

Tennis learning library forming ... page 2
Could it be? Challenge 3 ... page 5
Free Tennis Clinic—open to anyone page 6



Courts Center

Griffin one of 50 USA Tennis All-American team members

The new year has barely started and already Geoff Griffin has another honor to celebrate.

Last month Geoff was named one of 50 All American Team members by the USA Tennis National Recognition program.

The USA Tennis National Recognition program seeks to acknowledge instructors who are successfully implementing tennis programs and reward them for their contributions as well as publicly recognize them for their efforts and contributions to the game.

A recent letter from the USTA's

Jerome Jones noted Geoff's "creativity and dedication to promoting the game is outstanding."

Geoff has been Balboa's head teaching pro for the past 14 years.

It was only a few months ago Geoff was named President of the San Diego Division of the United States Professional Tennis Association.

The USPTA is the world's oldest and largest association of tennis-teaching professionals.

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

Spot checking is worth the time

If you don't already, you might want to make a habit of bringing your membership card to the courts with you each time you play.

We never want to slow you down, but we'll be spot-checking cards from time to time this year.

With over 1,400 members, it's hard for our staff to keep track of who is current and who needs to pay up.



So every now and then we're going to ask to see everyone's card or day pass.

And we mean *everyone*.

If you happen to be playing on a day when we're spot checking, get

your membership card out and get your group together before you pick up your ticket.

Of course, we appreciate you making sure your companions are members or day pass holders anytime you play at BTC.

It's no fun to play cop, but making sure everyone pays their fair share is the best way to keep everyone's dues low.

inside...

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|
| President's message from Robin Rodger | page 3 |
| You can volunteer at Balboa | page 5 |
| 2004 Special Event Calendar | page 6 |
| BTC Spring Tournament Entry | page 7 |

USTA sends BTC sign for 2003 "Outstanding" award

Recently the United States Tennis Association shipped a brand new sign to the Balboa Tennis Club in recognition of our 2003 Outstanding Tennis Facility award.

The USTA originally announced our award during the US Open in September.

The new sign was mounted outside the clubhouse opposite the last sign the USTA sent us when this facility won the award in 1989, when it was known as the Morley Field Tennis Center.

The new sign replaced a general "Balboa Tennis Club" sign

that had been damaged and could not be repaired.

BTC President Robin Rodger accepted the facility award in New York City during the US Open.

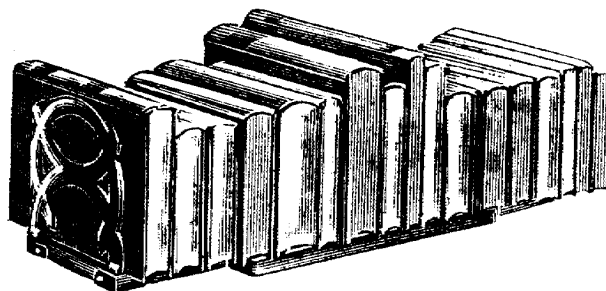
This award served as a high-profile thank-you to Rodger and the other members of our board of directors who all volunteer their time without any financial compensation.

The award also highlights the outstanding tennis programs we have here at BTC, with many USTA tournaments, leagues and junior tennis programs.

You can help establish a new Tennis Learning Library

Have you got any old tennis books lying around the house collecting dust?

Do you have a favorite book that has really helped your game?



Then why not let it help someone else?! The Balboa Tennis Club is in the process of collecting tennis instructional books to start a Tennis Learning Library.

Soon members will be able to check out books at the reservations window. A list of all the available titles will be posted for review and any BTC member will be able to check out books for up to two weeks at a time.

So we need your help! We need any tennis instructional book in good condition. Drop off your donation at the reservation window.



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

Robin Rodger
President

Richard Barndt
Vice President

Ron Celeste
Treasurer

Armin Afsahi

Randy Gerson

Annette Howell

Terry Overbey

Linda Stadelli

Dwight Van Slyke

Will Tappen

Board Members

Kent Sligh
Director

Geoff Griffin
Tennis Director

Board meetings are at 7 p.m. every third Tuesday of the month in the BTC Clubhouse. All members are welcome.

The BTC Main Office is open Monday through Friday.

The reservations desk is open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday; 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

The club is closed on New Years Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

Office 295-4242
Reservations.....295-9278
Pro Shop.....291-5248
Snack Shop 299-8787

Submissions to the newsletter are welcome.
Call 295-4242

Balboa relies on its membership

Congratulations to Geoff Griffin for the latest recognition he received.

Geoff was named one of 50 All American Team members by the USA Tennis National Recognition program (see article on page 1).

Geoff also set a personal record for attendance at his weekly free clinic for children. Last Tuesday there were 100 children learning to play tennis.

Geoff and his staff and family are certainly doing their part to grow the game of tennis!

We had the first board meeting of 2004 and welcomed Armin Afsahi as our new member.

Armin has a background in marketing and fund raising and is looking forward to being an active member of the board.

I also appointed Linda Stadelli to one of the vacant board seats. I still have one appointment to make. If anyone is interested please contact me.

Our board consists of 10 members plus the President. The term of office is for two years.

Our meetings are held monthly on the third Tuesday of every month.

We work hard, but enjoy the camaraderie and time we spend working together for the good of Balboa Tennis Club.

I would like to give you an update on the plan to upgrade the hitting wall behind our club.

The engineering firm of Burkett and Wong have completed their grading plan for the backboard project.

You may recall from previous updates that Steve Wong and his firm are donating their engineering work as a service to the community.

The plans call for resurfacing the entire pad and extending it an additional six feet on each side of the wall. The lighting will also be upgraded.

If you would like to take a look at the plans for the backboard project please stop by the office of our

Director, Kent Sligh. Kent has his hours posted at the reservation desk to facilitate your ease in contacting him.

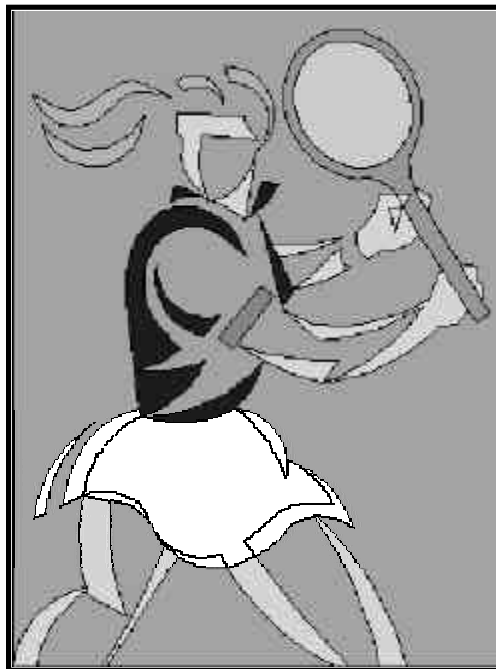
Unfortunately, three days after I received the new plans, I got a call from Ron Roberts' office informing me they cannot help us with the \$40,000 we need for our project at this time.

It's too soon to know whether funds will be available later. We will be reapplying in the spring.

We will need to start a fund raising effort for this project. Some generous members have made a beginning, but we need more help.

Contributions from our membership make a big difference in our ability to make BTC a better place to enjoy the game of tennis. To learn more about how you can help please call either member of the Legacy Committee: Richard Barndt (619-253-8805) or Ron Celeste (619-840-7455).

Tony Atkins office gave us a \$15,000 Community Development Block Grant to assist with our practice wall project, but most of these funds will be used to help bring our facility into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities



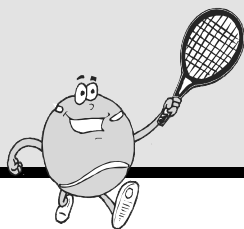
Act.

If you have any comments or thoughts for improvements we would be happy to hear them.

Please put your comments in writing for consideration. It is just so hard to remember things said to us while playing tennis or relaxing at the club.

A big thanks to all the people who have spent hours redecorating our club house.

It looks GRRREAT and Linda Stadelli made sure it was finished in time for our annual Holiday Party. Each year the board sponsors this event to thank our employees and volunteers for all the hard work they do each year in making BTC all that it can be.



Tennis Tips...

...from the pros

The simplest shot in tennis

**By Kevin Johnston
USPTA & USPTR**

Been having trouble on your volleys lately? Missing the easy ones just as often as the harder shots? Maybe your mechanics are a little off.

The volley is really the simplest shot to execute in tennis. It requires very little motion to hit the shot correctly.

All you really need to do is remember to keep your wrist firm, racket head up, bend your knees, little or no backswing and watch the ball.

If your wrist goes limp when hitting the volley you will probably lose control of your racket head causing you to in turn lose control of the ball. Squeeze your grip just tight enough so you have control of the racket face at contact.

It is also important to remember not to squeeze too tightly on the racket.

One should also try to keep the racket head up above the level of their hand. This helps to keep your wrist firm and you will be less likely to dump the ball into the bottom of the net as well.

Of course if you are going to keep your racket head up on the volley, this will probably mean that you will have to bend your knees more. Bending your knees really gets you down at ball level making it easier to execute a well struck volley.

Finally, a properly hit volley will be placed away from your opponent, not blasted through them. Because of this it is best that you use very little backswing (if any). Always be more concerned

with placement rather than power.

Keep your technique on the volley as simple as possible with very little wasted energy.

If you do this you will soon start to love the net rather than to fear it.

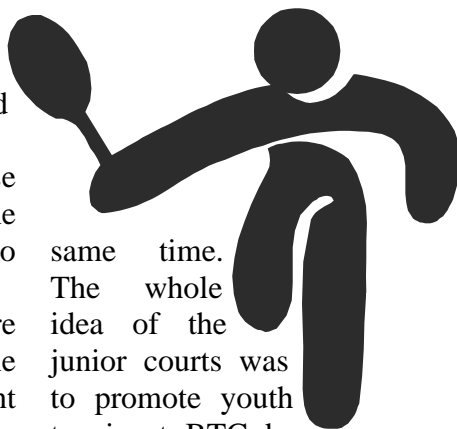
*Always be
concerned
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than
power*

No reservations on kids-only courts

Courts 11 and 12 become the Junior Training Courts every weekday between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m at the Balboa Tennis Club.

Kids can play free on these courts, and they even have the right to bump any adults who might be hitting there.

Originally courts 5 and 6 were set aside for the kids, but the popularity of these courts meant there were always adults who wanted the same courts at the



same time. The whole idea of the junior courts was to promote youth tennis at BTC by providing courts that kids can just

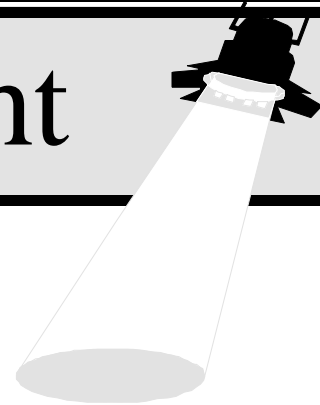
walk on without feeling intimidated by adult players.

With that in mind, courts 11 and 12 were selected because it is easier to hold them aside for kids.

Players may not make reservations for courts 11 or 12 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., kids have priority, and adults may only hit on those courts if no other court is available.

The Polinsky Children's Center uses these courts most Mondays.

Member Spotlight



Get to know members, while giving back to Balboa

By **Linda Stadelli**

I want to let everyone know there are lots of ways you can help out at BTC and really make a big difference for your club.

I want to begin, however, by highlighting a few people in the Member Spotlight who have helped and continue to help improve the appearance of our club.

The Garden Club volunteers (currently **Muan Knight, Ross Gossman, Fran Wakefield** and **John Bannon**) faithfully meet once a month to spray, prune and tidy up the planters and pots.

The clubhouse redecorating is nearly complete, thanks in large part to a group of volunteers.

Dixon & Martin Building & Interior Design were hired to paint the walls and benches, adding new chairs and stacking end tables, as well as reupholstering the sofa and cushions for the benches.

But of course there were cost overruns and we

ended up doing a lot of the painting ourselves. **Brad Hasper** and **Jeff Dunford** spent three days painting the benches.

Brad also recruited **Armin Afsahi, Joe Arnold, Rancy Breece, Joe Exklund, Andre Lalias, Ken Pomeroy** and **Scott Williford** to work with him on Saturday morning along with **Pat Mason** and **Jane Harwood** to complete the painting and staining of the walls, doors and beams in the clubhouse.

We learned new painting techniques, got to know each other better and had a lot of fun while we worked.

We are always looking for members who would like to volunteer for projects, parties, events and tournaments. Please call me (Linda Stadelli) at (619) 688-0784 to add your name to the list.

Tennis leagues are another great way to get involved. You can also call me about USA Men's and Women's Spring Leagues forming now.

Time is right for another great challenge!

Saturday's challenge courts have become extremely popular.

Notwithstanding the Ultimate Challenge Court, some people have said the biggest challenge waiting for your turn to play!

It's time for Challenge 3.

On Saturdays Court 10 will become another challenge court.

Challenge 3 will have the same rules as our classic challenge court, with winners sitting after two sets if people are waiting.

The Ultimate Challenge Court will still belong to any team strong enough to hold it.

Challenge 3

Every Saturday Court 8 becomes Balboa Tennis Club's answer to King of the Hill.

Players playing on courts 9 and 10 should be at least C-level players (3.0 and better). Ultimate Challenge players should be A-level

and open players.

Of course non-members can pay a \$5 guest fee for all day play.

Do you know someone who hasn't yet played at Balboa? The challenge courts are always a great way to have prospective members check out our facility.

Free clinics open to all players, all ages, all abilities

On Saturday February 21, the Balboa Tennis Club is sponsoring the first in a series of four free clinics the club will offer in 2004.

If you haven't done so already, hurry to the pro shop and sign up.

This is the second year in a row that the club has sponsored free clinics, and they have been popular.

There are usually five courts going at once, with five pros and about forty players.

The free clinics were inspired by the desire to promote adult tennis at our club.

Anyone is welcome to sign up, and all different levels are encouraged to participate.

After Saturday, the second free clinic is June 5.

2004 Special Events Schedule

| | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| February 21 | Free Clinic # 1 | 3:00 pm — 4:30 pm | Sign up at the pro shop |
| March 8-12 | Paul Buskey Memorial | 18 courts used | Scheduled 11 am — 6 pm |
| March 20-21, 26-28 | Spring Tournament | 15 courts used | 6 courts open for reservations |
| April 17 | Club Social # 2 | 3:30 pm Round Robin | Food served at 5:30 pm |
| May 2 | Tennis Fest | 15 courts used | 6 courts open for reservations |
| May 15-16 | Hendrickson Memorial | 8-13 courts used | 8-13 courts open for reservations |
| June 5 | Free Clinic # 2 | 3:00 pm — 4:30 pm | Sign up at the pro shop |
| June 7-13 | National Open Champs | 15 courts used | 6 courts open for reservations |
| July 2-4 | SD Tennis Federation | 8-18 courts used | 3-18 courts open for reservations |
| July 23-25, 30-Aug 1 | Balboa Open | 18 courts used | 3 courts open for reservations |
| August 2-6 | Balboa Junior | 8-15 courts used | 6-13 courts open for reservations |
| August 14 | Free Clinic #3 | 3:00 pm — 4:30 pm | Sign up at the pro shop |
| Aug. 27-29, Sept 4-6 | San Diego District | 18 courts used | 3 courts open for reservations |
| September 11 | Club Social #3 | 3:30 pm Round Robin | Food served at 5:30 pm |
| September 13-16 | Senior Olympics | 12 courts used | All play between Noon—5:00 pm |
| Sept. 19-21, 26-28 | Metropolitan | 18 courts used | 3 courts open for reservations |
| October 18 | Free Clinic #4 | 3:00 pm — 4:30 pm | Sign up at the pro shop |
| November 22 | Turkey Shoot | 3:30 pm Round Robin | Food served at 5:30 pm |

Sometimes it's nice to have wheels

The Balboa Tennis Club would like to have a wheelchair in reserve at our location.

As you know, tennis is a very safe sport, but every once in a while injuries do occur. Sometimes players could use a little help getting back to their car on those occasions.

Do you know anyone who has an old wheelchair that's not being used?

We're interested in any functional chair that could transport an injured player.

The chair will be stored in the reservations area.



Captains needed for Spring league

The roster deadline for the USA Adult Spring League is March 20. The Spring league extends from April to June and covers levels ranging from 2.5 to 5.0.

The 2.5 and 5.0 levels consist of one singles and two doubles matches, while all the other levels consist of two singles and three doubles matches.

Men play Sunday mornings and women play weekday mornings. The player fee is only \$18.

The captain meeting is Tuesday, February 10 at 12:30 p.m. at San Dieguito Tennis Club in Encinitas. Captains are needed at all levels. For more information call Leslie Waite at (858) 755-8110.

BTC Spring Tournament Entry

March 20-21, 26-28

Tournament Director: Geoff Griffin

Penn balls will be used.

Players will be limited to one singles and two doubles events.

Players must play up to level of better partner.

We will not combine or cancel events with 4 entries or more.

No refunds after draws are made.

Defaults will be 15 minutes and a 7 minute warm up will be allowed.

Draws will be posted in the clubhouse on Wednesday March 17.

Entry fee must accompany form. If playing doubles, please pay entire entry fee.

Awards will be given to all finalists.

Tournament Desk number: 619-291-5248

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (Home) _____ (Work) _____

Partner's Name _____

Mixed Partner _____

Entry fees must accompany form. Make checks payable to the Balboa Tennis Club

Events

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Men's Open Singles | <input type="checkbox"/> Men's Open Doubles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Men's 5.5 Singles | <input type="checkbox"/> Men's 5.5 Doubles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Men's 4.5 Singles | <input type="checkbox"/> Men's 4.5 Doubles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Men's 3.5 Singles | <input type="checkbox"/> Men's 3.5 Doubles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Men's 4.5 Singles | <input type="checkbox"/> Men's 5.5 Singles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Women's 5.5 Singles | <input type="checkbox"/> Women's 5.5 Dbls |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Women's 4.5 Singles | <input type="checkbox"/> Women's 4.5 Dbls |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Women's 3.5 Singles | <input type="checkbox"/> Women's 3.5 Dbls |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Women's 4.5 Singles | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed 5.5 Doubles | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed 4.5 Doubles | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed 3.5 Doubles | |

Entry Fee: Member Non Member

| | | |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| Singles..... | \$20.00 | \$25.00 |
| Doubles..... | \$13.00 ea. | \$15.00 ea. |

Entry Deadline: Sunday, March 14th.

Calendar of events

February

17 BTC BOARD MEETING
21 FREE CLINIC — OPEN TO EVERYONE

March

8-12 PAUL BUSKEY MEMORIAL SENIOR TOURNAMENT
16 BTC BOARD MEETING
19-21, 26-28 BALBOA SPRING CHAMPIONSHIPS

April

17 SPRING SOCIAL ROUND ROBIN
20 BTC BOARD MEETING

May

2 TENNIS FEST 2004!
18 BTC BOARD MEETING
22 BTC ANNUAL PICNIC

Center Court

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Balboa's New Tennis Library
President's Message
Tennis Tips from the Pros
BTC Spring Tournament Entry

page 2
page 3
page 4
page 6