



*Balboa Open Tournament results...  
Balboa Social coming October 5  
Federal judges acquit Balboa! (page 6)*

**Court Center**

## Balboa Open gets major sponsor

Maureen Connolly Brinker Foundation backs Balboa's biggest event

Lots of old-timers at BTC still remember Maureen Connolly, the girl from North Park who became the first woman ever to win the grand slam of tennis.

In 1953 she won the Australian Championship, the French Championship, Wimbledon, and the United States Championship.

In a way she came home this year, when the Maureen Connolly Brinker Tennis Foundation became the main sponsor of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Balboa

Open. And this year's tournament was an event worthy of her name.

Always the Balboa Tennis Club's biggest tournament, this year's draws were again packed with compelling matches. Over 700 players came ready to battle it out on the court, and hundreds more watched as each divisional war was fought.

The prize money for this year's event was raised to \$5,500.00 in order to gen-

*(Continued on page 2)*

## New fixtures will double existing lighting

Supervisor Ron Roberts matches funds with private donor

The Balboa Tennis Club has raised \$100,000 to improve the lighting at our facility.

County Supervisor Ron Roberts approved a \$50,000 county grant and \$50,000 was donated from the estate of John Gerding.

Nighttime players have long known that the lighting at Balboa is sub-standard.

Extensive testing performed by Professor Will Tappen, former Facilities Chair, demonstrated that

the light output at our club is half that of state-of-the-art facilities.

Lighting is measured in units called foot candles (fc). Tournament grade lighting calls for an average of 30fc, club grade lighting calls for an average of 20fc, and our courts currently average a dismal 13fc.

Plans call for replacing all of our current lighting fixtures while using our existing poles, bringing our lighting up to 25fc – nearly double the light we

have today!

The increase in the light will result primarily from modern fixtures, we will still use thousand watt bulbs and the new configuration will only add a handful of bulbs, so the impact to our energy bill should be minimal.

Our light control panel will also be replaced.

For a detailed account of how we raised the money, check out the President's Message on page 3 of this issue.

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# Balboa Open raises 2k for kids

(Continued from page 1)

erate more participation and excitement about the tournament.

We encouraged trade booth sponsors for the second year in a row, and they made the atmosphere better than ever. Glen Hrechniw, a message therapist, offered free massages to all tournament players. The young women working at the Kinesys Sport sunscreen table dazzled more than a few players with their smiles, and presumably prevented a few sunburns as well.

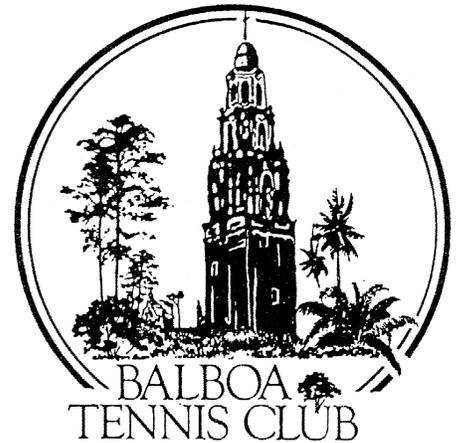
These sponsors, along with a raffle and donations from players, allowed the Balboa Open to present a check for over \$2,000.00 to the Polinsky Children's Center, an emergency shelter for children in crisis. This is the second year in a row the Balboa Open has stepped forward to help raise money for the children.

Greg Watson from the Polinsky Children's Center accepted a check for \$2,164.00 – nearly double last year's total!

Two especially generous tournament players even gave their prize money to Polinsky. Jennifer Anderson, who won the Women's 40 Singles and Lynn Jennings who was the finalist in the same division both donated their winnings — over \$100 in all.

The Balboa Open has become our flagship tournament, and that's why we hope the Maureen Connolly Brinker Tennis Foundation will continue to lend Little Mo's name to the event for years to come. Maureen Connolly was a member of the Balboa Tennis Club when it was located on the other side of Park Boulevard in what is now the zoo parking lot. You can still see the red brick house Maureen was born in on the 3900 block of Idaho Street!

You can learn more about the Maureen Connolly and the Maureen Connolly Brinker Tennis Foundation by checking out their web site at [www.mcbtennis.org](http://www.mcbtennis.org).



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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

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Submissions to the newsletter are welcome.  
Call 295-4242

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Eureka! You've found it! San Diego Tennis, Sun and Fun. For all your real estate needs, please call your tennis buddy, Dali. Thank you!

# Good news about our lights, our patio and ice

**By Robin Rodger, BTC President**

Installing an ice machine was a Herculean effort, but we overcame the hurdles and I hope you are enjoying it. Thank you to the card players for their patience, and to the San Diego Tennis Federation for their flexibility in having their draw party outside during construction. We are providing the ice and cups at no charge to members. Please do your part and use the scoop and not your hands, keep the machine door shut, and put loose cups in the trash after use. If too many cups are wasted we will have to discontinue providing them.

The BTC Open was a tremendous success. Geoff Griffin and his family are the backbone of our club. Geoff has earned respect throughout the tennis community and his caring attitude makes his tournaments fun for everyone.

Geoff had a lot of help this year. Members contributed not only their money (as "Friends of BTC"), but volunteered their time to solicit businesses, staff the tournament desk, sell raffle tickets, man the radar gun, and relay court openings, just to name a few. Our committee chairman Jim Gallagher deserves a standing ovation for a job well done. Jim was responsible for the Brinker Family donating the \$5,000 to be the main sponsor of the Open Tournament. Jim and Chuck Splitgerber were out in the community finding sponsors and following an array of leads to make the BTC Open a success.

One of these leads led to the office of Ron Roberts, Supervisor of the Fourth District. The meeting, set up to see about a contribution to the BTC Open, actually led us in a different direction. In our discussions we learned we could apply for funding to resolve several capital improvement projects. Meanwhile I had been having discussions with Don and Linda Stadelli about a charitable donation from the estate of John Gerding. A graduate of San Diego High School, John was an avid tennis player in his youth and an avid tennis fan in his adult life. John grew up in the North Park area and spent a lot of time playing tennis at Morley Field. Don Stadelli was charged with choosing the charities for the estate and felt John would love to give back to BTC. I realized this might be a match. I asked Don

if BTC could have \$50,000 for improving the light quality at BTC. He agreed. Kent Sligh, our director and master letter writer, and I then put together a request for another \$50,000 from Ron Roberts. We used the report done by Will Tappen, which showed our lights to be inferior, and an estimate by Amtech Lighting. We were all very excited when we received the call advising us that our request had been approved and Ron Roberts would be granting us \$50,000 towards the improvement of our lights.

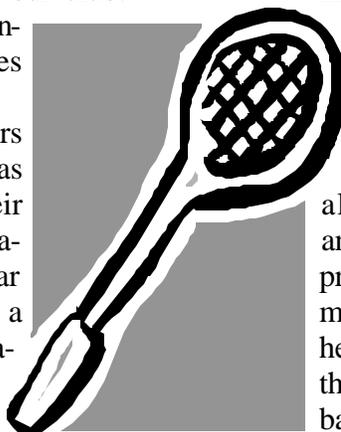
The lighting project will include doubling our current light intensity by replacing 92 fixtures on courts 1-18. It includes rewiring and re-circuiting to accommodate the new fixtures. We will also install 2 CK-16 lighting control panels.

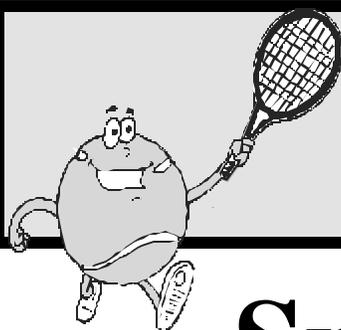
This will give the ability to control the lights from the office, which will save energy in the future.

Our patio project was temporarily disallowed by the city because, in the year and a half we have been trying to get this project done, the rules had changed. With more letter writing by Kent and lot of help from Alex Garcia and Ali Soheile at the city, we were able to get our project back on track. I am proud to announce

the patio project will break ground on Tuesday, September 3. The jack hammering is expected to last four (loud) days. This project could never have happened without the generosity of James Robbins, Janene Christopher and their award-winning architectural firm. James and Janene along with their associate Patricia Trauth, have donated hundreds of hours of their valuable time to this project, preparing the plans several times at no cost.

Izzy Maggay of Academy Engineering is the contractor and is working pro bono. The other subcontractors have come in at bare bones profit margins to help us accomplish this project. This has been a story of people helping people, a study in the best that can happen when the community and the city work together for the common good. I hope everyone will remember to be patient and flexible during the construction and demolition phase, since it will be dirty and noisy for a little while. It's all going to be worth it — just wait and see!





## Tennis Tips...

...from the pros

# Spin to Win...

**By Kevin Johnston**  
**USPTA &USPTR**

Can you relate to those days when no matter what you try to do on the tennis court, it just doesn't work? You try to hit the ball with pace to blow it by your opponent...that only makes it worse because you start missing more shots than usual.

Then you decide to "push" the ball over to compensate for your errors. However, this only allows your opponent to hit winners on you because you are giving them easy mid-court, cupcake balls to put away.

You are left with two options. Call everything out or fake an injury and default the match.

Think about adding spin to your game. When you add spin to your shots you are taking speed off of the ball.

The advantage to this is that you will gain control on your shots and not make as many unforced errors.

Try to incorporate topspin on the forehand and backhand side whenever possible when playing from the baseline. This will allow you to swing out more aggressively with control instead of "pushing" the ball.

The topspin you put on your groundstrokes will make the tennis ball arc down into the court making it less likely you will hit the ball past the baseline. By swinging aggressively on your groundstrokes, you will also stay more relaxed on your shots and not tense up or "choke".



When at the net hitting volleys, you should try and put underspin on your shots. By putting underspin or slice on the volley you will gain control of the shot more effectively.

When your opponent hits a ball with pace to you at the net, you need to decrease the speed of their shot with underspin.

Many times you will hit a volley out because you attempt to hit the ball back almost as hard as it was hit to you. Like the groundstrokes, putting the necessary underspin on the shot will allow you to keep the volley in play much more effectively than if you tried to hit the ball flat.

Are you one of those players who have a testosterone overload on their first serve and then become an eighty-pound weakling on the second serve? If this sounds like you try to incorporate the same principals of spin into your serving.

Go ahead and try to serve like Andy Roddick on the first serve and blast the ball flat.

On your second serve, come around the side of the tennis ball for slice or topspin. This will allow you to take a full swing upward on the ball and not get the dreaded alligator arm syndrome (short arm). By adding spin to your serve, you will be gaining control on the tennis ball and not serving up as many double faults.

Remember, when all else fails, use your spin to keep you in the match.

Flat is out, spin is in.

# Spotlight

By Roz King

If you haven't tried the wonderful tasting sandwiches and soups from our Café you are missing a *good deal*. Give up your "Jack In the Box run" for once and give our Café a chance to meet your *tastes*.

Members who donate their time to be on the Board are working hard to provide the changes that the majority asked for on a survey that was taken four years ago. "Do you remember?"

...This club is continuously moving forward and improving, trying new approaches to old issues... "Jump on Board"!! There's room...

Speaking of moving forward...The National Open was something to be proud of for our club. Not only was it great as a spectator but the players enjoyed our venue. **Kent** did a great job as the Director of the tournament.

The GREAT HOSPITALITY was chaired by **Linda Stadelli** and with the expert assistance of **Pat Mason**, you know it was in excellent hands. Added to this expert staff was **Don Stadelli** who was the "Burger King."

Many THANKS to other members who "Jump In" to fill a need...such as **John Towey** who donated the new PA system so the chair ump's can easily communicate with the audience.

**John Courtney** was also part of that group willing to give to the club. John took time out of his tennis schedule to help with a club mailing – along with **Julie Anderson**, **Diane Hardy**, **Herb Bistrow** and our club President **Robin Rodger**.

**Renee Gregorio** is back out hitting her "power ball" ..watch out she's back ..!!!

**Remember:** send a card to **Bob Cowan** and **Valarie Schlagel** – let's help keep their spirits up.

If you are one of the early afternoon players you have seen the wonderful strokes of **Billie Davis** who

usually hits with **Jim Ray**.

Years ago he was the hitting partner to **Althea Gibson** during her professional tour and later as she toured with the Harlem Globetrotters performing exhibition matches. Billie started playing at 10 years of age in Harlem, NY. He was taught tennis at the Cosmopolitan Tennis Club by a one armed man named Fred Johnson who later also taught Althea Gibson.

Billie has numerous Junior singles titles, open singles, and men's 45's titles, all totaling 11 through the ATA Tournaments.

Billie received a tennis scholarship to attend Tennessee State University. He retired from IBM as a systems Engineer, worked for Mayor Dinkins in NY as Assistant Commissioner of Parks and Recreation and six years ago moved here to San Diego. He is now one of Balboa Tennis Clubs tennis legends.

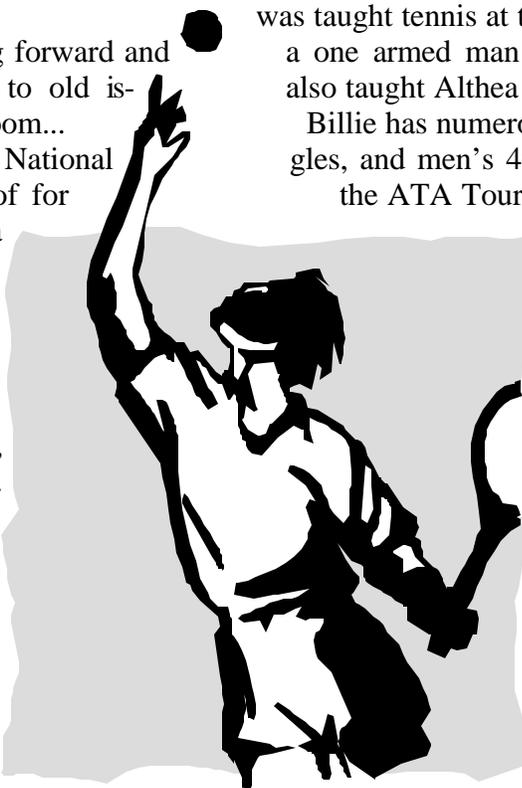
It may be a while before we see him on the challenge court, but BTC Reservationist **Alex Djordjevic** is going to start taking wheelchair tennis lessons

from **Jim Yoes** over at the Barnes Center.

Jim has been the tournament director for the Hendrickson Memorial Wheelchair Tournament that is held here at BTC every year. So be sure to encourage Alex next time you see him...

**Stephan Peters**, son of **Jim and Melinda Murray**, was the lucky winner of an all-expense paid trip to the US Open! He played in USA Team tennis as a member of the Balboa Bombers.

Thanks to eagle-eye **Pete Sullivan** who proof-reads the newsletter — we wanted this to be a surprise so we added this line after he edited this newsletter.



## BTC to host 4.5 National Champs

Of all the tournaments of the year, the USTA National 4.5 League Championships is always the biggest.

The only tournament to use all 25 courts, winning teams from all of the roughly 20 sections in the United States will battle it out for a chance at a national title.

To qualify, teams have to prevail in both their local and sectional tournaments.

The USTA takes these events very seriously, sending a staff of about 8 people to each event.

Aside from being a lot of fun, the National 4.5's are a great financial boon for the club, generating thousands of dollars in only four days.

Sadly, BTC will not play host to a National League Championship again for a least a year or two.

Sites are rotated regularly, and the next couple of years are scheduled to take place in Arizona.

## Senior Olympics return to BTC

For the third consecutive year we are proud to announce the Senior Olympic Tennis Tournament will be held at our facility.

The event starts Monday, September 23 and runs through Thursday the 26th.

Matches are scheduled during the day between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. so you might not notice they're here unless you look! For information on playing call 619-226-1234.

## Next club social set for Oct. 5

There are 1,400 members at the Balboa Tennis Club, and chances are there are still a few you don't know.

We'll mark your calendars now for a round robin club social on October 5, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. with dinner to follow. Not all 1,400 of you will show up because space is limited, but there are bound to be a few new faces for you to hit with. If you've ever been to one of our

round robins, you know they are a lot of fun no matter what your level.

Tickets are only \$5, and they include grilled burgers and drinks after tennis.

The round robin will be organized by our pros, and the balls will be provided.

Savvy members know to sign up early — and be sure to show up on time.

## Free clinic for adult tennis is a hit

On Saturday July 13, the Balboa Tennis Club sponsored the first in a series of free clinics.

There were five courts going at once, with five pros and fifty players.

The free clinics were inspired by the desire

to promote adult tennis at our club. Anyone was welcome to sign up, and all different levels participated.

Geoff Griffin ran the clinic, along with Chaz Griffin, Mike Feldman, Kevin Johnston, and Carlos

Mora.

BTC is planning to sponsor four free clinics a year. The date for the next free clinic is November 16, so remember to mark your calendars keep an eye out for flyers and signs so you can participate.

## Federal Judges hold court at Balboa

It's not often you see 20 federal judges gathered in one place, and even then they're rarely all holding tennis racquets. But on Tuesday, July 16 the Balboa Tennis Club played host to the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference Tennis Tournament.

We don't want to make a federal case out of it, but we were very honored to have the justices playing here.

Geoff Griffin ran the event, and the judges made a special point of mentioning what a wonderful job

he did.

The judges brought their own security. A man and a woman patrolled the area dressed in plain clothes, but with wires coming from tiny headsets in their ears — something you'd expect to see at the white house, not the Balboa Tennis Club.

The afternoon passed without any controversy, however, and Geoff said when it came to line calls, they showed good judgment.

# Balboa Open Tournament Results

## Father-Daughter Doubles -- Finals

Buterbaugh D - Buterbaugh J d. Williams S - Williams H 6-0; 6-1

## Father-Son Doubles -- Finals

Molden B - Molden D d. Schiller C - Schiller J [2] 3-6; 6-2; 6-1

## Men's Open Singles -- Finals

Jason Pongsrikul [1] d. Pierre Mareschal 6-4; 7-6

## Men's Open Doubles -- Finals

Failla D - Failla G [1] d. Mihet E - Steidelmayer E [2] 6-4; 6-4

## Men's 35 Singles -- Finals

Manolo Ortiz [1] d. Herman Bauer [2] 6-0; 4-6; 6-2

## Men's 35 Doubles -- Round Robin

Lopez A - Ortiz M d. Finden S - Lutosky M 6-3; 6-2

Gill D - Ray J d. Finden S - Lutosky M 6-4; 6-3

Lopez A - Ortiz M d. Gill D - Ray J 6-2; 6-4

## Men's 40 Singles -- Finals

Mark McMahon [1] d. Brian Turner [2] 6-3; 6-1

## Men's 40 Doubles -- Finals

Herrmann P - Mora C [1] d. Gerson R - Glass L 6-2; 6-4

## Men's 45 Singles -- Finals

Randy Houston [1] d. Kip Hutchison [2] 6-1; 3-6; 6-0

## Men's 45 Doubles -- Finals

Lopez A - Press P [2] d. Nichols B - Rorbach C [1] 6-3; 6-2

## Men's 50 Singles -- Finals

Vince Matlock [4] d. Jay Schiller [1] 7-5; 6-4

## Men's 50 Doubles -- Finals

De Graff C - Schmersal M [2] d. Hasper B - Loehr D 7-5; 6-1

## Men's 55 Singles -- Finals

Mario Cernousek [2] d. Ron Hextell 6-3 Ret (inj)

## Men's 55 Doubles -- Finals

Biddle R - Durgan B d. Green D - Kaplan S 6-3; 7-6

## Men's 60 Singles -- Finals

Leland Housman [1] d. Jim Perley [2] 6-0; 6-2

## Men's 65 Singles -- Finals

Frank McCabe [2] d. Bob Perry [1] 6-3; 7-6

## Men's 65 Doubles -- Finals

Johnson N - McCabe F [2] d. Perry B - Sahratian J [1] 7-5; 7-5

## Men's 70 Singles -- Finals

John Sahratian [1] d. Don Albares [2], San Diego, CA 6-3; 6-2

## Men's 80 Singles -- Finals

Al Asher d. Bob Meghreblian Def (ns)

## Men's 3.5 Singles -- Finals

Paul Shepherd d. Kevin Mallery 4-6; 6-0; 6-1

## Men's 3.5 Doubles -- Finals

Lee M - Santana A d. Mallery K - Stone B 6-4; 6-3

## Men's 4.5 Singles -- Finals

Kourosh Zavar d. Keith Williams [2] 6-4; 3-6; 6-3

## Men's 4.5 Doubles -- Finals

Farin T - Wedge D [1] d. Nelson T - Newborn C [3] 6-4; 6-3

## Men's 5.5 Singles -- Finals

Todd Farin [5] d. Laurent Verkoczy [6] 7-6; 3-6; 6-3

## Men's 5.5 Doubles -- Finals

Le H - Watson T d. Nelson T - Verkoczy L [2] 6-4; 6-4

## Mixed Open Doubles -- Finals

Kellogg J - Magers G [1] d. Conda J - Perl L 6-4; 6-4

## Mixed 3.5 Doubles -- Finals

Mason P - Shepherd P d. Justus J - Scavone M 6-1; 6-2

## Mixed 4.5 Doubles -- Finals

Newborn C - Thompson K d. Aguilera N - Biddle R [2] 6-1; 6-4

## Mixed 5.5 Doubles -- Finals

Collins H - Collins S d. Damasco J - Podney J 6-3; 6-0

## Women's 35 Singles -- Finals

Melinda Ainslie-Murray [1] d. Kelly Dodge [2] 6-3; 6-1

## Women's 35 Doubles -- Finals

Pereira S - Wellersdiek S [2] d. Dugan S - Grajeda L 6-1; 6-1

## Women's 40 Singles -- Finals

Jennifer Anderson [1] d. Lynn Jennings 7-6; 6-3

## Women's 55 Singles -- Finals

Suella Steele d. Mary Ann Mitcham 6-0; 6-1

## Women's 65 Doubles -- Round Robin

Dunn B - Saunders S d. Aguilera N - Poisett P 3-6; 6-3; 7-5

Dunn B - Saunders S d. Kibbey N - Wakefield F 6-0; 6-1

Aguilera N - Poisett P d. Kibbey N - Wakefield F 6-0; 7-6

## Women's 70 Singles -- Finals

Janet Hubbard d. Nancy Kibbey 6-4; 6-2

## Women's 3.5 Singles -- Finals

Christina Ezell d. Nancy Boesen 6-4; 6-2

## Women's 3.5 Doubles -- Finals

Boesen N - Harris M d. Dominigo J - Palloto J [1] 6-1; 4-6; 6-3

## Women's 4.5 Singles -- Finals

Megan Hsin [2] d. Gaby Ramos Rosas [3] 7-6; 4-0 Ret (inj)

## Women's 4.5 Doubles -- Finals

Abend D - White S d. Berzaman C - Kaus C [3] 2-6; 7-6; 7-6

## Women's 5.5 Singles -- Finals

Judy Belinsky [2] d. Lori Mannheimer [1] 7-6; 2-6; 6-4

## Women's 5.5 Doubles -- Finals

Mannheimer L - Podney J [1] d. Howard T - King R 6-2; 6-3

## Women's Open Singles -- Finals

Lauren Perl d. Cristina Visico [1] 1-6; 7-6; 6-2

## Women's Open Doubles -- Finals

Ogburn R - Petty H [1] d. Bartell E - Duncan K [2] 6-4; 6-4

## Ever considered joining the BTC Board? Why not?

The Board of Directors for the Balboa Tennis Club are all members just like you. Board members serve two-year terms, and the terms are staggered so that each year there are five openings.

Petitions to join the board are available at the Reservations Desk beginning September 1.

Anyone interested in joining the board needs to pick up a petition at the Reservation Desk. The petition

calls for prospective board members to collect 40 signatures from BTC members recommending them for the board.

Petitions must be turned in to the Reservations Desk by October 15. Once all of the petitions are in, an election is held. Ballots are sent to every BTC member. The five applicants with the most votes begin their new terms in January.

# Calendar of events

## August

|                  |                        |
|------------------|------------------------|
| 5                | RESURFACE COURTS 13-16 |
| 20               | BTC BOARD MEETING      |
| 23-25, 31-Sept 2 | DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIPS |

## September

|              |                                    |
|--------------|------------------------------------|
| 1            | BOARD MEMBER PETIONS ARE AVAILABLE |
| 3            | PATIO REMODEL BREAKS GROUND        |
| 17           | BTC BOARD MEETING                  |
| 20-22, 27-29 | METROPOLITAN CHAMPIONSHIPS         |
| 23-26        | SENIOR OLYMPICS                    |

## October

|                |                                     |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| 5              | CLUB SOCIAL ROUND ROBIN             |
| 15             | DEADLINE FOR BOARD MEMBER PETITIONS |
| 15             | BTC BOARD MEETING                   |
| 17-20          | NATIONAL 4.5 CHAMPIONSHIPS          |
| 25-27, Nov 1-3 | BTC FALL CHAMPIONSHIPS              |

## November

|    |                                |
|----|--------------------------------|
| 16 | FREE CLINIC — OPEN TO EVERYONE |
| 19 | BTC BOARD MEETING              |

# Center Court

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Dated material

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