



Center Court

JANUARY 2022

Mission Accomplished by Janene Christopher



Janene Christopher and Ruben Carriedo

As I compose this last letter as President of the BTC Board I can take a few minutes to reflect on the nine years I've served on the Board. In 2012, I was asked by then President Dwight Van Slyke to finish out a retiring board member's term and I started as board secretary. At that same time, the clubhouse and locker rooms were being remodeled and my expertise in design and construction helped guide its completion.

I am proud of my tenure on the Board, as I volunteered to make the Club a better place. Initially serving as a newbie board member (with board veterans Pat Mason, Jim Winters, Mary Gunset and Brad Hasper to name a few), I then served as VP and President. During my first year as President, Treasurer Julia Gregory was instrumental in overhauling most of the club's operational procedures. We hired a new accountant and a consultant for HR guidance. Much was done behind the scenes. A special shout-out to Julia for the work and oversight during her tenure.

Now for a very special thanks to Colleen. She was the Batman to my Alfred; as she is one who goes out and fights for truth and justice; dealing with aggressive, rude vagrants, member and build-

ing/facility issues. Often times she has to deal with very unpleasant jobs and she does it all with a great sense of humor and positivity. I'll miss the "Can you talk" text messages!

In November 2015, I was elected President by the Board and a list of Capital Improvement Projects was created. We can now say that most of the projects on that list have been checked off. The exceptions are 1) the replacement of exhaust fans in restrooms, 2) solar panels and shade for the spectators in the Stadium and 3) re-roofing the clubhouse. Before I leave in December, the wheels will be in motion to have that done. Hopefully early in 2022, the new board will approve the responsible and responsive bidder. Here's a recap of what was accomplished:

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- Use of a Reservation App
- Web page (completely revamped)
- Social Media presence – Facebook, Twitter & Instagram.
- Tournament Players photos on BTC's Facebook page.
- Bag Checks on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0qTVqAEFeVc>
- Removal of the Ficus tree in front of the Pro Shop.
- Expansion of the pavers at entry.
- Continuation of the Paver Engraving Project.
- Tournament Pavilion with water bottle filler and donor plaques.
- Maureen Connelly Brinker monument panel.
- Extend and secure space for Pro Shop retail display.
- Found a great, dependable Café operator (Route 6).
- Replacing the old, dim metal halide lamps with LED lights on the upper courts.
- Securing the "Heart of the Club" with concealed chain link gates and a decorative entry gate.
- Replacing the ice machine and securing that area.
- Improvements at hitting wall.
- Counter and desk upgrades in Reservation Office.

(continued on page 3)

Club Director’s Report by Colleen Ferrell



As we move into a new year, it is time to reflect on the greatness achieved in 2021 and embrace the upcoming challenges that lie ahead in 2022. To begin with, our Club is surviving COVID and dealing with the situation presented. The good news regarding increased membership is very appealing, yet was so overwhelming that we had to put a cap on the membership and start a waiting list that is currently around 250. The sad news revolving COVID in the past year was losing two great people associated with BTC as Rob Abbott, a former employee and Gerald Toliver both passed away from this horrible virus. COVID stole them away to tennis ball heaven. Their spirits of enthusiasm, friendliness and love of the game will always be a part of BTC.

Moving ahead to 2022, we bid farewell to two very important components of club continuity as Janene Christopher and Ruben Carriedo have retired from the BTC Board of Directors. Janene’s talent alone as a designer and incredibly talented architect will be very much missed. In most of the completed projects over the past 10 years, Janene gave her time, intellect, creativity and heart to continually improve Balboa Tennis Club. Thank you Janene for volunteering to make the Club a first class public tennis facility. Many thanks for putting up with my questions regarding implementation of your incredible vision. Tremendous gratitude also goes out to Ruben Carriedo for his input to the Board of Directors as “closer.” Ruben is to BTC what Trevor Hoffman as once to the San Diego Padres – summarize the situation and “close.” Trevor slammed the door shut on many opposing teams and Ruben did the same when dealing with Club challenges. Ruben had a unique way of being a great listener, evaluating the situation and then delivering the knockout punch with a logical motion that the rest of the Board members agreed on. Thank you both for your time and for caring about continued improvement of BTC.

Lastly, in regards to BTC members and the great game of tennis we all enjoy, “take time to appreciate and be grateful for the gift of playing tennis: A sport that promotes good health, social interaction, friendly competition and one you can enjoy your whole life.” Chris Evert/Tennis Magazine/March 2021.

Welcome to the Club!



James “Jay” Torrence

Born and raised in the Midwest, BTC’s newest employee grew up living close to Forest Park, which is an urban cultural park very similar to Balboa Park. After high school, Jay moved to Chicago for six years, attending Columbia College and majoring in Fine Art Photography. Next stop was Tokyo where he lived four years, teaching English. He moved back to St. Louis to begin a commercial photography career shooting food, fashion and facilities. His “claim to fame” is that he met baseball icon Mickey Mantle while his company was shooting a Ferrari ad.

Jay relocated to San Diego in 1988 and started his own commercial photography company, “Top Image Studios.” His work with a camera also evolved into website development, retiring in 2020. Jay also worked briefly in the “Casa de Balboa” in member services prior to his position at BTC. His main hobby during free time is playing acoustical guitar.



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Andrew Macfarlane
Mario Suarez
Maegen Demko

Director
Colleen Clery Ferrell

Tennis Director

Reservations & Info 619-295-9278

Director’s Office 619-295-4242

Pro Shop 619-707-9048

Route 6 Café 619-780-1424

Club hours of operation:

Monday - Friday 8am – 9pm

Saturday & Sunday 8am – 8pm

Todd Linke Returns to BTC Board



Todd Linke

He's back!!! BTC Board of Director/Secretary Todd Linke was recently elected to serve a second term. "I liked it enough to run again," he said. "I learned how much energy, time and passion goes into making BTC a first class facility."

In his 23rd year overall and 20th year at Mt. Miguel High School where he is a 9th and 10th grade science instructor, Todd reflects on his teaching journey. "I truly care about my students," he says. "It's been very challenging during COVID, yet as a team at school, we support each other." A former student who was in three of his classes recently received her teaching certificate in Earth Science and is also working alongside Todd at the same school. His classes inspired her to pursue science and the environmental field. "It's very gratifying to know I was a positive influence in her life," he said.

As a teacher professionally, Todd understands the value of instruction for tennis improvement. When asked about the state of his own game, Todd said that he is progressing and has a growth mindset. "I take losses in tennis as learning opportunities and overall, they are happening less frequently," he says. In 2022, he is hoping to play more competition. "Nothing like a tournament to get the adrenaline flowing," said Todd.

"The competition gives you razor focus – either win or go home."

In regards to the upcoming two year term on the Board of Directors, Todd is looking for continued accomplishments. "I hope it's noticed that we have been a progressive board," he said. "We've followed through with multiple infrastructure projects. Now we need to keep making improvements moving forward." Todd's presence on the Board of Directors for the next term is valued as a voice of experience and also a representative of the SDTF – San Diego Tennis Federation – which makes up a large segment of the BTC membership. His critical thinking and empathetic voice represents the members overall. Welcome back Todd and thank you for your service.

(Mission Accomplished continued from page 1)

- Shade canopies throughout the facility including "Big Blue" between courts 8-9.
- Opening up Court 11 for viewing.
- Hand dryers in restrooms
- Replacement and upgrade the facility's security cameras.
- Signage and standards for banners and memorials

Back in 2011, an adult new membership was \$225; it's now \$370 and still a deal! Our Club is well maintained, thriving and a great place to play tennis. We have weathered busted sewer lines, member and public incidents, upset neighbors, 40 leagues jostling for court time, a leaking roof, a COVID lock-down and the list goes on; but in the end it's about our tennis community and creating a community for the 1600 members and guests who play at our great Club.

Throughout the years members have asked; "You're the president, do you get to jump the line and get a court?" My response, "Nope I'm just like you when it comes to court reservations!" or "Don't you have a reserved parking spot?" My response, "I have to look for an empty space like everyone else or I come on my scooter or bike!" Now that members know I'll be stepping down they now say; "Thanks for your work, the Club looks great!" and/or "You're the best President ever!" It has been very gratifying to hear those comments, so thank you for those very kind sentiments. All of us who have served on the Board do so out of wanting to give back and thank you all for allowing us (and me) to do so. My best wins on the court are all the friends I've made.

Cheers to my fellow retiring board member, Ruben Carriedo, for always being there to craft a motion during our meetings and for your thoughtfulness and wisdom. Finally, thanks to the current Board who are going to "keep on truckin'," and the past board members who have been and are volunteers striving to make Balboa better as well as the entire San Diego tennis community. Enjoyed the ride friends and see you on the court!

Leagues Are Back!!!



After a year and a half hiatus, USTA Leagues have started up at BTC. Win or lose, it's always a learning experience to be a participant on a league team. The photo above is Balboa 55 Plus team that went to Sectionals.

"This was a fantastic 55+ team. Not only did they love competing, they also enjoyed each other both on and off the court," said Team Captains Suzanne Lindemann and Marcia Bennett.

Members of team in picture: Marisela De La Concha, Esther LeeFlang, Debbie Roberts, Debbie McBride, Marcia Bennett, Suzanne Lindemann, Mary Williams, Rory Tarantino, Cher Arceneaux

BTC Turkey Shoot Round Robin



On Saturday, November 20, the annual Turkey Shoot Round Robin Social took place with 24 players participating in the fun. The group played tennis first and then socialized in the Clubhouse with Route 6 Café providing a meal. Here is a photo of the enthusiastic group after play was completed.

Mario Suarez Joins BTC Board of Directors



Mario Suarez Jr.

Newly elected BTC Board Member Mario Suarez said he was curious about the direction of the Club. “I want to learn how Balboa operates,” he said when asked why he decided to run for a position on the Board. “I want to listen and learn about plans for the future of this Club.”

Mario’s roots trail back to Mexico, where his grandfather was a first generation pioneer who established the first Mexican newspaper/bookstore in the 1920’s. In the mid 1950’s, Mario’s father opened Mission Tortilla Shop in lemon Grove which was one of the first of two tortilla shops in San Diego. Mario is first generation born in the USA and is 100% Mexican heritage. He attended Granite Hills High School, Grossmont Junior College and finished up his education at San Jose State with a BS in criminology.

“Ever since I was a little boy, I wanted to be a police officer,” he said. Mario followed his passion and worked for the Escondido Police Dept. He was one of five officers assigned to a Community Watch Program and was delegated to deal with the Mexican population where he did most of the public speaking.

He married in 1975 and has been together with his wife for 46 years. They have a son and daughter, along with two grandchildren. After five years on the police force, Mario resigned because his wife was worried for his safety. He moved on to a position with PacBell in management and tech support, where he worked for 39 years. He trained field technicians and eventually wrote a book on how to fix and troubleshoot.

After retirement three years ago, his wife asked, “What are you going to do?” Mario responded, “I don’t want an agenda.” He started out coaching tennis for Steel Canyon when asked if he could help with the team. Next he offered his services at his alma mater Granite Hills with the boys and girls teams. “I never had any formal training in tennis,” he said. Since this time, he has taken some lessons and has been playing regularly since joining BTC three years ago. “The atmosphere brought me here,” he said. I liked the courts, accessibility and the large number of players.” He started out competing on the Challenge Court and was “super nervous.” Last year he branched out to participate on the Men’s Thursday Ladder and since then has met many players to hit with. “I’m accepting and inclusive about playing partners,” he says. I’ll hit with anybody.”

Welcome to the BTC Board of Directors Mario. The Club looks forward to your positive input and suggestions for improvement.

Darren Haworth - New Teaching Professional at BTC



Darren Haworth

Darren Haworth is certified in both teaching organizations – USPTA and USPTR from Visalia, CA. He spent the last 10 years coaching Division 1 tennis at Gonzaga University and Eastern Washington University in Spokane, WA. In 2008, Darren was named Big Sky Coach of the Year in his second season at EWU and led his team to the program’s first ever NCAA appearance vs. UCLA. At Gonzaga, Darren led the Zags men’s team to their first West Coast Conference Championship. He also coached at the University of Redlands, where both men’s and women’s teams had top 10 Division 3 national rankings. Darren worked as the Head Professional at the Visalia Racquet Club and the Fig Garden Swim and Racquet Club in Fresno, CA. He enjoys working with all ages and believes that tennis is a lifelong sport that keeps people healthy and active. Welcome to Balboa Tennis Club Darren.

BTC Member John Broderick Becomes New SDDTA President



John Broderick

Congratulations to John Broderick on becoming the new President for the San Diego District Tennis Association. He joined the SDDTA Board in April 2018 and was appointed Chair Person for the Tennis Hall of Fame in 2019. John has played for at least 19 different clubs in USTA League competition since 2007, when he joined Balboa Tennis Club.

“Since I began playing tennis again in 2007, I have always considered Balboa Tennis Club as the hub of tennis in San Diego County and have been proud to say I’m a member. The level of commitment and passion to the sport of tennis at BTC has served as an inspiration for me to want to give back to the sport any way I can. The thing I find most gratifying is playing a role in some way of getting people hooked and involved in tennis,” said John. He will definitely have an opportunity to work on this goal as the new President of the SDDTA.

“On a local level, the improvements made at Balboa Tennis Club every year reminds me of those made at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden; it just keeps getting better and better. I’m looking forward to the SDDTA continuing a productive and seamless relationship with the Balboa Tennis Club,” says John. Balboa will be the site for Tennis Fest once again on May 15th, the Annual San Diego District Tennis Championships and San Diego Tennis Hall of Fame inductions in August, all sponsored by the SDDTA.

Maegen Demko Brings Youth Movement to the BTC Board of Directors



Maegen Demko

One of the new members of the BTC Board of Directors recently elected to serve will represent the “millennials” of the Club. 33-year-old Maegen Demko moved to San Diego for work from the East coast. She joined BTC in 2018 to play league tennis. When asked why she decided to run for a board position, Maegen replied. “I wanted to participate in the San Diego community.” Maegen currently works as a Data Scientist for Crisp Company. “There is value in looking at the numbers,” she said. Born and raised in Pennsylvania, Maegen graduated from Boston University with an undergraduate degree in Applied Mathematics and then went on to graduate school at John Hopkins University where she received a degree in statistics.

Maegen grew up as an athlete playing softball, basketball and tennis in high school. When offered the opportunity to move west, she was excited about the move and a chance to pursue tennis. “Southern California is so much more my lifestyle,” she said. Maegen took her first tennis lessons after arriving here and then started playing leagues and tournaments. As a ranked 4.0 player now, she hopes to keep improving and working on her game. “I am very passionate about tennis.”

She joined BTC in 2018 because she said “It’s the best club in San Diego and there’s a special atmosphere at Balboa.” She had a connection

with another member – Lauren Weiner – as they both played league back in 2013 in the Boston area. Meeting BTC Captain Mark Bauer helped introduce Maegen to other players and different league teams where she could play both singles and mixed doubles. The BTC Challenge Court has also been a means to expand her tennis network. “I like the flexibility of being able to walk on and play,” she says. “I love to compete.”

Maegen will bring a whole new skill set to the BTC Board of Directors. “I have an interest in learning about the Club and how decisions are made. I also believe younger people need to start getting involved,” she stated. Sounds like a WIN/WIN situation for BTC with a fresh set of eyes and a passionate heart to keep improving the overall operation of this great public tennis facility. Welcome to the Board Maegen!

BTC Member Spotlight – Adam Krause



Adam Krause

Adam moved to San Diego in 2019 from Brooklyn, New York, to continue his work as a physical therapist. He was born and raised in South Florida, graduating from UCF - the University of Central Florida where he played club tennis. He followed up with a doctorate from State University of New York, (SUNY). He joined BTC in September 2020 to play tennis with his sister. He enjoys “all the friendly members” and tries to get out to hit a few times a week. His wife is a Pilates instructor and they lead a busy life with two small children.

PMA Physical Therapy, Positive Movement Alliance, is the mobile sports and orthopedic physical therapy clinic Adam operates here in the San Diego area, in which the treatment takes place in your own home. He specializes in treating acute and chronic tennis related injuries such as achy knees, backs and elbows. PMA provides a “plan of care” for patients giving them a road map to recovery. His personal goal for tennis players and athletes is to create “longevity” in tennis and sports. Treatment at home ensures that PMA can create a realistic plan of care based on the intrinsic elements of the patient’s house and lifestyle. With a plan in place, a practical home-exercise program will allow clients to maintain the progress made during

treatment sessions. For additional information, check out his website at <https://www.pmaphysicaltherapy.com/> tennis and email him at info@pmaphysicaltherapy.com

Angie Crawford – Rising up the Ranks in Tennis



Angie Crawford

As a native from Yakima, Washington, Angie Crawford was athletic, but had not discovered tennis yet. She was a three-sport athlete in high school and a two-sport athlete in college, exceling in volleyball, basketball and track. Each one of those sports has great transfer skills for tennis, which she is finding out now.

Angie was first introduced to tennis at NAS Miramar in 1989, by her then boyfriend, now husband. She tried tennis, but wasn’t crazy about the game at first. Her husband kept encouraging Angie to play, but it took some time to get hooked. In 2010 after a 20-year hiatus, she started hitting again and decided to try a singles flex league. This new group of tennis friends, especially BTC member Linda Olson, encouraged Angie to join a club and keep participating in various leagues. She has been improving at tennis ever since.

Angie currently competes in league play and occasional local tournaments. She has participated in USTA women’s doubles, tri-level teams and mixed doubles at the 3.5 level, yet was recently bumped up to 4.0 when the new ratings came out. Most of her tennis friends are

NTRP 3.5 and she enjoys playing with them, yet she is yearning for the additional challenge of higher level competition. She has been to the sectional level of USTA tennis, yet she wants more opportunities. “I want to play at the national level and I’d also like to experience tennis on different surfaces like grass or clay,” she says.

As a former high school basketball coach at Mater Dei High School in San Diego, Angie understands the value of teamwork involved in doubles. “I am very aggressive at the net when I play doubles,” she says. “Opponents like to play ‘keep away’ from me.” She is currently trying to improve her ground strokes and incorporate new tools for success. “I want to be able to attack player’s games on the court in different ways. I am aggressive by nature as an athlete,” she says. “I don’t know how to turn it down.” Even though Angie played mostly team sports in the past, she likes the workout she gets from playing singles. “You have to work hard in singles – that’s who I am,” she claims.

Angie has been an active member of Balboa Tennis Club for five years. She said she enjoys the camaraderie of BTC as “everyone is looking to chat tennis with each other and this really lifts me up,” she says. Angie wants to play tennis for a long time. “Tennis keeps you vital and helps people stay vibrant.” With her extensive athletic background, great desire to improve and zest for the game, Angie is destined to continue climbing the ladder of success in tennis.

Calendar of Events

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------|--|
| January 2022 | 18 | BTC Board Meeting |
| February | 15 | BTC Board Meeting |
| March | 15 | BTC Board Meeting |
| | 18-20 | BTC Spring Tournament |
| April | 19 | BTC Board Meeting |
| May | 15 | Tennis Fest |
| | 17 | BTC Board Meeting |
| June | 13-19 | USTA Nat'l Open Hard Court Championships |
| | 28 | BTC Board Meeting |
| July | 1-4 | SDTF Championships |
| | 19 | BTC Board Meeting |
| | 22-24, 30-31 | Balboa Open Tournament |
| | 27-29 | Balboa Junior Tournament |

Two BTC Favorites Retire From Officiating and Tennis Teaching



Bob Christianson

Bob Christianson has ended his 42-year career as a Tennis Official. He will be inducted into the Tennis Official Hall of Fame next year. Bob set the record for officiating the most US Opens (40 years), Indian Wells, ATP Los Angeles and the Women's Tennis Association tournament in La Costa. He officiated the Los Angeles Summer Olympics and numerous Davis Cups. He was Chief Umpire at 150 USTA Nationals, ITF World Seniors, the USTA National Girls 16s and US Open

Wheelchair tournaments, also many years of tournaments at Balboa Tennis Club. "Bob was yelled at by the best of them - Andy Roddick, Jimmy Connors, Maria Sharapova and John McEnroe," to name just a few favorites during his career. Since Officials came from every country, Bob says the best part of his career was "making friends from all over the world." Congratulations to Bob on a great career professionally and thank you for all the memorable days as an official at Balboa Tennis Club.



Gil Mahaney

Farewell to BTC Pro Gil Mahaney who recently retired and is moving back to his home in Kansas City, Missouri. Known for his unique sense of humor and poetry, Gil will be missed by all his students, fellow pros and club members.