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Court Center

Little Mo's Balboa Open raises 2K for kids

For the third year in a row the Balboa Open was able to make a substantial donation to the Polinsky Children's Center, an emergency shelter for children in crisis.

Thanks to the support of the Maureen Connolly Brinker family and the generosity of tournament

participants, the Balboa Tennis Club raised \$2,009.00 for local children. Always BTC's flagship tournament, the event has taken on special importance since Maureen Connolly Brinker's name was added as the name sponsor last year. Some long-

time members still recall seeing Balboa's most famous member, the girl from North Park who became the first woman ever to win the grand slam of tennis in 1953.

700 entrants came to BTC to battle it out for their share of over \$3,500 in prize money.

Clubhouse to receive face lift

First constructed at this site in 1948, our clubhouse was a big step up from BTC's last clubhouse — an old army barracks!

Our clubhouse is very versatile, serving many functions over the year. It could use some freshening up, however, and that's just what we have in mind. Dixon & Martin Building & Interior

Design have been hired to improve the interior of the clubhouse.

They will be painting the walls and benches, and adding four new chairs and two new sets of stacking end tables.

Plans also call for the sofa to be reupholstered and new cushions for the benches. All work should be completed by mid to late August.

Shirt rule survey sparks record reply

Is there a lesson to be learned from the survey itself?

Every few months the BTC office receives a formal complaint about men playing tennis without shirts.

Recently, our Board of Directors decided to issue a survey to learn whether a majority of the mem-

bership wanted a rule requiring shirts.

The response was astounding — over nearly 250 members gave their opinions. In the end, the idea of a rule was voted down 150 votes to 100 votes. But before you rip

off your shirt and celebrate, gentlemen, consider another important fact: 40% of respondents frown on the practice.

Maybe the best idea is to show some class and ask to make sure those around you don't mind.

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Griffin chosen to head USPTA

Congratulations are in order for our own Geoff Griffin!

Geoff, who has been Balboa's head teaching pro for the past 14 years, was recently named President of the San Diego Division of the United States Professional Tennis Association.

The USPTA is the world's oldest

and largest association of tennis-teaching professionals.

The USPTA strives to raise the standards of the tennis profession while promoting increased participation and lifetime enthusiasm for tennis.

In 1998 the USPTA selected Geoff as their Pro of the Year.

Senior Olympics return to BTC

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

The Senior Olympics is a multi-sport competition open to all athletes over the age of 50. Participation allows you to compete at the bi-annual state championships.

The event starts Monday, September 15 and runs through Thursday the 18th.

Matches are scheduled during the day between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. so the Olympics can use as many courts as they need without impacting our morning or evening players.

For information on playing call 619-226-1324 or visit their web site at www.sdseniorgames.org.

Balboa's new gardening group needs your help to grow

Last month the first-ever gardening group was started, and they have already met twice.

Like a new seedling, however, this group is just beginning to find it's way in the world, and it will need lots of support if it's going to survive!

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.

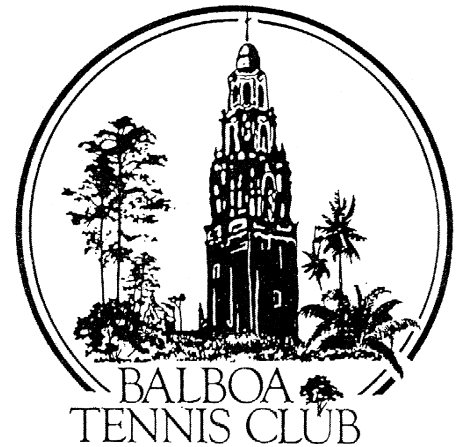
Now our patio remodel has provided us with three large planters filled with various plants and flowers.

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 Linda Stadelli at (619) 688-0784.



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

Robin Rodger
President

Richard Barndt
Vice President

Ron Celeste
Treasurer

Randy Gerson

Brad Hasper

Annette Howell

Roz King

Terry Overbey

Linda Stadelli

Dwight Van Slyke

Will Tappen

Board Members

Kent Sligh
Director

Geoff Griffin
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

Together WE are making a real difference

By Robin Rodger, BTC President

We have just turned in an application for the USTA's 2003 Large Club of the Year Award. What started as a 3 page application blossomed into a 50 page "book" with high-quality photos and captions detailing nearly every aspect of our club.

More than anything, our application for this prestigious award reinforced how much we have to be proud of here at BTC. Kudos to Kent Sligh for the endless hours he spent on this project and to all those who helped shape the result. A copy of this document is in Kent's office if you would like to stop by and see it.

While thinking about the message I wanted to convey in our application, I spent some time reflecting about things I feel are important at BTC. I feel tennis can be the sport of a lifetime, provided we listen to our bodies.

Tennis can provide moments of emotion, of tension, and it can be a test of our nerves, stamina and desire. This is what makes playing the game so fun. It provides camaraderie, bringing people together with others who share the same enthusiasm for competition, health and a love of life.

BTC encourages us to grow in our skill level through our free clinics (don't miss the free clinic on August 9), and encourages friendship through

our club socials. Our tournaments provide an important and healthy stage for competition.

I am proud that this club has consistently found ways to give back to our community and our sport at the same time.

Our Balboa Open Tournament has raised thousands of dollars for the Polinsky Children's Center, a shelter for local children in crisis.

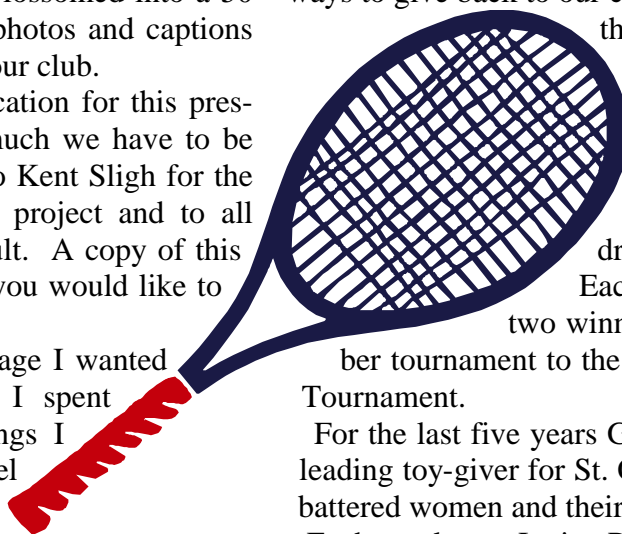
Each year the club sponsors two winning teams from our member tournament to the Scripps Memorial Cancer Tournament.

For the last five years Griffin Tennis has been the leading toy-giver for St. Clair's House, a refuge for battered women and their children.

Each week our Junior Program gives free lessons to children from the St. Vincent de Paul Village. The village is a temporary shelter for many of San Diego's homeless families.

WE at the Balboa Tennis Club can be proud of our dedication to playing an active role in the community and making our facility the best it can be.

WE at the Balboa Tennis Club are doing our part to rekindle the popularity of tennis by fostering a love of the game, an enjoyment of competition, and filling the air with enthusiasm and excitement.



Balboa's Board always seeking fresh faces, new ideas

The Balboa's Board of Directors are proud to announce three new board members have filled vacancies on the board. Brad Hasper and Will Tappen are returning to the board, and they bring a wealth of experience and positive energy to their positions. Dwight Van Slyke is new to Balboa's board, but he is already making progress as the new Facilities Chair.

Are you wondering how a person comes to serve on Balboa's Board of Directors?

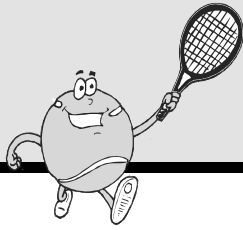
The Board of Directors for the Balboa Tennis Club are all members just like you. Board members serve two-year terms, and the terms are staggered so that

each year there are five openings.

Petitions to join the board will be 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.



Tennis Tips...

...from the pros

Help halt half volley hassles

By Geoff Griffin
BTC Tennis Director

I would define the half volley as a stroke hit after the bounce and taken between the feet and the knees as it is coming up (on the rise).

Unlike other groundstrokes which may be taken on the rise, the half volley is used because you have no choice in the matter.

Often times you must decide between volleying and half volleying. Sometimes it is wiser to volley and sometime it is wiser to half volley. The worst situations are the ones in which either shot is acceptable. We've all caught ourselves saying, "Ah, I should have let that one bounce," or "Shoot, if I'd moved forward and hit that one in the air I would have had it."

The half volley, when hit from near the baseline is commonly referred to as just another groundstroke by many authorities of the game, but I like to call them half volleys too. The only difference being the length of the follow through. From the baseline, you have further to hit so you need to lengthen your follow through a little.

Let's concentrate, however, on the more common area for hitting half volleys: up at the net.

The best way to understand the shot is to change it's name. It shouldn't be called half volley at all — a better name for the shot

would be *half groundstroke*, because that's what it really is.

You have no time for a backswing, and if you did, the height of the ball (below the knees) and proximity to the net (very close) would make your chance of controlling the ball next to impossible.

Let me try to break the half volley down for you. I'll cover five extremely important components for the half volley: Stroke, Balance, Knees, Patience and Target.

1. *Stroke*: As I said before, you need a short backswing. Preferably, start with your racquet hand to your side with your wrist in a laid back position.

Point of contact should be just in front of your body. Follow through should be compact, bent elbow with swing ending no higher than your chest. Grip should be light and relaxed. Spin should be flat to slight topspin. No slice.

2. *Balance*: You need perfect balance to succeed at this shot. If the ball is moving slow enough, you can attempt to transfer a little weight forward, but most likely you will need to simply hold your position. Leaning back is fatal.

3. *Knees*: Get yourself in a low position and stay there. The slightest lifting will destroy the shot.

4. *Patience*: Don't rush this shot. Move slowly. The less your feet move the better.

5. *Target*: Don't try to find many different directions for your half volley. Often times in doubles both your opponents will be stationed at the net. When this is the case you must keep your half volley very low. If your opponents are in a one up and one back formation then you should stay conservative and hit to the one on the baseline most of the time.

The half volley is an easy shot to practice alone on the backboard. I think that if you become a competent half volleyer, your whole game will improve.

You can help our Junior Program!

Beginning in September our free junior clinic starts up again. 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!* Ask for Geoff in the pro shop.

Member Spotlight



BTC mourns and celebrates as a family

The Balboa Tennis Club family suffered a tremendous loss last month when **Valerie Schlagel** passed away after a long, heroic battle with cancer. Val worked as a Reservationist at BTC for over eight years, making hundreds of friends over the years. A devoted wife and mother, Val had an exuberant personality and a huge heart that touched the lives of all she met.

On July 12, a memorial service was held at the BTC clubhouse, where over a hundred of Val's friends and family gathered to remember her. **Geoff Griffin** hosted the memorial, sharing his first memories of Val. **David Ross** read a poem he wrote just for the occasion. A number of people spoke about Val's outgoing nature, while others remembered her competitive spirit. Nearly everyone had a story about Val going out of her way to help others.

The memorial was a beautiful event, and really demonstrated how important Valerie was to so many people. Special thanks to Geoff and **Manuela Griffin**, **Carole Bunker**, **Annette Howell** and **Linda Stadelli** for all their work organizing the memorial.

If you know tennis in San Diego, you know the Barth family. **Pat Barth** and her late husband **Bob Barth** started playing tennis at the Balboa Tennis Club nearly sixty years ago, in 1945. Back then the club was located across the street over where the San Diego Zoo parking lot is now.

Pat learned most of her tennis skills working with her husband. She had no formal training.

Both Bob and Pat's kids, **Patty** and **Roy**, are in the National Hall of Champions. For a time, **Maureen Connolly** was their coach.

Roy Barth is now the Director of the Kiawah Tennis Center, in a city south of Charleston, South

Carolina. Pat's grandson has joined Roy in South Carolina, working as a teaching professional at the same club.

Pat recently dedicated a memorial bench for BTC between courts 8 and 9 with a plaque to honor the memory of her husband Bob.

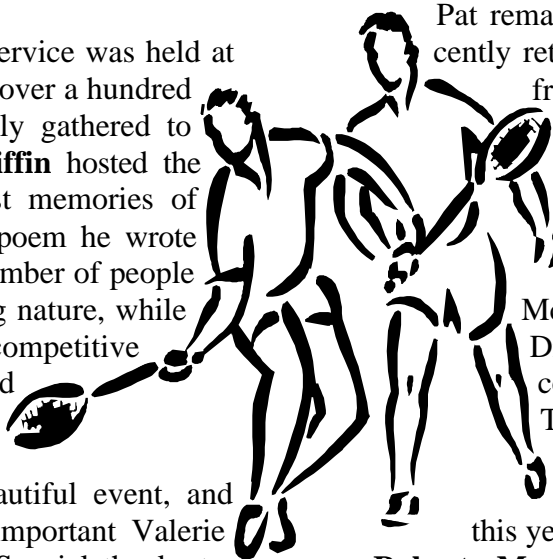
Pat remains an active tennis player. She recently returned to Norfolk, Virginia, with her friend **Jane Alexander**, where together they won a *gold* medal in the 80-84 bracket of the Senior Olympics.

Jane and Pat have been friends for 50 years. They met at PTA at McKinley Jr. High School here in San Diego. They have been playing tennis competitively for almost 20 years. The two of them have qualified for five national Senior Olympics tournaments, winning silver medals and this year's gold.

Roberta Morgan was also at the Senior Olympics at Norfolk, competing as a runner in the 5K event. She ran in the 80-84 bracket. Roberta has been running competitively since 1991, competing in four national Senior Olympics. Roberta has earned an incredible 50 medals over the years. You have probably seen Roberta in the Tuesday morning clinics here at BTC. Roberta has been playing tennis most of her life.

When asked what these three young ladies appreciate most about participating in the Senior Olympics, Pat, Jane and Roberta said they enjoy the competitive spirit and camaraderie among the athletes.

They realize they are setting examples for people younger than themselves, and none of them has any desire to slow down! Surely, they'll make it to the Nationals in Pittsburgh in 2004.



1st Annual Member Picnic a hit

On May 31 BTC hosted the First Annual Member Picnic. Nearly a hundred members gathered at specially arranged picnic tables on the northeast lawn in front of the teaching courts to socialize.

A flamenco guitarist added to the festive atmosphere while everyone enjoyed catered Mexican food. Conceived as a replacement for the club's Annual Dinner, the Member Picnic gave members a chance to meet off the court and

celebrate the year's accomplishments. Awards were given to Frank and U.B. Miller for Members of the Year, and Robin Rodger was given the BTC Outstanding Service Award.

After the picnic kids got to break piñatas while the adults played volleyball.

Special thanks to Activities Chair Annette Howell and Linda Stadelli for putting on a fantastic event.

Next club social set for September 13

Last month the membership at BTC reached 1,500 for the first time, so there are still a few members you don't know.

Mark your calendars now for a round robin club social on September 13, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. with dinner to follow.

Not all 1,500 of you can show up because space is limited, but there are bound to be a few new faces for you to hit with.

In order to insure fun for everyone, we do ask that all who register be at a 3.5 level or better. Our social coincides with the

first day of an ongoing round robin Geoff organizes for 2.0-3.0 players at 2 p.m. each Saturday. Levels lower than 3.5 are encouraged play in the 2 p.m. round robin and then join the social for food.

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.

Bulletin boards repaired, relabeled

Our club bulletin boards were recently repaired and more accurately labeled.

This not only improves the look of the club, we hope it will encourage more people to utilize and learn from the bulletin boards.

Let us know if you have any suggestions about how we might improve any of our existing bulletin boards, or maybe an idea for a new bulletin board.

We maintain five separate bulletin boards, including bulletin boards for League Information, Tennis Information, New Members and two Community Bulletin Boards. The Tennis Café and the Pro Shop also maintain their own very attractive bulletin boards.

Special day for homeless kids

By Annette Howell
Activities Chair

July 21 was party time — for the resident children from the St. Vincent de Paul Center who attend an ongoing free tennis clinic at BTC.

Our Tennis Director, Geoff Griffin, donates his time for a number of children's programs, and one of them is the weekly clinic he gives the St. Vincent kids.

We decided it make it an extra-special event on July 21, when we threw a party for the kids.

I can't begin to tell you how sweet and well-behaved this group is. We used the "Finding Nemo" theme for the cake and decorations, and there were lots of great snacks and drinks. The big hit of the day was Manuela Griffin's ice cream sundae bar.

We presented each child with a bag of goodies including candy, bubbles and art supplies.

The kids used their craft supplies to decorate bags and white paper to wrap the gifts they were able to select for their parents or guardians.

Just before tennis the kids had a balloon tossing contest, which proved to be a fun way to cool off on a hot and humid summer afternoon.

I want to extend a hearty thank you to our generous and creative volunteers (Sue Cruz, Manuela and Geoff Griffin, Remy Serrano, and Linda Stadelli).

In order to help minimize the cost to the club's Junior Fund, much of the cost for the event was absorbed by the volunteers themselves — what a special membership we have!

Maureen Connolly Brinker Balboa Open Results

Father-Daughter Doubles -- Finals

Alexander G - Alexander E d. Nordstrom J - Nordstrom W 6-1; 6-4

Father-Son Doubles -- Finals

Simpson C - Simpson K [2] d. Belinsky J - Belinsky L 6-3; 6-4

Men's Open Singles -- Finals

Michael Meyer[5], d. Chad Stoloff, 6-2; 6-0

Men's Open Doubles -- Finals

Chopra S - Meyer M [4] d. Condon B - Phanco T [1] 6-1; 7-6

Men's 35 Singles -- Finals

Andrew Whatnall, d. Manolo Ortiz[1], 6-3; 7-5

Men's 35 Doubles -- Finals

Whatnall A - Zanio K d. Gill D - Ray J 7-5; 6-0

Men's 40 Singles -- Finals

Brendan Gaylis[3], d. Glenn Stephan[2], 6-0; 7-6

Men's 40 Doubles -- Finals

Hermann P - Johnson T [1] d. Ancira R - Doan E 6-3; 6-2

Men's 45 Singles -- Finals

Larry Belinsky[2], d. Randy Houston[1], 7-5; 6-4

Men's 45 Doubles -- Finals

Houston R - Hulbert R [2] d. Lopez A - Press P [1] 6-4; 7-5

Men's 50 Singles -- Finals

John Flowers[2] d. Vince Matlock[1], 6-4; 6-0

Men's 55 Singles -- Finals

Byron Smith[1], d. Logan Jenkins[2], 7-5; 7-5

Men's 55 Doubles -- Finals

Rathburn J - Shuey F [1] d. Jenkins L - Smith B [2] 6-3; 6-1

Men's 60 Singles -- Finals

Lelend Housman[1],d. Bob Moog[2], 6-3; 6-1

Men's 65 Singles -- Finals

Neal Johnson[2] d. Jay Turner[1], El Cajon, CA 7-5; 6-2

Men's 65 Doubles -- Round Robin 1

Sanchez J - Turner J d. Merrick M - Nordstrom J 6-4; 6-1

Johnson N - Snyder S d. Nordstrom J - Merrick M 6-0; 6-0

Sanchez J - Turner J d. Johnson N - Snyder S 6-3; 6-2

Men's 70 Singles -- Finals

Bob Perry[1], d. Saul Snyder[2] 6-2; 6-3

Men's 75 Singles -- Round Robin 1

Bill Nyhan, d. Cecil Norwood, 6-2; 7-5

Jack Graham, Wildomar, d. Cecil Norwood, 6-0; 6-0

Jack Graham, Wildomar, d. Bill Nyhan, 6-1; 6-1

Men's 80 Singles -- Finals

Jim Watters[1], d. Al Asher[2], 6-3; 3-6; 6-2

Men's 3.5 Singles -- Finals

Hung Tran[2], d. Robert Pryor[1], 4-6; 6-1; 6-4

Men's 3.5 Doubles -- Finals

Traore A - Waring J d. Radi M - Zenville H [1] 6-3; 6-1

Men's 4.5 Singles -- Finals

Jeremy Marble[1], d. Chris Newborn[2], 6-2; 6-0

Men's 4.5 Doubles -- Finals

Fukami D - Meis O d. Hoang T - Tran K 6-4; 6-3

Men's 5.5 Singles -- Finals

Jim Winters[2], d. Eric Doan, 1-6; 7-6; 6-1

Men's 5.5 Doubles -- Finals

Vo M - Williams J [2] d. Ancira R - Damasco J 6-0; 6-4

Mixed Open Doubles -- Finals

Kellogg J - Magers G [2] d. Fritz K - Ortiz M [1] 6-3; 6-2

Mixed 50 Doubles -- Round Robin 1

Hasper B - Jung P d. Canada T - Peattie J 6-3; 6-4

Durgan B - Russ A d. Canada T - Peattie J 6-0; 6-2

Durgan B - Russ A d. Hasper B - Jung P 6-2; 7-5

Mixed 3.5 Doubles -- Finals

Afsahi A - Zeff D d. Eggleston L - Sewell T 6-0; 6-4

Mixed 4.5 Doubles -- Finals

Russ A - Sperrazzo J [1] d. Aalam I - Horne P [2] 6-3; 0-6; 7-5

Mixed 5.5 Doubles -- Finals

Damasco J - Podney J [1] d. Seggerman P - Winters J [2] Wd (em)

Women's Open Singles -- Finals

Esther Cadua[3], d. Joslynn Burkett[1], 6-1; 6-2

Women's Open Doubles -- Finals

Yang A - Yang M [2] d. Borges F - Redding J 4-6; 6-3; 6-4

Women's 35 Singles -- Finals

Andi Neugarten[2], d. Cassandra Caesar[1], 6-2; 6-1

Women's 40 Singles -- Round Robin 1

Susan Groce, d. Karina Benish 6-4; 6-2

Joan Barnes, d. Karina Benish 6-2; 6-2

Susan Groce, d. Joan Barnes, Def (ns)

Women's 50 Singles -- Finals

Ellen Furman, d. Peggy Jung, 7-6; 6-4

Women's 55 Doubles -- Round Robin 1

Bryson L - Daniels M d. Mason P - Murch K 6-1; 6-0

Bradshaw S - Coordt S d. Mason P - Murch K 6-1; 6-0

Bryson L - Daniels M d. Bradshaw S - Coordt S 6-1; 6-1

Women's 60 Singles -- Round Robin 1

Allison Turner, d. Monique Viglotti, 6-1; 6-4

Taeko Canada, d. Monique Viglotti, 6-4; 6-0

Taeko Canada, d. Allison Turner, CA 6-1; 6-0

Women's 70 Singles -- Finals

Nelly Aguilera, d. Ann Schwartz, 6-0; 6-0

Women's 3.5 Singles -- Finals

Molly Schroeder d. Layla Dipp, 6-0; 6-2

Women's 3.5 Doubles -- Finals

Dipp L - Sperrazzo C d. Alonsagay M - Swanson N 6-3; 4-6; 6-1

Women's 4.5 Singles -- Finals

Jamie Santocono, d. Karla Solloa[3], 6-3; 6-3

Women's 4.5 Doubles -- Finals

Howard T - Patterson P [1] d. Hoppe D - Kessing L [2] 6-3; 7-6

Women's 5.5 Singles -- Finals

Stephanie Ide[1] d. Judy Belinsky[2] 7-6; 2-1 Ret (inj)

Calendar of events

August

9	FREE CLINIC 3 PM — SIGN UP AT PRO SHOP
19	BTC BOARD MEETING
22-24, 30-Sep 1	SAN DIEGO DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIPS

September

1	BTC BOARD PETITIONS AVAILBALE AT RESERVATIONS
13	CLUB SOCIAL ROUND ROBIN — 3:30 TENNIS, 5:30 FOOD
15-18	SENIOR OLYMPICS — NOON START TIME
16	BTC BOARD MEETING
19-21, 26-28	METROPOLITAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

October

15	BTC BOARD PETITIONS DUE AT RESERVATIONS
18	FREE CLINIC 3 PM — SIGN UP AT PRO SHOP
21	BTC BOARD MEETING

November

19	BTC BOARD MEETING
22	TURKEY SHOOT — SOCIAL ROUND ROBIN

Center Court

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