



Center Court

FEBRUARY 2008

Balboa Members Shine at SDDTA Banquet Players of the Year



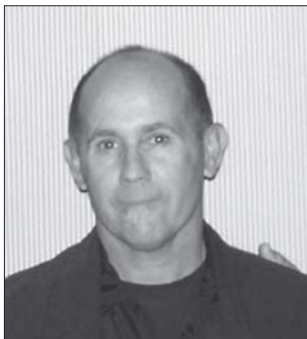
Alex Magtanong



Roz King

On Friday, January 18, the San Diego District Tennis Association held their annual Awards Banquet at the La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club. Six members of BTC received prestigious awards for their contributions and results during the 2007 season. Congratulations to Roz King, Alex Magtanong, Tony Ybarra Nancy Abler-Sanchez, Pat Mason and Ben Press. Keep up the good work for years to come!

Sportsmanship Awards



Tony Ybarra



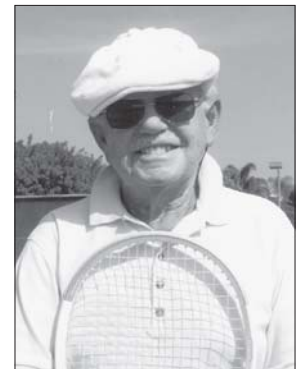
Nancy Abler-Sanchez

Community Service Award



Pat Mason

Family of the Year



Ben Press

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Additional Clinics at BTC

BTC teaching professionals Mike Rogers and Ron Seno are starting up additional tennis clinics for all levels.

Mike Rogers is spearheading an advanced, 4.0-4.5 Women's Tennis Clinic every Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. This clinic will feature fast paced tennis drills, doubles strategy, modern stroke production and fitness. The clinic is designed for 4-8 students and cost \$56 for 4 sessions.

Ron is adding a new series of clinics for beginning – intermediate men and women. Ron intends to place more emphasis on instruction. The class limit is 6 and the cost is \$14 per 1 1/2 hour session. The classes are offered on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9-10:30 a.m. as well as Tuesday and Friday evenings, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. E-mail Ron at alohasurfkona@hotmail.com or call the Pro Shop to sign up at 619-291-5248.

"STATE OF THE CLUB"

by Ronald J. Celeste



2007 was another very successful year for The Balboa Tennis Club. We ended the year at breakeven with revenues exceeding our expenditures by \$272. We completed our "Club Bench" fundraising project raising \$40,000 from our members which purchased 60 benches for our courts. These benches are not only sturdy but very attractive as well. The Board thanks all the members who contributed to this very worthy project.

Our Executive Director, Colleen Clery Ferrell, not only took the lead on the bench project but was also responsible for increasing our revenues in areas such as court rental fees, interest income, daily permits and tournament income. In 2007, the Club refurbished the Men's Room and installed net court dividers.

Each month we continue to fund our "Reserves" for court resurfacing and windscreens; capital improvements and electrical and lighting needs. In 2007 we funded a total of \$21,000 on these reserves. These funds are used when courts need to be resurfaced, windscreens need replacing and when we experience unexpected electrical problems.

We are very grateful for all those involved with running our tournaments. We depend on this revenue each year in order to meet our budgetary needs. Although sometimes inconvenient to our members, tournaments net the Club significant revenues each year.

The operations of the Club continue to run very efficiently. The Executive Director, Reservation Clerks and Maintenance personnel are to be commended for keeping things running smoothly. As most of you will agree, the Balboa Tennis Club is one of the finest public tennis facilities in the nation. We often hear compliments about the friendliness of the members and how easy it is to get a match. Our courts and other facilities are constantly being maintained to compliment the "Crown Jewel" of San Diego, Balboa Park.

After eight years as your Treasurer, I have retired from the position. I thoroughly enjoyed working with the President, Board of Directors, Executive Director and Staff. I feel gratified by the Club's achievements over the past eight years. I feel confident that the Club will continue to head in the right direction under the leadership of our new President, Dwight Van Slyke and the Board of Directors. A special thanks to the Board of Directors and the President of the Club for their unselfish efforts in addressing 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.



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

www.balboatennis.com

President

Dwight Van Slyke

Vice President

Richard Barndt

Treasurer

John Rodriguez

Secretary

Don Goyette

Board Members

Bob Gates

Barbara Gregorio

Andy Katz

Ruth Nutt

Robin Rodger

Linda Stadelli

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

More to Blue

by Gil Mahaney

*more to blue
 I'm not really a
 patient man yet
 somehow I didn't
 mind letting them
 clouds float by slowly
 carrying away all the
 little things cluttering
 up my head drifting
 bye bye I'm elevated
 above myself in this
 cerulean moment I
 bring kisses and praise
 for this sky azure lavishing
 more kisses ever so
 grateful to be in this
 scene O' lovely place
 between violet and green
 where midnight's once
 ominous indigo now just a
 deep velvet back drop for
 your sapphires twinkling shine
 may they always sparkle
 in these eyes of mine
 your sweetness be royal
 for you're as deep as
 you are true in pale light
 you softly reflect the most
 comely notions of
 all things blue*

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

www.balboatennis.com

The President's Court Chatter

by Dwight Van Slyke



I would like to thank Robin Rodger and her sidekick Ron Celeste for all they have done for our club during their many years as President/Treasurer of the Balboa Tennis Club. As the newly elected President, I get to be the bearer of the news that there will be a dues increase this summer. The costs for our wonderful employee's, the utilities and general upkeep continue to increase and the Park & Recreation budgets continue to decrease, which means we will bear more of the maintenance costs. More information on this will become available and presented in the April issue of "Center Court".

As many of you know, Colleen has started an email list so we can keep you updated about upcoming events. This is an easy way for you to communicate to us your concerns or to answer any of your questions. We will also be using this email list to ask for volunteers to help with club activities, youth programs and maintenance projects. Anyone who prefers to have the Center Court emailed to you instead of printed and mailed, please leave your email address at the reservation desk or send an email to Colleen. This will save money and is of course better for the environment.

We completed the installation of netting between the courts. This should help keep some of the loose balls from going onto the next court. More can be done if we all practice "ball control," like trying to stop the ball on a serve or out balls. Whenever possible, stop rolling balls by putting them in your pocket instead of letting the balls disrupt play on the adjacent courts.

The Club has had two projects on the wish list for a very long time: lights on the lower 6 courts and a new backboard. These are going to be my goals for 2008. Please do not hesitate to contact me with offers of money or ways of raising funds for these and other club improvements.

I want to mention a few of the names that have helped me while I was in charge of the facilities of this club over the past few years; Rex Knoll, Dennis Anderson, Herb Bistrow, Bob Dengler, Arturo, Debra, Cindy, Stephanie, John, Diane, Joan, Larry, Jerry, Mark Schmursal, Jim & Chuck and many, many more.

The board has been looking into "soft courts" to replace some of our hard courts, in an effort to reduce the stress and strain we put on our joints. They cost 20 to 35 thousand each. One thing that all the soft courts have in common is the cushion under the top surface. So in the meantime, I strongly suggest you stop by our pro shop and purchase a new pair of shoes and have Manuela show you the cushioned inserts for your new shoes. This will help ease the stress on your joints. For some of us it is too late, however, we should encourage the kids and juniors to start protecting their joints now.

I would like the opportunity to meet as many members as I can. I am an early morning player and usually arrive at the club around 8:00 or 8:45 looking for a set or two on the challenge court, or if I can find anyone that plays with a lefty, I will pick up a nice doubles match. Email is the best way to contact me. Please don't hesitate to email your questions or concerns to dwight@anewkitchen.com.

Holiday Toy Drive a Booming Success

We are in our 8th, 9th or 10th year of our Annual Holiday Gift Drive. I'm sorry that I don't remember the year we started doing it. Around the end of October, I was really dragging my feet. For many reasons, I was getting tired of working with the shelter way up in Escondido. Colleen had a friend who was involved with the Rescue Mission in downtown San Diego. I called them and it turned out that their center was very much in need of support. We sponsored all nine families staying there. While delivering the gifts, I was able to meet many of the mothers and children.



I tried to keep track of everyone who donated something. Here are the names I came up with. Roxanne Drees, Susan and Michael Faltico, John Witzel, Toddy Sewell, Trish McNamara, Michael (Boston Patriot

Boy), Luchi Stephens, Stan & Jo Griffin, Dennis Warde, Frank Milon, Steve Hon, Bob Lester, Fran Wakefield, Ruth King, Sybilla Dorros, Pam Fullerton, Remy Serano, Lynn Beerle, Educere, M A Hillier, Muan Knight, Karen Longstreth, Karen Gaar, Will (God's Gift to Tennis) Johnson, Diana Adams and Steve Serna.

I know I have forgotten people. If I forgot to mention your name, please tell me and I will thank you double next year.

More thanks to my gift wrapping committee: Annette Howell who helps with wrapping and buys all the wrapping paper and Pat Mason who is a superb wrapper and takes care of everything that I wrapped poorly.

I would also like to thank those of you who helped in our gift organizing party. Believe it or not, putting nine families worth of already wrapped gifts into nine piles is tough work. You don't want to give a seven-year-old boy some lingerie from Victoria Secret by mistake.

And lastly, our new Club President Dwight Van Slyke and his staff at A New Kitchen, came through as usual by buying all the leftover gifts on the wish lists. You can see the thank you cards in the clubhouse. There is also a picture on the wall there too. I look forward to brightening up a few more lives next year. Thanks all of you... Geoff

The Director's Report

by Colleen Clery Ferrell

I recently attended the San Diego District Tennis Association Awards Banquet. Even though Balboa is just one of 59 organizations represented by the SDDTA, our presence was strong with six of our club members receiving awards. Congratulations to Roz King, Ben Press, Alex Magtanong, Tony Ybarra, Nancy Abler-Sanchez and Pat Mason on well-deserved awards. All of you make Balboa Tennis Club very proud because of your competitive spirit, dedication to tennis and continued affiliation with our club. Thank you for your efforts.



I'm still in the process of completing the club email list. If you haven't received a club update from me and you want to be on our email list, either send me an email at director@balboatennis or stop by the Reservations Desk to get your name on the list. The 2008 club roster should be available by early March. If you don't want to be included in the roster, please let the reservation agent know at the desk or email me. If you didn't include all your contact information on your membership card, you won't be listed in the roster. There have been several requests for an online Matchfinder. This possibility is being researched.

Lastly, anyone interested in joining the Gardening Club should contact me. Linda Stadelli spearheads the group and she is looking for volunteers to keep up the planters. All green thumbs and those interested in helping are welcome.

A Legend at Balboa – Ben Press

Balboa Tennis Club has distinctively announced their oldest living member. 72 years ago, young Ben Press received a junior membership. He's been an active member ever since. This is what membership retention is all about!

Ben grew up in University Heights, about 100 yards from three tennis courts at the University Heights Playground, which was renamed the North Park Recreation Center in 1969. Legendary teaching pro Wilbur Folsom lived across the street from these courts where he taught all the kids in the neighborhood. He also operated a pro shop out of his living room at the time. Ben's dad gave him a silver dollar one day to buy a racquet. This purchase was just the beginning of a lifetime career in tennis for Ben.

Balboa Tennis Club was located in the parking lot of the San Diego Zoo at the time. Every once in awhile, the club invited promising juniors to play at Balboa. Ben used to like to play there because they had new balls. Used balls cost 10 cents a piece. Balboa was the only real club at the time. They offered Ben a junior membership and he accepted. The rest is history.

Many years later, two awesome athletes moved into Ben's neighborhood: Maureen Connolly and Ted Williams. Maureen moved across the street from Ben. She took lessons from Wilbur and practiced with Ben. They were best of friends and competitors. Ben claims he played Maureen at least 500 times and "she never won a set from me." Ben and Maureen went pro together. There was no money in the



game so they played for trophies. Maureen went on to win nine major singles titles. Ben won titles as well, competing against the likes of Kramer, Gonzalez and Whitney Reed.

Baseball great Ted Williams lived 8 houses away and all he wanted to do was hit baseballs all day long. In the afternoons, Ted played tennis with Ben. "He had great eyes for the game," Ben said, but he chose baseball in the long run.

When Balboa Tennis Club at the zoo closed and reopened at its present location in June of 1966, Ben kept his membership up. He played many of the local tournaments and also began teaching full time at various locations around the city. Ben spent 17 years teaching at the Kona Kai Resort and 28 memorable years at the Hotel Del Coronado. In between teaching, Ben coached the Denver Racquets in World Team Tennis Competition. Ben presently teaches at the Hilton Beach and Tennis Club.

With his notoriety and knowledge of the game, Ben became a columnist for the evening Tribune. He wrote about tennis for 10 years during the 70's. Ben passed on tips and insight all over San Diego County. If you didn't hear about him

as a player, teacher or coach, you heard about Ben Press through the paper.

"Tennis has been very good to me," says Ben. He and Bill Stack founded the Greater San Diego City Tennis Council (GSDCTC), which is an organization that finds courts in need of resurfacing and gets the necessary funds to get the job done. Their concentrated efforts have helped tennis players all over the county.

Nowadays, Ben comes to Balboa to work in the GSDCTC office, watches tournaments at Balboa and still remains a figure of admiration at the club. He was best known as a player for his "wheels", which are keeping him on the move. 72 years later, he still oversees the action at the club. In his words, "Balboa Tennis Club has never been better than it is right now." Thanks to great lifetime members like Ben, the club keeps getting better all the time.

Business Directory.

Just Whistle

London Bobby Whistle
619-527-9603
deefey@sbcglobal.net

Del Cerro Realty Group

Jimmy Loucks Realtor/
Consultant
6297 Del Cerro Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92120
O 619-501-5900
C 619-252-2435
jimmyloucks@yahoo.com

Phil Reyes Architect

Architect Developer Investor
O -619-234-0527
C 619-787-5803
philreyarc@gmail.com

St. Augustine Tennis Team

St. Augustine High School was founded in 1922 at its present site at 32nd Street and Nutmeg. Our tennis team is fortunate to have had Morley Field as its home for over 20 years. You will see our team in their purple and gold jerseys on the courts in the spring. The team has qualified for San Diego CIF div 3 playoffs regularly in recent years and made it to the quarterfinals in 4 of the past 5 years. Our team lost 7 graduating seniors from last year's strong team but should still be solid since most of the team now plays tennis on a year-around basis and competes in sanctioned USTA junior events. Our 2008 team will be led by Junior Captain's Nick Yap, Genaro Favela and sophomore Miguel Acosta.

I have now taught mathematics and coached the team for 5 years at St. Augustine. Prior to becoming a math teacher, I traveled around different parts of the country playing tournaments as a professional golfer for 9 years. Attempting PGA Qualification School 7 times and making it to the 2nd stage on 4 occasions but never securing a PGA Tour card was difficult, but fun. I now compete with my amateur status re-



St. Augustine Tennis coach Tom Isaacs

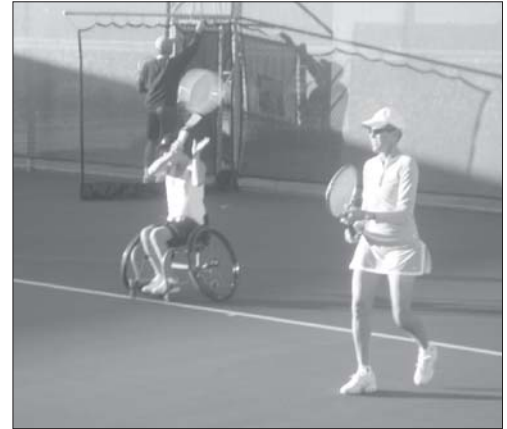
instated and also enjoy playing some tennis tournaments in the 4.0 division to stay in shape. Please come by and watch any of our matches at Balboa. I also invite you to come visit our campus which had a major renovation over the prior year and will be quite different looking to anyone who remembers the original school.

See you soon at the courts. Tom

Run and Roll Tournament

by MA Hillier

The first annual Run and Roll tournament was held at Balboa Tennis Club on December 2, 2007. Twenty-four players participated (12 wheelchair players and 12 able bodied players) in doubles matches, changing partners after each round. This format provided a unique opportunity for everyone to meet new players and gain an appreciation for those individuals with a variety of abilities. The event culminated with an awards ceremony.



Dana Matheson and Deb Linder

Plaques for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishers in the wheelchair and able bodied categories were awarded. A raffle with great prizes was also held.

Proceeds from this event will help support the San Diego Adaptive Sports Foundation's Wheelchair Tennis Team. The team will be made up of children and young adults with permanent disabilities. There are currently no existing wheelchair "teams" in San Diego and very few in the United States. Practices will be held twice a week at Barnes Tennis Center and at the Aviara Resort in North County starting in July of 2008.

Title sponsors of the 1st Annual Run and Roll included Roberto Ancira of Graphic Interfaces and Dave Lamb at Kashi Company. Other sponsors included M. A. Hillier, EMMO Tennis, Hank Lloyd's Tennis, Just Tennis, Dan Larson, Ray's Tennis Shop, and WalMart in Murphy Canyon.

The tournament was a huge success with everyone commenting on what a wonderful time they had. All the players promised to be back again next year. A special thank you goes to Geoff Griffin who donated a great deal of time and talent to make this event a success. To learn more about the team, or volunteer to coach, call SDASF at (619) 336-1806 or go to www.sdASF.org.

Introducing Mike Rogers

He's back!!!! Mike Rogers is teaching again at Balboa after a 15 year hiatus. His resume is extensive and well-rounded as he's taught all age levels and abilities for over 23 years. Some of his highlights include instructing for Vic Braden in Sylt



Germany and the great Harry Hopman in Florida. In addition, Mike worked in Sedona, Arizona at the Paco Diablo Resort, then Connecticut, Scottsdale and into San Diego County in the early 90's. Mike spent a majority of his teaching career at the

Handlery Resort in Mission Valley as Director of Tennis, until the tennis courts gave way to condos. At this juncture, Mike started the San Diego Junior Tennis Association which offers tennis instruction in high schools, where he's taught over 6000 students.

Mike played high school tennis in Connecticut and set a record which has yet to be broken. He won three consecutive state tennis titles. He received an actual Tennis Teaching Diploma from Tyler Junior college and then went on to finish his education at the University of Central Florida. In addition to his passion for teaching, Mike is beginning to compete again. He played 14 tournaments in 2007 and achieved a ranking of #9 in San Diego in the men's 45 division. As an all-around tennis professional with a plethora of experience, Mike is a great asset to Balboa. Here is his tennis tip for doubles.

Cover the Gap

by Mike Rogers

When playing doubles, you must work together as a team. Many times, both players are separated and leave a huge space between them, which allows an easy passing shot down the middle by your opponents. Imagine you and your partner are attached to a six foot rope. So if you move for a wide volley, your partner will move with you from side to side, together. You will cover more court, which will spell success in your doubles

SPRING CHAMPIONSHIPS



Balboa Tennis Club
April 19-20, 26-27, 2008
Entry Deadline: Sunday, April 13th

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 45 Singles | <input type="checkbox"/> Men's 55 Singles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Women's 5.5 Singles | <input type="checkbox"/> Women's 5.5 Doubles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Women's 4.5 Singles | <input type="checkbox"/> Women's 4.5 Doubles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Women's 3.5 Singles | <input type="checkbox"/> Women's 3.5 Doubles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Women's 45 Singles | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed 5.5 Doubles | <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed 3.5 Doubles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed 4.5 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.

Pro Shop Coupon

During the month of February, the Pro Shop will offer a 10% discount on all Balboa Tennis Club merchandise. New logo sweatshirts and t-shirts are available. There will also be a 10% discount on racquets in stock and stringing.

Calendar of Events

February

16 Free Tennis Clinic 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. Sign up in Pro Shop
19 BTC Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.

March

3-7 Paul Buskey Memorial Senior Tournament
18 BTC Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.

April

12 Spring Social Round Robin/Tennis 3:00, Food 5:30 p.m.
15 BTC Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.
19-20, 26-27 Balboa Spring Tournament

May

4 Tennis Fest 2007
17-18 Hendrickson Memorial Wheelchair Tournament
20 BTC Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.



Center Court

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Balboa Tennis Club
2221 Morley Field Dr.
San Diego, Calif. 92104

Dated material

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