

*Take the Snack Shop survey...
New club directories due out in January!
Balboa Open Tournament results...*

Court Center

Survey seeks to learn how snack shop can better serve your needs

Many of us at BTC are excited about the matching funds project the city approved to update the area outside the snack shop.

The thirty thousand dollar project, funded mostly by the city and Arnold and Esther Belinsky's \$10,000 donation, will provide new tables, improved and expanded seating, and lots of greenery in a number of large planters.

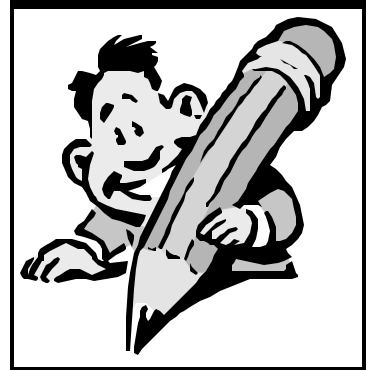
Architects James Robins and Janene Christopher, both BTC members,

donated thousands of dollars worth of their time to develop and draw up the plans for a world class makeover.

Now the board has turned its attention to finding ways to improve the snack shop itself.

A survey has been developed to get your feedback about possible improvements to the snack shop, known as Jerry's Wimbledon West.

The board took up the subject after a number of members voiced concerns related to the snack shop.



**Survey
inside!**

The board met with Jerry Ortuno, the operator

(Continued on page 2)

Balboa Open raises over \$1000 for kids

Hundreds of tennis players came ready to battle at this year's Balboa Open, and hundreds more watched as each divisional war was fought.

The finals were held in our stadium, decorated with sponsors' banners and ringed with spectators.

Hundreds of dollars grew to over a thousand dollars for the Polinsky Children's Center, as the Balboa Tennis Club and area businesses teamed up to

raise money for local children in crisis.

Roseanne Perrone, Resource Development Administrator for the city's Health and Human Services Agency accepted a check for \$1095 at the conclusion of an event which is unique in BTC history.

With an annual population of over 5,000 children, the Polinsky Center got some much needed help — and we got to enjoy one of our best tournaments in years!

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New Club Directories due out in January — check your info now!

Has your address or phone number changed? If your membership card is out of date, odds are our database is out of date too...

Stop by the Reservations Desk to let them know about any changes or corrections to your address and phone number!

SNACK SHOP SURVEY

(Continued from page 1)

of Jerry's Wimbledon West, to get his ideas about the survey.

As the operator of the snack shop for the last three years, he knows the challenges better than anyone.

Jerry's business took a significant hit when the juniors moved over to the new Barnes Center.

Also, space doesn't allow for cooking, so hot foods are limited to what can be heated in a microwave. Unlike many other areas of Balboa Park, we are not allowed to serve beer.

Historically, the snack shop has struggled no matter who has been in charge, but Jerry is very interested in getting feedback about what his customers want.

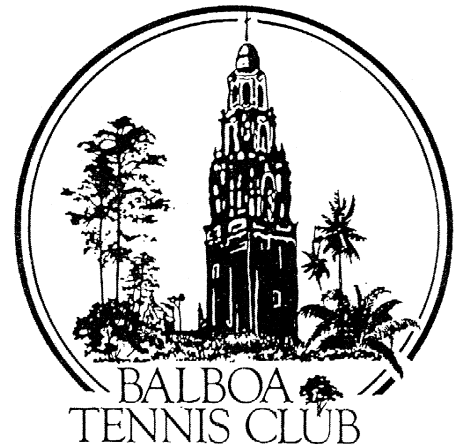
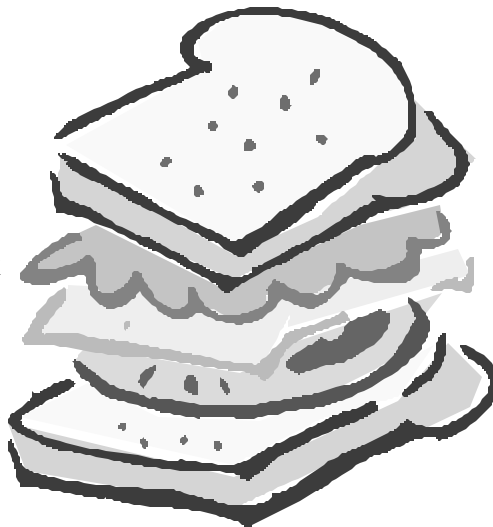
The board has heard various suggestions from members already. Some have suggested changing the snack shop's hours of operations.

Some have raised the possibility of bringing in vending machines to enhance Jerry's selection and provide food service during nighttime hours. Others have suggested moving to an all-vending machine food service with occasional catered food service for special events.

While these ideas are interesting, the board knows they have only heard from a small number of our 1,400 members. Maybe there are better ideas that haven't been considered yet.

That's where you can help. Is the snack shop serving your needs? What do you really want?

Please take a minute to fill out this brief survey and return it to the Reservation desk the next time you're here to play. Or drop it in the mail: SNACK SHOP SURVEY, 2221 Morley Field Drive, San Diego, CA 92104.



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

Robin Rodger
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Chuck Splitgerber

Patty Sweeting

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.

President's message: *three cheers!*

By Robin Rodger

President of the Balboa Tennis Club

HO HO HO look at us go! The only thing missing from this year's Balboa Open Tournament were the cheerleaders. The feeling of excitement in the air during the weekends of July 20-22 and July 27-29 was tremendous.

The Balboa Open surpassed our goals set for this year. Thanks to the efforts of Darice Carnaje, Darlene Gallego, Geoff Griffin and their army of volunteers, this tournament provided a setting for extremely competitive tennis for the 740 entrants.

And it wasn't just the entrants that were having a good time. This year there was almost a festival quality to the tournament, with *lots* of people milling around the walkways surrounding the courts, catching up with friends and watching great tennis. For the first time in years the finals were held in the stadium, which looked especially good with banners from our eleven sponsors lining the back wall. Special thanks goes to Becky Smiser for making over two dozen great banners and signs! We could have used some shade for the stadium seats, but – you guessed it – we're actively working on that issue.

In case you missed the headline on page one, the big news is this tournament raised over a thousand dollars for the Polinsky Children's Center. This money came from individual donations by tournament players, plus the majority of the money the sponsors contributed.

The Polinsky Center is a 24 hour facility operated by the County of San Diego for the temporary emergency shelter of children. Local children of all ages find themselves at the Polinsky Center for all kinds of reasons, but usually they have been separated from their families. They may be the victims of abuse, their own homes may not be a safe place for them, or their parents may have been put in jail.

Every day the Polinsky Center provides a safe haven for anywhere from 175 to 250 children. Over \$50,000 a year is spent on formula, and another \$30,000 for diapers. If you want more information about this wonderful, life-saving organization you

can contact Roseanne Perrone, Resource Development Administrator, at (858) 514-4607.

As great as this charity is, you should know we aren't giving your dollars away — all off the money given to the Polinsky Center came from donations and sponsors.

Overall, the Balboa Open made nearly \$3,500 this year which will go to maintain and improve our great tennis facility.

We are already starting to work on next year's Balboa Open. A meeting was held to evaluate this year's tournament and a meeting is set for August 23 at noon in the clubhouse to kick off the planning of the Open for 2002.

We are setting our goals high – we hope to raise \$15,000 in sponsorship money so that we are able to offer prize money in categories other than the open division. Anyone interested in helping should contact Darice Carnaje at (619) 379-4265. We would love to hear from *you!*

We want this tournament to be one that players from all over look forward to all year, and we want people from the community to look forward to meeting here at the club to watch great tennis or just hang out in the beautiful San Diego sunshine.

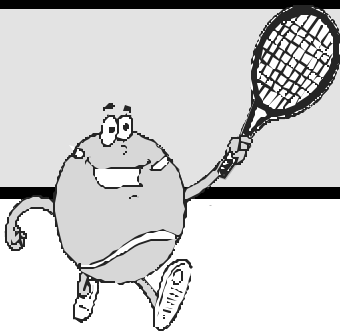
Our new patio project is still going through various city channels, but it is right on track and we hope construction will begin in November.

The Board of Directors and our Director Kent Sligh have been doing a wonderful job of working together to create the kind of club that encourages people to want to get out and compete in tennis. We have a family atmosphere at BTC and a tradition that is worth preserving as we move forward.

If you are interested in being an integral part of this process I would like to encourage you to run for a position on our board of directors. The applications will be available to pick up at the reservations desk on September 1, and are due on October 15.

I want to emphasize how important it is that everyone remember to turn in your Snack Shop Survey so your voice will be heard. The board needs input from as many members as possible so they can make sound decisions.





Tennis Tips...

...from the pros

Cupcakes!

By **Kevin Johnston**
USPTA & USPTR

Whether you are a singles or a doubles player, when you are involved in a baseline rally, your best option is to keep the ball deep in the court.

The further behind the baseline you can force your opponent to play, the better your chances are of winning the point.

When you watch the pros on television it may appear that they are hitting the ball low over the net. In fact, they are hitting about two or three feet over the net.

This keeps their ball deep in the court.

At their level, if they give the op-

ponent anything short around the service line the point will be over. The opposing player will eat the short ball up like a delicious chocolate cupcake.



The same scenario may happen to you if your ball consistently lands short in the court. The player on the other side of the net may not hit a winner like the pros, but they may put enough pressure on you by coming up to the net causing an error from you.

Keep the ball deep in the court by hitting higher over the net. At our level of play we should try to aim three to four feet over the net with topspin. This should keep the ball closer to the service line instead of the service line.

Make sure you're hungry if you keep the ball deep in the court. Your opponent will be giving you cupcakes to eat up all day long.

Four steps to a reliable return

By **Geoff Griffin**

A consistent return of serve is important at any level. The ability to consistently return powerful serves will make you a great player.

Here are my basics for returning big flat serves:

1. *Learn to split step.* Returning tough serves takes quick reactions. Great returners, like great short-stops, all split step.

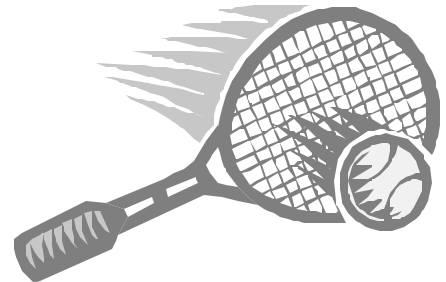
In tennis, move forward slowly as opponent tosses ball. Right before contact make a slight hop into

a crouch so that your legs are in a maximum "spring" position.

As server makes contact your reactions will now be their quickest.

2. *Short back swing.* All your efforts are now in front of your body. Any back swing will cause a great deal more errors and poorly placed shots. You must concentrate on using your opponents power. Very little of your own!

3. *Freeze your eye level.* If your eye level moves so does your head. This will really hurt your



placement.

4. *Keep the return low.* Direction is not nearly as important as height. If you can keep the ball within a foot of the net the server's volleying partner will not be able to hurt you.

Spotlight

By Roz King

As you travel around the country and in various tennis circles, once you say you are from San Diego, there are always people who say "I went to Balboa Park to that tennis club and had wonderful tennis even though I didn't know anyone."

In addition to the various levels of tennis, what is even more fascinating is the depth of history and substance of character of those whom we see everyday and evening as we rush to the courts... but oh!! ...to sit at courtside and chat with some of the players that make this part of their daily pilgrimage, is a real treat.

Listening to the many great stories from **George Peterson** who played at this park as a child and has followed the careers of many players, is a special experience. In addition to being a wealth of knowledge, **George** gets the best bridge hands of any player I know.

Recently, **Ralph Beaton's** daughter, **Janice Coronel-Zegarra** was visiting here while on a holiday from Pilau. She was excited and delighted to play singles with **Sam Polk** on short notice. She is a master weaver and glass cutter and among other things is passing this knowledge on to the women of Pilau, she is truly a chip off the old block.

Some of the best doubles to watch involve **Ralph Beaton, Don Fouts** and **Dan Loehr.**

Some of the best muscles to watch ...**James Felder.**

But...getting back to the depth of character and giving of oneself, **Rebecca Villar**, having one child, has opened her heart and home to include three more children needing the love of a family.

We all enjoyed **Judy and David Busnell's** new arrival from China, **JADE.** This is a whole new junior program!!! **Van Gillespie** is giving time to the Salvation Army and **Susan Pililaau** gives old but good

tennis clothing to the Barnes Center (They give them out to the boys and girls on kids day.)

Susan made the best carrot cake to celebrate **Bob Petty's** (?) birthday this month.

Once you begin to talk about the great people at the Balboa Tennis Club, it's hard to stop!!! And these are only a few of the names that leap to mind:

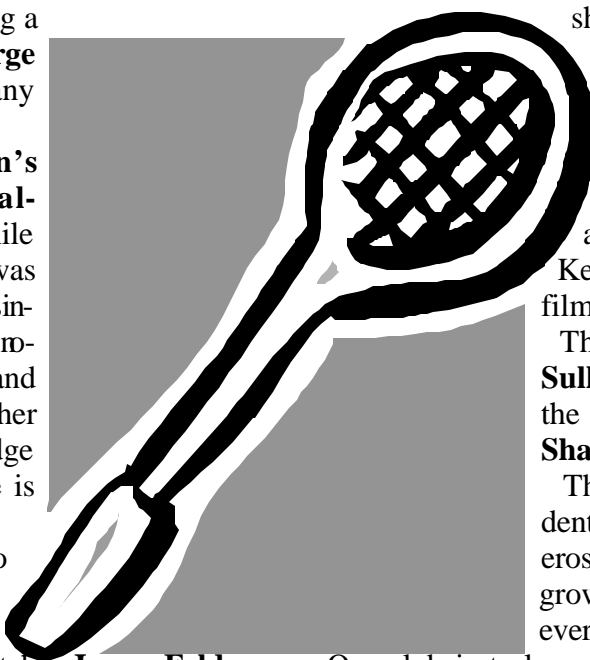
Rene Gregorio, so helpful with advice to help our old tennis feet, and **Herb Bistrow**, who with his creative business mind gives feedback on what is working and not working for the membership and has made great suggestions for increasing membership.

Jim Gallagher, voice of the everyday non-tournament tennis player and **J.T. Gritis** who gives a tennis lesson with each stroke and who also provides great films at the Ken Theater and is the last of a film projectionist era.

The passionate opinions of **Pete Sullivan** on and off the court and the ever present graciousness of **Sharon Bethard.**

The driving vision of our President, **Robin Rodger** and the generosity of **Hank Thomsen** who grows and shares his great fruit every year.

Our club is truly a rainbow of all that is good in this country and particularly this city. The diversity of the membership, of playing styles, living styles, of thoughts and contributions to the community and to this club that can really be appreciated by sitting at courtside and chatting with the cast of characters that make the Balboa Tennis Club a great place to be and a great legend to continue.



Tournament courts available for you!

Now that tournament season is in full swing, getting a court on the weekend can be tougher than any other time of the year.

But did you know that on the last day of a tournament there are almost always courts open for you to use?

We need to mark off a regular tournament day in case of problems with the weather. One day of rain can force a tournament director to try and fit two days worth of matches into a single day. Weather problems in San Diego are rare, especially in the summer months, but it does happen.

But if the weather stays nice both weekends of a tournament, the last day of a tournament is usually small, and lots of courts are released back to the membership.

Savvy members know they can almost always get a court on the last day of a tournament — and now you do too!

Also remember that we have an agreement with San Diego High School to use their six new courts on tournament weekends.

The courts are open to BTC members from 8 AM to 6 PM on a first come, first serve basis.

BTC Board gets fresh face as outgoing member pledges to continue contributions

The Board of Directors is sorry to report that Darice Carnaje will be stepping down from her board seat because other commitments have made it too difficult for her to regularly attend meetings.

The good news is Darice will remain on the Tournament Committee and continue to be of service to the Balboa Tennis Club. Darice is continuing her work with the Balboa Open (see President's message, page 2).

And there's more good news – Chuck Splitgerber has been appointed by the board

to finish out Darice's term. An 11 year member of the Balboa Tennis Club, Chuck and his wife Muriel originally moved to San Diego from Wisconsin, where Chuck was a high school principal.

Chuck holds a PhD in education, and also brings with him a great deal of experience as a small business owner in the food service industry.

Since his appointment to the board last month, Chuck has already made substantial contributions to the Tournament Committee and the Ethics Committee.

Board member petitions are available now

Ever wondered just who makes up the Board of Directors for the Balboa Tennis Club?

Stop wondering – they're all BTC members just like you who volunteer their time to make sure we remain one of the finest public tennis clubs in the nation.

Board members serve two-year terms, and the terms are staggered so that each year there are five openings.

Have you ever considered joining the board? Why not?!

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.

The board is interested in gathering input from as many different segments of our membership as possible.

If you feel like your voice isn't being heard, this is a wonderful opportunity for you to join our team so you can work to make sure all of your concerns are being addressed.

Balboa Open Tournament Results

Father-Daughter Doubles

Brummett G – Brummett H d. Ortiz J – Ortiz M 6-4; 6-2

Father-Son Doubles

Zerboni Jr. – Zerboni Sr. d. Simpson K – Simpson C 6-1; 6-4

Men's Open Singles

Pongsrikul J d. Redondo R 7-6; 6-4

Men's Open Doubles

Chanfreau J – Redondo R d. Coren G – Webster A 6-2; 6-1

Men's 35 Singles

Ortiz M d. Armstrong K 4-6; 6-3; 6-0

Men's 35 Doubles

Armstrong K – Zidbeck S d. Ortiz M – Stephan G 6-4; 6-3

Men's 40 Singles

Bowen S d. Turner B 6-3; 3-0 Ret (inj)

Men's 40 Doubles

Bowen S – Tate G d. Herrmann P – Jaffe J 6-3; 6-3

Men's 45 Doubles

Evans R – Kellog B d. Lackritz J – Schmersal M 7-5; 6-4

Men's 50 Singles

Harrison A d. Schiller J 3-6; 7-5; 6-4

Men's 50 Doubles

Canning B – Hill R d. Aalam I – Jenkins L 6-3; 7-6

Men's 55 Singles

Housman L d. Bethard B 6-3; 3-6; 6-3

Men's 55 Doubles

Bartroff J – Enyedy T d. Payne S – Williams S 6-1; 6-1

Men's 60 Singles

Rabbitt M d. Moog R 6-4; 6-2

Men's 65 Singles

Snyder S d. Johnson N 6-4; 3-6; 6-0

Men's 65 Doubles

Johnson N – McCabe F d. Neuman D – Snyder S 7-5; 6-3

Men's 70 Singles

Kessler W d. Paul J 6-0; 6-1

Men's 75 Singles

Glouner L d. Harris B 6-4; 6-1

Men's 75 Doubles

Long H – Saunders J d. Ortuno R – Sacco D 6-3; 6-2

Men's 80 Singles

Asher A d. Watters J

Men's 3.5 Singles

Bowers J d. Cohen J 6-3; 6-3

Men's 3.5 Doubles

De la Cruz F – Rubio A d. Clarkson D – Russell B 6-2; 6-1

Men's 4.5 Singles

Pine H d. Piagentini F 6-2; 6-3

Men's 4.5 Doubles

Cornett L – Dudley D d. Ballard C – Sperrazzo J 6-4; 3-6; 6-2

Men's 5.5 Singles

Yu D d. Abeyta A 6-4; 7-6

Men's 5.5 Doubles

Swarthout L – Vo M d. Collins H – Nelson T 6-1; 6-1

Mixed Open Doubles

Alva R – O'Grady D d. Borges F – Daniels B 7-6; 6-4

Mixed 4.5 Doubles

Benning N – Devoe S d. Cramer J – Cramer K Def (ns)

Mixed 3.5 Doubles

Berlau B – Hollerbach L d. Fuller R – Leong R 1-6; 7-6; 7-6

Mixed 4.5 Doubles

Koermer M – Calcar V d. Howard T – Ledgewood B 6-3; 6-2

Mixed 5.5 Doubles

Mannheimer L – Yu D d. Glass L – Jones V 6-4; 6-3

Women's Open Singles

Harvey R d. Sieczka A 7-5; 6-2

Women's Open Doubles

Sieczka A – Sieczka A d. Ainslie-Murray M – Carnaje D 7-5; 6-3

Women's 35 Singles

Ainslie-Murray M d. Van Calcar 7-5; 6-2

Women's 40 Singles

Schram K, d. Davis S 6-0; 6-1

Women's 50 Singles

Villacena M d. Jung P 6-0; 6-0

Women's 55 Singles

Bradshaw S d. Bethard S 6-3; 6-1

Women's 60 Singles

King R d. Spira G 6-3; 3-6; 6-2

Women's 65 Doubles

Turner G – Woodall B d. Dunn B – Saunders S 7-6; 7-5

Women's 3.5 Singles

Takahashi T d. Howell A 6-2; 6-4

Woman's 3.5 Doubles

Kaibu M – Takahashi T d. Domingo J – Palloto J 6-2; 6-2

Women's 4.5 Singles

Baumgarth L d. Hsin M 6-3; 6-2

Women's 4.5 Doubles

Clemens E – Newmark B d. Spira G – White S 6-4; 7-5

Women's 5.5 Singles

Weymouth L d. Dodge K 0-6; 6-2; 7-5

Women's 5.5 Doubles

Mannheimer L – Weymouth L d. Collins S – Van Calcar L 6-2; 7-5

Matchfinder

Why aren't you playing more???

Did you know the Balboa Tennis Club keeps a database of players just like you looking for new people to play?

Do you want to add your name? Just fill out a short form available at the Reservation Desk.

The matchfinder will tell people your level, your preferred playing time and give them any phone number you choose. Sign up today!

Calendar of events

September

1	NEW BOARD MEMBER PETITIONS AVAILABLE
8-9	HENDRICKSON WHEELCHAIR CHAMPIONSHIPS
18	BTC BOARD MEETING
28-30, Oct. 5-7	METROPOLITAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

October

11-14	3.5 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
15	BTC BOARD MEETING
15	DEADLINE FOR BOARD MEMBER PETITIONS
25-28	4.5 SENIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

November

20	BTC BOARD MEETING
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December

18	BTC BOARD MEETING
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Center Court

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