



Center Court

MARCH 2009

Junior Pro Specialist Coming to BTC

Beginning February 20, Junior Pro Specialist Catalin Chira will be playing a supportive role in developing the Junior Program for Balboa Tennis Club. Originally from Romania, Catalin was a top 10 national player in his younger days. After a successful junior career, he graduated with a degree in Physical Education. He then became a Romanian Certified Tennis Professional and worked with an elite team of 60 junior players. He worked at various clubs in Romania as the Tennis Director, developing programs and had tremendous success with top ranked juniors.

After Romania, Catalin worked for several clubs in Canada, training numerous players that competed at the highest levels in National Tournaments. Many of his top juniors earned scholarships to various universities. After Canada, Catalin worked in Visalia

and Bakersfield where he was the Director of Tennis/Head Tennis Professional for two In Shape Health Clubs. There he worked with the top 20 juniors in Northern



California and produced many champions. In addition to his USPTR certification, Catalin also received the Etcheberry Certification for strength, conditioning and movement in tennis.

"I'm thrilled to bring someone of Catalin's caliber on to our staff," says BTC Tennis Director Geoff Griffin. "Catalin is an accomplished international player and coach. He has taught some very good junior players. I'm confident he will develop our junior program to become an even better one."

Catalin's personal philosophy revolves around the Eastern

See **Catalin** continued page 7

The Legend of Pat Poiset Lives on at Balboa

After the passing of long time member and USTA official Pat Poiset on July 25, her family was deciding how to remember their mother in a special way. At first they considered purchasing a bench with a plaque from all her six children. Then Tennis Director Geoff Griffin came up with the idea of an umpire's chair, which the club needed at the time. Pat's daughter Dophie ordered a beautiful bronze plaque with a bust of her beloved mother, to be placed right in the center - just where Pat always wanted to be!



It's a work of art which Southwest Trophy created and is now located on Court #8. Pat's spirit is there, reigning down from heaven, boldly overseeing all the calls. During the upcoming tournaments, this chair will get plenty of use. Pat's legend of fair calls and tough decisions will permeate the court and infuse righteousness upon the chair umpires at Balboa for years to come!

inside...

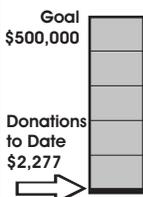
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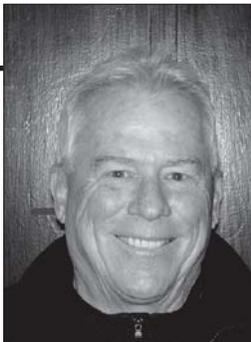
BTC Fundraising Campaign



The President's Court Chatter

by Dwight Van Slyke

Having recently completed my first year as President I would like to thank our staff and all of our members for making my job as President so much fun and so very rewarding. Our fund raising efforts for the lights and backboard is moving along at a steady pace and there should be some even better news in the near future now that the other President (Obama) has taken over.



Tennis Legacy for BTC



Leave a wonderful tennis legacy in your name that will significantly help carry forward the BTC tradition of service to the tennis community. You can arrange a bequest in your will or trust. You could also make BTC the beneficiary of an insurance policy, an IRA or a bank account. It's easy to do. For additional information, call the Club Director, Colleen Ferrell at 619-295-4242.

BTC League Policy

Balboa Tennis Club is home for over 30 leagues per year. Up until this year, there hasn't been an overload of teams, especially since Leslie Waite and Carol Jory required each team to let the director of the club know when a captain intended to put a team together. With more teams desiring to play at BTC, the Board of Directors came up with the following BTC League Policy to ensure fairness to all teams currently playing and those desiring to play at Balboa when the club has already reached its quota. In addition, the club would like each captain to submit a current roster of players to the Reservations Desk prior to the start of the league. This way the attendants can get the list of current members names checked prior to the start of the league. Many thanks for your cooperation.

1. A "team" shall consist of a captain, with a yearly membership, and the designated number of players for that league. 75% of the members of the team must have yearly memberships. All team members must be Balboa Tennis Club members.
2. A team wanting to represent BTC when there is no opening can challenge the bottom team in the league's ranking, provided the team meets the eligibility requirements.



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

www.balboatennis.com

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Barbara Gregorio

Ruth Nutt

Robin Rodger

Melinda Murray

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

The Director's Report by Colleen Clery Ferrell



Thank you to all the members who have submitted e-mail addresses to me. With the club at a strong point of 1502 members for the month of January 2009, communication is a must. I presently have 500 e-mail addresses in my database. This helps keep the lines of communication current, especially when we have so much construction going on at the club. Sometime in the near future, we will be sending the newsletter out via e-mail so please drop by the Reservations Desk and leave your address with the attendant or e-mail me direct at director@balboatennis.com

As I've mentioned before in my e-mails, the ADA Upgrade presently taking place at the club is continually changing. The contracting company has to check with the city as they move along and opt for changes. When dealing with an older building, new challenges occur regularly. The contractor's plan is to have everything completed by April 1. We'll have an upgraded and fully equipped facility for the handicapped population in the spring. Thank you again for your patience and cooperation.

Tournament season has arrived at BTC. This means the tournament Desk will be looking for volunteers to help. If you have time to give, please contact me or Carole Bunker, the Tournament Desk Coordinator. Your efforts are truly appreciated.

Lastly, the plants around the club are in need of some tender loving care. Any "Green Thumbs" who are willing to make some time to help spruce up the foliage in front of the Pro Shop and Clubhouse would be awesome. Drop me an e-mail or give me a call. Enjoy the rest of the San Diego winter and look forward to warmer days ahead.



BTC TRIP to CLUB MED CANCUN

Emerald Travel has tentatively put together a less expensive trip to Club Med Cancun for May 2 - 9, 2009. With 20 minimum, the price will be about \$1100 per person land only. (based on 2 people sharing a room) Airfare at this time is about \$600 r/t including tax. All meals, taxes, alcohol and activities are included with the exception of excursions, spa services, premium drinks and airport transfers.

The Club Med Representative is giving a presentation in the Balboa Tennis Clubhouse on Saturday, March 7 at 3:30 pm. We will have applications at that time to hold space. Please tell your friends so we can promote this trip! Hope to see you there. Janis Emery, Emerald Travel, 858 405.4037

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by Geoff and Manuela Griffin.

Tony Sukierski • 619 557-0117

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"State of the Club"

by Roxanne Drees
BTC Treasurer

2008 was another successful year for the Balboa Tennis Club. During this time of rising costs we have continued to utilize our resources to make numerous improvements to the facility. Each month we continue to fund our reserves for capital improvements, new windscreens, new nets, and resurfacing, which was completed on five courts in 2008. Our "Club Bench" fundraiser was very successful as we installed 54 benches around the club. We also



received donations for two new referee chairs as well.

As you know, our board decided to increase membership rates this year. We have not raised the membership dues here in several years. The rising cost of managing the club necessitated the higher dues. Balboa Tennis Club is one of the finest public tennis facilities in the nation. We hold numerous tournaments throughout the year for players on several levels who come from other states to compete here. We often hear compliments on how friendly our members are, the quality of the coaching staff and how well run the facility is overall. Being a part of Balboa Park, "The Jewel of San Diego" brings visitors from all around the world to our facility.

Our tournaments are a part of the revenue we count on each year to help us fund the projects we continue to work on, and to meet our budgetary needs. Although sometimes viewed as an inconvenience to our members, we are truly grateful for our tournament directors, volunteers, and members who make these tournaments so successful. Our tournament income was down somewhat from last year. We are, however, monitoring this and the costs of each tournament closely

and are expecting better numbers this year.

We are very grateful to have an outstanding Club Director, Reservation Clerks and Maintenance staff here with us. Ms. Ferrell, our Club Director was awarded Female Sportsmanship of the Year by the San Diego Tennis District and has played in tournaments across the country this year representing Balboa Tennis Club. The operations of the club continue to run very efficiently and we would like to thank our Club Director and staff for all they are doing to show we are one of the best public tennis courts in the nation. Congratulations. I personally feel very lucky to be working with Colleen and the staff here.

We are actively acquiring bids at this time on electrical work and lighting needs for our lower courts. The board is also getting bids for the backboard area at this time. Please read about the fundraising we are doing for these wonderful projects. Also, the improvements that are currently being worked on, the restrooms, and locker rooms, including the public restrooms are being remodeled to meet ADA requirements. Those projects are funded by the city and not by the Balboa Tennis Club.

Our President and Board of Directors, continue to work on addressing every problem with an open and objective mind. We strive to resolve all issues with a true spirit of diplomacy and good sportsmanship. We are looking forward to a wonderful year with each of you.

These Words

By Gil Mahaney

These words
Are they less profound
When they go unspoken
Why shout them from
Mountain tops have them
Falling on the ears of souls
Whose spirits have long been
Broken will they know
These words
Can they take comfort
Finding brotherhood and
Fortitude forging a bond
Unbreakable inspiring a deeper
Belief anchored in a
Faith unshakable with more
Words calling for uncommon
Strength to be displayed
In unconventional ways
Receive these words embrace
Their truth and deliver yourself
With these words

Meet Your New BTC Board Members

Spike Lowndes

Spike started playing tennis when he was 10 years old. He took Father/Son lessons with his Dad on Saturday at 8 a.m. A very young Dennis Van Der Meer, who is now a world renowned tennis teacher, was his coach. Spike's Dad spent a lot of money on lessons and Spike adds jokingly, "I should be much better than I am now."



and I wasn't smart enough to realize we were all getting better," he said.

Spike did well in high school tennis, but it was a private school and they played other small schools. As the saying goes, Spike was a "big fish in a small pond." He played collegiate tennis at Cal, where he was the #2 player on the freshman team. In those days, freshmen weren't eligible for varsity. The varsity team was #10 in the

Spike played the junior tennis circuit without achieving tremendous results, yet he gained experience. He claims he won only one doubles runner-up trophy. "There were too many good players who had been playing a couple years longer than me

nation and was all sophomores and one junior. He could beat the #6 singles, but "so could half the freshman team. "Not a bright future," he said, so I played soccer for three years instead and as my GPA showed, I had a lot of fun!"

Melinda Murray

Melinda was born and raised in Mexico. She attended high school in the United States and then

accepted a four year tennis scholarship to Point Loma Nazarene College where she majored in Psychology. After graduation, she got married and had a son. In addition to raising her son, Melinda worked at Children's Hospital in the Social Services Department for 10 years. Melinda retired from this position, started her own business and is currently managing rental property she owns with her husband Jim, also a BTC Member.



After college, Melinda took a 5-6 year break from tennis competition. She ran into some old college friends and then eventually met Darice Carnaje, who was already playing at Balboa. She started playing regularly on the league team and various tournaments. Most recently, Melinda played and was captain of the National 35 Intersectional Championship Team. This honor has been achieved for the past three years.

"Tennis is all about having fun and enjoying life," she says. "I joined the board to bring in new ideas and be of service to the club, which has given me so much fun!!!"

Spike served in the Navy for 20 years where he played for various Navy teams, particularly in San Diego. He discovered BTC in the early 90's. He loved the challenge court and the opportunity it afforded a "newbie" to play and meet other players. He joined the board because the club was looking for members and this was a chance to pay back the club for lots of great memories.

Karen Houston

Karen has lived in San Diego since 1961.

She's been a member of BTC for 8 years or so. She graduated from Loma Linda University with a Bachelors Degree in Dental Hygiene. She worked as a hygienist for 30 years, but has also had many different jobs including paralegal, computer programmer, entrepreneur, etc. Karen is the proud mother of twin sons who are 27. She currently lives in Bonita where she has been a resident since 1968. Her leisure time interests center around tennis, which is her favorite. She likes to garden, bike ride and she also loves dogs. Her main reason for becoming a BTC board member is to give back and contribute in a significant way.





Revised Balboa Tennis Club Challenge Court Rules



1. Court nine (9) is designated as the Challenge Court. The Director and Reservation Desk can suspend the Challenge Court or designate an alternate during tournaments and high usage times.
2. The Challenge Court has been designated as a doubles court. Doubles will take precedence over singles. If no one is on the court, you may play singles until a doubles team arrives. You must then immediately play the doubles challenge. Challenge Court Slips will not be given out for singles, only for doubles.
3. You must check in with the Reservations Desk to receive your Challenge Court Slip. On the Challenge Court Slip are your name and the time you check in. Challenges are to be taken in time order. You must take the Challenge Court Slip immediately to the Challenge Court and post it on the clipboard. You have a five (5) minute grace period. If at the time you post your slip (unless you are within your grace period), someone has already posted a slip that has a time after your slip, you forfeit your slip and must re-challenge by obtaining a new slip at the Reservations Desk. Slips are non-transferable. Each challenger must have a separate challenge slip and players will play in order of their challenge slip time.
4. All games are one (1) set, regular scoring. A twelve (12) point tiebreak shall be played at six (6) games all. Warm up time is limited to five (5) minutes.
5. After one set, the winner(s) may stay on court to be challenged again. If the previous winner(s) win again, and two or more challengers are waiting to play, then the winners must re-challenge by obtaining a new slip at the Reservations Desk. However, if only one challenge is waiting, then the winning team may play again, provided they go to the Reservations Desk and get another slip. The losing team can also challenge again by obtaining a new slip at the Reservations Desk. A Challenge Court Reservation Slip is needed each time a challenge is made.
6. When it is your time to play, if you do not wish to play the team that is on the Challenge Court and/or you leave the Challenge Court, you forfeit your slip and must get another slip if you wish to challenge later.
7. If a team wins their first set and one of the team members leaves the Challenge Court, the remaining winner may team up with a different partner; if available (this becomes the second set). If no new player wishes to team up with the remaining winner, then the remaining winner must give way to the next doubles team waiting for his or her turn to play. If a member of a team has to leave the Challenge Court before a set is finished, the remaining player may finish the set with a substitute player (if available) with the set score continuing from the point of substitution. If no substitute player is available, then the remaining player must give way to the next doubles team waiting to play.
8. If you are asked to play with someone on the Challenge Court before your slip comes up (and you choose to play and no challenger ahead of you objects), you forfeit your time and need to get another slip to play again unless you were substituting for someone to finish out one set only (you only played a partial set), in which case your original slip is still valid.
9. If one single challenger is waiting for the Challenge Court at the completion of the set, he or she must play with the next single challenger in line rather than taking a partner from the losing team coming off the court.
10. If a set is finished and there is only a single, non-partnered challenger waiting with no other challengers available, the challenger may choose one of the losing partners to play or elect to let the losers play. The decision is up to the challenger. The challenger may use the same slip while he or she waits for another challenger or finds a partner.
11. Violations of these rules will result in the suspension of Challenge Court privileges.
12. The Challenge Court is an excellent tennis opportunity for individuals without a partner. Please try to accommodate single challengers, especially those challengers who are new to the Balboa Tennis Club.

BTC Fund Raising Update Team Competition for Light Donations

The BTC Lights for the Lower Courts Fundraiser is in full force. Funds are trickling in on a daily basis. Funds can be donated in person at BTC or directly from our website at

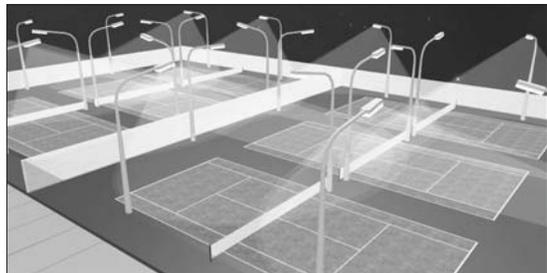
www.balboatennis.com ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

So far, three teams have registered for the Team Challenge Competition: The President Team, Ann Russ Ladies 4.5 Team and Robin Rodger 4.5 Team. Please take the time to sign up your team on the fundraising page at our website, and send an e-mail blast to your fellow teammates and encourage



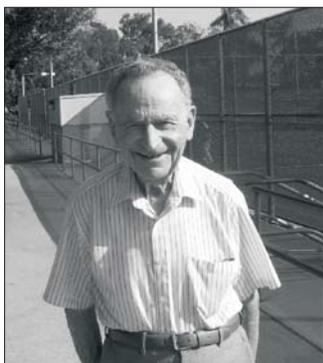
them to support your team in the fundraising effort.

In addition to the lighting project for the lower courts, we are also raising funds for a new expanded backboard. Our total goal is \$500,000. We need every member to participate in this major fund raising campaign at any level. Every dollar helps and every little bit adds up. The current fund raising balance will be posted on bulletin boards around the club as well as on our website. Please visit www.balboatennis.com for a complete update of our progress.



95 and Going Strong

BTC member Bernie Cohen is giving new meaning to "longevity on the courts" as he continues to play tennis actively at 95 years young!!! Although he's had to take some time off for cataract surgery, he's still playing doubles several times a week. His secret to longevity on the court and in life is simple, "I'm lucky," he says.



Bernie started playing tennis in Brooklyn, New York when he was eight years old. At that time, the new Park Commission built many beautiful clay tennis courts throughout the city. During his teenage years, he played tennis and handball at one of the beach clubs. Bernie also played hand tennis, which was similar to handball yet it was played on a court half the size of a full tennis court and the net was lower, similar to paddle tennis.

During college, Bernie didn't

have much time for tennis. He graduated from NYU College of Dentistry in 1937. During the war, he served as a dentist for 3 ½ years. In Europe, he was assigned to the Third Infantry Division, just before the invasion of Southern France. He was awarded the Bronze Star for organizing a mobile dental clinic.

In 1956, he moved with his family to Kingston, NY, where IBM had opened a new plant. He practiced dentistry there for 35 years. During that time he played a lot of golf. He retired in 1989 and moved to San Diego where he's been playing tennis on a regular basis. In addition to his tennis, Bernie walks regularly for fitness and eats a balanced diet. Way to go Bernie keep up the great example for other players who aspire to play tennis until 100!



Catalin *continued from page 1*

Europe principles of hard work, no excuses and no complaints. His credentials speak for themselves. He also has experience with doubles clinics, working with adults of all levels and players interested in moving up to the next level.

As for why he left Visalia, "People talked to me about San Diego and I heard it was a nice city," he said. "I also wanted to work with a bigger group of juniors." There is no shortage of players in this area, yet they will need to measure up to the strict work ethic which Catalin promises to deliver.

MARCH 2009

Calendar of Events

March

2-6 Paul Buskey Super Senior Memorial Tournament.
17 BTC Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.

April

11 Spring Social Round Robin/Tennis 3:00, Food 5:30
18-19, 25-26 Balboa Spring Tournament

May

3 Tennis Fest 2009
16-17 Hendrickson Memorial Wheelchair Tournament
19 BTC Board Meeting



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