



Center Court

AUGUST 2010

Ken Pecus of Ascent Real Estate -

2010 Tournament Ball Sponsor

For the first time in recent Balboa tournament history, the club has a tennis ball sponsor. Ken Pecus of Ascent Real Estate, has generously purchased all the tennis balls for the 2010 tournaments and the club is very appreciative. Tennis balls represent a sizeable expense in the tournament budget and this expense being covered really helps the bottom line, plus it provides great exposure for Ascent Real Estate.

Ken Pecus is originally from Pakistan. Ken's family came to the US in 1971. His father worked a part time job in real estate and planted the seed of selling in Ken at a young age.

"I knew I was going to be in business," said Ken. "I was selling everything at a young age from fudge to boy scout tickets."

Ken attended high school in Coronado and graduated from Texas A&M with a degree in Electrical Engineering. He worked as an engineer for seven



years, yet slowly merged into the sales side of the business. Five years ago, Ken cofounded Ascent Real Estate, a successful company which now has 159 agents and five offices in the San Diego area.

Ascent Real Estate signs are prominent all over San Diego and now they will be adorning each tournament ball hit in the summer tournaments. The Ascent logo was printed on Dunlop balls, which are being used for major tournaments at Balboa. "If I give money, it is for something I care about," Ken said. "The company money and efforts are put towards funds which support our business."

In addition to his business pursuits, Ken is an active member of BTC. He played four years of high school tennis at Coronado and then continued in college with intramural tennis. After this period of his life, his time on the court was mostly as a "weekend warrior." Working out at the gym became more of a priority for

See Ball Sponsor continued page 3

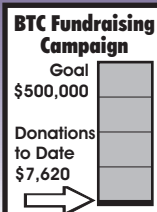
inside...

Articles

Tournament Sponsor	1
Let There be Lights	1
Challenge Court Update	3
James Felder	4
Stanislaw Jankowski	5
Poem by Gil Mahaney	6
Hall of Fame	7
Ladies 3.5 goes to Sectionals	8

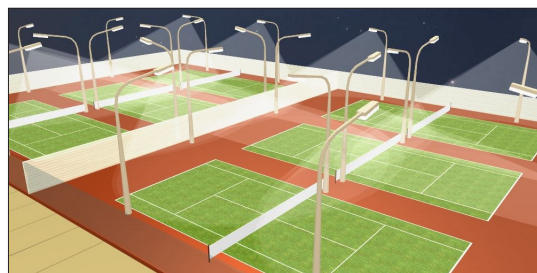
Departments

The President	2
Director's Report	3
Calendar of Events	8



Let There Be Lights!!!!!!

The BTC Board of Directors has approved a portion of the club savings to begin the lower courts lighting project. Nonetheless, as mentioned in the President's Message, the club will still need \$30,000 to finish the project. The board is considering selling bricks which can be purchased by any interested parties. Where would you like to see the bricks? We are looking for ideas to solidify the fund raiser and generate enthusiasm. This project is a long time coming, yet now has a solid foundation. Send any creative ideas you have to director@balboatennis.com Let's try and get the lights up and turned on before the time changes in November.



The President's Court Chatter

by Dwight Van Slyke

*Questions and Answers with Dwight Van Slyke,
BTC Board of Directors President*



Q. What's happening with the Lower Courts Lighting Project?

A. At the July BTC Board of Directors Meeting, the board voted to reduce the club savings and proceed to prepare bid packages for each of the construction disciplines necessary to start the lighting process.

Q. Do we have enough money in our savings account to cover the lights?

A. Yes, we have enough money to cover the lights, but we will still need an additional \$30,000 in the interim to reduce the savings short fall. By the time the club actually has to write the checks, we will have accumulated additional projected funds from the upcoming tournament season close to \$6000. So in reality, we'll need \$24,000. We are also hoping to attract donors and additional income from fund raisers such as the selling of bricks and court plaques.

Q. Is there any projected time line?

A. If we were to start soon, we could have the lighting installed by the first week of November when the time changes.

Q. Why did you have to dig up the small patch of cement on court #21?

A. We were trying to find out if there was electrical conduit under the lower six courts from before they were built and the answer is NO. So we will have to put the electrical wiring above the ground. Even if the wiring had been in place below the ground, it may not have been workable with the amount of time that has lapsed since the courts were built.

Q. Who will be in charge of the lighting project? It seems like a lot of work.

A. I am suggesting BTC Board Member Jerry Bischoff, who is a retired engineer. Jerry will be asked to head up a committee to formalize the scope of work and contracts. We intend to work with Vision Air on the lighting fixtures, which takes up to four weeks, and then proceed with the installation of the lower court lighting fixtures.

Q. How can the members help?

A. Please be patient with the inconveniences during the project because the end result will be worth the effort. Also, continue to help out by donating to fund raising activities. Lastly, spread the enthusiasm to fellow members and outsiders who may want to financially help out with our club project.

**For all the latest club news, visit
the Balboa Tennis Club Website**

www.balboatennis.com



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

www.balboatennis.com

President

Dwight Van Slyke

Vice President

Richard Barndt

Treasurer

Roxanne Drees

Secretary

Spike Lowndes

Board Members

Gerald Bischoff

Peter Conneely

Karen Houston

Ruth Nutt

Melinda Murray

Robin Rodger

Jim Winters

Director

Colleen Clery Ferrell

Tennis Director

Geoff Griffin

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

The Director's Report

by Colleen Clery Ferrell



Tournament season has arrived at Balboa. If you have never played in one before, now is the time to test your skills. Many of our members take the opportunity to compete in all of the Balboa Tournaments because of the location at our home courts and the different levels of competition. Best of luck to all competitors in the summer tournaments. Thanks to all the volunteers who are helping at the tournament desk. Your efforts are truly appreciated.

Please continue to keep the standards of cleanliness we are trying to uphold at the club by making sure the tables in the clubhouse and outside on the patio are clear of debris when you finish eating and all garbage is disposed of on the courts as well. The maintenance crew of Gil and Sean are thankful for the extra hands.

I wish a speedy recovery to Mimi Loucks, one of our BTC Tennis Pros, who recently had foot surgery. Mimi hopes to be back on the court in 8 weeks.

Lastly, please plan on attending the 2010 San Diego Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on Saturday, August 28 at 4:30p.m. in the stadium. In addition to the other inductees, long time member, tournament director and former player Virginia Glass is being inducted for her innumerable contributions to tennis. Virginia deserves tremendous support and thanks for all she has contributed to San Diego Tennis.

Ball Sponsor *continued from page 1*

many years.

While traveling to Sydney in 2008, Ken decided to attend a tennis tournament. He also had the opportunity to stroll the grounds of Wimbledon on the same trip and take in the ambiance of the "hallowed grounds." Ken came back to San Diego inspired to play tennis once again.

He signed up for a lesson with Chaz and was amazed how everything had changed in the game. "I needed lessons to get caught up." When Chaz became ill, Ken switched over to Geoff and continued with his desire to improve. Ken gave himself a five month deadline to see if he would stick with tennis. Similar to a business plan which he already knew how to execute, Ken devised a path for his tennis improvement.

"This year my goal is to win more matches," he said. "I also want to get ranked in my age group." With Ken's dedication, on and off the court, the path of success is clear.

Challenge Court Update

Balboa Tennis Club offers a unique opportunity for members and guests each day with our Challenge Court. Any player can come to the club and immediately find a match on the Challenge Court. This option lures players to the club and entices them to return.

An e-mail recently came to the club stating that this person had travelled all over the world playing tennis, citing numerous US cities and places abroad, and never came across an active Challenge Court like the one at BTC. Thus the club wants to keep this unique concept a true fascination for guests and a reliable partner for members and locals.

The BTC Board of Directors listens to member comments and responds accordingly. Most recently, the board wanted to make the Challenge Court more friendly to outsiders so it is now required for each player to have a challenge slip. People who want to play with a desired partner need to get back to back slips so their times coincide. So while waiting to play, according to the rules, the next two players in line according to time, become the challengers. This rule helps keep the line of players moving and equitable.

There has been mention of making the set score by the no ad system and also adding another regular challenge court, in addition to the ultimate. If you have an opinion or want to be heard, feel free to e-mail director@balboatennis.com with your comments. As a group of concerned and caring people, the BTC Board of Directors are all working each day to make the club better. Your comments are recognized and appreciated.

James Felder – A True Balboa Hero

by Geoff Griffin

The members who are avid players and spend a tremendous amount of time inside the boundaries of the Balboa Tennis Club probably have often seen the ridiculously fit and always smiling James Felder. Born in Brooklyn, NY, James is under 60 and over 40 years old. I say that because if there is ever proof that age is just a number, James is the evidence. Since his retirement from the IRS some 12 years ago, James started a fitness and fun routine that doesn't vary. He wakes up at 6am. From 7-9:30 he is at the gym doing whatever is scheduled that day. This doesn't fluctuate and is part of the reason that he looks the way he does today.

As I said before, the hard work ends at 9:30. Now the fun starts. It begins first with food. After eating, he plays tennis. James loves to play doubles. You will always find James, his wife Andrea and many of their buddies on the front courts between 10 and 1pm. After tennis, James usually needs to find something adventurous to do. One of his favorite ways to unwind is to drive his Porsche to the mountains and do the curves. I forgot to ask him what that entails, but I assume that is involves fast driving and a lot of sharp turns.

James is married to another fitness and health fanatic. I didn't get a chance to interview Andrea but I have a feeling that she is there in the gym with him every day. I know she is here playing tennis every day. As for the unwinding period, James told me that Andrea no longer accompanies him when he does the curves up in Julian; too scared I guess. One funny story about Andrea is that she is perhaps the only living Jamaican who can't swim. To her credit, I just learned that her family moved to Canada when she was 6 years old. You can probably get by avoiding the water living in Toronto. The two of them met at a convention in Philadelphia many years ago and have been Mr. and Mrs. Perfect ever since.

I personally got to know James about 10 years ago. He showed great interest in helping the disadvantaged youth learn to play tennis. He helped for many years with my free tennis programs. He would also select

certain kids from the programs to mentor. He would invite the lucky kids for weekly one on one instruction. He always made a point to emphasize the importance of their school work too.

Recently, I jumped at the chance to help start a Wounded Warrior program at Balboa. James got wind of it and one day while sitting on the benches on court 8, he told me that he was a Vietnam War Veteran and would like to help out if he was needed. I talked a little further with him and Andrea and ended up finding out the not only did he serve in Vietnam, but his heroism earned him a Purple Heart, Bronze Star and Presidential

Citation. Not only did I learn so much more about this wonderful man, but I knew that he was exactly what the Wounded Warrior Program needed. James was shot in Vietnam, came back and years later looks like he does today.

At our next Wounded Warrior clinic I made it a point, against James' wishes, to introduce him as a war hero. I even botched the introduction and stated that he was a Medal of Honor recipient. James quickly jumped in and corrected me. He then went on to

put a stop to any talk about him and turned everything over to how honored he was to do anything in his power to help the true heroes who were all the soldiers there that day. He made an eloquent speech that made every soldier there that day feel very special.

Our Wounded Warrior program started 6 months ago and continues twice every month from now until there are no longer wounded soldiers in need of our help. Thanks so much to members like James Felder and Spike Lowndes, Don Dudley and Gerry Bischoff, M A Hillier, Lynn Beerle, Nancy Sanchez, Vaughn Anders, Larry Cornett, Bob Johnson and everyone else who has contributed to the program both through volunteering and donations.

I'm sure there are more past heroes like James in our membership roster. I know of many in the past who have disappeared or passed away. Thank you James for what you have done for our country in the past and what you are doing for it now. And thanks for inspiring me every day to eat better, work out more and save up to buy a Porsche.



Spotlight on a Member – Stanislaw Jankowski

The center walkway between courts 9 and 10 is often a gathering area for many of the regulars at Balboa Tennis Club. One player who frequents this area and sports the best tan in town, is “Stan” Jankowski, a 12 year member of the club. With a smile on his face and a racquet in hand, Stan is one happy guy who loves to play tennis.

Originally from Warsaw, Poland, Stan left his country as a refugee in 1979 in search of a new life. He arrived in France and there he received a visa. He had a choice of five different countries and eventually chose the United States, landing in South Miami Beach. Still not convinced Florida was the place for him, Stan took a Greyhound bus and headed for San Diego as he heard the city had a great climate.

Stan became a US citizen in 1989, yet still yearned for a connection with his native country. “I joined the Polish Community because I felt I needed a replacement for home and I liked it,” he said. For work, Stan initially took a job as a swimming coach, yet the pay wasn't substantial so he ended up with

Yellow Cab as an independent contractor. More importantly, the flexibility of driving a cab left more time for tennis!!!

In Poland, Stan couldn't play tennis so he swam instead and achieved success at a very high level. Due to the communistic regime at the time, Stan wasn't allowed to compete in the Olympics, yet he did participate in the European Cup and finished 6th. His specialties were breast stroke and the 200 meter swim.

“Soccer and swimming have helped keep me in shape for tennis,” he says. “I try to play every day because I love the game.” Stan competes on the

Challenge Court most of the time, yet he says he prefers singles to doubles. His tennis favorites have included Jimmy Connors, Gustavo Kuerten, Marat Safin, Agassi and now the world's #1 player – Rafael Nadal.

Most importantly, Stan is happy to be in San Diego, playing tennis as often as possible at Balboa Tennis Club. “This is a great club,” he says with a smile.



Monday Drop In Doubles Group

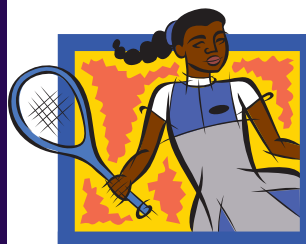
Every Monday from 9-10:30 a.m., a group of tennis players from 2.5 -3.5 in level gather on courts 23 and 24 to play round robin doubles. Deanna Duncan is in charge of the group and said they welcome newcomers and players recovering from surgery or injury who are slowly getting their games back together. The players rotate every 30 minutes. No reservations are necessary.

Tennis Legacy for BTC

Leave a wonderful tennis legacy in your name that will significantly help carry forward the BTC tradition of service to the tennis community. You can arrange a bequest in your will or trust. You could also make BTC the beneficiary of an insurance policy, an IRA or a bank account. It's easy to do. For additional information, call the Club Director, Colleen Ferrell at 619-295-4242.

Coach Mike Rogers publishing Tennis Book for Juniors

BTC Tennis Pro Mike Rogers is putting together a book called, “I am a Tennis Kid in San Diego.” Your child can be part of this book. He/she will be featured



with their picture and a story they write about, “Why I Like Tennis.” It will be an 8x8 full color hard bound book. To have your child participate, parents need to get a form from Mike and get your

child to start writing. The completed book will be available for purchase in the fall of 2010. If you are interested, contact Coach Mike at mrogerstennis@gmail.com or phone him at 858-361-1135.

Things that Happen in the Grass

by Gil Mahaney

sweet earth caresses hard head
 soft purchase cushions tired body
 there's much peace in this verse
 welcoming comfort so quiet the glade
 that I was busy never mind
 relieve me now of important things
 a safe place to leave them behind
 luxury unpaved the gravity's good here
 just lay me down take it in easy
 the wind song hungry eyes lapping up pale sky
 needn't know anything here least of all why
 rain and tears have fallen here
 wetting blades soaking soil deeply
 where blood's been spilled
 love poured freely sometimes savagely
 more often ever so sweetly
 in this placid moment with
 all manner of things decaying beneath me
 waiting to nourish all that comes anew
 paying homage to relaxation true as
 not to ponder what has come and gone
 but to drink in living beauty
 that lingers on

Become a Voice for the Club – Join the Board of Directors

Now is your chance to voice an opinion on the way you would like the club to be run by becoming a member of the BTC Board of Directors. The new term begins January 1, 2011 and runs through December 31, 2012. Petitions will be available at the Reservations Desk and online at www.balboatennis.com beginning September 1, 2010. Anyone interested in joining the board needs to collect 40 signatures from BTC Members recommending him or her for the board. Petitions must be completed and returned to the Reservations Desk by October 15. If more than five applicants, an election will be held. Board meetings are held every third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Q & A with Umpire Andre Lalias



1. How long have you been a professional umpire? *My first paid event was April of 2007. It was a women's 25K challenger in the City of Orange, so a little over 3½ years.*

2. What is your exact title? *I don't have a specific title because I do many different things. I suppose a good general title is tennis umpire. That consists of roving,*

line-judging, refereeing and chairing.

3. Can you work professional matches as well as local? *There are different certifications. As a lines judge, I can work any event: junior, local, national and professional. As a chair, I can only work junior, adult and college matches. I am hoping to get my white badge certificate later this year to be able to chair professional matches.*

4. What do you like about being an umpire? *There are several great benefits. You become part of this wonderful local and national umpiring family. You get to travel and watch great tennis matches. Being an umpire, has also improved my game strategy because you really can learn a lot from watching the pros. Being any umpire is a stressful job, so you better enjoy it, or else get out.*

5. How much travel is involved? *As much travel as you would like. If you want to move up in the ranks of the ATP and WTA, a lot of travel is involved. But you can also work locally. There are a ton of local events for roving and chairing, and you can also work your way up as a national referee.*

6. Do you ever doubt yourself in the chair? *Anyone who says they don't doubt themselves isn't telling the truth. The key is to do the best you can, and if you make a mistake, own up to it. Players prefer that you tell the truth. They will respect you a lot more.*

7. What has been the highlight of your career? *There have been a few highlights already. Chairing top level junior events (International Springs Championship and the Easter Bowl) to line umpiring matches of Federer's and Nadal's (separately) at Indian Wells. My latest highlights are being selected to work my first US Open (as a line umpire) and hopefully being selected to obtain my White Badge, which will allow me to chair low-level professional tennis matches, at the Futures and Challenger levels.*

8. What inspired you to become an umpire? *Chris Clarke. He has been pushing me to become an umpire since the late 1990s. I shrugged the idea aside and finally broke down and joined him for my first even in 2007. Now I regret not having started sooner.*

9. Do you have any desire to become a referee? *Yes I do. Refereeing will come in time with the territory. As I get more experience umpiring, I will get opportunities to referee. We have a couple of excellent referees right here in San Diego.*

10. What advice would you give players who try to make the "right call" in recreational and tournament matches? *As far as calling lines, I have learned that you have to see a space between the line and the ball. If you don't see a space, then that ball just caught the back edge of the line. If the ball is 99% out, 1% of the ball is in. Players often call balls out that are 75% to 80% on the line.*

BTC Member Virginia M. Glass to Enter San Diego Tennis Hall of Fame

On Saturday, August 28, at 4:30 p.m. in the Maureen Connolly Brinker Stadium Court, longtime BTC member Virginia M. Glass will be inducted into the San Diego Tennis Hall of Fame. As a deserving recipient of the accolade associated with all inductees, "Honoring those who have left an indelible mark on San Diego's rich and abundant tennis history," Virginia most certainly exceeds the criteria for acceptance.



Virginia Glass is originally from the Philippines. She has been an active member of the Balboa Tennis Club since 1968. For the past 30 years, Glass has been a contributing factor in local, national and international tennis. Glass was also a ranked player, certified tennis official, association volunteer and tournament director. She was the first female president of the ATA – American Tennis Association – and also served on the Board of Directors and National Tournament Director for this organization. Glass has served as a volunteer on the Multicultural USTA/National Junior tennis League, as well as adult

and senior competition committees. In 1999-2000, she captained the USTA's Althea Gibson Cup Team and the over 70 International Team. Virginia is a past president of the San Diego District Tennis Association and is currently on the Executive Committee. She is a co-founder of the Mt. View Sports & Racquet Club. She is also on the SCTA Board of Directors representing all of Southern California.

Congratulations Virginia on being selected to enter into the San Diego Tennis Hall of Fame. You are most certainly deserving of this prestigious honor. Thank you for all you have done for the great game of tennis.

In addition to Virginia Glass, other inductees of the class of 2010 include Bob Bacon, Bob Perry, Pat Canning Todd and Larry Willens. A casual dinner reception will follow on the grass adjacent to the clubhouse. The cost is \$15 per person and space is limited so reserve a spot now at sddta@yahoo.com, stop by the SDDTA office or call 619-299-8647.

San Diego Tennis Hall of Fame – How It All Began

In November of 2005, the idea of having San Diego's own Tennis Hall of Fame was presented at a San Diego District Board Meeting. The idea was well received and subsequently, an exploratory committee was formed. After several meetings, the concept was officially outlined to the District Board, motioned, and then enthusiastically accepted. Bylaws were formed and a Selection Committee (SC) was appointed. There are six members of the Selection Committee (three serving two-year terms and three serving one-year terms).

Beginning with the SDDA Yearbook, published and issued in January 2006, nominations for potential inductees were opened to the general public. Additional posts were published in the San Diego Union-Tribune, the San Diego Tennis Reporter and the Southern California edition of Inside Tennis. Sixty-five (65) nominations later, while establishing a methodology to determine ten inductees for the Class of 2006, the Selection Committee agreed on ten individuals who had left an indelible mark in San Diego's rich and abundant tennis history. These

individuals served as representatives in the following categories:

- World Class
- College Greats and Junior Stand-Outs
- Coaches, Teaching Pros and Mentors
- Community Service, Philanthropy, Officiating and Media
- Senior Success

It was decided that the venue to present those selected to the SDTHOF would take place at an Induction Ceremony, to be held in conjunction with the annual San Diego District Tennis Championships. This has become an ongoing tradition. Now a permanent display is located in our BTC Clubhouse to showcase memorabilia of the current year of inductees for the San Diego tennis community to enjoy and appreciate. San Diego has always been one of the greatest hot beds for tennis in the U.S. The time had arrived to honor our champions of the game and preserve San Diego's tennis history for generations to come! This is how it all began.

Calendar of Events

July

23-25, 30-Aug 1	81st Maureen Connolly Brinker Balboa Open Championships
26-30	11th Annual Balboa Junior Championships

August

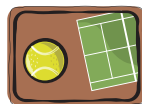
14	Free Tennis Clinic - 3:00 p.m.
17	BTC Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
27-29, Sept. 4-6	82nd San Diego District Championships

September

4-6	Final Rounds of San Diego District Championships
11	Club Social – 3:00 Round Robin Tennis/5:00 Food
21	BTC Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.
24-26, Oct. 1-3	65th Annual San Diego Metropolitan Championships

October

1-3	Final Rounds San Diego Metropolitan Championships
16	Free Tennis Clinic - 3:00 p.m.
19	BTC Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m.



BTC 3.5 Team Headed to Sectionals



The Balboa 3.5 USTA Team, captioned by Esther LeeFlang, is headed to Sectionals in August.

The picture was taken at the Seal Beach Tennis Club at the conclusion of our undefeated (as a team) run at the playoffs on Sunday July 18. Congratulations to the team and best of luck! Pictured are back row Angie Marty, Penny McClish, Stephanie Erickson, Julie Howard, Esther LeeFlang, Tina Jordan. Front row Chi's daughter Jade, Chi Luong, Mieko Kato, Debi Boehm, Stacy Begin and Denise Lyon.