

*Updated Matchfinder available now...
Top players coming to BTC!
Updated tournament schedule ...*

Court Center

2001 Balboa Open will benefit kids

This year's Open will raise money for the Polinsky Children's Center

As everyone knows, the Balboa Tennis Club has made a commitment to helping underprivileged kids in our community through our Junior Program.

This July we're taking one more big step to help children in San Diego.

The Balboa Tennis Club is teaming up with local businesses to help raise money for the Polinsky Children's Center during the 72nd Annual Balboa Open Championship. The Balboa Open will be held July 20-22 and July 27-29.

The Polinsky Children's Center is a 24-hour facility operated by the County of San Diego for the temporary emergency shelter of children. With an annual population of over 5,000 children,

their needs are always straining their resources.

With about 700 entrants expected, the Balboa Open will be the same terrific tennis tournament we see every year. But this year there will be even more excitement.

Local businesses are signing up right now to sponsor the Balboa Open on one of three different levels, with a portion of their sponsorship going to support the Polinsky Children's Center.

Also, this year's entry form will include a place to write in donations to contribute along with each player's entry fee. One hundred percent of these

(Continued on page 2)

Major patio remodel approved

Recently the City of San Diego approved a matching funds project of over thirty thousand dollars that will update the patio area outside of the snack shop and in front of the pro shop.

The plan calls for brand new tables, improved and expanded seating, and beautiful new greenery in a number of large planters.

And none of it would have been possible if Arnold and Esther Belinsky hadn't approached the Balboa Tennis Club and suggested they would like to do some-

thing special for the club.

Their \$10,000 donation, along with matching funds from the city, make it possible for this major renovation to occur at minimal expense to the club.

Arnold Belinsky, founder of Legacy Home Furnishings, said he and his wife Esther wanted to do something to honor some of the special people from the Balboa Tennis Club who have made a difference in so many lives over the years.

"The Balboa Tennis Club has been in-

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Local businesses team up with BTC to help children in need

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donations will go to the Polinsky Children's Center.

All three sponsorship levels are very inexpensive to help promote as much community involvement as possible.

The Gold Sponsorship Level is \$125 and includes a place to set up a booth at the tournament, a sign on a specific court indicating sponsorship of that court, a sign on the stadium court where the finals will be played, a link and their logo on our website, and a logo on our entry form.

The Booth Sponsorship is just \$100 and includes a place to set up a booth, a sign on the stadium court, a link on our website, and a logo on the entry form.

The Court Sponsorship is \$50 and includes a sign on a specific court indicating sponsorship of that court, a link on our website, a logo on the entry form, and literature on a table designated for court sponsors.

There are still spots open if you know a business that might be interested in supporting our tournament and this terrific cause,

but space is limited. Interested companies should contact Darlene Gallego at (619) 213-8532 for more information.

Sponsorship signs will be displayed on every Saturday and Sunday of the tournament. The Booths will be scheduled on Saturday July 21 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

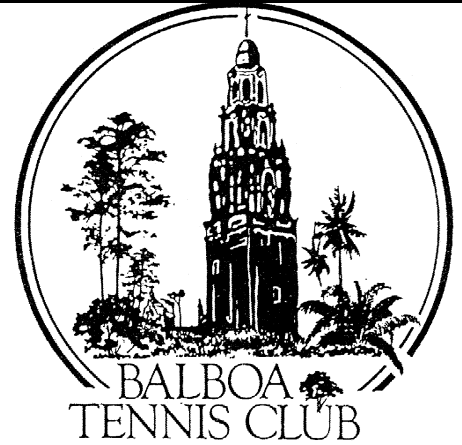
The Polinsky Center was built on land donated by the County of

There are still spots open... but space is limited.

San Diego with funds exclusively raised from private donations under the auspices of the Child Abuse Prevention Foundation (CAPF).

The center provides emergency shelter for children who must be separated from their families for various reasons, including safety issues, parental neglect and parental incarceration.

The daily population of the Polinsky Children's Center is anywhere from 175 to 250 children.



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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

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Pro Shop..... 291-5248

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BTC carries forward a great tradition

By Robin Rodger, Balboa Tennis Club President

What an exciting time to be a member of Balboa Tennis Club. Thanks to the volunteer efforts of many people we are about to begin the remodeling of our patio area.

We received approval from the City of San Diego for the Park and Recreation Department Matching Funds Program. This program makes it possible for the city to extend park services well beyond that of its normal resources.

The project has to be bid out to city approved contractors. Once a contractor has been chosen work can begin.

The remodel consists of eliminating the black chain and adding planters, benches and wide steps going down to the courts and replacing the metal tables and chairs in front of the snack shop.

We are also adding planters, seating and two large trees for shade in front of the pro shop. The plans are in Kent's office, if any of you wish to stop by and have a look.

I have thanked James Robbins, our architect, in a previous article for the time he and his office volunteered in putting together our patio plans. I would like to thank Arnold and Esther Belinski for donating the \$10,000 to make it possible for Balboa Tennis Club to be able to put together our half of the match-

ing funds.

We are about to get a face-lift as we enter the new millennium, but the values, ideals, and goals of BTC are the same as they have always been.

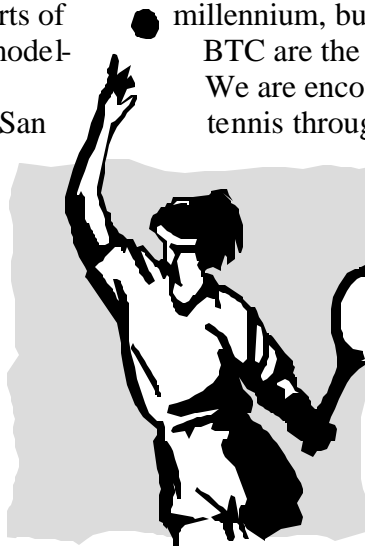
We are encouraging people to enjoy the sport of tennis through our youth programs, league play for adults, modeling good sportsmanship and positive competitive attitudes.

These are the things BTC stands for now and in the past. They are the reasons Arnold and Esther Belinski wanted to donate funds — to recognize and perpetuate the great volunteer efforts of people in the past.

I was at a meeting last week as a captain of a senior team. Lesley Waite announced the dates and places of all the National Tournaments that culminate our season. She announced that the senior 4.5's would play the end of October in San Diego at Balboa Tennis Club.

I suddenly realized that these same words were being said at hundreds of meetings across the United States. I was very proud to be a part of this and I hope you are too.

I know it is sometimes inconvenient, but it is our contribution to the enthusiasm we are trying to build in the sport we all love so much.



It's time to meet your match...

Looking for a game? Did you know that the Balboa Tennis Club keeps a database of players just like you looking for new people to play?

The Matchfinder has been around for years, but not everyone knows about it, and it was recently given a facelift.

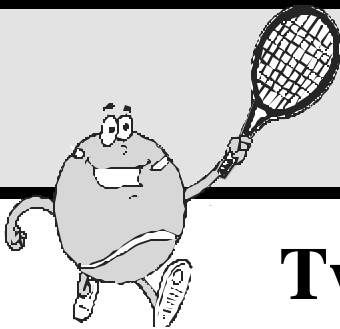
Now the Matchfinder is stored in a database which automatically sorts all the players by their level. You can get an updated copy from the Reservations Desk just by asking.

Do you want to add your name? Just fill out a short form and your information will be added to the data-

base. It will tell players your level, your preferred playing time and give them any phone number you choose. You can even indicate whether you prefer to play singles or doubles.

If you're already on the Matchfinder list, you may want to make sure your information is up to date with your current level and preferred playing times. It's never been easier for us to update.

If you have questions about the Matchfinder or ideas about how it might better serve your needs, please fill out a suggestion form which you can get either at the front desk or in the clubhouse.



Tennis Tips...

...from the pros

Two keys to improving your volley

By Geoff Griffin

Let the volley come to you or go to the volley?

So many club players are caught flat footed while at the net. The volley stroke itself is the easiest stroke in tennis. So why do so many people have so much trouble with it?

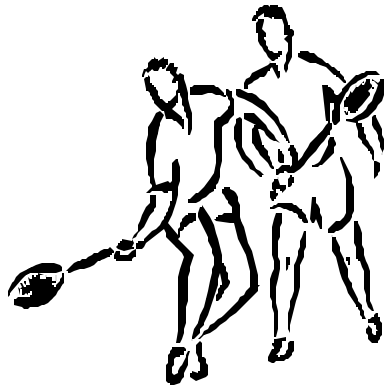
Two reasons: *Anticipation* and *positioning*.

Anticipation: It takes great skill to react quickly to a volley. *Meeting the ball in front is critical.* Work on reading the ball coming off your opponent's racquet.

I believe this can be learned. What will help you be at your

quickest is to have your wrist locked high in a ready position. Locking your wrist up will help you add some strength to your ball contact.

Positioning: Now that you are anticipating what type of volley is



coming you need to have perfect positioning.

You want to get your weight into your volley if possible, so while in your ready position try to have one leg a little behind the other.

This type of ready position will allow you to push your weight into your volley more.

The worst thing you can do is let the ball get behind you. So get on your toes and get a workout up there at net.

Great players are always flexed and ready to move to the ball. You don't want to sit there and wait for the ball to come to you.

Forehand Conclusions

By Kevin Johnston, USPTA & USPTR

Do you find yourself hitting your forehand late or being off balance when making contact with the ball?

If one or both of these occur more than you wish, you may not be using your non-dominant arm correctly during the swing. Chances are that you're leaving your opposite arm dangling by your hip. To hit the forehand correctly, when you take your racket back, place your non-dominant arm out in front of you towards the path of the incoming ball. By doing this, you track the ball as it approaches you, which assists in hitting the tennis ball in front of your body.

Having your opposite arm in this position also helps maintain your balance, much in the same manner as it does for a gymnast on the balance beam.

By making sure you are in a proper, balanced position on the forehand, your power and consistency will be greatly improved.

May is National Tennis Month

By Geoff Griffin

Every year my staff and I participate in the TIA's (Tennis Industry Association), USTA and USPTA sponsored National Tennis Month. The goal of all participating pros is to introduce tennis to new players of all ages.

Balboa offers on average about 12 free one and one half hour clinics throughout the month of May.

If we can get the people excited about tennis with the free lesson, then we offer discounted follow up lessons.

Last year we had 132 free lessons and 34 people took advantage of discounted follow up lessons.

Of some 40 pros in San Diego competing last year for most free lessons, Balboa finished in second place. We are halfway through our free lesson blitz as of the 15th of May and I expect that we will have similar results this year.

Spotlight

By Roz King

Balboa's Women's "A" league teams had a great season with **President Robin Rodger's** team finishing again in first place and with **Masako Beppu's** team placing next. Masako's team this year is multi-cultural and international with members from Mexico, Ecuador, Japan, Australia, USA, and China (that's what makes BTC so special).

Masako and **Yoko Anderson** won all of their league matches. "Good job!!" ...we all enjoyed Masako at the team luncheon giving out the information about each team member's performance and the need for some to "shape up" (smile, as she did so with such cuteness).

The BB teams are so strong that in watching teams play their matches on the lower courts is akin to watching the A league. The ladies of Balboa are leading most of the league play — they got game!!

This had to be an exciting past two months for those playing some of the local national tournaments: the National Open here at BTC and the National Women's 50's, 60's, 70's and 80's Hardcourt Championships held at the La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club. If you think you are a good club player, it is both an **exciting** and **humbling** experience to see how one measures up against a large contingency of top level players many of whom were junior champions or professional circuit players at one time. Staying in the feed end consolation 2 to 3 rounds is good given the field, as a number of the seeded players are in the consolation by the 3rd round. What joy you feel in savoring a win over any of these players; and what a state of despair if you feel you did not give your opponent a good competitive game, win or lose!! Any player still playing the final two days had a successful run, as they are in the semi-finals of the main draw or consolation. The winner of the consolation tournament places 5th in the tournament and placing 5th on a National level is GOOD! as

it means you have beat a seeded player along the way and possibly earned a seat as seeded player the next National. In the women's 70's **Fran Wakefield** (she's always in there) and partner won the finals of the consolation. In the Women's 60's singles (top players Steele and Hillebrand), yours truly advanced to the semi-finals of the consolation by beating the 7th seed and then lost to a world cup player Katie Koontz. My partner and I advanced to the semi-finals of the consolation beating the number two seeded team (Tietz/Devries) but were defeated by the final winners of the doubles. Finishing in 7th or 8th position in singles and doubles was not too bad given I did not play last year and I go into the 65's next year. "YES"!!

Judy Janc and partner advanced to the quarter finals of the consolation doubles (Judy was ill during this whole tournament but still made a good showing). In the Women's 50's, **Virginia Blanchard** and partner advanced to the quarter finals of the consolation, which was a tough roll given the power and strength of the field in that age group, but Virginia can hang in there with the best very well.

It was great to see a number of our Balboa members in the tournament, including **Nancy Kibbey, Karen Alexander, Marcela Villasenor, Rory O'Hearn, and Carol Butler.**

Running concurrently with the women's tournament was the La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club's Annual Men's Invitational Championships M/SD 60's and above. **Johnnie Sanchez** was a 60's semi-finalist in singles. **Frank McCabe**, was a finalist in the 65's singles and doubles. By the way, Frank is a wealth of knowledge and experience on how to play this game using the strength of each doubles player to the max. **Emilio Martinez De Pison** was a semi-finalist in the

(Continued on page 6)

Proposed 2002 National Open Championships could bring a lot more top players to BTC

By Geoff Griffin

As many of you know, the Balboa Tennis Club has been the host of the National Men's and Women's 25 Hardcourts for the last eight or nine years. In 2001, the USTA voted to get rid of the 25's and start a new division – the National Open Championships. The proposal on the table for 2002 is to continue with the National Open's but make it a much more prestigious event.

The USTA wants to begin rank-

ing the top 500 U.S. men and women. We are one of the only countries in the tennis world that doesn't already do this. The most likely scenario is that U.S. rankings will be based on results from six major tournaments. The Clay, Grass, Indoor and of course ours - the Hard. Plus the NCAA finals and one other tournament.

This new tournament will be wonderful for our club. Not only financially but in many other ways too. I

envision huge draws filled with many of our countries future champions. All the best high school, college and young touring pros from around the country will want to play here. \$10,000 in prize money and a chance at a first ever U.S. Open ranking.

The tournament will be held at the end of June. And we will know for sure in September if the USTA is going to go through with these exciting plans.

Courtside Chat continued...

(Continued from page 5)

70's. Of course, I could not believe Emilio was in this age group.... shows what happens when you really take care of yourself. Emilio started playing at age 36. After arriving in the USA from Madrid, Spain, he attended Long Beach State where at 36 he graduated with an electrical engineering degree.

While Emilio is a member of several clubs he is very impressed with the ambiance of BTC. He is a world traveler and feels our club — with the level of play, reasonable fees, good courts, availability of players, and friendliness — is unmatched. Tennis contributes to his good health and “suits my personality as a driven person and

grinder” he says. Congratulations guys for a good tournament.

Warren Edelson, and Pat Poisset, as umpires from the chair, had significant roles in these events.

Thank you members of the BTC who came out to cheer the players on and to just enjoy the great level of play. **Truly tennis is a game of a lifetime.**

Belinsky family hopes to pay homage to the past

(Continued from page 1)

strumental in shaping my family life, and shaping the lives of my kids,” Mr. Belinsky said.

There are plans to include a plaque in the remodel project which will mention the names of some of the people that gave their time and effort to the youth of San Diego, including Roland Brock, Wilbur Folsom, Fred Kinne, Odus Morgan, Ben Press, Tom Smith and Bill Stack.

This isn't the first contribution Ar-

nold and Esther Belinsky have made to the Balboa Tennis Club. In 1968 they arranged to get the club a great deal on furniture from their store for the clubhouse – the same furniture that's in the clubhouse now! Over thirty years later it's still in great shape!

Unfortunately Legacy Home Furnishings isn't located in San Diego anymore, but you can still get furniture locally from their son's store, called Country Furniture Faire.

Mr. Belinsky first played tennis at

the Balboa Tennis club back in 1957 when the club was located in the parking lot of the San Diego Zoo.

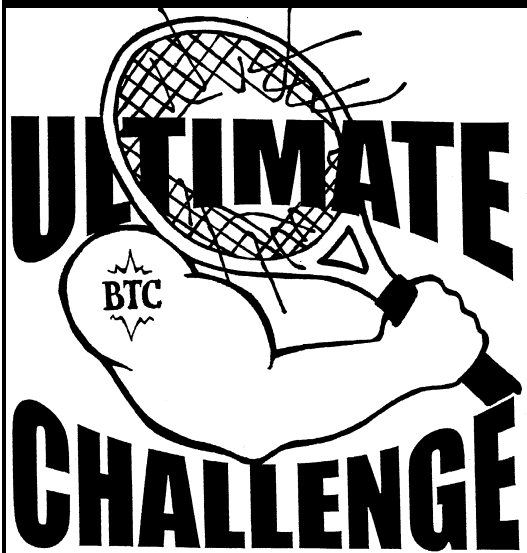
“I remember we used to hit balls over the fence and they ended up in the street (on Park Boulevard),” Mr. Belinsky said.

The City of San Diego is in the process of collecting bids for the remodel project.

No date has been set yet for the beginning of construction.

GOT GAME?

WE'RE WAITING.



**Where you own the court
until death or defeat!**

By Brad Hasper

The Ultimate Challenge Court is still very popular on Saturday mornings. Every Saturday from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Court 8 becomes Balboa Tennis Club's answer to King of the Hill.

This is your chance to bring new players to check out the facilities at the Balboa Tennis Club.

In case you forgot the rules, here you keep playing until you lose, as opposed to the regular Challenge Court where you can only win twice when others are waiting.

So bring out some tough players if you want to hold the Ultimate Challenge Court – the level on this court is usually “upper A’s to open players.”

Of course non-members can pay a \$5 guest fee for all day play. We are always trying to expand our membership and we believe this is a great way to have prospective members check out the facilities.

Do you know some top players? See how you stack up against Balboa's best. We're waiting!

Updated 2001 BTC Tournament Schedule

| | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| June 30-July 3 | Tennis Federation | 8-13 courts used | 8-13 courts open for reservations |
| July 20-22, 27-29 | Balboa Open | 18 courts used | 3 courts open for reservations |
| July 30-Aug. 3 | Balboa Junior | 15 courts used | 6 courts open for reservations |
| Aug. 24-26, Sept. 1-3 | San Diego District | 18 courts used | 3 courts open for reservations |
| Sept. 8-9 | Hendrickson Wheelchair | 8-13 courts used | 8-13 courts open for reservations |
| Sept. 28-30, Oct. 5-7 | Metropolitan | 18 courts used | 3 courts open for reservations |
| October 11-14 | National 3.5 | 25 courts used | No courts open for reservations |
| October 25-28 | National 4.5 | 20 courts used | One court open to reservation |

Updated schedule: There has been one significant change since we last published this tournament schedule. The Hendrickson Wheelchair Championships have moved from August 11-12 to September 8-9.

Remember, we still have an agreement in place with San Diego High School that allows BTC members to use their six new courts when tournaments are being played here.

Calendar of events

June

19 BTC BOARD MEETING
30-July 3 Tennis Federation Tournament

July

17 BTC BOARD MEETING
20-22, 27-29 BALBOA OPEN TOURNAMENT
30-August 3 BALBOA JUNIOR TOURNAMENT

August

21 BTC BOARD MEETING
24-26, Sept. 1-3 SAN DIEGO DISTRICT TOURNAMENT

September

8-9 HENDRICKSON WHEELCHAIR CHAMPIONSHIPS
18 BTC BOARD MEETING
28-30, Oct. 5-7 METROPOLITAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

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