



# Center Court

FEBRUARY 2010

## Junior Pro Specialist Catalin Chira Speaks Out

Catalin's Junior Tennis Program is a reflection of his basic values in life – hard work and discipline equal success. After only nine months at BTC, Catalin's faithful junior students are nearly 35 and rising. His players continue to improve and are steadily moving up the rankings in each age division.

“The desire to play hard at tennis must be in the heart,” he says. “The kids should make a decision early on whether or not they want to dedicate themselves to tennis.” Catalin believes that once tennis has become a priority, the player can focus on becoming the best player they are capable of without distractions. Catalin recommends setting goals, such as trying to achieve a ranking in the top 30 this year and then perhaps the top 10 next year. He recommends the following weekly program for competitive players beginning at the 10-12 age groups: two group lessons per week, one private lesson each week, two matches each week,

physical conditioning two to three times per week including footwork drills.

Once the player decides on their sport, the parents need to support this decision. A good coach will assist with the mental part of the game, as well as strategy. By sticking with this program, the player will improve steadily and move up the rankings.



Catalin believes balance is the key to great tennis. In nearly every phase of the game – split step, running to the ball, set up, hitting and recovery – the great players are always balanced. When the conditioned upper body

is in perfect balance, this gives support to the swing. Lastly, he believes a final component of balance is watching the ball throughout the swing. “Watch Roger Federer, he is the most balanced player in the pros and he always keeps his head steady and on the ball.” Learn from the best and you'll be on your way to success!

### inside...

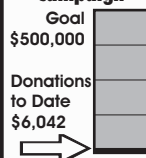
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#### BTC Fundraising Campaign



## Welcome New Board Members Gerald Bischoff and Jim Winters

Congratulations to both of you! The BTC Board of Directors and Club wish you the best in your upcoming two year term.  
Thank you for volunteering your time.



Gerald Bischoff



Jim Winters

## The President's Court Chatter

by Dwight Van Slyke

**Question and Answer with Dwight Van Slyke**  
**BTC Board of Directors President – Beginning his Second Term**

Q - What are some of the highlights from your first term in office?

A - Some of the improvements we've made to the club such as adding nets dividers, a partial roof for the Pro Shop, a quality ice machine, filtered water and overall upgrades in the locker rooms are just a few of the improvements which made a big difference. Overall, I'm proud of all the things we've done to make the club cleaner and better.

Q - Have you noticed any changes with the membership base?

A - The overall numbers have remained strong in all areas; however the number of members requesting evening courts is still a concern. By lighting the lower six courts, we'll be able to accommodate more working members.

Q - Do you still think the Challenge Court is effectively meeting the needs of the members and drop in guests?

A - The Challenge Court starts getting busy at 9:00 a.m. and quickly fills up. I've spoken with some of the players and since we started the new rules there seems to be less confusion.

Q - Are the leagues at BTC taking too many courts?

A - The only complaint I've heard about the leagues is that some players have a difficult time getting on a team. Otherwise, I think there is a good balance.

Q - Does the club have a good relationship with the City of San Diego?

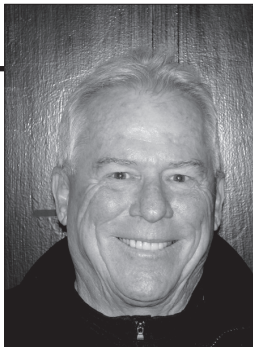
A - We have a very strong relationship with the Park and Recreation Dept. They love the way we take care of this facility. When problems arise, they respond well.

Q - In looking into your crystal ball, what do you see in the future for the club?

A - First we want the lights on the lower courts and then a new backboard area. I'm also checking into grassy area behind court 11 and 12 for possibly two additional courts. I'd also like to see a permanent covered Tournament Center built, similar to a large patio center.

Q - What have you enjoyed most about being President of the Balboa Tennis Club?

A - Definitely my relationship with the members. I've met so many great people. Overall it's been a very positive experience.



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

[www.balboatennis.com](http://www.balboatennis.com)

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Ruth Nutt

Melinda Murray

Robin Rodger

Jim Winters

*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

## Doubles Match Finder

There have been many requests for a Doubles Match Finder. Presently, the Match Finder we have at the club lists a preference for singles or doubles. The new Doubles Match Finder will be for teams which are already established and are looking for quality opponents. Please stop by the Reservation Desk and fill out a form or e-mail me the contact information you want listed for you and your partner.

## The Director's Report by Colleen Clery Ferrell

I hope all of you are still managing to get enough play time despite the rain. As we all know, Southern California needs every drop of precipitation. The tennis addicts must work tennis around the storms. Sometimes the break helps you appreciate how lucky we all are to live in this great climate.

I want to remind members about a few tennis etiquette issues which the club wholeheartedly supports.

- Please try and refrain from using obscenities while on the court.
- Do not cross through a court while players are involved in a hitting session or a match.
- If a ball rolls into your court, be courteous and wait until the players on the next court have finished their point before returning the ball to the court.
- Wait until the players have finished their point on both courts (because two courts are affected) until walking out on the court.
- Refrain from loud talking, making noise and having your cell phone ring while on the court.
- Take your dog off the courts if Fido starts to bark. Only quiet dogs are allowed on the court.
- Please be tolerant and respectful of others at all times.
- A challenge slip is needed by both players intending to play on the Challenge Court. You may no longer "find someone" to play. They have to be the next person in line. So if you want to be guaranteed to play with a certain person, you need to get back to back slips.

These suggestions may seem redundant and elementary, yet I deal with complaints about these issues daily. The bottom line is that Balboa Tennis Club is a great club with wonderful members. Yet out of 1450 members, you still find some people who break the rules. Let's do our best to be respectful of each other and promote peaceful, yet competitive tennis in every phase of the game



### 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.

### Geoff Griffin Wins at Guadalajara



Geoff Griffin and partner Victor Betancourt of Reno, Nevada are victorious in Guadalajara, Mexico. Every year many Balboa Tennis Club members play in the very prestigious Guadalajara Senior Tennis Torneo. This year Geoff won the 45 Doubles.



## BTC Sponsorship – Seth Makechnie of US Bank

BTC member Seth Makechnie is branch manager for US Bank and was one of the generous sponsors for Balboa Tournaments in 2009. As a first time sponsor, BTC welcomes and appreciates the support. "Sponsorship is important to US Bank because it helps build a deeper relationship," he says. "This is what US Bank is all about."



US Bank is the 5th largest financial institution in the United States. Most recently, they assumed San Diego National Bank. Most of their banks are located outside of California and as far east as Ohio and Kentucky. Nonetheless, Seth says they

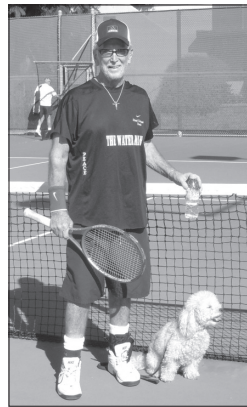
are growing rapidly and are very "well capitalized." Their rates for auto loans and home equity line of credit are the lowest around. Customer service has become a main focus for US Bank as they strive to grow in every way.

Seth started his banking career in Colorado, prior to moving to San Diego in 2004. He tries to fit in tennis twice a week.

BTC is very convenient as the US Bank Mission Hills office is only a short distance from the club. One of his favorite pastimes is playing tennis and bringing his puppy to the club.

## Update On David Ross

As many of you know, San Diego's Water Man and wonderful advocate for the homeless, David Ross, suffered a setback on New Year's Day. Although temporarily slowed, David has kept his spirits high as he battles back to good health once again. More than anything, he misses seeing all of you, playing tennis at BTC and passing out water and friendly greetings to the homeless in the city of San Diego. Please keep David in your prayers and thoughts as he works back to top form. If you would like to send a get well greeting to David, e-mail the message to [Director@balboatennis.com](mailto:Director@balboatennis.com)



## Booster Club Donations

We currently have an on-going opportunity for you to sponsor a court. We are offering a wonderful hand- made custom wood sign that is hand-painted for you to purchase at \$250 a year. At the end of the year you can keep your plaque as a reminder of your donation to the club. All funds generated from this will go directly to the Lower Court Lighting Project, which when completed will allow more members to play at night and also enable more league teams to be sponsored by the club. If you are looking for a memorial for a loved one, a birthday gift, or perhaps a way to put YOUR name on a court, here is an opportunity to support the club. E-mail Colleen or stop by the Reservations Desk if you would like to purchase a plaque.

## New Club Roster

The time has arrived to prepare a new club roster for 2010. If you don't want to be included in the club roster, which includes name, address, and phone number, please let the club know as soon as possible. To be included, you must have these three components listed with the club.

## Gathering Storm

by Gil

Gathering storm  
Trusting breezy  
through branches  
swaying easy  
lovely kisses  
uncounted droplets  
saturating lush emerald  
thirsty leaves  
heavenly gifts continue  
to fall as distant  
rumbling thunder  
serves notice to  
one and all just  
lighting not angry  
lovers flashing  
for show please  
know this heated  
touch only brings  
fire so something new  
can grow because  
high above cold  
has embraced warm  
so brace yourself  
against the swelling wind  
and welcome the  
gathering storm

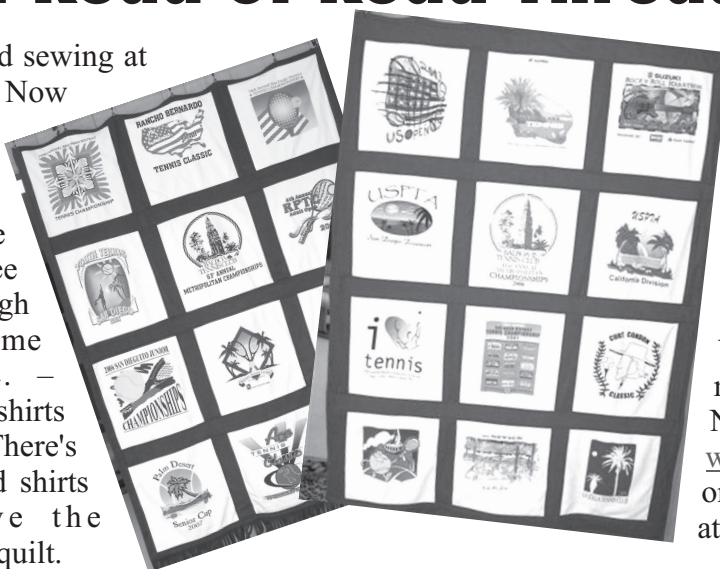
# Noreen Redd of Redd Thredd Designs

Noreen Redd started sewing at the age of 12 as a hobby. Now many years later, she has parlayed this skill into a unique business as she makes theme quilts. By using her three favorite subjects in high school – Math, Home Economics and P.E. – Noreen recycles used t-shirts into beautiful quilts. There's no need to toss the old shirts anymore: preserve the memories by ordering a quilt.

Noreen likes to use the term, "gently used t-shirts" to describe the material she's looking for to make a special quilt. Once she cuts the shirts and configures the sizes, she then adds a border in your favorite color to accent the quilt. The final stage is adding the backing with polar fleece from a soft polyester material which is machine washable.

"People actually use them," she says, "as either throws or quilts in the bedroom or on the couch. Others have simply decided to hang the memories on the wall as decorations." The quilts aren't limited to sport themes, although these are the most popular. Other unique quilts have been made out of old Hawaiian shirts, baby clothes, photos and even grandma's favorite bathrobe. The true essence is when you can't let go of something, make a quilt out of it and prolong the memory.

Noreen also does custom sewing for home interiors, including window treatments, cushions, bedding and pillows. She has been involved with this kind of work for the past 15 years. You name the task and she will help you come up with a plan.



Noreen plays league tennis on a regular basis in the Rancho Bernardo area. She has a passion for her quilts as she does for the game of tennis. "Give a gift to your child," she says. "The memories will last a lifetime." You can read more about the memory quilts by visiting Noreen's website at [www.reddthreddesigns.com](http://www.reddthreddesigns.com) or contact her directly via email at [noreen32@san.rr.com](mailto:noreen32@san.rr.com).

## BALBOA TENNIS CLUB SPRING BREAK JUNIOR TENNIS CAMP



**FREE T-SHIRT**

Great Fun  
Great Friends  
Great Pros

**March 29-April 2nd 2010**

11:00 – 2:30

Bring a lunch or visit our great deli



United States Tennis Association's: 2003 Large Public Facility of the Year Award **Balboa Tennis Club**  
is located at 2221 Morley Field Drive  
in beautiful Balboa Park

**Balboa Tennis Club**

Contact person: Manuela Griffin

**Phone: 619 291-5248**

**Fax: 619 298-4620**

**Email:**

**[griffintennis@msn.com](mailto:griffintennis@msn.com)**

**\$149.00  
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☐ Check  
☐ Credit Card:  
Expiration: \_\_\_\_\_  
Code: \_\_\_\_\_



Ability Level: \_\_\_\_\_  
Age: \_\_\_\_\_

# State of the Club

**By Roxanne Drees - Treasurer**



The Balboa Tennis Club had a successful year in 2009. 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 such as windscreen replacements, electrical issues and court resurfacing.

In an effort to continually look for ways to cut costs and for conservation as well, the Board has decided to limit the amount of newsletters we are printing. The newsletter will be e-mailed to members and it is also online for members to read at the BTC website. Additional newsletters will be available at the Reservations Desk and in the Clubhouse for anyone who would like to stop by and pick one up.

Balboa Tennis Club is one of the finest public tennis facilities in the nation. We once again held numerous tournaments throughout the year for players of all levels. Centered in the heart of Balboa Park, the "Crown Jewel of San Diego," these tournaments attract players from all over the country to our facility. We often hear compliments on the friendly atmosphere at BTC, the quality of the coaching staff and how well run the facility is overall. 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, they are a big part of the club's success. We are truly grateful for our tournament directors, volunteers, and members who make these tournaments a bonus for the club.

We have wonderful volunteers here at Balboa and we as a Board appreciate all you do and how much value you add to our club. Thank you! Two Board members chose not run for re-election this year, Barbara Gregorio and Linda Stadelli. We want to thank them for all they have done on the Board, their knowledge, and most of all for their dedication to the club for the past several years, which has been an invaluable resource for us.

We are very grateful to have an outstanding Club Director, Reservation Clerks, and Maintenance Staff. 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 why we take pride in being recognized as a great tennis club. I personally feel very lucky to be working with Colleen and the staff. 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 welcome your notes and suggestions. We are looking forward to a wonderful year with each of you.

**Need a  
Handyman?  
We know a  
great one.**

Very reasonable and  
highly recommended by  
Geoff and Manuela Griffin.

**Tony Sukierski  
619 557-0117**

## Locking the Gates at Night

We have begun locking up the courts each night to prevent vandalism and increase security. The Reservation Agents begin making their rounds to lock the outside gates around 8:30 p.m during the week and 5:30 on Saturday and Sunday. Make sure all your belongings are ready to go by 8:55 p.m. The gates on court 8 or 18 will be open for you to exit. Thank you for your cooperation.

## Court Reservation Policy

Please remember to call ahead of time 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. Also, please let the Reservation Clerk know if you are bringing a guest to play when booking the court. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.



# "Givers" at BTC – MA Hillier

Mary Alice Hillier, or M.A. as she is called at the club, is one of those members who truly enjoys helping those less fortunate. As the founder of the Run and Roll Tournament, which pairs a handicapped tennis player with an able-bodied individual, M.A. started this unique tournament in 2008 and 2009. The benefits went directly to the San Diego Adaptive Sports Foundation, which is a year round sports program for children and adults with permanent disabilities. She desires to expose more people to wheelchair tennis. "I wanted to create an awareness that people in wheelchairs have the right to be on the tennis court just like able bodied individuals." M.A. has a passion for the handicapped population. "I enjoy working with them – it's a great group of people." She said she senses the "frustration" on their part. "It gives me a newly found appreciation when I sprain my ankle knowing it's only temporary. These people are in the chair for life."

One of M.A.'s immediate goals is to bring the Run and Roll Tournament back to Balboa and have the



proceeds benefit a new program here at BTC for Injured Service Members. Presently once a month, M.A., Tennis Director Geoff Griffin and BTC Board Member Spike Lowndes put on a clinic through Navy Medical Center which aids military members who have post traumatic stress disorder, amputated limbs, stroke effects,

and emotional disorders. For one and a half hours, all three volunteers feed balls and give tips to all different types of suffering individuals. Next month, the program will be expanded to include military family members and friends. If you are interested in helping, email M.A. [tennisma@cox.net](mailto:tennisma@cox.net).

As a 10 year member of BTC, MA serves as a league captain and also plays socially several times each week. She participates in national tournaments and has been an active board member of the SDDTA Board of Directors since 2007.

## Mike Rogers Returns to BTC

Mike Rogers has returned to BTC to teach tennis. Mike is USPTA and USPTR certified, as well as the president, developer and director of the San Diego Junior Tennis Association. ([www.sdjta.com](http://www.sdjta.com)) In his 23 years of teaching, Mike has worked with Vic Braden in Sylt, Germany and Harry Hopman in Saddlebrook Resort. He spent the majority of his teaching career at the Handlery Swim and Tennis Club in Mission Valley.

Mike is beginning a Little Pee Wee Tennis Clinic on Fridays from 4-5 p.m. for ages 4-8. Mike teaches children motor skills and tennis techniques through fun activities with unpressurized tennis balls and prizes. Parents participation is encouraged at every class. The day rate is \$10 per class or \$30 for the month. The Little Pee Wee Tennis Clinic begins March 5. For additional information, e-mail Mike Rogers at [mrogerstennis@gmail.com](mailto:mrogerstennis@gmail.com) or phone him at 858-361-1135.

## Balboa Tornados Place 3rd at the WTT Nationals



The Balboa Tornados came in 3rd place at the WTT Nationals in the 4.5 division. In the photo, the players surround WTT Founder Billie Jean King. Names of players from left to right : Doug Ronney, David Gill, Captain Mary Gunset, Ken Simpson, Billie Jean King, Stepanka Hastings, M.A. Hillier, Samantha Mills & BTC Tennis Director Geoff Griffin.

**FEBRUARY 2010**

# Calendar of Events

## February

13-14, 20-21	Junior Satellite Tournament
16	BTC Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.
21	Free Tennis Clinic, 3:00 p.m.

## March

1-5	Paul Buskey Memorial Tournament
16	BTC Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

## April

10	Spring Social Round Robin Tennis 3:00 p.m./Food 5:00 p.m.
17-18	Balboa Spring Tournament
24-25	Balboa Spring Tournament Final Rounds
20	BTC Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.

## May

2	Tennis Fest 2010
15-16	Hendrickson Memorial Wheelchair Tournament
18	BTC Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m.



# Center Court

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**OR CURRENT RESIDENT**