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Courtside Center

Balboa Welcomes new Director

After an intense hiring process, the board selected Colleen Clery Ferrell from among dozens of other applicants to be the new Director of the Balboa Tennis Club.

Kent Sligh is leaving us to join his new wife in Chicago (see page 2).

Colleen is an experienced club manager with a terrific tennis background.

Colleen is coming home to Balboa, where she obtained a #1 singles ranking in 1981-82.

After a brief appearance on the pro tour, Colleen went back to school at San Diego State University and got her degree in Journalism. At the same time, she started teaching tennis at the San Diego Princess Resort. Colleen

went on to manage their tennis facility, where she also ran tournaments and wrote a monthly newsletter.

The board needed to act quickly to replace Kent after he gave five weeks notice on June 17. An emergency meeting of the employment committee was held on June 20.

With Kent's help, the committee initiated a rigorous recruiting effort.

On June 21 the board voted to place ads with Monster.com and the Union Tribune. The response was tremendous, with 63 candidates applying for the position in the first week.

From those candidates, the employment committee advanced 10 promising

(Continued on page 7)

Little Mo Balboa Open makes us proud

Every year Geoff Griffin takes on the challenge of running our club's biggest tournament, and once again Geoff has made us all proud. The Balboa Open has taken on a special significance with the ongoing support of the Maureen Connolly-Brinker family.

Most BTC members know Maureen Connolly is the only former BTC member to win the grand slam of tennis. Nicknamed "Little Mo," in 1953 she became *the first woman ever* to accomplish this feat.

Geoff always has his hands full because the BTC Junior Championships take place the week immediately fol-

lowing the Little Mo Balboa Open. Both events ran smoothly and entertained hundreds of spectators.

With prize money in every event, this year's draws were full of interesting matches.

Nearly 700 players came ready to battle it out on the court, and hundreds more watched some of the very best tennis of the year (see the tournament results on page 6).

You can learn more about the Maureen Connolly and the Maureen Connolly Brinker Tennis Foundation by visiting their web site at www.mcbtennis.org.

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A Goodbye from Kent

The best public tennis facility in the nation

I have enjoyed every minute of my time as Director of the Balboa Tennis Club. I have been especially proud to serve a club with such a prestigious history.

I want to begin by thanking the Maureen Connolly Brinker family for doing so much to memorialize and enlarge on that history, and our friend Ben Press for his help over the years.

When I was hired, I was told this might just be the best public tennis facility in the nation, and I guess I wanted to try and prove it.

If I wasn't satisfied with the USTA's Outstanding Tennis Facility Award in 2003 (and I *was* satisfied), I had to feel justified later on that year when the Union Tribune called Balboa the "best tennis club on the planet" (thanks, guys).

It has been my privilege to serve as the Director of the Balboa Tennis Club for nearly six years, since November of 1999. I want to take the opportunity of my leaving to commend Robin Rodger for the great leadership she has shown as the volunteer President of your Board of Directors. I honestly believe Robin's hard work is the single biggest reason for the great success we've enjoyed here at BTC.

Geoff Griffin said I was the worst tennis player the club ever hired, and I noticed the board chose a former pro to replace me. Still, I'm guessing there are a few 3.5 players who will miss beating up on me in the next few months.

And I know for a fact, come wintertime in Chicago, I'll sure miss the sunshine in Balboa Park at America's best public tennis facility.

BTC welcomes Senior Olympics

For the sixth 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.

Seniors compete in 20 events, including archery, ballroom dancing, cycling, swimming and — most importantly — tennis!

Participation allows you to compete at the bi-annual state championships. The event starts Monday, September 12 and runs through Wednesday the 14th.

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. You can also send an e-mail to info@seniorgames.org.

The Registration Deadline is August 24.



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

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Ron Celeste
Treasurer

Armin Afsahi

Randy Gerson

Mark Gregory

Don Goyette

Terry Overbey

Linda Stadelli

Dwight Van Slyke

Will Tappen

Board Members

Colleen Clery Ferrell
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.

Reservations & Info... 295-9278

Director's Office..... 295-4242

Pro Shop..... 291-5248

Tennis Café 299-8787

Submissions to the newsletter are welcome.
Call 295-4242

A new Director, new committee and a fresh coat of paint

By Robin Rodger, BTC President

Time marches on. Almost 6 years ago, a younger Kent Sligh was hired as the new director of the Balboa Tennis Club. The club was as different then as Kent was. We have all grown, matured and moved forward to aspire to bigger and better things.

It is time for Kent, now a newly married man, and his wife Kelly to spread their wings and fly. Their first stop together will be Chicago and we wish them well. We want to keep our eye on them, for I suspect they are headed for special things.

We have a wonderful new director of the Balboa Tennis Club in Colleen Clery Ferrell. Her experience as a tennis instructor, club manager and journalist provide a strong transitional foundation.

Colleen's historical ties to the club and the surrounding community, her reputation as a touring professional and her connections within the tennis community provide instant credibility.

She presents a mature candor, a seasoned confidence, and a warm, substantial personality that will be critical in interaction with club members, staff and the public.

I would like to thank and congratulate the board and Kent for the selection process in which Colleen was chosen. It was very professional, far reaching and required many hours of extra work. Not the least of which was a meeting on the Friday night before the 4th of July.

A special thanks and acknowledgment for the advice and work by Terry Overbey and Don Goyette. I am very proud to be the president of a board of directors with such a high degree of commitment and integrity.

The tournament season is upon us. I urge you to enter and challenge yourself.

Finding court time as a club member can be challenging during this season. To help with the efficiency of court usage, BTC has developed a Court Monitoring Committee.

This committee was formed after dialog between umpires, tournament directors and the BTC board of Directors. Not only will the umpires have help when needed, but the court turnover between matches will happen more quickly. These volunteers are equipped with badges to identify them and new, effective walkie-talkies to aid in their communication with each other and the tournament desk.

We are also grateful to Fran Wakefield for organizing the volunteers working the tournament desk during the season. Our aim is to make each tournament a terrific experience for everyone involved.

Linda Stadelli has been researching a face lift for the locker rooms. I'm sure you have noticed we have had the restrooms painted as well as the floors and clubhouse hallways.

I want to extend a special thank you to all of you who have been so patient during this process. We posted notices prior to these closures to help you plan ahead as far as get-

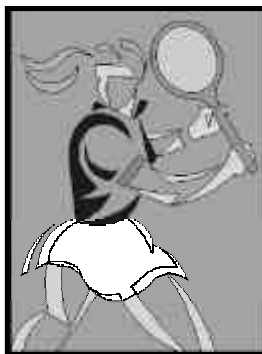
ting items out of lockers, but I know it is always a hassle when you don't have the full use of our facilities. We all appreciate the spirit of cooperation and flexibility you have shown as we beautified the men's and women's locker areas.

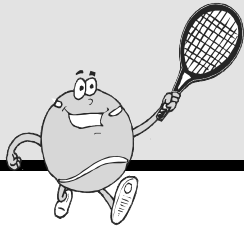
I want to encourage anyone interested in serving BTC to contemplate running for the board. You can pick up a petition beginning September 1.

This petition needs to be turned in by October 15th complete with 40 signatures of current club members. Obtaining these signatures is a good way to let people know you are running for a seat on the board of directors.

There are 5 seats available each year. Each term is for 2 years. The president is selected for the even year terms. This year is a presidential election again, since the term runs from 2006 until 2008.

Once again a large welcome to Colleen Clery Ferrell, introduce yourselves and let's make the upcoming era as productive and positive as the last one.





Tennis Tips...

...from the pros

A word from the Tennis Director

I wanted to thank the many people who read the last newsletter and came through to help replace the many junior racquets that were stolen a few months ago. I received many more racquets than I lost.

The surplus allowed me to help some other needy programs around the city.

I even donated some racquets to a program that just started in Tecate, Mexico. Anyway, thanks very much. It's nice that we can do things that are not only good for our club, but also good for the game.

Now I have a new request. In our quest to make BTC more kid friendly we have developed a little problem. More kids are hanging around the club and looking for things to do when they are not on the tennis court.

The TV set has become a bit of an irritant because the bridge players want it quiet and kids want to watch cartoons. Kids really don't need to be watching so much TV anyway.

We thought kids books, magazines and creative games or artwork could help solve the problem. I recently bought some low priced books and coloring stuff, but we will always need more. If any of you would like to contribute to our inventory in the clubhouse, it would be greatly appreciated.

On August 5th our summer junior friends went back home to Missouri. I hope you had the pleasure of meeting our maintenance guy Gil Mahaney's two nieces Wanda and Leana and his nephew Tevin. The kids ages 13, 11 and 5 were here for two months.

Thirteen-year-old Wanda was a non-stop volunteer in the shop and at every tournament desk. Leana was crazy about tennis and played every chance she had. Little Tevin charmed everyone he met.

I would like to congratulate newly married BTC pro David Soucek. He and his new bride Sarvnaz just returned from their honeymoon in Hawaii. They met here on the tennis courts.

Also I would like to introduce our newest pro. David Ansay has been in San Diego for about two months. He is a native of Wisconsin. He is very experienced working with kids and adults.

Thanks Kent! I hope you can appreciate how much our club has improved in the 5 years since Kent took over as Director. He was very good at the little things. Improvements in so many little areas have added up to a club of I personally have never been more proud. We will miss him.

And lastly, welcome Colleen! Kent has left the club in very good hands.

Using your opponents power for the return of serve

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 shortstops, 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 on Service



The Board of Directors for the Balboa Tennis Club are all members just like you, and they are as diverse as the membership itself.

They don't always agree, either, but every board member has at least two things in common: love for the game of tennis, and love for our club.

If you're new at Balboa, joining the board is a great way to get a quick introduction to every facet of our tennis club and the rich social life we enjoy here.

Board members serve two-year terms, and the terms are staggered so that each year there are five openings. This policy helps to insure there will always be experienced board members available to help board members.

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. Or you can get the form online at www.balboatennis.com.

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. If more than five petitions are turned 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.

In recent years, despite the success of the club and the board in general, there have not been enough applicants to hold an election.

This is your chance to join a team and work with some of the best leaders in our community. Are you waiting for a written invitation? This is it — now pick up that petition starting September 1.

Okay, maybe you're shy and not quite ready to join the board yet. You don't have to join the board just to make your ideas known.

The board welcomes members to attend all of its meetings, which begin at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month.

In fact, the board even schedules 15 minutes during every meeting in case you show up with something on your mind. So you're already on the agenda, you might as well stop in!

The Tournament Monitors Group makes a difference

By Terry Overbey, Tournament Committee Chair
BTC hosts four major USTA tournaments each summer: The National Open, the Maureen Connolly-Brinker Balboa Open, the District Championships, and the Metropolitan Championships. In response to the growing popularity of these events, the Tournament Monitor group was created. The group is composed of club members who volunteer their time to help at these tournaments. The volunteers are Letty Zane, Walter McDonough, Bill Bauer, Bill Broderick, Carlos Galvin, Steve Sirko, Bill Weiss, Richard Wallach, Bob Gillette, Jim Russell and Don Goyette. Their responsibilities include monitoring and reporting on court availability, acting as line judges, settling disputes, interpreting rules of play and assisting players and spectators.

The court monitor program has been a clear success. Tournament directors report an increase in the number of matches completed per day and greater control over the flow of matches. USTA umpires state that monitors essentially triple their court coverage, allow them to concentrate on details that would otherwise go unnoticed, and reduce the number of disputes and behavioral issues.

The volunteers enjoy it, too. They get to watch great tennis. They experience a great deal of personal satisfaction in being of service to the club and their community. They make friends and laugh an awful lot. And they get free lunch from the café and a free tournament t-shirt.

The program needs your help. If you would like to join the team, call Terry Overbey at 619-235-9206.

2005 Maureen Connolly Brinker Balboa Open Results

Men's Open Singles

Michael Caldwell def. Geoff Mayes 6-1, 6-4

Women's Open Singles

Nataliya Stephan def. Coco Vanderweghe 6-2, 6-0

Men's Open Doubles

Mareschal/Ortiz def. Ehlers/Kawahara 6-4, 3-6, 6-3

Women's Open Doubles

Bradshaw/Propstra def. Abdala/Burkett 7-5, 2-6, 6-2

Mixed Open Doubles

Bickham/Propstra def. Ortiz/Fritz 6-3, 6-3

Men's 35 Singles

Marc Jarvis def. Michael Royle 6-2

Men's 40 Singles

Robert Horsch def. James Beneke 7-5, 6-2

Men's 45 Singles

Robert Simmons def. Jim Abbuhl 6-2, 6-4

Men's 50 Singles

Tony Ybarra def. Maurice Jackson 6-2, 6-3

Men's 55 Singles

Mario Cernousek def. Byron Smith 6-1, 6-4

Men's 60 Singles

Leland Housman def. Bill Bethard 6-2, 6-2

Men's 65 Singles

Lester Vessell def. Robert Biddle 6-1, 6-7, 6-3

Men's 70 Singles

Saul Snyder def. Don Albares 6-2, 6-2

Men's 75 Singles

Walter Kessler def. William Nyhan 6-3, 6-0

Women's 35 Singles

Joan Barnes def. Andi Neugarten 4-6, 6-3, 7-5

Women's 40 Singles

Laura Mintz-Moskal def. Lora Mae Stewart 6-1, 6-1

Women's 45 Singles

Nancy Abler-Sanchez def. Tracy Highland Galongo 7-6, 6-2

Women's 50 Singles

Ginny Beneke def. Carolyn Frost 6-3, 6-3

Women's 70 Singles

Dorothy Karp def. Mary Lou Harris 6-2, 6-0

Women's 75 Singles

Nancy Kibbey def. Janet Hubbard 6-4, 4-6, 6-0

Men's 35 Doubles

Simpson/Wong def. Mejia/Mejia 4-6, 6-2, 6-4

Men's 40 Doubles

Ray/Siordia def. Lopez/Ortiz 7-6, 6-4

Men's 45 Doubles

Fritz/Lopez def. Lackritz/Schmersal 6-2, 6-3

Men's 50 Doubles

Jackson/Ybarra def. Economou/Enyedey 6-3, 6-2

Men's 55 Doubles

Cabanilla/Cox def. Hasper/Lesch 4-6, 6-1, 7-6

Men's 60 Doubles

Durgan/Levin def. Bryan/Kaplan 6-1, 6-1

Men's 70 Doubles

Newman/Snyder def. Fouts/Karp 6-1, 6-3

Women's 35 Doubles

Carnaje/Murray def. Harrison/Mills 6-2, 6-0

Women's 65 Doubles

Harris/Simmons def. Aguilera/Lockwood 6-4, 7-6

NTRP Men's 3.5 Singles

David Smyth def. Gabriel Valenzuela 5-7, 7-5, 6-4

NTRP Men's 4.5 Singles

David Enkelis def. Londo Whittaker 6-4, 6-3

NTRP Men's 5.5 Singles

Jay Schiller def. Jim Winters 6-1, Ret (inj)

NTRP Women's 3.5 Singles

Jenny Sharratt def. Beth Sharratt 6-1, 6-3

NTRP Women's 4.5 Singles

Vicki Peterson def. Julie Caddel 6-2, 6-1

NTRP Men's 3.5 Doubles

Munoz/Smyth def. Amazona/Trapse 6-3, 6-1

NTRP Men's 4.5 Doubles

Favish/Vukson def. Balleweg/Cunningham 6-4, 6-2

NTRP Men's 5.5 Doubles

Buggs/Weiss def. Ancira/Damasco 6-3, 6-7, 6-1

NTRP Women's 3.5 Doubles

Simmons/Sweet def. Nguyen/Samson 6-1, 6-1

NTRP Women's 4.5 Doubles

Green/Hillier def. Howell/Kaus 6-0, 6-2

NTRP Women's 5.5 Doubles

Gunset-Brown/Hastings def. Harrison/Mills 7-5, 6-1

NTRP Mixed 3.5 Doubles

Murray/Murray def. Berlau/Hollerbach 0-6, 6-2, 6-4

NTRP Mixed 4.5 Doubles

Abe/Wong def. Biddle/Russ 6-1, 6-2

NTRP Mixed 5.5 Doubles

Barksdale/Pajunen def. Arais/Arias 6-0, 6-0

Back to school social

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 the Back to School round robin club social on September 17. Tennis begins at 3:30 p.m. and then we all eat at 5:30 p.m.

Not all 1,400 of you will show up because space is limited, but there are bound to be a few new faces with whom you can hit.

You must be a 3.5 player or better to insure good competi-

tion, although the real goal is for everyone to have a great time.

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.

These socials have become so popular in part because the board chose to make socials our focus after interest in the Annual Dinner faded.

So this is your chance — sign up early, space is limited.

You've got *tennis* mail!

Would you like to use your e-mail to keep up to date regarding club news and special events? Soon we will begin sending out messages, just to people who want them.

Any member who would like to receive these messages needs to send Colleen their current address.

How do you sign up? Just send a message with "BTC e-mail" in the subject line to this address: director@balboatennis.com

Your address will be kept confidential and will NOT be shared with anyone — it's just another way for us to keep you informed.

BTC's new Director

(Continued from page 1)

applicants to phase one, a phone interview.

Four very strong candidates advanced to phase two, which included an hour-long face-to-face interview with Kent and a computer skills test.

Candidates also submitted a one-page writing sample. Two finalists were invited back that evening for phase three, a meeting with the employment committee and staff.

The final phase was a meeting before the board as a whole.

The board voted to offer the position to Colleen, and she started officially as your new Director on July 18.

Please join the board in welcoming Colleen — she's going to have her hands full!

Sponsor a bench!

Support our campaign to replace courtside benches

After evaluating a number of designs, a committee has selected a very sturdy 6 foot bench made from solid recycled plastic. Plans call for all courtside benches to be replaced as funding allows.

Your contribution of \$600 will provide the necessary funding to replace one bench. In recognition of your gift, the Balboa Tennis Club will acknowledge your gift on each bench.

To learn how to make your support tax-deductible or if you have any other questions, please contact Armin Afsahi at (619) 278-8780 or via e-mail at armin@traxus.com.

Or fill out this form and mail it to:

BENCHES, Balboa Tennis Club, 2221 Morley Field Drive, San Diego, CA 92104. Participation is limited. Priority will be given to those who respond first.



NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

NUMBER OF BENCHES: _____

PREFERRED COURT(S): _____

Calendar of events

August

1-5	BALBOA JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS
16	BTC BOARD MEETING
20	3 PM FREE TENNIS CLINIC—OPEN TO EVERYONE!
26-28, Sep 3-5	77th SD DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIPS

September

4	BACK TO SCHOOL ROUND ROBIN 3:30 PM, 5:30 PM FOOD
12-14	SENIOR OLYMPICS 11 AM TO 4 PM
20	BTC BOARD MEETING
24-26, Oct 1-3	METROPOLITAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

October

(Sept 23-25, 30)	1-2	METROPOLITAN CHAMPIONSHIPS
	18	BTC BOARD MEETING
	22	FREE CLINIC—SIGN UP AT THE PRO SHOP!

November

15	BTC BOARD MEETING
19	TURKEY SHOOT ROUND ROBIN 3:30 TENNIS, 5:30 FOOD

Center Court

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