



Center Court

JUNE 2020

In Memory of Beloved BTC Members



Virginia Glass



Lois Simmons



David Sanderlin



Mario Moreano

Balboa Tennis Club recognizes these recently passed members of the Club, who left an indelible impression on the national and local tennis community. Memories of these special friends/tennis partners are etched in our minds forever. May they Rest in Peace.

what's inside...

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BTC Receives USPTA 2019 "Club of the Year" Award



L to R: Conan Lorenzo, Colleen Ferrell, Janene Christopher, Geoff Griffin

The United States Professional Tennis Association meeting held on March 8th at La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club, recognized Balboa Tennis Club as 2019 "Club of the Year" for San Diego County. LJBTC Head Pro Conan Lorenzo presented the award to BTC Club Director Colleen Clery Ferrell (Club Director), Janene Christopher (BTC President) and Geoff Griffin (BTC Tennis Director). Both Clery Ferrell and Griffin are active members of the USPTA, a tennis teaching professional organization.

The President Serves It Up

By BTC President Janene Christopher



The Club reopened and we are welcoming everyone back!!! You returned to being greeted by our smiling, helpful staff, new LED lights throughout the facility and some awesome wall graphics in the locker rooms. Our last big facility improvement project for the year is the front gates which are still in the "design" stage and will need to be fabricated/installed. Once that milestone is achieved, we will share the name of the awesome donor who funded the project.

Thanks for your continued support by renewing your memberships and adhering to the safety measures necessary to be open. We especially want to thank the members who gave donations to the Club and Griffin Tennis Services. As many of you have read in Colleen's weekly updates, 73 days were lost due to the COVID-19 pandemic. From the onset, steps and measures were taken to protect everyone. With the passing of time, we may have a better understanding of this virus. What we do know is physical distancing, facial covering and hand washing works.

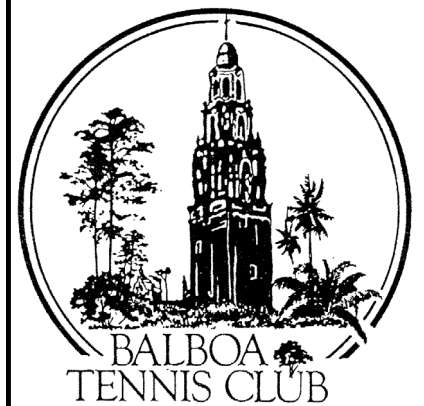
As a community, we recognize social norms are going to be different for a while. Handshaking, high fives, fist bumps and a comforting hug may not be appreciated by many so please be respectful of others and their comfort levels. As I write this column, the number of COVID-19 cases is on the rise in California and in several other states: the beast is still out there.

Tennis is a sport that is open for all to enjoy. Being outside and playing has "automatic" physical distancing. Be safe and do so to keep others safe. In closing, I want to give a big virtual cheer and buckets of appreciation to our Tennis Director Colleen who has been continually working to keep our facility looking great and operating like a well - oiled machine, so kudos to her! We are one lucky Club!

Introducing Ivan Carter - New BTC Reservations Attendant



"Hey folks, Ivan here. A little about the "new" guy: making my way through this strange world as a freelance journalist with a lifelong love of sports. Basically, if there is a game, I want IN. Former college football player, recovering pickup hoops junkie now leaning into a tennis jones, terrible surfer, voracious reader, dog person and believer that fellow Minneapolis son Prince is the greatest musician of all-time. Looking forward to meeting all of you."



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Colleen Clery Ferrell

Tennis Director
Geoff Griffin

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Club hours of operation:

Monday - Friday 8am – 9pm

Saturday & Sunday 8am – 8pm

Director's Report by Colleen Clery Ferrell



Welcome back BTC members!!! For the first time in 98 years, the club closed down due to the coronavirus pandemic. Someone had to keep the club afloat, so I gladly accepted the assignment during the quarantine period.

During closure, the area surrounding the club shut down, so it was only me, the San Diego Police, the Park Rangers and SD City maintenance staff. Fortunately, the police allowed our electrician to come into the park and complete the LED project.

Seeing the courts empty for this extended period of time felt disheartening and frustrating. Yet the end result of being able to reopen the Club on May 30 brought many "covered" faces of excitement back to our tennis haven. Thanks to everyone for supporting Balboa Tennis Club during this trying time of life. Stay healthy and keep hitting tennis balls for fun, exercise, competition and pure joy.

Note the Calendar of Events page on the back of this newsletter with upcoming tournaments for the second half of the year. The Balboa Junior will take place July 20-24, followed by the Balboa Open July 24-26, July 31-August 2. Links will be posted in my weekly update prior to all upcoming events. Paper signups will be taken at the Reservations Desk as well. Hope to see all the tournament players participate "safely" and enjoy the competitive aspect of this great game of tennis. This tournament is sponsored by the Maureen Connolly Brinker family in memory of the great "Little Mo."

Donations to memorialize SDCTUA umpire and friend Mario Moreano will be taken at the tournament desk. This will be the first tournament in San Diego to be played without Mario as an umpire. He will be missed greatly by all who knew him, played tennis daily with Mario and had the pleasure of him as their umpire - a profession he greatly loved. RIP Mario from all your friends at BTC.

Pandemic/Quarantine Changes at BTC



BTC Board of Director Todd Linke graciously purchased and donated this beautiful wood table for the Men's Locker room. He dedicated the table to his father Curt Linke.

Artist Hanna Daly painted these beautiful tennis murals in the men's room and added another to the ladies locker room during the pandemic as well.



The locker rooms, restrooms, hallway and clubhouse all received a fresh coat of paint during the quarantine period. The clubhouse, bleachers, locker rooms and group reservations will reopen on Monday, June 29th.



New state of the art LED lights on the upper courts at Balboa Tennis Club were funded by members, league fees, the United States Tennis Association and Una Davis. Thank you to everyone for your contributions.

Walter Redondo - A San Diego Legend



Walter Redondo

Most people in the San Diego Tennis Community know St. Augustine's Men's Tennis Coach Walter Redondo, as one of the greatest players to be raised in the San Diego area. Walter's identity has traversed from iconic player to teaching pro and in the last five years, high school tennis coach. Along the way, one outside element remained a steadfast passion – the artist in him. The combination of all these roles makes up the basic core of one very soulful man with a contagious smile and zest for life in every capacity.

Walter's tennis career began right here at the Morley Field tennis courts, now referred to as Balboa Tennis Club. His grandmother who he affectionately refers to as "Mamita," used to pack all nine Redondo siblings into a classic station wagon and drive them to the courts to practice daily. She was an "amazing woman," said Walter.

He received early training from notable coaches beginning with Robert Lansdorp, who also taught famous players like Tracy Austin and Pete Sampras. "Robert was a big influence on my tennis and life. He would often have me hit one stroke for an hour." Pete Sampras was quoted in an article about the style and technique of Lansdorp. "Robert was legendary for his no nonsense drill sergeant approach."

Other famous tennis coaches in Walter's life who were impactful on his development were Poncho Segura and Larry Willens, with each adding a different aspect to make him a complete player. Yet even with all this superior coaching, his early success came down to one very

important factor for all tennis players aspiring to be great. "I hit a ton of balls," he said.

Walter claims his drive backhand was his best stroke, even though the Redondo family reputation is for 'wicked' forehands. He started tennis at age eight while attending St. Mary's Elementary School, went on to high school at St. Augustine, where he is now coaching. During these formative years of education, Walter spent countless hours on the court. He credits his aunt and uncle, as well as the San Diego Tennis Patrons organization for helping him financially and arranging travel to get him to the tournaments.

He peaked as a junior at the 16 National Hard Court Championships in Kalamazoo, Michigan when he won the tournament. During that incredible year, Walter also won the prestigious Ojai, and deservedly achieved a #1 ranking nationally in the 16 division. In addition to these great accomplishments, Walter was also selected to represent the United States by the USTA at Junior Wimbledon, as the only American chosen. He started traveling internationally and continued this path throughout the 17/18 division. Unfortunately his ranking started to drop. "Funding was always a struggle because I didn't have enough money. I wasn't enjoying myself."

Nonetheless, he kept trying. He turned pro at age 19 and played until age 26. While conversing with legendary pro John McEnroe at a tournament, he was blatantly told by Mac himself, "We always thought you would be #1 in the world." Walter honestly admitted he couldn't handle the expectation and pressure, especially after his beloved grandmother "Mamita" and one of his favorite coaches passed away. "I started to lose my passion for tennis, yet art was always in my heart."

So while on the tour and in the years to come, Walter the artist emerged. He started selling paintings and has seen a "snowball" effect. At the first gallery where he showed his work, he sold one painting per week, even during the final years as a playing tennis pro. Nowadays, he is showing and selling his work in four galleries – two in Florida, one in Santa Monica and one in San Diego.

Balance has returned to Walter's life as he happily juggles his time between teaching, coaching, art and his wife Maureen. His spirituality also helps keep things in perspective. As a Hall of Fame coach to St. Augustine players (induction was in 2016), Walter teaches the players to use discipline to achieve success on the court and excellence as a person. Between Walter's experience and Coach Ruben Carriedo's positive influence, the boys at St. Augustine are in good hands to find their potential. Both Walter and Ruben truly care about making an impact on these high school hopefuls. Walter shared some comments on Coach Carriedo. "Ruben brings out the discipline in his own way. He is a quiet leader."

Walter continues to inspire through his coaching and his art. He is the voice of experience on the court and canvas, using tennis and art as a medium to inspire others.

Michelle Ford - Meet the New BTC Board Member



Michelle Ford

As a former professional ice skater and current skating instructor, the newest BTC Board of Director brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Club. "I'm happy to be at BTC," said Michelle. "I love the people, camaraderie, affordability, online system and the game of tennis." I want to give back to the sport I am very passionate about."

If it wasn't for the persuasion of good friend, BTC member and current student Nick Tchou, Michelle might not have discovered tennis. One of Michelle's aunts gave her a set of golf clubs as a present. Nick said, "If you are going to take up a new sport, you are going to play tennis." So Michelle agreed to try and the two of them began hitting at Miramar College once a week for six months. Nick purchased a four month membership at BTC for Michelle and the rest is history as she has been a full time member for four years and recently was voted in as a BTC Board Member.

Born in Michigan and raised in Scottsdale, Michelle's initial claim to fame in life occurred at the tender age of five when she became a roller skating champion in the "Diaper Division." Within a few years, she made the transition from roller to ice skating. Michelle suffered an unfortunate accident where she fell skating backwards at 11 years old and broke her tailbone. "The doctors said I would never walk again," she said as she became confined to a wheelchair for a two year period. Miraculously at age 13, she felt some tingling in her legs and soon recovered to resume her skating career.

Michelle started ice dancing with a male partner and competed at the Junior Dance level, winning the US Championship in 1972, held in Long Beach. She and a different partner were ranked 3rd in the US in 1974, 1975 and 1977 in Senior Dance. They represented the United States internationally in competitions in Moscow, China and England, as well as being alternates for the 1976 Olympic Team.

Michelle turned pro at 19 and skated with the popular "Ice Follies" for two years, touring the United States and Canada for 48 weeks of the year. By age 21, she had the feeling she "wanted to get out" of the performing realm, so she hung up her competitive skates and began a career as an ice skating instructor. Michelle has been coaching at the House of Ice, now San Diego Ice Arena, for the past 40 years.

The last four years of transitioning from ice to hard court tennis has been a welcomed challenge for the instructor and former skating pro. "Starting tennis at 60 years old would be difficult for anyone," she said. "And for me, I always thought tennis seemed like such a simple sport." After spending many hours trying to learn the strokes and improve, her attitude has changed. Michelle commented that the balance required in ice skating has transferred to the tennis court and "Luckily, I know how to train to get better." *(Continued bottom of page 6)*



Michelle organized a "Skate Night" at the San Diego Ice Arena for BTC members.

Carol Jory - New SDDTA President



Carol Jory

BTC member Carol Jory is the new president of the San Diego District Tennis Association (SDDTA). She follows recent presidents including Anne Podney, Geoff Griffin, Steve Kappes, and Jim Lackritz over the past 15 years. Former President Anne Podney comments, "After two terms of being President of the SDDTA, I am happy to have the very capable Carol Jory succeed me. I know she will continue to advocate for tennis in our community."

Established in 1973 by San Diego Tennis pioneers Col. William "Bill" Stack, Robert "Bob" Bacon and four others, the SDDTA serves the tennis community by providing activities, programs, sanctioned tournaments and leagues in San Diego County. SDDTA is the local affiliate of the Southern California Tennis Association (SCTA) and the United States Tennis Association (USTA). Carol began serving on the SDDTA Board in 2003 as a general member. She has been active on the Activities and Tournament Committees, as well as being Secretary and Treasurer.

Born and raised in the Midwest, Carol attended Indiana State University in Terre Haute, Indiana. While in college, she enrolled in a tennis class and enjoyed the game. After graduating, she chose to move to a warmer climate. She started playing tennis with neighbors after her children were born. She lived in Las Vegas for several years and while there, Carol took group lessons to improve her game and was also involved in organizing USTA leagues. She relocated to San Diego in 1987 for a job opportunity and played on several league teams. When the local World Team Tennis (WTT) League Coordinator position became available, Carol took over the job in 2000 and has been running the league ever since.

"We used to mail out the schedules when I first started and this took weeks to get organized," she said. "Now everything is computerized and the WTT works more effectively." When asked what she

likes about running the San Diego WTT, Carol said "I like being able to coordinate for tennis players who are working people – especially those who can't play during the day." The players appreciate having scheduled matches which is a big reason leagues are so popular these days. She said having the San Diego Aviators professional team, which plays at La Costa Resort in the summer, helps promote World Team Tennis in this area.

Carol originally became a member of Balboa Tennis Club in 1987. She credits "BTC Ambassadors" Pat Mason and Pat Newman with making her feel comfortable at the Club when she first arrived. She currently plays 2-3 times a week. "I still love the game," she says. "Tennis is my thing."

Carol's goal as the new SDDTA President is to "get board committees more active." She has 28 members to work with in order to accomplish her mission. Former SDDTA President Geoff Griffin added a vote of confidence. "Carol is a very sensible and intelligent person. She will do a great job as President of the SDDTA."

(Continued from page 5) Michelle plays four times a week, mostly doubles and aspires to become a 4.0 player. Her friend Nick who kindly exposed Michelle to tennis states, "For an elite athlete with very specific skills, I think Michelle has made an excellent transition to tennis. She'll be able to play for many years to come after she hangs up her skates as tennis is truly the sport of a lifetime." Michelle hopes to keep playing and improving her tennis game at BTC and contribute as a board member.

"I volunteered for the Board to help make the Club better," she said. Michelle is joining current Board Members Gary Smith, Todd Like, M.A. Hillier, Ruben Carriedo, Andrew Macfarlane and President Janene Christopher, all of whom are committed to continuing excellence in every facet of Balboa Tennis Club.

Michelle lives in the San Diego area, relatively close to the Club. She has a daughter Devrea, son in law Brandon and two grandsons, Devan 15 and Dylan, who live in the Murrieta area.

The Birdman of BTC - Steve Scott



Steve Scott

While strolling the BTC parking lot one day prior to the pandemic, a quick glance of the eye caught a view of a man holding two beautiful birds in the grassy area. Standing next to these two colorful and striking macaw parrots was BTC member Steve Scott. “They are mine,” said Steve. “I’ve raised them since they were very young – Maverick is 38 and Goose is 32.” Just like rewarding children, Steve passed some nacho flavor Doritos to each bird as a treat and they chirped with delight.

Nothing is unusual about this scenario as Steve at one time traveled with 17 animals including capuchin monkeys, parrots, an iguana, a ball python snake named squeeze and two dogs. For 32 years, Steve has worked in the family entertainment business, performing spontaneous comedy for families and kids. His travels include Honolulu, Las Vegas, Key West, Florida Keys, Padre Islands, Texas and now San Diego. His main base of entertainment here is at the “Kissing Statue” in the Embarcadero area. He sets up family film shots with the two macaws and sells their photos with his precious birds.

For an emotional getaway, Steve heads to BTC for the Men’s Doubles Ladder on Thursday and he also plays the Ultimate Challenge Court on Saturdays. As the son of a tennis pro, Steve learned the game early in life using two hands on both sides. “I got better much faster using both hands,” he said. Since arriving at BTC, Steve has dropped the extra hand on both sides and has adjusted well to the change. He primarily plays doubles because he says “he knows the game and can win.” Hopefully Steve and his wonderful companions – Maverick and Goose will be back performing downtown soon and Steve will be crushing overhead winners at the Club as well.

Tennis Tip by Geoff Griffin, BTC Tennis Director USPTA Vice President, San Diego, Greater San Diego City Tennis Council, Vice President and USTA Advocacy Committee member.



Geoff Griffin

“The importance of following the ball in doubles.”

“Having taught thousands and thousands of doubles clinics in my career there is one tip to make doubles teams play better doubles together. It only works if both players do it. Follow the ball. As your opponent is running right to retrieve a shot, both you and your partner need to both shift to the left. If your opponent is running left to retrieve a shot, you both shift to the right. Occasionally, make a fake move to keep your opponent honest, but for the most part, you should be moving like this through out every point. Not only is this sound doubles strategy, but by keeping your feet moving, your reactions will be better and you will get a better workout.”

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Calendar of Events

July

10-12	K&W Junior Tournament
20-24	Balboa Junior Tournament
21	BTC Board Meeting
24-26, 31	Balboa Open Tournament

August

1-2	Balboa Open Tournament	
8-9	SDTF Club Championships (Singles)	
15-16	SDTF Club Championships (Doubles)	
18	BTC Board Meeting	
28-30, Sept. 5-7	92nd SDDTA Championships	
29	San Diego Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony	4:00 p.m.

September

12-13	Senior Olympics
15	BTC Board Meeting
25-27, Oct. 2-4	75th San Diego Metropolitan Tournament

October

3-4	Junior Satellite Tournament
10-11	Hendrickson Wheelchair Tournament
17-18	SDTF Doubles Tournament
20	BTC Board Meeting
23-25	K&W Junior Tournament

November

7-8	Veteran's Tennis Classic	
21	BTC Turkey Shoot Social	3:00 p.m.
24	BTC Board Meeting	

December

9	Volunteer Appreciation Party	6:00 p.m.
15	BTC Board Meeting	
25	Club Closed for Christmas Day	

Boot Camp to Resume at BTC

BTC Boot Camp with Aaron Miter will resume Thursday, July 9th at 12:30 in the stadium. Here is some information from Coach Aaron.

"I'm looking forward to the return of Boot Camp at BTC. Even though it should be easy to social distance on the stadium court, we will be doing things a little bit different to keep you all safe and strong. The class will be limited to 8, the cost will be \$25 per person, you will need to reserve your spot by email, but if class is not full, walk-ins are welcome. I will be sanitizing the equipment that is used by all (battling ropes, TRX, Medicine ball ropes) after each class. Please bring your own wipes/sanitizer for personal use. The class will be spread out more than 6ft. apart, but if you feel more comfortable wearing a mask, it's an option. Contact me personally for additional information."

Phone: 619-261-7233

Email: Maxfit1@cox.net

Website: www.TheUltimateWorkout.net



Aaron Miter