctly during the swing.

Chances are that you're leaving your opposite arm dangling by your hip. To hit the forehand correctly, when you take your racket back, place your non-

dominant arm out in front of you towards the path of the incoming ball.

By doing this, you track the ball as it approaches you, which assists in hitting the tennis ball in front of your body.

Having your opposite arm in this position also helps maintain your balance, much in the same manner as it does for a gymnast on the balance beam.

By making sure you are in a proper, balanced position on the forehand, your power and consistency will be greatly improved.

## Balboa Junior Tennis Camp starts in June

What do kids like more than summer? *Summer at the Balboa Junior Tennis Camp!*

Sign your child up now (ages 6 through 14) for anywhere from one to six weeks beginning June 23. The cost is only \$119 per week.

Camp goes from 10:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. every weekday.

Any questions? Contact Manuela Griffin in the Pro Shop by calling (619) 291-5248.

## Youth program needs volunteers

Every Tuesday at 4 p.m. you'll find 50-plus kids on our teaching courts learning to love the game of tennis!

The clinics are free for the kids and Geoff and his staff don't charge for their time, but volunteers are always needed to assist

pros, especially with kids under 6 years old. *No teaching experience necessary, just the ability to hand toss a ball!*

Why not take an hour a week to help introduce some kids to this game which has given you so much?

## Take your mouse to lunch...

Now you can use your computer to find the Tennis Café menu on line.

Go to [www.balboatennis.com](http://www.balboatennis.com) and use your mouse to click on the Tennis Café link on the upper

left side of your screen.

Do you want lunch waiting for you when you walk off the court? Call (619) 299-8787 and Ed or Penny will have your food ready when you are!

# Member Spotlight

## 65 years of Morley memories...

Do you consider yourself a long-time member of the Balboa Tennis Club? George Peterson has been playing tennis at Morley Field for over sixty years.

George was recently invited to sit down in the clubhouse and talk about his experiences with this place we now know as the Balboa Tennis Club.

"When I was thirteen years old my family moved into that house," George said, pointing out the window at a red tile roof on the corner of Mississippi and Upas. "That was 1938." There were only 10 courts at Morley Field then, located in the same spot where the front 10 courts stand today. George says the first five courts had steel nets and there were no net straps.

George told me there was the same walkway between courts 8 and 9, "but there was no concrete out there then, and it used to get all muddy when it rained."

George wasn't a tennis player when he arrived, but it wasn't long before he had the bug. His father bought him his first used tennis racquet for two dollars. He played tennis nearly every day until high school.

"In the afternoons there were usually three or four games going, maybe three on one end, one on the other." On Sundays the courts were full. "There were different groups on Sundays," George said. "A daybreak group, a 10 a.m. group, a 2 p.m. group – I played with all of them."

Once, at the age of 16, George stayed on the courts all day, playing a personal best 17 sets of tennis.

George played in the Harper Ink junior tournaments in '39 and '40, along with up to 400 other kids. "In those days there was no entry fee and we played with *two* balls. The kids who lost the tournament got to keep the two balls so they would have something to hit with."

George still remembers playing tennis on courts 9 and 10 on December 7, 1941 when the second world war started. "We all said in two weeks the war will be over. Two years later I was drafted," George mused.

George went to his physical hoping to enter the army, maybe see Europe.

After the exam the man looked at George and said, "How do you like the navy?" "I was standing there naked and I didn't feel like I was in any position to argue."

George served in the navy until 1946. After the war George played a lot of tennis. In 1948 the Reservations Building was constructed, and the pro shop and the clubhouse came not long after that. George worked in the pro shop for a while stringing and patching racquets.

In 1949 Wilbur Folsom came to Morley Field from University Heights. "Wilbur made tennis affordable," says George. "He had half hour lessons to kids for a dollar. Two kids were 50 cents each. Four kids could get a lesson for a quarter each."

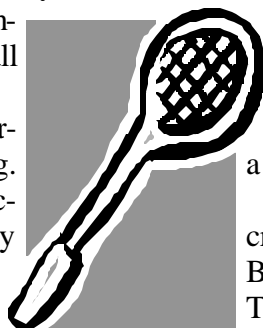
That year the San Diego Tennis Club was created, and George was its third President. Ben Press was the champion of the San Diego Tennis Club. In 1952 the Tennis Patrons of San Diego started and everyone from the San Diego Tennis Club joined the Patrons. The Patrons took over all the tournaments from the City of San Diego's Park Department.

What we now know as the District Championships was then called the San Diego County Championships run by the Balboa Tennis Club in its old location by the zoo.

The Balboa Tennis Club took over operation of Morley Field in the 60's when the zoo needed their courts to expand their parking lot.

These days hip and ankle injuries keep George off the courts, and he isn't around as much since he moved to El Cajon to be closer to his large family.

Still, it isn't unusual to find George on the bench outside court 9 (there's never any mud there now) watching people play tennis. Why not? He's been watching from that spot for 65 years now.



# SDTF celebrates 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with 2003 San Diego Open

This year marks the San Diego Tennis Federation's (SDTF) twentieth anniversary with celebrations culminating this July during the 18<sup>th</sup> annual San Diego Open. The SDTF's growing membership of more than 220 men and women ranges in abilities from "novice" to "open" player levels.

The club was founded as a gay tennis club in 1983 by the SDTF's first president, Jim Winters, along with other current members: Joe Arnold, George Hamilton, Marco Ruiz.

Jim started the singles ladder and also organized the first team tennis season, which now is the SDTF's most popular activity.

"For the past two decades, we have provided a friendly environment for tennis enthusiasts to compete and socialize through a number of activities, including tournaments, practice sessions, social events and meetings," said Allen Sanchez, vice president of the SDTF. "Our club is as competitive or as social as each member makes it."

With Balboa Tennis Club as the SDTF's "home court," the group provides its members several opportunities a week to play or practice tennis in an

organized and fun environment.

As a member of the Gay and Lesbian Tennis Alliance (GLTA) and United States Tennis Association (USTA), Federation members participate in a variety of tournaments sanctioned or sponsored by these organizations throughout the state, country and even internationally.

The SDTF puts on the San Diego Open, one of the largest tennis tournaments of its kind and one of the most successful national tournaments on the GLTA circuit.

This year's San Diego Open will be held in part at Balboa Tennis Club on Friday, July 4 through Sunday, July 6, and includes divisions in Open, A, B, C, D, and Over 45 Singles and Doubles. A banquet held at Balboa Park's Aerospace Museum will celebrate the tournament on the evening of July 5<sup>th</sup> and feature museum tours, special raffles and a multi-media presentation covering the history of the SDTF.

More information about the San Diego Tennis Federation and the San Diego Open is available at our club's Web site. [www.sdtf.org](http://www.sdtf.org).

## Your legacy...

*(Continued from page 3)*

that need to be made income tax deductible need to be given to the "Greater San Diego City Tennis Counsel, for the benefit of the Balboa Tennis Club."

The Greater San Diego City Tennis Counsel ("Counsel") is a 501(c)(3) organization, which will allow you to deduct your gift on your income tax return. The Counsel will forward your gift directly to the BTC. Any of these gifts can also be gift and estate tax deductible if channeled through the Counsel.

Can I gift stock to the BTC? Yes. Gifting stock is also a popular method of gifting for charitable purposes. If you sell the stock and pay the capital gain and then gift the remaining cash, then your gift has been reduced by the capital gain taxes that you paid.

If you gift the stock, without selling them first, then no taxes will be paid to the IRS. For income tax reasons, however, the gift must be made to the Counsel as designated above. With the gift channeled through the Counsel, neither the giver, you, or the receiver, the BTC, pay the capital gain taxes on the ultimate sale of the stock.

If you have a living trust and you wish to leave a legacy in your trust, you will need to meet with your estate planning attorney to make the appropriate changes. Estate planning attorneys can also discuss other methods of charitable giving that are too complicated for you to do on your own, such as creating a Charitable Remainder Trust or Charitable Lead Trust.

If you have any questions about how to make gifts to the BTC, please contact either of the two members of the Balboa Tennis Club Legacy Committee, Richard Barndt at 858-554-1712 or Ronald Celeste at 619-574-1236. We are actively looking for donations for our capital improvement fund and look forward to hearing from you.

## Spring Tournament Results

### Men's Open Singles -- Finals

Kevin Johnston d. Mario Escalera, 6-2; 6-3

### Men's Open Doubles -- Finals

Gill D - Griffin G [1] d. Chapin C - Schmersal M [2] 7-5; 6-3

### Men's 5.5 Singles -- Finals

Robert Moog[1], d. Brad Hasper[2], 6-3; 2-6; 6-4

### Men's 3.5 Singles -- Finals

Frank January, d. Kevin Mallery, 6-4; 7-5

### Men's 3.5 Doubles -- Finals

Lee M - Mallery K d. Mitchell G - Rivera Jr. F 5-7; 6-2; 6-4

### Men's 4.5 Singles -- Finals

Jeremy Marble[1] d. Anthony Jungers[2], 7-6; 3-6; 1-0 Ret (inj)

### Men's 4.5 Doubles -- Finals\*\*\*

Ash J - Sperrazzo J d. Durgan B - Hasper B 3-6; 6-3; 6-4

### Men's 5.5 Singles -- Finals

Terry Overby[2] d. Jim Winters[1], 3-6; 6-0 Ret

### Men's 5.5 Doubles -- Finals

Richardson N - Tscoulias G [1] d. Owen N - Weeks T 6-2; 6-1

### Mixed 3.5 Doubles -- Round Robin 1

Eggleston L - Sewell T d. Augustine W - Corredor M

### Mixed 4.5 Doubles -- Finals

Russ A - Sperrazzo J [1] d. Celeste R - Rodger R 6-0; 6-3

### Mixed 5.5 Doubles -- Finals

Linder D - Schmersal M d. Davenport A - Mintz-Moskal L [1] 6-3; 6-3

### Women's 3.5 Singles -- Finals

Sybilla Dorros d. Andrea Blake 6-2; 4-6; 7-6

### Women's 4.5 Singles -- Finals

Nicole Pitteloud d. Susan Pratt 7-6; 6-3

### Women's 4.5 Doubles -- Finals\*\*\*

Howard T - King R [1] d. Jung P - Russ A [2] 6-3; 6-1

### Women's 5.5 Singles -- Finals

Patricia Ruman[2] d. Nancy Abler-Sanchez 6-3; 6-2

\*\*\*Will represent BTC in Scripps Cancer Tournament on May 3.

## Are you a new BTC member?

Welcome! You should be feeling pretty good about yourself — you just joined one of the nicest public tennis facilities in the nation! And there's lots going on...

If you're just learning to hit a tennis ball there's a beginner's round robin on the teaching courts every Saturday at 2 p.m.

For 2.5 to 3.5 players, Pat Mason runs a round robin from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. Mondays.

4.0—4.5 players can join the a round robin on the lower courts every Saturday at 1:30 p.m.

So how can a new member learn about these activities and many others? Check out the "New Member Bulletin Board," located about 20 feet to the left of the reservations desk.

The New Member Bulletin Board explains how our "matchfinder" can help you find a partner to hit with, and you'll find a schedule of special events.

Of course if the board leaves any questions unanswered, you can always ask our friendly reservations staff!

## S h i r t S u r v e y

Every year the Board of Directors at the Balboa Tennis Club gets a number of complaints about men taking their shirts off on the tennis courts. We are not a private club, but we do have the right to create and enforce a rule requiring men to wear shirts while playing tennis on the courts. The question is, *should* we have a rule? The board would like your feedback. Please fill out this survey and return it to the Reservations Desk or mail it to *Shirt Survey, Balboa Tennis Club, 2221 Morley Field Drive, San Diego, CA 92104*. Please include your name (names will remain confidential but they will help to prevent duplicate voting).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



**Yes!** There *should* be a rule requiring men to wear shirts on the tennis courts.



**No!** There should *not* be a rule requiring men to wear shirts on the tennis courts.

# Calendar of events

## May

8	UNFORGETTABLE: THE LITTLE MO CONNOLLY STORY
11	TENNIS FEST
17-18	HENDRICKSON MEMORIAL WHEELCHAIR CHAMPIONS HIP
20	BTC BOARD MEETING
31	FIRST ANNUAL MEMBER PICNIC

## June

7	FREE CLINIC — SIGN UP AT THE PRO SHOP
9-15	NATIONAL OPEN HARDCOURT CHAMPIONSHIPS
17	BTC BOARD MEETING

## July

4-6	SDTF — SAN DIEGO OPEN
15	BTC BOARD MEETING
18-20, 25-27	BALBOA OPEN MAUREEN CONNOLLY BRINKER MEMORIAL
28– Aug 1	BTC JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

## August

9	FREE CLINIC — SIGN UP AT PRO SHOP
19	BTC BOARD MEETING
22-24, 30-Sep 1	SAN DIEGO DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIPS

# Center Court

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## inside...

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