



Center Court

MAY 2021

BTC Mural Dedicated to Jim Winters

Beloved Coach, Player, Teacher, Volunteer and Overall Good Guy Will Always Be Remembered

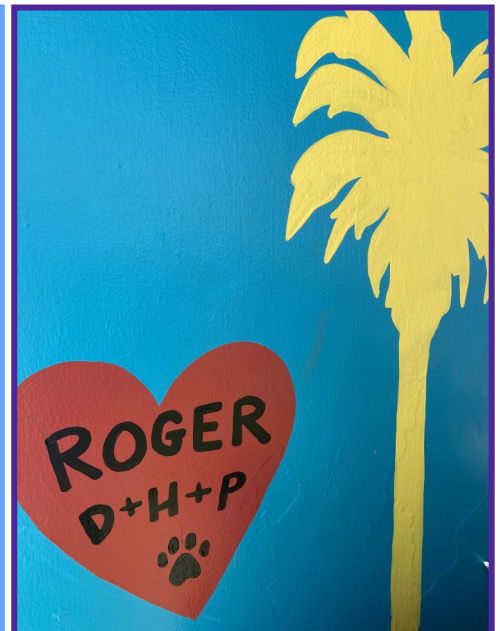


"This new colorful mural is a memorial to Jim Winters. David Enkelis contacted me because he wanted to create a lasting art piece in his honor. The mural incorporates tennis and all the colors of the rainbow in the style of Andy Warhol. The sides of the box highlights organizations that Jim was a part of and of course, a spot for his partner Roger and his three dogs. While I was painting, so many people stopped to tell me what an exceptional man Jim was, and I'm so happy to be able to create something in his honor. Thank you David and BTC for making this happen." *By Hanna Daly - Artist - www.hannasmurals.com*

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Hanna Daly

The President Serves It Up

By BTC President Janene Christopher



Tennis as a sport is in a great place. Amazingly, the pandemic has given the sport a real boost, resulting in more participation. Racquet sales are up and there is a shortage of tennis balls! The teaching pros at Griffin Tennis Services find themselves jostling for teaching courts. Reserving a court at Balboa is a challenge (but it can be done if you are quick with the mouse!). Back in 2019, tennis was on a downward trajectory (some articles have likened it to “being on life support”). The basis of the conclusion; major tournaments are being moved from the US to Asia. Also, there

are fewer Americans on the world stage except maybe Serena and even now we can see her dominance waning. Tennis, now, is a sport that has been given a shot in the arm. (No pun intended).

Over the past decade, we’ve been tracking our membership which has hovered from the low 900’s to a high of 1200. Adults and kids in our community have taken up the sport as evidenced by our increased membership with a record-breaking 1625 members! While exciting to see membership grow, the downside is court availability. Long time members can longer reserve their “favorite court” or freely select their preferred playing times. To mitigate this challenge, we had to quickly pivot and put an action plan together, which included approval from the City (Parks & Recreation Department) to cap memberships. The outcome of our effort resulted in attracting the long-term tennis enthusiast with a wait list of over 100 and court usage at 86%.

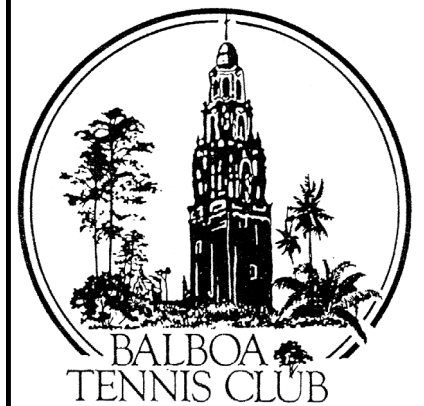
The National Open and our other marquee tournaments are currently scheduled for this year. Our plan is to allow some leagues in the fall depending on court availability. In the past, we have hosted 40 league teams in a year. Moving forward, management will need to tightly monitor court usage for leagues. As far as tournaments, the National Hard Open Court Championships will be played May 31 - June 6. Member courts will be limited during this time with some availability and two Challenge Courts ongoing as another option.

In regards to facility improvements, we recently completed a “facelift” in the stadium. What was once a dated and “tired-looking” court has now been freshened up with paint and new LED lights. A state of the art shade canopy between courts 8 and 9 has been installed and an eating bar has been added to the patio by the owners of Route 6 Cafe. Additional funds generated by new members has allowed the Club to add these great improvements.

There are many people who have contributed to the success of our Club and I would like to recognize them at this time:

- Landscaper Eber DeCuesta and Angela Sanchez for the care and meticulous attentiveness to keeping our green space beautiful with flowers and well-tended planters. It looks bloomin’ wonderful.
- Club Director, Colleen and our reservation staff who make our club run smoothly. Their perseverance and ability to adapt to the ever-changing requirements of our membership has been remarkable.
- Griffin Tennis Services continue to offer high-quality clinics and lessons. Their service is a reflection on our commitment to growing this sport!

Looking forward to seeing you on the courts!



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www.balboatennis.com

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Tennis Director
Geoff Griffin

Reservations & Info 619-295-9278

Director's Office 619-295-4242

Pro Shop 619-707-9048

Route 6 Café 619-780-1424

Club hours of operation:

Monday - Friday 8am – 9pm

Saturday & Sunday 8am – 8pm

Director's Report

by Colleen Clery Ferrell



Life is very busy at BTC these days with ongoing social games, individual competition, lessons, clinics and tournaments on the horizon. I heard one member the other day saying that the backboard area was full with four players so she was patiently waiting for a spot to open. Overall, this is a good thing with the renewed popularity of tennis during the 2020-2021 pandemic.

With the surplus income derived from new memberships, the Club has reinvested the money into club improvements. After the most recent addition of a new canopy sail between courts 8-9, the only thing left this year is resurfacing courts 13-14 and possibly the stadium court depending upon funds.

In order to keep up with the maintenance and club improvements, the BTC Board of Directors approved a 7% membership increase effective July 1. The membership cap will stay at 1625, which is the club density saturation point. Currently there is an 80 person waiting list to join BTC. Whether you are a new member or a long time member, please know that your patronage and support of this great public facility is much appreciated.

Rob Abbott - BTC Employee, Player and Friend Gone Too Soon



Thanks to all the members who donated to the Rob Abbott bench which faces Court 8. Rob Abbott was a 10 year employee, friend, tennis player and wonderful person who passed away from COVID-19 on February 16 at 53 years young. Rob defeated every health issue that came his way in recent years and we all thought this recent challenge would just be another mountain for him to climb, yet the other big "C" took our dear friend away to a place of no pain. His departure is our grief, yet in honor of Rob, who always had positive things to say, peace be with him. His favorite saying upon entering the Reservations Office, "Greetings Earthlings," will forever etch in mind the free spirit, friendly nature and forever happy disposition of our dear companion to many.

Balboa to Host USTA National Open Hard Court Championships



The United States Tennis Association only sanctions one national hard court tournament each year and since 2001, that tournament has been held at BTC. The best tennis of the year will be on display May 31-June 6 at our club. Former winners have included players with world rankings as this event attracts top amateur, college and some touring pros from all over the nation. Famous past participants include Jack Sock - who won the event in 2010 and CoCo Vandeweghe - a semi-finalist in 2007. Current touring pro Brandon Nakashima lost in the semifinals in 2017 to Keegan Smith, a top player at UCLA who won the National Open that year. Prestigious gold, silver and bronze balls, along with \$5000 prize money is awarded to the finalists. Every event has a consolation bracket so players are guaranteed at least two matches. There will be some very entertaining tennis played at the 2021 USTA National Open Hard Court Championships so come out and watch the action.

Frank Robert Tangherlini - WWII Vet Still Playing at 97!



Frank Tangherlini

With the war coming, he volunteered to be drafted in July of 1943 and was sent to Ft. Benning, GA. He took part in a training program, coined as a “special student” with electrical engineering background. He was sent to the University of Cincinnati as part of the training, yet elected to go “back with the troops.” He was shipped overseas to Liverpool, England, “when the Beatles were under five years old,” chuckled Frank, and then on to Hungerford. Frank was eventually flown to France – 101st base – northeast of Paris. Upon receiving news that the Germans had broken through in Belgium, he and the troops were sent to Bastogne, Belgium – the famous site of the battle of the Bulge. Frank credits “luck” for getting him through the war. He slept in a trench for several weeks with only limited k-rations supplies. Despite bitter cold conditions, he survived and was eventually sent to Alsace, France. Frank still recalls the famous saying from General McAuliffe when the Germans issued a final ultimatum to the Americans: “NUTS!”

After serving three years in the military, Frank took the GI Bill and attended Harvard in 1946. “The dropping of the bomb in Hiroshima and Nagasaki encouraged my interest in Physics,” he said. Frank graduated Cum Laude in 1952 with a masters in Biological Sciences and also received another degree from the University of Chicago. In 1955, Frank made his way to San Diego to work on the Atlas Rocket for General Dynamics. In 1959, he received his PHD at Stanford in Physics and eventually moved on to Duke University to teach Physics for three years. This is where he published one of his most famous papers – Dimensionality of Space Problems. On his 85th birthday, Frank published the Alternative Relativistic Kinematics – another famous scientific document.

Frank moved to San Diego in 1994 and retired. In 1998, he started taking lessons from Geoff and Chaz Griffin at BTC. He met his hitting partner of 18 years at the clinics. “I was told it was not enough to just go to the clinic – you need to hit outside of the clinics as well, so I started hitting with Erica and we’ve been playing regularly ever since.” As for his own personal assessment when his 97th birthday celebration concluded, “My mobility on the court could be improved, yet overall, I’m still hitting pretty good.” Not bad for 97, yet still room for improvement in his incredible mind. What a tremendous career and life story for this world famous physicist who makes BTC his arena of pleasure and exercise.

The oldest playing member at Balboa Tennis Club turned 97 years young on March 14. With abundant energy, zest for life and regular hits on the tennis court, this incredible war hero moves forward in life without hesitation. Frank keeps his mind sharp with continued pursuits as a world renowned physicist. He still drives with a “stick shift” to keep his dexterity, hangs his clothes out to dry and washes dishes by hand instead of using a dishwasher. Swing dancing is an activity Frank regularly took part in prior to the onset of COVID-19 to keep the body in motion. Fish, fruits, olive oil, oatmeal and vegetables constitute his regular menu with an occasional “watered down” beer or glass of wine. While walking or jogging at least 30 minutes per day, Frank continues to defy the odds and disregard “Father Time.”

Born in Boston and originally tagged in the Boston America newspaper as “Boston’s Baby Sadow” after Eugen Sadow the famed professional strongman, Frank has outlived both parents in age and a brother. He survived the Battle of the Bulge as a World War II veteran and then continued on to become a prominent American Theoretical Physicist and a father of four.

Frank attended Boston College on a scholarship in 1941.



Jacob and Lily Chorny - Siblings on the Move



Lily, Ilya and Jacob Chorny

Diego Children's Choir. Jacob practices the guitar for fun.

With tennis being a priority in their lives, the balance of school, music and art, keeps everything in perspective. Lily claims tennis is the "best part of her day." Both siblings practice 5-6 times a week with one day off. Their Dad, Ilya, also an active BTC member, takes a different child each week on Thursday to play the Challenge Doubles Court at BTC. "It's fun beating old people," says Lily. Dad is careful not to sign up for the Challenge Court if the opponents are not willing to take on these up and coming juniors, yet agrees it's good practice for them. Jacob enjoys the Challenge Court and likes being "dominant," when playing with his father. This is "family time" for these juniors who are only beginning to experience the challenge of keeping balance on and off the tennis court. With supportive parents and personal drive, they are on their way to successful careers playing the sport of a lifetime.

The interview with two siblings who play on the Challenge Court at BTC took place via the computer on Google Meet. Jacob (12) and Lily (9) Chorny both commented on their budding tennis careers from separate bedrooms. During the 2020 pandemic, this would be considered an ordinary meeting. Both kids commented that they were "so much more than ready" to return to a normal life again.

In 2019, Jacob finished the year ranked in the top 50 for boys 10 and Lily completed 2020 with a similar ranking in the girls 10 division of Southern California rankings. Despite COVID restrictions, both Jacob and Lily continued to work on their tennis games. Jacob improved his fitness by running up hills three times a week, doing pushups and participating in relay races. The additional physical workout helps him with his game strategy of "working the point," similar to his professional idol Daniil Medvedev. Lily on the other hand, chose gymnastics during the pandemic to "help her balance on the tennis court," she said. Lily admires the game of Coco Gauff because she is "younger and doing well in the tennis world."

Jacob says he "loves the game of tennis" and is working hard at handling pressure on the court. Lily claims her game is more of a retriever style and she "gets everything back." Both kids read Tennis magazine, watch tennis on TV and the internet and appear to be students of the game. When asked to name the top four in the game of men's tennis since 2005, Jacob immediately rattled off Federer, Nadal, Djokovic and Murray without hesitation.

Lily definitely wants to play high school tennis and may consider college tennis. Jacob might bypass a high school tennis career and go straight to college tennis, opting to play junior tournaments instead. For now, attending school and pursuing tennis to the best of their ability is foremost. Lily favors art and Jacob excels in math, which may propel him to a career as a chemist, like both his parents. Both children are musically inclined with Lily playing piano and singing in the San

Profile on BTC Member Dorian Sailer



Dorian Sailer

Dorian Sailer's tennis journey started at age eight when she played recreational tennis with her family, but her main focus in the early years was on competitive swimming, music and dance. She played high school tennis and made varsity, yet didn't really pursue the game until after college, law school, marriage and children. Despite a lengthy break away from tennis, she is truly enjoying the competition nowadays.

Dorian played in her first 50's age group tournament at the Hard Court Championships in 2015, at the La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club. In that same year, she won a 4.5 tournament, which was the beginning of her ascendance as a reborn player. She played on her first sectional bound Balboa Team in 2016 and in the same year and 2018, she competed on the USTA 40 and over 4.5+ team that represented SoCal. Her tennis career kept rolling when she won the 55 division at the La Jolla Championships in 2017. In 2018, she traveled to Houston to compete in the 55 Clay Court Championships and made the doubles quarterfinals. During the pandemic when tournament competition was curtailed, Dorian continued to work on her game. Recently, at the Wilson World Team Classic in the desert, Dorian made it to the semifinals before bowing out in three sets to the finalist. She intends to continue senior tennis competition on a regular basis.

Though tennis is now a big part of her life, Dorian also excels in music and dance. She performs with Wolff, a local rock band

and is also a vocalist and pianist for both the traditional and contemporary services at her church. She also recently joined Encore, a Broadway focused singing ensemble. In addition to her background as a civil litigator, Dorian volunteers as a court appointed special advocate for foster children. She and her husband have been married for 32 years and have two grown children.

"I love playing both singles and doubles, plus enjoy being a tactician on the court," she says. "I count on my fitness and endurance to get me through long matches." Dorian has regularly taught strength, cardio and yoga classes since 1980. She credits the growth and progress in her game to several local pros. "I've been lucky to have some great instructors who have helped my game technically, strategically and mentally," she says.

Dorian is loving her tennis these days, especially with life beginning to open up after a year of captivity due to the COVID 19 pandemic. "I am excited to be back on the tournament circuit, particularly since I turn 60 this year. This is definitely one of the benefits of getting older - moving up to a new age bracket," she laughingly states. Like many of her contemporaries in senior tennis, the competition is challenging and rewarding, plus provides a balance in life. "Tennis is such a great refuge and diversion. For 2 hours, I can focus on the little green ball and forget all about life's problems."



L to R: Bill Sailer, Charlie Pasarell, Rod Laver, Dorian Sailer

Welcome Balboa Tennis Club New Member - Tobi Ojo



Tobi Ojo

Tobi Ojo was born and raised in London, England after his parents emigrated from Nigeria. He moved to America in 2017, originally living in New York before heading for the year-round sunshine in California. He started playing tennis in high school when he was 13 years old and immediately fell in love with the game. Tobi's favorite player was Rafael Nadal as he admired his grinding mindset and work ethic. He was particularly fascinated with the contrasting styles when Nadal battled Roger Federer in the late 2000s, and remembered watching from start to finish their classic Wimbledon final of 2008.

Tobi played competitively throughout high school years, going from last on the depth chart of the team his first year and then rising up to be ranked #1 in his senior year. He played for the club team competing against other clubs in the region and in national competitions, as well as playing throughout his college years at Loughborough University, a public research and #1 UK sports college in East Midlands, England. "I just wish I had taken up tennis at a younger age," he said.

After college, he stopped playing tennis as his sales career "took off" when working in New York. While still yearning to live in California, Tobi made the move to San Diego in 2019. One of his goals was to pick up tennis again and when he Googled clubs in San Diego, Balboa Tennis Club came up. "I came to visit, played on the Challenge Court and met some great people. Since then I have met a community of quality tennis players, and you know there is a great atmosphere at the club when so many people hang out socially after playing matches. For many members like myself, it is a second home."

His goal for 2021 is to win an open tournament. "I plan to play as much as possible," he said. "I am grateful to Balboa Tennis Club for getting me back into tennis."

BTC Tennis Pro Jared Harman Speaks on Creating "Flow"



Jared Harman

Jared Harman currently works mornings in the Pro Shop where he tends to the customers' needs and strings racquets. He became a USPTA certified teaching professional last year and has been teaching privates and working clinics for Geoff Griffin, who had some very positive comments about his young understudy. "I am very impressed with Jared's style of teaching. He likes to set up stations, to add a warm up and work out elements to his lessons. Jared is very responsible and personable. My 94-year-old Dad would like to trade me in for him!!!"

Jared says, "I love working with a wide variety of people and watching them evolve their game. It takes me back to when I was a student." His tip of the day involves weight transfer. "I emphasize swinging in one continuous motion, like mimicking a wave. I am big on developing topspin and establishing a good flow through the strokes. It's also very important to get your weight into the ball!" Here's another perspective to illustrate Jared's point.

Get your back leg behind the ball. Bradley Klahn, who won the 2010 NCAA Singles Championship while an undergrad at Stanford, says he always checks to make sure his bodyweight is fully loaded on his back leg before he plays every shot. "Getting your back leg and weight behind the ball allows for easier weight transfer and a much more consistent shot," says the 23-year

old, currently ranked 73rd on the ATP World Tour. "When all my weight is loaded on my back leg, I can transfer that into the shot instead of not getting my feet to the ball and having to reach."

MAY 2021

Calendar of Events

June		
	1-6	USTA National Open Hard Court Championships
	15	BTC Board Meeting
July		
	20	BTC Board Meeting
	24-25, 30-Aug. 1	Balboa Open Tournament
	28-29	Balboa Junior Tournament
August		
	5-11	USTA Girls 16-18 Nationals
	13-15	San Diego Tennis Federation Tournament
	17	BTC Board Meeting
	28	SDDTA Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony 4:00 p.m.
	28-29, Sept. 4-6	San Diego District Tennis Association Championships
September		
	21	BTC Board Meeting
	25-26, Oct. 2-3	San Diego Metropolitan Tournament
October		
	29	BTC Board Meeting
November		
	20	Turkey Shoot Social 3:00 p.m.
	23	BTC Board Meeting
December		
	8	Volunteer Appreciation Party 6:00 p.m.
	21	BTC Board Meeting
	25	Club Closed for Christmas Day



Route 6 Adds Lunch Bar to Café Setting

Pictured are owners Yuri and Guillermo Sanchez on the right, along with Yuri's sister Cindy Valquez far left. This family unit operates Route 6 Coffee & Smoothies here at the Balboa Tennis Club. They recently added a lunch bar, extra seating and new menu items including popular Acai bowls.

The Café is open 7 days a week from: 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

- Phone orders are accepted call: 619-780-1424.
- Visit their website: www.routesixcafe.com.