

*Spring Tournament results  
Membership survey inside...  
Another British invasion!*

# Center Court

## \$1000 anonymous gift for youth tennis

### Benefactor challenges BTC to match donation

The Barnes Center isn't the only facility that helps develop youth tennis in San Diego. The Balboa Tennis Club's current youth tennis program has been helping kids to learn to love the game for over five years.

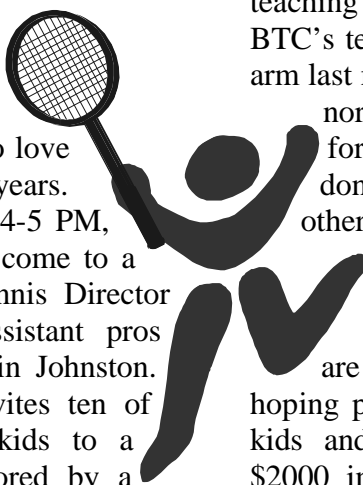
Every Tuesday from 4-5 PM, upwards of sixty kids come to a free clinic run by Tennis Director Geoff Griffin and assistant pros Carlos Mora and Kevin Johnston. In addition, Geoff invites ten of the most promising kids to a Thursday class sponsored by a separate junior program, the Sumner Gill Fund. The Tuesday program uses the Balboa Tennis Club's courts free of

charge, but relies wholly on private donations to pay a discounted fee for the teaching professionals.

BTC's tennis program got a shot in the arm last month when an anonymous donor handed Geoff Griffin a check for \$1000. The only catch — the donor called for Geoff to raise another \$1000 to match the check before the funds are deposited into the Junior Tennis Fund.

"It's a great game and these are great kids," Geoff said. "I'm hoping people will step up to help the kids and I'll be able to deposit all \$2000 in the fund very soon."

Checks made out to "BTC Junior Fund" will be accepted either at the Pro Shop or the Reservation Desk.



## 2000 Membership Directory now available

A completely updated membership directory is now available, reflecting the most recent changes to our database — including the new area codes.

Last year, with hundreds of copies of the 98 directory still stacked up in the BTC office, a decision was made to put off releasing a new roster. Back then the move seemed to make sense

(it saved the club nearly a thousand dollars), but as we moved into 2000, with hundreds of new changes and a lot of new area codes, the old directory seemed hopelessly out of date.

Now the wait is over. A copy of the 2000 directory is waiting for each BTC member to pick up at the Reservation Desk. Stop by and get yours today!

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## BTC sponsors two winning teams to help in the fight against cancer

Though our draws for this year's Spring Tournament were smaller than usual, we had some great matches.

This year was unique for our Spring Championships, in that BTC decided to partner with the Stevens Cancer Center by sponsoring the winners of two divisions to go to a special tournament April 15th at the San Diego Tennis and Racquet club.

The \$250 per team that we sponsor goes directly into this very worthy cancer center.

We chose the Men's and Women's 4.5 Doubles divisions this year. Our Representatives are Brad Hasper and Pete Sullivan and Sabrina Fefferman and Jennifer Knock. Good luck!

## Spring Tournament Results

### Men's Open Singles:

TBA (Riverall v. Overbey)

### Men's 4.5 Singles:

Schmersal defeated McCormick

### Men's 5.5 Singles:

Brewer defeated Loehr

### Men's 2.0 Singles:

January defeated Howell

### Men's 4.0 Singles:

Vedder defeated Stegmayer

### Men's 5.0 Singles:

Takeda defeated Abeyta

### Men's Open Doubles:

Griffin-Mora defeated Lackritz-Schmersal

### Men's 4.0 Doubles:

Culver-Ooms defeated Ledgewood-Shevis

### Men's 4.5 Doubles:

Hasper-Sullivan defeated Felder-Warde

### Women's 2.0 Singles:

Benito defeated Howell

### Women's 3.0 Singles:

Randolph defeated Maze

### Women's 4.0 Singles:

Vega defeated Bouton

### Women's 3.0 Doubles:

Pasquale-Penney defeated Marquez-Newall

### Women's 4.0 Doubles:

Butticci-West defeated Johnson-Kremer

### Women's 4.5 Doubles:

Fefferman-Knock defeated Howard-Schlagel

### Mixed 4.0 Doubles:

Villar-Villar defeated Ward-West



2221 Morley Field Drive  
San Diego, Calif. 92104  
295-4242

Robin Rodger  
President

Charlie Pope  
Treasurer

Pam Fullerton  
Secretary

Richard Barndt

Darice Carnaje

Ron Celeste

Dominque Gambale

Ray Gottell

Roz King

Yolanda Owens

Will Tappen

Board Members

Kent Sligh  
Director

Geoff Griffin  
Tennis Director

Roz King  
Editor, Center Court

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 ..... 295-1431

Submissions and Ads to the newsletter are welcome.  
Call 295-4242

# Members make the difference

By Robin Rodger, Balboa Tennis Club President

I would like to thank the members of the Balboa Tennis Club for allowing me the privilege of serving as your President for the ensuing year.

There are many challenges that come with this job, but also comes the chance to make a difference.

The year kicked off with a lively Annual Dinner. Thanks to Dominique Gambale and her committee for a lovely evening. Our first board meeting was held immediately preceding the Dinner with all board members in attendance.

The board approved the expenditure of a new water fountain, which is both refrigerated and filtered. It also has an additional spout for filling water containers. The Board felt that this was a very necessary addition to the club facilities.

The replacement of the patio arbor was also approved by the board. This project was made possible through a matching funds program with the City Parks and Recreation Department. Our thanks to Mark Schmursal for a job well done. I think you will all agree that besides correcting a safety hazard, the project has done much to enhance the entrance to the Club.

I would like to encourage all members to

make constructive suggestions. These suggestions should be in writing and placed in one of our two suggestion boxes. This is your Club and the Board members welcome your input.

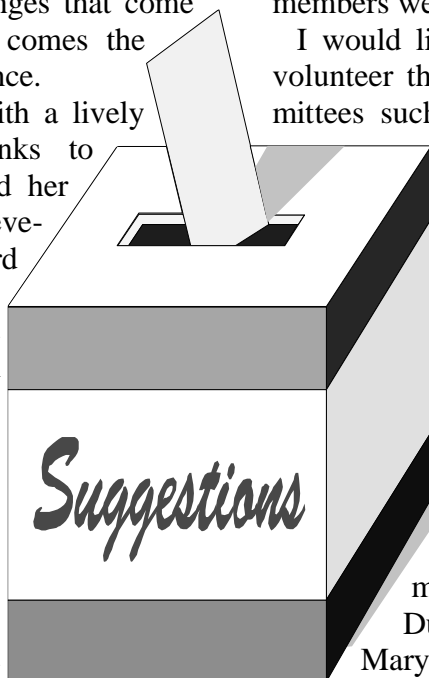
I would like to encourage members to volunteer their talents and time on committees such as the social or newsletter committees. Let's all work together to make Balboa Tennis Club what WE want it to be.

We have added a new agenda item to our Board meetings. Fifteen minutes of the meeting will be dedicated to the members who wish to speak. There will be a 3-minute time limit per member.

Due to other commitments, Mary Ann Weigner asked to resign from the Board. I would like to thank Mary Ann for her dedicated service as a board member and her contributions to promoting tennis play.

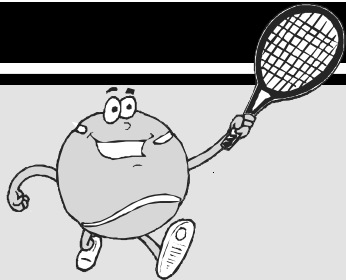
I have appointed Darice Carnaje to fill the vacancy created Mary Ann's departure. Darice will also be a strong addition to the board.

Each board member has much to offer and has made a strong commitment to serving on this team. Please join the Board and our Director Kent Sligh in helping to make a difference.



## Are you a landscape architect?

The new patio arbor is a big improvement over the one we replaced — it's safer, it looks great, and it provides more shade for the Pro Shop. We want to make it look even better, however, and we think the extra posts might give us an opportunity to do something with some plants or vines. If you are skilled in this please call Robin Rodger at 222-5479.



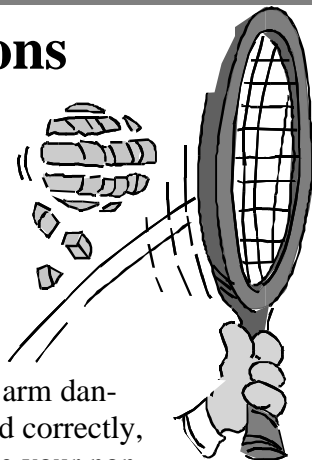
## Tennis Tips... ...from the pros

### Forehand conclusions

By Kevin Johnston

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.

*Kevin Johnston, originally from the Midwest, has been teaching tennis for fourteen years and is USPTA and USPTR certified. Kevin is a teaching professional here at the Balboa Tennis Club. One of his most noteworthy students was multiple Academy Award winner Dustin Hoffman.*

## Ears, hiccups and the Statue of Liberty

By Geoff Griffin

Rather than give you one lengthy tennis tip, I thought I would give you many little tidbits that have made a difference in my game and many of my students.

**Hands to your ears.** For one-handed forehands and two-handed backhands, try to make your follow through end with your hand or hands very close to your opposite ear. Being compact in tennis is always good and this kind of follow through keeps your arms in close all the way through the swing. Do this and your shots will offer more power and especially control.

**Statue of Liberty on the serve.** One of the most important elements of the serve is the toss. When you throw your toss, the ball should consistently fall into your hand without your arm moving. Can you do this? I think that one of the best serves in professional tennis to learn from belongs to Steffi Graf. The reason is that she really exaggerates her extension to her toss. It seems like she is reaching for the stars. Her great mechanics help her to eliminate un-

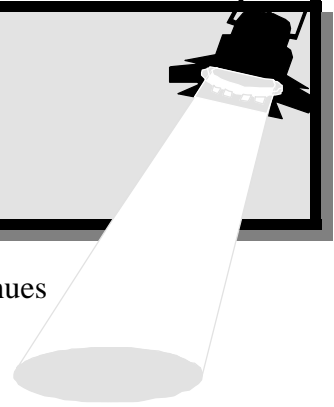
needed movement that can destroy a serve. If you want to improve your serve, extend your arms like a football referee signaling a touchdown. Or just do what Steffi does.

**Hiccup to help you react faster while volleying.** I had the honor of giving a private lesson to an 8-year-old girl by the name of Mackenzie Gaura. Mackenzie is a very talented little player who takes lessons consistently from San Diego's very well known Gretchen Magers.

While I worked on her volley, she gave me a very good tip on improving quickness at the net. Mackenzie told me, "Gretchen has me say 'hic' when I meet the ball and 'cup' when I get back to the ready position." As I fed her ball after ball I had Mackenzie hiccupping all over the net. But that girl was always ready. What a great tip I received from an 8-year-old. All struggling volleyers have the same problem. They don't react soon enough and the balls get behind or away from them. You must consistently get back to the ready position. Thanks Mackenzie!

# Spotlight

By Roz King



Well, all you lucky tennis players ...a few of us due to injury, have been seeing how the other half lives... Well ... ..TENNIS IS A GOOD THING!! I'm sure most of you have read and are delighted to see the broad tennis coverage ( biweekly) in The Union Tribune. Please drop a line of appreciation to sports editor Fred Sidu to keep it going.

The usual "suspects" are still on the tournament scene and doing well, **Susan Davis, Woodson Morris, Luis Glass, Leland Housman, Pat Poissett, Fran Wakefield, and Nancy Kibbey.** International players, **Marian** and **Gale Harlan** came home with the trophy and the flu.

More tournament news: **Dave Stibbins** and **Yolanda Owens** won the Tennis Exchange Mixed "A" Doubles. **Pat Poissett** and **Fran Wakefield** won the Sectionals W70D.

It's always a pleasure to talk about all our SPECIAL PEOPLE OF BALBOA TENNIS CLUB: **Jim Lackritz**, tennis player par excellence, Professor at SDSU, and is now the President of our San Diego District Tennis Association. Jim served on the BTC Board for several years.

**Virginia Glass**, a former top National Senior Circuit player, was recently given a personalized star embedded in the main entry of the Staples Center, the Los Angeles new sports arena. This was in recognition for her community volunteerism in promoting tennis to minorities. Virginia's promotions have extended across the USA, Caribbean and Africa.

**Mary Ann Weigner** started The Saturday Group who play on the lower courts. Mary Ann's always has a table or two of this fun loving group at our annual banquet. She is constantly looking for ways to support the membership and she will be missed from the BTC Board but we know she is only an e-mail away if we need her.

**Dominique Gambale** continues to put together exciting new social events and the Annual Dinner was no exception.

Great food, Fantastic view at the beautiful historic Park Manor Hotel and 168 members enjoyed each other and the "Cozy", "jammin" dance floor especially with **Pat Mason** leading the "electric slide."

**Geoff Griffin** put his usual special touches on the program in presenting numerous awards. Past President, **Bill Stack** and former Board Member **Karen Ruiz** received awards along with **David Yu.** David, by the way, made a generous donation to the banquet and to the Junior Tennis Fund of BTC. Many "Thanks" to **George Peterson** who donated raffle prizes and it was great having him in attendance, however, I did not see him on the dance floor...??? **Val Schlagel** ( always stunning in her new wave fashions), **Dee Sculley** and **Don Green** contributed greatly in making the banquet a success. There was the ever helpful crew of **Lynne Beerle** and **Pam Fullerton** keeping everything flowing. **Stan Griffin** captured many memberable moments on camera, perhaps you'll be able to see who are the real "party animals" of BTC.

Two years ago **Warren Edelson** stepped up to the plate of the BTC Presidency when no one else would. It is a difficult job and Warren and the Board had some difficult decisions to make during his tenure. Warren retires from office leaving the club sound financially and with good management. Thank you for serving.

**WRITERS NEEDED:** Our biggest membership use is weekends and evenings. I am looking for someone who will send in information on activities during that time. You can leave it at the reservation desk for Roz King or e-mail to rozkng@webtv.net or try by phone, 619-262-0357.

## Plans for parking lot speed bumps slowed

**By Kent Sligh**  
**Director of the Balboa Tennis Club**

Anyone who has walked through the parking lot at the Balboa Tennis Club more than once knows that there are people in this community who use our parking lot as a second street — only without the 25 mile-per-hour speed limit.

Fast moving cars are especially hazardous when backing out of a parking space. I've had a couple of comments from the membership, and I've experienced the problem myself on several occasions.

That's why when the City of San Diego announced plans to repave the lots in the Morley Sports complex, it seemed like a good idea to have them put in few speed bumps while they were already there doing the work.

The plan got off to a bumpy start, however, when I contacted Jake Orbin, the Grounds Maintenance Manager for the City of San Diego who was in charge of the repaving project.

"There are no speed bumps in Balboa Park," Orbin reported.

Orbin was unwilling to place the historic

first speed bumps in our lot, so the repaved surface remains smooth and flat.

We may yet prevail on the city to change their minds, but in the meantime I thought I would call on all of you to be careful to set a good example for other drivers. Our lot is regularly filled with kids, dogs and weary tennis players. So next time you're pulling into our lot anxious to make your court time, do what you would do for Jake Orbin and his orange-vested city workers — "give 'em a brake."

Speaking of getting your court times, recently there has been some confusion about our policy regarding when we give away unclaimed courts to waiting players.

The policy hasn't changed. It's covered by rule seven in our BTC rules posted at the reservation desk:

"Court slips may be picked up 30 minutes in advance of scheduled time, provided *all* players are present. Any court *not* picked up *on the hour* will be given out to someone on the waiting list. This way you will not be losing out on court time by waiting in line. If one person checks in, then the court will be held for 5 minutes."

## Griffin Tennis Services

E a s t e r  
S p e c i a l !

*10% discount  
on gifts for Easter!*

Any purchase of \$20 or more (sale items excluded).

Also...

Ball machine special — state of the art machine: 5 hours/\$50



## 2000 Board of Directors



## BTC one host for English tennis tour

On April 3, Balboa Tennis Club was visited by a team of British Army engineers.

Geoff Griffin put together a team of some of our better 4.0 to 4.5 players to challenge the Brits.

Players included Robin Rodger, Ron Celeste, Guy Dante, Pete Sullivan, Peggy Jung, Brad Hasper, Bob Durgan and a nice member named Ed.

The Englishmen were very impressed with our facility and our hospitality. They presented us with a plaque which is now hanging in our clubhouse.

The BTC Board of Directors pictured here at the Annual Dinner. (left to right) Will Tappen, Yolanda Owens, Ray Gottell, Ron Celeste, Pam Fullerton, Robin Rodger, Roz King, Dominique Gambale, Richard Barndt, and Charlie Pope. Darice Carnaje is not pictured. If you don't already know all of these smiling faces, take time to stop any one of them and share your ideas. The board meets on the third Tuesday of every month and members are encouraged to attend. See Robin Rodger's article on page 3 for details on how you can get involved.

# Tell us what you think!

## Board considering proposal to increase fees...

The Board of Directors is reviewing the lease the Balboa Tennis Club has with the City of San Diego, an agreement which is updated every five years. As a regular part of the agreement, the board must review the fees which the club charges for day passes and annual memberships. The rates have not been changed in ten years, which becomes a factor as the board looks at funding improvement projects (lighting, clubhouse renovations, etc.). The board of directors would like to strike a balance between the need to keep fees low and the need to insure this tennis facility will be well run and kept in excellent condition as we move into the new millennium. The current proposal would change Adult Day Passes from \$4 to \$5 and Senior Day Passes from \$2 to \$3. New memberships would increase \$10, from \$115 to \$125 for adults, and from \$75 to \$85 for seniors. Memberships renewals would be raised \$5 each, from \$95 to \$100 for adults and from \$55 to \$60 for seniors. **The board wants your feedback!** Please include your name with your comments and turn this form in to the Reservation Desk. Feel free to attach additional comments on a second sheet of paper.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Calendar of events

## April

17 BTC BOARD MEETING  
19-21 EASTER JUNIOR SATELLITE  
22 SPRING SOCIAL POTLUCK  
28-30 GRAND SLAM NATIONAL

## May

7 TENNIS EXPO 2000 "RACKETS OF LOVE"  
16 BTC BOARD MEETING

## June

18 TEAM CHALLENGE CUP  
20 BTC BOARD MEETING

## July

1-4 TENNIS FEDERATION TOURNAMENT  
18 BTC BOARD MEETING  
21-30 BALBOA OPEN  
31 BALBOA JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

# Center Court

Balboa Tennis Club  
2221 Morley Field Dr.  
San Diego, Calif. 92104

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Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage  
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San Diego, CA  
Permit No. 1898

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Dated material

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