

*New Board Members.....  
Geoff Griffin Goes Hollywood!  
Meet BTC's New Director...*

*Center Court*

**BTC's 2000 Annual Dinner  
a hot ticket again this year  
Deadline for reservations is January 22**

On Saturday, January 29 the Balboa Tennis Club will hold its Annual Dinner at Park Manor Suites, and if last year is any indication, it's going to be a heck of a party.

Last year 170 tennis players attended the dinner, which included music, dancing, awards and more than a little great food. This year's dinner promises to be just as entertaining, and the expectation is that attendance may even top last year's impressive count.



Orchestrating the dinner is Dominique Gambale, who has earned a reputation as a great organizer with an artistic eye. This year's party "at the top of the Park Penthouse" features plenty to look at, with panoramic views of San Diego's downtown, harbor and Balboa Park. There will be more awards, singing and dancing, not to mention a menu that makes you hungry just to read it (see page 3). Tickets may be purchased at the Reservations Desk.

**Court Resurfacing Completed!**

Continuing in its effort to be the finest public tennis facility in the nation, The Balboa Tennis Club has just completed resurfacing courts 7—10 and 19—24. "We want to say 'thank you' to all of our members who have been so patient throughout the renovation and resurfacing that's gone on this year," said BTC Director Kent Sligh. "It's great to start the new year with all this behind us." There are no plans for further construction until the stadium court is resurfaced this summer.



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# Tennis Tips

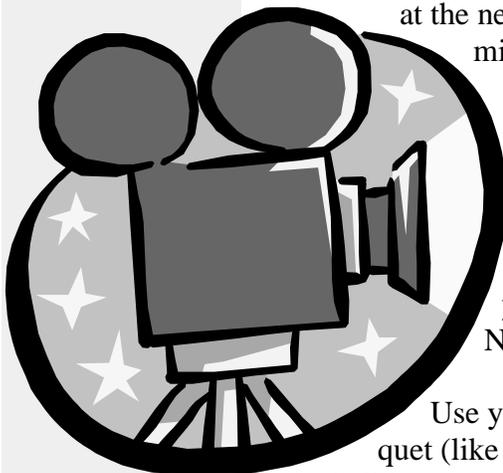
by Geoff Griffin

## Hollywood Volleying

The players who volley the best have very compact, firm strokes. Just like Hollywood movie stars.

No, I'm not saying that all movie stars look as good on the tennis court as they do on the movie screen, but I am suggesting that a little acting might just help your game.

Remind yourself of two Hollywood actors while at the net and your power and control might improve.



While hitting one-handed backhand volleys, think of Errol Flynn in Robin Hood.

You have a bow and arrow in your hand instead of a racquet. Now visualize!

Use your left hand to resist the racquet (like pulling back on the bow) as the ball leaves your racquet, freeze your right arm in front of you.

A loose wrist would ruin Robin Hood's aim, and it will certainly spell catastrophe to your volley.

The next time you hit a forehand volley, try thinking of James Cagney. Try and end every volley you can in a handcuffed position!

Finish with your wrists touching. This will stop you from swinging and flailing your arms. It will also help you keep your wrist locked for much better controlled power.

I use these tips on the courts all the time. Every now and then I miss a shot and catch myself thinking I was Cary Grant.



2221 Morley Field Drive  
San Diego, Calif. 92104  
295-4242

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Ray Gottell

Roz King

Frank Miller

Ulla-Britt Miller

Robin Rodger

Mary Ann Weigner  
Board Members

Kent Sligh  
Director

Geoff Griffin  
Tennis Director

Roz King  
Editor, Center Court

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

The BTC Main Office is open Monday through Friday.

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

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

Office ..... 295-4242

Reservations.....295-9278

Pro Shop.....291-5248

Snack Shop ..... 295-1431

Submissions and Ads to the newsletter are welcome.  
Call 295-4242



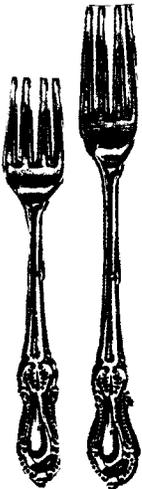
BALBOA TENNIS CLUB  
ANNUAL BANQUET DINNER  
Saturday, January 29, 2000

Enjoy a fabulous dinner, dancing and spectacular view of San Diego's  
Downtown, Harbor and Balboa Park.

Park Manor Suites  
\*Top of the Park Penthouse\*  
525 Spruce Street (at Sixth Avenue)

6:00p.m. Hors D'Oeuvres  
7:15p.m. Dinner  
Awards & Dancing

Buffet menu  
\$25.00 per person



Baby Greens Salad - mixed baby greens with golden raisins, walnuts, Montrachet cheese and our balsamic vinaigrette.

Pasta Pesto Salad rotelli pasta tossed with housemade pesto dressing with bell peppers and feta cheese.

Risotto Milanese - risotto with diced bell peppers and a blend of parmesan and romano.

Beef Bourguignon - tender pieces of filet in red wine demi-glace with onions and mushrooms.

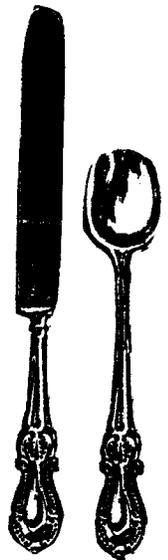
Lemon Herb Chicken - grilled chicken breast with fresh squeezed lemon juice and herbs de provence.

California Vegetable Mix - the chef's selection of the freshest vegetables.

Onion-Herb Focaccia Bread.

Dessert

New York Style cheesecake with strawberry topping (coffee)



-----Cut-----

ANNUAL DINNER  
SATURDAY, JANUARY 29, 2000

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ #of people \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ phone#: \_\_\_\_\_

Price per person \$25.00. (Make checks to Balboa Tennis Club)  
Sign up for the event at the reservation desk.  
Deadline: January 22, 2000.



# “Senior Olympics” San Diego 2000

Our own Barbara Gregorio is helping to coordinate this year’s tennis activities of the Senior Olympics’ State games.



The Nationals are held on alternate years, and in order to participate in the Nationals one must first medal in the State Competition.

Participation in this event is growing each year. Balboa Tennis Club has been selected as the tennis site.

The exact dates are still under review, but the event is currently scheduled to begin on September 18.

Barbara Gregorio, John Lepore and Eileen Oya are the tennis commissioners for this

sport. The San Diego event will offer 21 sporting genres.

## *Please remove your spurs!*

Now that many of our courts have been resurfaced, it’s more important than ever that players use the correct footwear — no, not boots!— tennis shoes only, please.

If you notice another player wearing shoes that mark the court, please tell the reservation staff so we can help keep our courts in top shape.



### **Members Helping Members**

*Do you have something you’d like to offer to other club members???* If so, you can put an ad in BTC’s newsletter. This newsletter goes out 3 times a year to over 1300 members. The fee is \$25.00 for a business card.

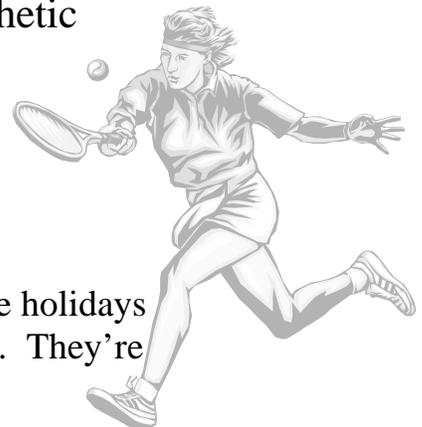
*Please call the Director’s office for more details: 295-4242.*

## Griffin Tennis Services

Get your racket strung with Prince synthetic 17 gauge and receive a **FREE grip** — you save **\$8.00** (while supplies last).

Reebok Shoes on sale for \$39.95!

Get back in shape after the holidays and join our tennis clinics. They’re fun and a great workout!



# Spotlight

*Courtside Chat: by Roz King*

If you are one of the “regulars” at BTC you are probably playing and/or can watch some very skillful doubles matches (in future issues I’ll talk more about some of the singles).

Many of the doubles are daily to weekly marathons. There are the “crafty” and smart seniors with their slice, drop, lob and spin and the younger players with their power, “Bang!” “Bang!” killer game and alas, there are some who know how to combine the two skills and or at least have the combination in the partnership.

You name it... and we got it at BTC, which makes it interesting being that **expert** “spectator” (like the Bistrow Son... and George Peterson... Oh, Yes... and Dennis A. is known to have a thing or two to say while watching).

Some early players: **Ray Nesbitt**, **Libero Arcieri** (Mr. Legs), **George Herrmann** (Mr. Pinochle), or Joan and Jack Trugman playing Dennis Jasper and Barbara Gregorio. Our warm and gracious twins **Mary Cormier** and **Van Gillespie** usually follow up tennis with bridge in the club house with “the masters” **Norris Decreny** and **Bob Petty**.

Other early birds are **Phyllis Webster**, **Linda Plues**

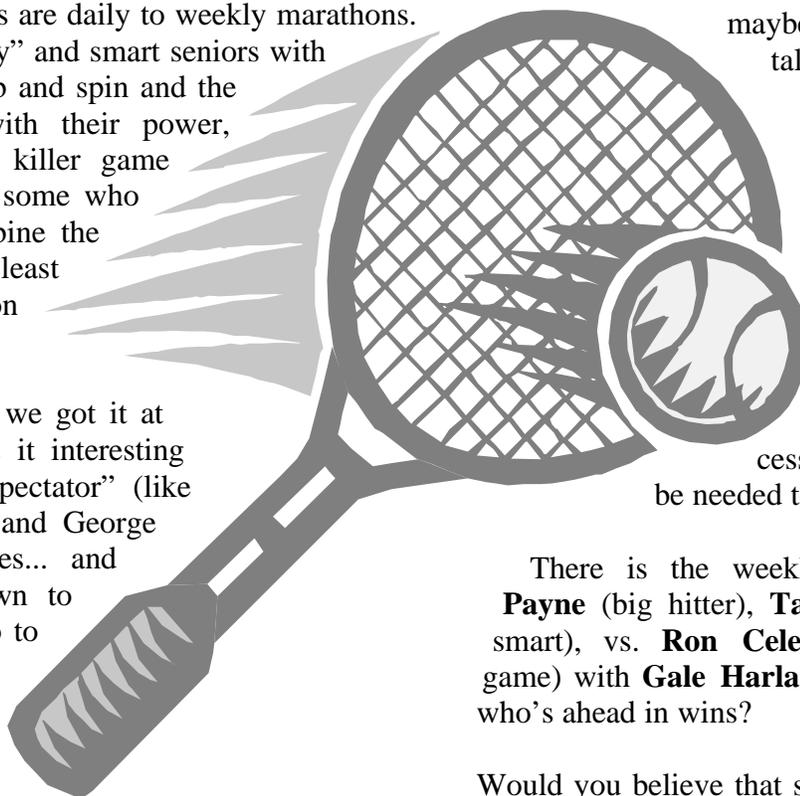
and **Mary Anderson** combination. A great smart foursome to watch is **Dom Sacco**, **Jim Riley**, **Herb Bistrow** and **Ramon Ortuno**.

There is the Monday morning court #7 ladies foursome of **Letty Zane**, **Nancy Kibbey**, **Patti Dodgen** and **Pat Poissett**, now here is a group who know how to talk and talk as well as play (Or maybe they listen while Pat talks).

Have you seen the “Foster Beer Challenge” group? This is the power game... big time!!! There might be any combination of these four but the most interesting is the **Melinda/Darice** vs. **Jim/Brad**. Brads’ success in the stock market may be needed to pay for Fosters?????

There is the weekly challenge of **Scotland Payne** (big hitter), **Tad Yamaguchi** (crafty and smart), vs. **Ron Celeste** (budding combination game) with **Gale Harlan** (power). Can you guess who’s ahead in wins?

Would you believe that some of these matches have been going on for 35 years? This foursome have been playing every Tuesday at noon on court #10. Can you guess??? It’s our own mini forehand bomber, and umpire **Pat Poissett**, retired Navy commander **Bill Smith**, **Bob Christenson**, retired dentist, and dentist **Bob Killion**. Pat says, “We talk about any and everything including politics and religion” (maybe they have the secret to World Peace!!!).



## A few words from the new guy...

### By Kent Sligh

In the month that I've been working as the Director of the Balboa Tennis Club I've had occasion to meet many of the members and regular players at the club, and I want to thank those of you who have made me feel so welcome.

For those I haven't had the opportunity to meet, I thought I would take a little space in the newsletter to tell you a bit about myself.

I was born in New York, NY, but I grew up in Seattle, where I lived until I went to school here at the University of San Diego. Not long after graduation I moved back to Seattle where I met and married the love of my life, Jamie.

My early professional life was spent in the computer industry. I spent time testing semiconductors and later went to work for a high-tech marketing firm that handled accounts for companies like Microsoft and Sun Microsystems.

Most recently I was part of the management team at AT&T Wireless, where I worked with a team of 15 to 20 cellular experts. While at AT&T I received excellent training in project management and team building.

So what brought me to Balboa Tennis Club? This summer my wife Jamie received an excellent job offer with a con-



sulting firm in La Jolla. We sold our house in Seattle and bought a house in Hillcrest just a few blocks from BTC. Since my first visit to the club I have been impressed with the great sense of community that exists here, and I know I will enjoy working at BTC.

I have spent the past few weeks updating our filing system, as well as our computer systems. I am planning to use my marketing background to represent Balboa Tennis Club to the business community, especially focusing on convention and tourism markets to help build revenue through use of our club during off-peak hours. I also intend to develop an improved relationship with local city government to make sure that our interests are well represented.

I appreciate those of you who have stopped in to give me the benefit of your ideas and opinions, and I would like to encourage you to continue doing so.

**Congratulations to our new Balboa Tennis Club Board of Directors.** The President of the 2000 board is Robin Roger, and working with her will be Charlie Pope, Dominique Gambale, Mary Ann Weigner, Pam Fullerton, Ray Gottell, Richard Barndt, Ron Celeste, Roz King and Will Tappan.

**We also want to thank the outgoing board members,** including Warren Edelson, Lynne Beerle, Frank Miller and Ulla-Britt Miller. If you see any of them on the courts be sure to thank them for their service — they've done an excellent job and they deserve a lot of the credit for the club's success.

## Third time's the charm for Balboa II A Team

The Balboa II A Team has won the 15th "A" Women's Invitational Fall League sponsored by Scripps Bank. This has been a long time coming since Balboa has not won this league since 1986 and 1987. This is an extra special accomplishment for a club that fields two teams.

Together the teams and Scripps Bank have donated \$9,300 to the Special Olympics, the beneficiary, over the past 15 years.

This team, captained by Robin Rodger, has

only played in this league for the last three years. In 1997 they placed third, in 1998 they placed second and finally the plaque for the clubhouse was theirs this year.

Team members include Darice Carnaje, Melinda A. Murray, Pam Seggerman, Ginni Blanchard, Becky Chamberlain, Deb Linder, Marion Hinchy, Marnie Wheeler, Cathe Sobke, Judi Walton, Dominique Gambale, Pat Coseo, Betty Woodall, Georgia Turner.

## 1999 Holiday Toy Drive a Success Story



Balboa Tennis Club members put lots of toys under the tree for less fortunate children again this year.

The toy drive was sponsored by the San Diego division of the USTA along with BTC in order to benefit St Claire's home in Escondido for abused and homeless children and mothers.

Thanks to all who contributed. Your generosity really does make a big difference!

That thing that  
goes "BLOP...  
BLOP..."

We know you have been wondering what looks like tennis, what takes all the effort yet the "ball" doesn't go anywhere. It's "Soft Tennis," and it's very popular in Japan. **Darice Carnaje** has been selected to play on an international venue even at this writing. "Blop... Blop" anyone?

Jerry's  
Wimbledon  
West

Come try our new  
espresso, cappuccino,  
café mocha and iced  
coffees!



# Calendar of events

## January

18 BTC BOARD MEETING

## February

14 VALENTINE'S DAY  
15 BTC BOARD MEETING

## March

17-19 SPRING TOURNAMENT  
21 BTC BOARD MEETING  
24-26 SPRING TOURNAMENT

## April

18 BTC BOARD MEETING  
28-30 GRAND SLAM CUP

# Center Court

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

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Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
San Diego, CA  
Permit No. 1898

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Dated material

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