

Center Court

FEBRUARY 2006

Tennis Hall of Fame Coming to BTC

The San Diego District Tennis Association, in conjunction with a generous donation from the Belinsky family, is establishing a prestigious Tennis Hall of Fame in the BTC Clubhouse. The historic glass cabinet will bring together past, present and future tennis players from the area whose tennis endeavors have left an indelible mark on San Diego's rich and abundant tennis history.

Players will be chosen from the following categories: world class, college greats, junior standouts, coaches, teaching pros, community service, philanthropy, officiating, media and senior success. Nominations are due to the

SDDTA office by May 15, 2006. An Induction Ceremony will take place during the 2006 SDDTA Tennis Championships, on Saturday August 26, 4:00 p.m., in the Maureen Connolly Stadium. The selection of inductees will be chosen annually.

The establishment of a Tennis Hall of Fame in our BTC Clubhouse truly represents an honor for our members, the San Diego Tennis Community and the City of San Diego. The rich history of this venerable club continues to grow.



Bench Donation Update

The club bench project continues to unfold into a wise investment for the "present," in addition to the future. 15 benches have been purchased so far and the accompanying name plaques are being mounted appropriately. Many members chose to donate their bench for the sake of helping the club complete this project, while others sensed the feeling of pride which will occur when they play on a court with their own personally donated bench. Some members chose to dedicate their bench to specific family members. One couple who met on the courts in 1993 decided to remember the day forever by purchasing a bench and making note of their "Love / Match" from when their marriage began.

The bottom line is that everyone wins by purchasing a bench. The club has acquired 15 new benches, with 27 possibilities left. Coming up with the \$600 is not easy, yet the true joy of giving back to the game and the club you love will erase the pain of the checkbook!!! See Colleen for details on how you can become a part of the bench improvement team!!!



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The President Speaks... by Robin Rodger

The year began with our first board meeting, which is also our Annual Meeting. I reviewed our accomplishments of 2005 which included the locker room beautification, clubhouse uplift, bench campaign, completion of the light project, creating the tournament monitoring committee to bring more efficiency in court usage to our tournaments, and resurfacing courts 1-4, 17 and 18. The crowning achievement was the hiring process conducted by the board, which resulted in the hiring of our new club director, Colleen Clery Ferrell. Colleen's personality immediately endeared her to the hearts of the members. She is outgoing, has a great ability to listen and has a wonderful attention to detail.

We welcomed our two new board members, Barbara Gregorio and Bob Gates. Barbara is a long time member and a tireless volunteer at the tournament desks and Senior Olympics. Bob is a six year member from Florida who brings a great deal of business experience to our board.

We will be discussing our goals for 2006 at the February board meeting. If you have any suggestions, please put them in writing and leave them at the reservation desk with my name on them.

I enthusiastically look forward to bringing new members into our club as we do our best to grow the game of tennis by making Balboa Tennis Club the most exciting place to play in the area.

The Director's Report by Colleen Clery Ferrell

The honeymoon is officially over. I've passed the six-month mark as Director of Balboa Tennis Club. My list of member names has reached 500, with 900 to go. This is all good news as I welcome the opportunity to meet all of you, hear your suggestions and continue to improve this great club!

I know many of the female members are pleased with the Ladies Locker Room improvements. I will take credit for the Kleenex supply and soothing scent you experience upon entering. Linda Stadelli deserves most of the credit for design and special touches such as the framed pictures. Which leads me to my next point. What happened to the cushion Letty Zane hand made to match Marion Hinchy's beautiful cover? No questions will be asked if the cushion mysteriously reappears. Please come home little cushion – we miss you!!!

As for the Men's Locker Room, I'm still waiting for a general consensus to make additional changes. Several male board members are very fond of the picnic bench in the middle of the room. Is this a shared viewpoint? Would you like a real bench and more room to stretch out? Your suggestions are welcome.

Many thanks to all of you for your continued support. May 2006 be a productive, healthy and happy year for all.



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

Robin Rodger
President

Richard Barndt
Vice President

Ron Celeste
Treasurer

Bob Gates

Randy Gerson

Barbara Gregorio

Mark Gregory

Don Goyette

Terry Overbey

Linda Stadelli

Dwight Van Slyke
Board Members

Colleen Clery Ferrell
Director

Geoff Griffin
Tennis Director

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

The BTC Main Office is open Monday through Friday.

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

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

Reservations & Info... 295-9278

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

Pro Shop..... 291-5248

Tennis Café 299-8787

Submissions to the newsletter are welcome.
Call 295-4242

A Poet and Who Would Know It?

Our BTC Maintenance Specialist Gil Mahaney would like to share one of his special poems with the members. In addition to his expertise around the club and on the court, Gil is a published writer. Here is a sample from his collection.

Those desert flowers
 How they must thirst
 Surely they know a hunger
 Born of something more than need
 So tell me
 Because I do wonder
 After that precious emulsification
 The only drink they will ever taste
 In the withering grip of a Blazing sun
 In a seemingly eternal summer
 Do they remember that Fleeting Joy of
 spring
 As they long to be quenched
 Do they recall how good
 It felt to be drenched
 I do wonder
 Do they miss the rain?
 Long gone are the clouds
 That brought the downpours
 The mist, the dew and the
 Heavenly shadows of cool shade
 Now in the teeth of summers
 Harsh light and blistering heat
 Burn away all you colors
 Of springtime burn away fast
 No time to fade
 Did they feel the watercolors
 Evaporate from their petals
 Leaves, blades and stems
 Now brown bare and plain
 Still I do wonder
 Do they miss the rain?

Spotlight on a Member...

Letty Zane

Most players remember the very first lesson they take which turns them on to tennis. As an impressionable twelve year old, long time BTC member Letty Zane received her first instruction on the Morley Field Tennis Courts from Wilbur Folsom for fifty cents. This was just the beginning of a lifetime filled with tennis enjoyment.

Letty used to hang out on the weekends at the club, playing tennis and ping-pong in the clubhouse where the reservation desk exists today. She only lived a few blocks away from the courts. Her father and brother also played tennis at the time. This lifestyle continued until high school when she discovered other ways to occupy her time.



Almost thirty years later, Letty's sister spontaneously suggested, "Let's go take some tennis lessons." Letty started taking lessons and enjoying tennis once again. She traded in her Maureen Connolly wooden racquet for graphite and began playing regularly. Working evening shifts at this time of her life allowed for plenty of tennis during the day.

For years, Letty competed in tournaments and played league. Nowadays, she plays for fun and exercise. In addition, she volunteers to help out at tournaments and give back to the game. As for life at Balboa Tennis Club, Letty says, "This is the best tennis club – this is home to me."

BTC Historians Wanted for Scrapbook Project

The time has arrived to share your knowledge and time. Any interested members who have been a part of BTC history are being called upon to assemble a scrapbook. Please let Colleen know if you would be willing to give of your precious time to complete this noteworthy club project.

Spotlight on the Pro – Chaz Griffin

To survive and thrive as a teaching pro for 25 years, one must truly embrace the profession. Hitting balls day after day, in sunny Southern California requires dedication, passion and a strong body to endure the elements. Charles Robert “Chaz” Griffin has passed the test so far as he continues to enjoy his job on the court.

Chaz, older brother of BTC Tennis Director Geoff Griffin, has actually been teaching the longest of the two siblings. He began his career at 18 years old, instructing at Bishops School in La Jolla, then Encinitas Tennis Club and eventually moved to Peninsula Tennis Club. After a couple years of college at Mesa and some exercise physiology classes at SDSU, Chaz naturally segued into the fitness business.

He relocated to Palm Desert and was hired at the Marriott Desert Springs as a Design Fitness and Recreation Manager. Here he started a resort fitness company called PGA West. Chaz ran fitness programs on site with a personal trainer certification through IDEA. After another training stint at Gold’s Gym in the desert, Chaz moved back to San Diego for additional opportunities.

He worked for a fitness company called Hoist where his true desire to design fitness equipment surfaced. At this time, Chaz found an investor to mimic Hoist. After researching the products, he was sent to Taiwan where he worked with Design Home Fitness Systems. He participated in trade shows and experimented with sports medicine at the same time. Here he developed an ice and heat product, which landed one big contract, yet not enough to keep him in the business.

Nonetheless while living in Taiwan, Chaz met his wife Sonya. The couple came back to San Diego and married in 1994. Chaz began teaching full time at Balboa Tennis Club and has been a mainstay on the courts ever since returning to Southern California.

Similar to teachers in education, tennis pros who last in the profession develop a niche which separates them from one another and enables students to relate to their techniques from a unique perspective. With Chaz’s extensive work as a personal trainer and a triathlete himself, before kid’s of course, he’s naturally



evolved into a “full body” pro. In his lessons, he works on all aspects of the player. He observes equipment, strokes and impact on the body like a personal trainer and tennis pro combined. He likes to get his students excited about fitness by combining technique, fitness and nutrition into his lessons.

Chaz enjoys teaching juniors and adults. During the summer, he trains a group from Japan who come over every year for his instruction. By establishing himself at BTC, Chaz has many students who’ve been with him for years and continue to embrace his

philosophy.

In regards to transforming his middle aged students to more popular styles of play with the open stance and more extreme grip changes, Chaz comments, “Everybody is different on the court. I tend to look at their physical build and assess whether or not they are a candidate for change.” Some players aren’t willing to put in the time to make major stroke changes so Chaz concentrates on making the most of their strokes instead of reinventing the wheel.

Like many players and teaching pros, Charles Robert Griffin began his career at the age of three when his parents first put a racquet in his hand. His mother Jo – a former Canadian Junior Champion – and father Stan –who participated in the prestigious British Dubler Cup –actually met while Stan was playing in a tournament at Jo’s parents’ tennis club in Canada. Marriage and three sons eventually came along to round out the Griffin family.

There’s not much down time for Chaz these days as he continues to build his own tennis family. With the arrival of his one- month- old daughter Keira, Chaz also stays busy with his oldest daughter Polia, age 9 and son Shane, age 7. He plans to teach for as many years as he can as long as his body holds up. A nagging foot injury and the sun take their toll, yet he’s working through these challenges. Ten hour days on the court are a regularity for Chaz as he now has a major goal in mind.

“I want to take my family back to Thailand this summer and introduce my new daughter to my wife’s family,” he says. “Only this time, it will be for a well-deserved vacation.”

Locker Renewals

The Men's Locker Room is a bustling area of activity with only 13 lockers left to rent. Many lockers were dormant for quite some time until notices were given to remove articles in the lockers or touch base with reservations identifying oneself as the desired owner. 17 locks were cut off with five lockers still having clothes and other articles unidentified within. These articles were put in bags and marked. They will be kept in the reservation area until April 30. All unclaimed clothes will then be sent over to St. Vincent De Paul. Lockers in the Ladies Locker Room are available as well. The fee is \$60.00 for the year.

Calling All Bridge and Pinochle Players

Regular groups of bridge and single deck pinochle players meet in the clubhouse during the week to expand their minds, compete, have fun and basic camaraderie. Any interested players who would like to join these players for regular games or as alternates, are asked to contact the following individuals. For the bridge group, which meets Tuesday-Friday, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., contact Mary Cormier at 619-286-9118. For the pinochle group, which meets Monday-Friday, 10:30-whenver, contact Ed Goodman at 619-461-2453.

Paul Buskey Tournament March 6-10

The 27th Annual San Diego Super Seniors Heart Tournament, honoring Paul Buskey, will take place at BTC in early March. This is a great opportunity for senior club members to compete in a tournament close to home. Matches will begin at 11:00 a.m., so there will be plenty of time to get going in the morning. Paul Buskey would be honored to have your presence in his tournament. His legend lives on at BTC!!! Entry forms are available at the reservation desk or on line at www.usta.com. The tournament ID number is 651811406.

"STATE OF THE CLUB" REPORT

by Ronald J. Celeste, Treasurer

I am pleased to announce that the Balboa Tennis Club is financially sound and has been able to use its resources to continually improve our facilities. In 2005, the expenditures nearly equaled the revenues for a net income of \$39.97. This was accomplished by closely monitoring the finances of the club on a month to month basis and staying within our budget.

As you recall, the board voted to raise the dues for 2005. As a result, our membership revenue increased by \$14,000. This amount fell short of our 2005 projected membership revenue because the "adult new memberships" were less than 2004 by 130 members. We were still, however, able to complete our lighting project, refurbish the bathrooms and clubhouse with new carpet and paint and expend additional funds for court supplies. We also funded reserves for our new Electrical Emergency and Light Maintenance Fund. We had to expend additional payroll for the overlap of time when our new director, Colleen Clery Ferrell was hired and trained with our previous director Kent Sleigh.

I have been very pleased with the operations of the club over the past year. The Executive Director, Reservation Clerks and Maintenance Persons are to be commended for conducting a smooth operation this past year. Our courts and other facilities are looking very good. Our bench donation drive is doing very well which will enable the Club to replace our court benches with all donated funds. We need your help to complete the project.

Tournaments are sometimes perceived as inconvenient to our members. They do, however, net the club significant revenue each year. They also bring status and prestige to our club.

A special thanks to the Board of Directors and the President of the Club for their untiring efforts to address every problem with an open and objective mind. I appreciate their talents in working together to resolve these issues in a spirit of diplomacy and cooperation.

Overall, I believe we can be very proud of our facilities, our members, our board and staff for making the Balboa Tennis Club the best public tennis facility in the country.

2006 BTC Event Schedule

Date	Event	# of Courts Used	# of Courts for Members	MISC.
January 21	Club Social #1	6	15	3:00-5:00 p.m.Round Robin/Food at 5:00
February 18	Free Clinic #1	6	19	3:00-4:30 p.m.
March 6-10	Paul Buskey Memorial	18	3	Start time 11:00 a.m.
April 1-2, 8-9	Balboa Spring Tournament	15	6	Geoff Griffin - contact
April 15	Club Social #2	6	15	3:00-4:30 p.m.Round Robin/Food at 5:00
May 7	Tennis Fest	15	6	Jeff Anderson - contact
May 20-21	Hendrickson Wheelchair	8, 8-1pm 13, 1-6pm	13, 8-1pm 8, 1-6pm	Sherman Schneller Contact
June 3	Free Clinic #2	6	19	3:00-4:30 p.m.
June 12-18	USTA National Open	15	6	Colleen Ferrell - Contact
June 19-23	San Diego Police Federation	15	6	Randy Hill - Contact
June 30- July 3	SD Tennis Federation	16, 8-2pm 12, 2-8p	5, 8-2pm 9, 2-6pm	Brian Wood - contact
July 21-23, 28-30	Balboa Open Championships	18	3	Friday Start 3:00p.m.
July 31-August 4	Balboa Junior Tournament	8, 8-1pm 13, 1-6pm	13, 8-1pm 8, 1-6pm	Geoff Griffin - contact
August 19	Free Clinic #3	6	19	3:00 - 4:30 p.m.
August 25-27, September 2-4	SD District Tournament	18	3	Friday Start 5pm
September 16	Club Social #3	6	15	3pm - 4:30pm
September 13-16	Senior Olympics	12	9	12:00-5:00 p.m.
September 22-24, 29-October 1	SD Metropolitan Championships	18	3	Chaz Griffin - Contact
October 21	Free Clinic #4	6	19	3:00 - 4:30 p.m.
November 18	Turkey Shoot	10	11	Geoff Griffin - Contact

Reservation Reminder

The friendly clerks from the reservation desk recently voiced a few reminders for the members. Please call the desk if you would like to cancel your court reservation. This courtesy helps expedite court assignments. As many of you know, back-to-back reservations for courts are not allowed under any circumstances. If there are open courts, you may request a new court assignment at the desk, yet never book ahead for two courts. Finally, try to consolidate your phone calls when making court reservations over the phone. Thank you for your cooperation with these matters.

Tennis Café Expands Menu

Cheeseburgers and fruit bowls now appear on the ever-expanding Tennis Café menu produced by Chef Edward Barron. In addition to a great breakfast menu, tasty sandwiches, healthy salads and the best chili in town – according to reservation clerk Don Green, The Tennis Café continues to serve and satisfy members and local patrons. Hours of operation are Monday-Thursday, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Friday 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. and Saturday 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. A great selection of coffee, sports drinks and sodas round out the menu. Thank you to all members who support the Tennis Café by purchasing food and drinks on a regular basis. Machines for drinks are available during the off hours. A complete listing of the Tennis Café menu is available on our website at www.balboatennis.com.

Club Roster

Now is the time to update information for the soon-to-be published Club Roster. Please let the reservation clerks know about any relevant changes in your member contact information by filling out the form below or by e-mailing your information to Colleen at director@balboatennis.com. If you choose not be included in the roster, please notify the reservation clerks by February 28. WE NEED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS!

MEMBER NAME _____
 NEW ADDRESS _____
 CITY/ST/ZIP _____
 NEW PHONE _____
 EMAIL _____
 I do not want my name to be included in the club roster.

Members Business Directory

Have you recently been looking for a qualified CPA, carpenter, pool specialist or computer tech and you wanted to use someone within BTC who has a good reputation? A suggestion from a recent board meeting has prompted the idea of assembling a business directory within the club. If you would like to be included in the club referral database, fill out the form below and leave at the reservation desk or e-mail your information to Colleen at director@balboatennis.com. Quarter page ads in upcoming newsletters are available for \$100. Why not tap into this great source of community affiliation and seek out specialists within BTC? You may enhance your own company and also find quality business professionals to satisfy your needs.

BUSINESS NAME _____
 WORK SPECIALTY _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY/ST/ZIP _____
 PHONE _____
 EMAIL _____

SPRING CHAMPIONSHIPS



Balboa Tennis Club



April 1, 2; April 7 - 9, 2006

Entry Deadline: Sunday March 26th

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

- Men's Open Singles
- Men's 5.5 Singles
- Men's 4.5 Singles
- Men's 3.5 Singles
- Men's 45 Singles
- Men's Open Doubles
- Men's 5.5 Doubles
- Men's 4.5 Doubles
- Men's 3.5 Doubles
- Men's 55 Singles
- Women's 5.5 Singles
- Women's 4.5 Singles
- Women's 3.5 Singles
- Women's 45 Singles
- Women's 5.5 Doubles
- Women's 4.5 Doubles
- Women's 3.5 Doubles
- Mixed 5.5 Doubles
- Mixed 4.5 Doubles
- Mixed 3.5 Doubles

Please list any possible time conflicts you might have here:

Entry Fee:	Member	Non Member
Singles.....	\$25.00	\$30.00
Doubles.....	\$15.00 ea.	\$18.00 ea.

February 2006

Calendar of Events

February

16 BTC BOARD MEETING – 7:00 P.M.
18 FREE TENNIS CLINIC – 3:00 – 4:30 P.M.—SIGN UP IN PRO SHOP
26 SOCIAL WITH TENNIS NETWORK – 2:00 P.M.

March

6-10 PAUL BUSKEY MEMORIAL SENIOR TOURNAMENT
21 BTC BOARD MEETING – 7:00 P.M.

April

1-2, 7-9 BALBOA SPRING CHAMPIONSHIP
15 SPRING SOCIAL ROUND ROBIN
TENNIS - 3:00 P.M., FOOD - 5:00 P.M.
18 BTC BOARD MEETING – 7:00 P.M.

May

7 TENNIS FEST 2006
16 BTC BOARD MEETING/ANNUAL MEETING – 7:00 P.M.
20-21 HENDRICKSON MEMORIAL WHEELCHAIR TOURNAMENT

BALBOA TENNIS CLUB

Center Court

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