

Center Court

MAY 2015

SCTA Tennis Family of the Year – Griffin Family



L to R: SCTA Executive Director Bruce Hunt, Stan Griffin, Jo Griffin, Manuela Griffin, Keira Griffin, Geoff Griffin, SCTA President Bill Kellogg

The Griffin family recently won “Family of the Year,” from the Southern California Tennis Association. The parents – Jo and Stan – are to be thanked for bringing their three boys into the world and introducing them to the great game of tennis. Geoff, BTC Tennis Director, Chaz, BTC Head Teaching Professional and Jack, who is a tennis rep in the Seattle area, all competed in tennis during their younger years and then segued into careers related to the game. Jo and Stan, who still work in the BTC Pro Shop a few times a week, recently shared the journey which helped create the 2015 SCTA Family of the Year.

Jo, 19 at the time and Stan, 26, met at a tennis club in Toronto. Stan was an aeronautical engineer from England working in Canada at the time while also visiting a brother who lived in the area. He inquired at the local club about the top

junior player. Someone mentioned Jo, who just happened to be leaving the club to take the street car home at the same time as Stan. “Where do you live,” asked Stan? Jo replied that she lived on the west side of town. “Too bad, I’m going east,” he said. The love story between these two tennis players began with this simple encounter in 1953 and soon spawned into a lifetime commitment when they married in 1955.

The next big decision was deciding where they wanted to live. Stan had four different job offers due to the Cold War going on and the demand for engineers. They chose the city furthest south on the list which was San Diego. Stan worked for Convair and opened up an office called the Foreign Legion for European engineers.

Children entered the Griffin’s lives in 1957 with the birth of Chaz, then Geoff in 1959 and Jack in 1965. Jo and Stan started the kids early in tennis as they all played regularly at the La Jolla Rec Center, where Stan was president of the club. They also took the family to Balboa in the early years. They eventually lived in a house right outside the La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club so there was plenty of exposure for the kids to grow with the game of tennis.

Both Jo and Stan were very competitive players throughout their lives. Jo won the Canadian Junior Championships when she was 16 and also made it to the quarterfinals of the 40 Nationals, which is held at the La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club each year. Jo and Stan competed together in mixed doubles while living in Toronto and made it to the semi finals of the Canadian Open Championships. Stan played Senior Davis Cup for Great Britain from 1992-1996 and competed all over Europe. He and partner Bob Chapman were ranked #1 in Southern Cal in the 65’s. Stan also had the opportunity to play at Wimbledon with fellow British Cup player (*continued on page 2*)

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Geoff Ward where they won the 65 Doubles Championships.

The Griffin parents both kept their games in tune while raising three boys in a household surrounded by tennis. They competed in father/son tournaments, as well as mother /son. Geoff, Chaz and Jack all played junior tournaments, high school and collegiate tennis, with Jack achieving the pinnacle of family pride when he received his #300 in the world ranking. "Tennis has always been the backbone of our lives," said Jo.

Now all the wives and grandchildren have been introduced to tennis and the pressure is on to keep the tradition alive. Meanwhile the happy couple stays busy attending family events, working in the Pro Shop and enjoying life. Congratulations to Jo and Stan Griffin for planting the seed of tennis success in their children and giving them all an opportunity to excel at this great game.



Sister act opens new café at Balboa

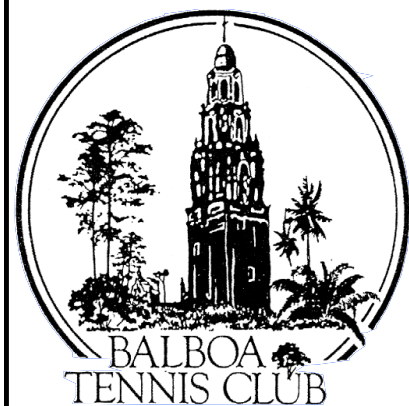
Welcome to Joanie Schauf (right) and her sister Janie Falk (left), who are now operating the Hidden Gem Café at Balboa Tennis Club.

The Café is currently open Wednesday – Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



Youth Tennis San Diego 2015 Annual Junior Tennis Awards Banquet Sunday, April 26, 2015, George E. Barnes Family Junior Tennis Center BTC members **Conan McCormack** (front row, fifth from left) and **Cassidy Clery Ferrell** (back row, second from left) both won awards.

Jean Kremm Sportsmanship Award for outstanding sportsmanship boy under 14 - Conan Margaret Weckerly Sportsmanship Award 16-18 girl - Cassidy



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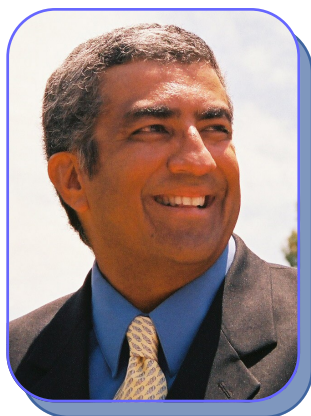
Pro Shop 619-291-5248

Club hours of operation:

Monday - Friday 8am – 9pm

Saturday & Sunday 8am – 8pm

Profile on Fred Sidhu



Fred Sidhu, Media Correspondent for National Open Hard Court Championships for the past three years – has taken the tournament to another level in terms of public exposure. This prestigious tournament held at BTC runs June 1-7 and brings some of the best talent from around the country to our home courts. Fred's persistence, understanding of the game and keen insight helps showcase all the great players as well as the lower level players struggling to make a breakthrough. "It's been fun working at the USTA National Open Hard Court Championships," he said. "It's a unique event because it includes players of all ages, which produces some interesting match-ups, especially in the early rounds."

Fred graduated from San Diego State in 1983 with a degree in Journalism. He worked in the News-Editorial department at *The San Diego Union-Tribune* from 1985 to 2010. Fred also worked as a media center volunteer for the U.S. vs. Mexico Davis Cup tie in 1996 at La Costa Resort and Spa. Other accolades include working at the US Open in New York for 18 of the last 19 years and being the Assistant Director of Media Relations for the last 10 years at the BNP Paribas Open in Indian Wells. Locally, Fred has publicized USTA National events in San Diego, including Pacific Coast Men's Doubles Championships, National Senior Women's Hard Court Championships, USTA National 40 Hard Court Championships and Girls' 16s & 18s Nationals. He has also worked as a writer for last six years at USTA League National Championships in Indian Wells, Rancho Mirage and Surprise, Ariz. Fred has been a member of BTC since the late 1990's. Fred has worked at the French Open and Wimbledon as well. Next year he plans to attend the Australian Open to complete his own personal Grand Slam.

"I've had a great time working at all these events around the country. It's been very special to see players who are so passionate about the sport of tennis. I am incredibly blessed to have the opportunity to publicize my favorite sport. Over the years, I've met some amazing people in tennis and have seen many memorable matches," he said. "I feel like I'm working a dream job."

Fred's coverage of the 2015 National Open Hard Court Championships includes television, photos, daily scores, player profiles and site information in the San Diego Union Tribune.

Captain Patrick O'Reiley

by Greg Chapin



A true Midwestern gentleman, Pat was born into the roaring 1920's in New Haven, Indiana, a very small town. After high school, Pat served in the Army-Air force during WW2 in southern Germany. After returning from the service, Pat graduated from Indiana University and attended graduate school at the University of Chicago.

Pat settled in San Diego with his wife, Ann. He worked for over 45 years at the famous San Diego Zoo. After retiring from the zoo, Pat volunteered at the San Diego Air & Space Museum until his passing.

At BTC, Pat liked to play on Court 5 next to the teaching courts. Pat hit the wall on a regular basis to fine tune his game. He loved mentoring players new to the game and to BTC. His game was ball placement and timing. His serve was exceptional as he would consistently place the serve to his opponent's weakness, usually the backhand or down the middle.

Even in his early 80s, Pat would consistently win his serve and occasionally win in four straight serves (40-0), then declare with enthusiastic vigor "this is too easy". He will be missed, especially by the four people who played regularly and were dear friends with Pat. The "Fearsome Foursome" group included Carol Morris, Tim Barringer, Todd Kaprielian and Greg Chapin.

*BTC also thanks Pat O'Reiley for remembering the Club in his bequest.

Annual Run and Roll Tournament Returns to BTC



After a seven year hiatus, the annual Run and Roll Tennis Tournament returned to Balboa Tennis Club Saturday, January 17, 2015. Before the tournament, a wheelchair tennis clinic was conducted where able bodied tournament players and the general public were encouraged to experience what it's like to play tennis in a wheelchair. Following the clinic was an exhibition match between the top wheelchair tennis players in the US, including San Diego's own David Wagner who is the # 1 quad player in the world! There were a total of 40 participants in the tournament, which was our biggest turnout ever. 20 wheelchair players and 20 able bodied players of various playing abilities, were paired together as partners in three divisions. After the tournament, an awards ceremony was held in the clubhouse with winners in each division receiving gift certificates to the Griffin Pro Shop, followed by a catered dinner.

Tournament director M. A. Hillier would like to thank the sponsors of the tournament, including the title sponsor Graphic Interfaces, the Balboa Tennis Club, Pepe's Italian Restaurant, North Park Trophy, Active Duty Sportswear, and Adrian with Babolat. This tournament was a fundraiser for Wheelchair Tennis San Diego, which is a program that utilizes the Barnes Tennis Center for their twice weekly practices. The funds will be used for tennis instruction, tubes and tires, balls, and other badly needed equipment and maintenance repairs. For more information on this program, or to make a donation, please contact Bryan East at 619-991-6250.

The participants all had a great time playing in the tournament and making new friends. The clinic participants had a new found appreciation for their legs and ability to get up out of the chair and walk away! Members of Balboa that participated included Anne Russ, Cindy Driver, Spike Lowndes, Judy Janc, Todd Linke, Craig McDonald, Karen Longstreth, Robin Low, Pat Newman and Nat Aryucharoen. Thank you to the awesome volunteers Teri Howard, Pat Mason, and Julia Gregory for helping with registration. M. A. plans to make this an annual event, so if you missed all the fun this year, we'll see you next year!

New BTC Board member Esther Leeflang



Esther P. Leeflang was born in Africa and raised in Asia. A Dutch citizen, Esther came to the United States to attend college at the University of the Pacific, where she earned a B.S degree in Chemistry. Thereafter, she obtained her Ph.D. in Chemistry at the University of California, Davis. Esther moved to San Diego to work in the biotechnology industry and in academics in the field of Neurogenetics.

She became a "play and roam" mom while raising two children and then stumbled into tennis. She developed her love of tennis after taking lessons at the Urban Village Tennis Center in 2007, where she was elected by her team as captain of their first 2.5 USTA tennis league. In 2008, she joined the Balboa Tennis Club, where she quickly advanced her skills through non-USTA Leagues from the B Level to the top AA Level. She has continued to be a highly sought out captain for numerous league teams. Esther's teams have been the local league winner in USTA Leagues 8 times in 8 years. Her

motto is: "good people who respect each other and have fun together, make good winning teams." Esther's goal as a Board member is to foster a culture that embraces this same philosophy.

Mother/Son Dynamic Duo Hit the BTC Challenge Court



Bill Ayares discovered the Challenge Court at Balboa Tennis Club in January of 2015 and has been a regular participant ever since. In fact, he and his “Tennis Pro Mom,” Adrienne, who is 85 years young, recently played doubles together for the first time ever and were winners on the Challenge court. “It was an experience I will never forget,” said Bill.

Of course Bill’s Mom is no ordinary 85 year old. In fact, Adrienne Goldberg Ayares Hoffman not only played pro tennis as a youngster, she also experienced the rare opportunity to compete against the iconic Maureen Connolly at Forest Hills in New York. As a junior, Adrienne was ranked as high as #4 in the country.

“Back then, it wasn’t like junior tennis is today,” She said. Adrienne was living in Baltimore and playing at an outdoor facility part of the year because there weren’t any indoor courts built yet. Adrienne’s father taught her to play at age 13. They lived in the small house across from the public courts. They played with some

used racquets which were adequate at the time to give Adrienne a foundation in the great game of tennis.

She played competitively from age 17-33. The Baltimore woman won everything available in the area to play - the Middle Atlantic title three times, the Evening Sun event a record six years, and all kinds of numerous municipal, regional and club championships with one of the highlights of her career being the opportunity to compete in the Maccabean Games in Israel.

Being selected and walking into that packed stadium at Tel Aviv in 1961, Adrienne recalls, “I was 31 years old then, the first woman tennis player ever picked, and reached the finals,” she said. “Thirty-three countries were represented. To hear our national anthem was a moving experience, one I will never forget.”

Adrienne retired from competitive tennis a few years later at age 33 when “Little Billy” came along. At the time, she had two other children. Trying to juggle tennis and family was a real challenge. “I wanted to be the best,” she said, “yet all that tennis had its drawbacks.” Her focus soon changed from competition to teaching the game she loves.

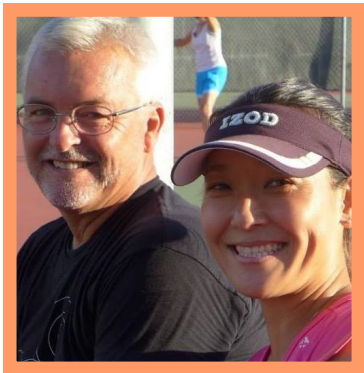
She began a successful teaching career at the Town Tennis Club, the first indoor facility in Baltimore and eventually moved to Green Springs Racquet Club. Adrienne attended the Dennis Van De Meer School and joined the USPTA to increase her teaching skills and for liability purposes. “It was surprising how much of a passion teaching became,” she said. “I taught students how to think instead of just making them sweat.” She claims her teaching skills improved by reading books, in particular those written by Brad Gilbert and Rod Laver.

Most of her students were between 40 and 60 years old in recent years. At that time, Bill was also living part time in Baltimore. When his mom needed a 4th in her group, Bill would sub. “Bill was always an athlete but never played much tennis and never took lessons,” Adrienne said. He recently found though that he loved playing doubles and enjoyed all the strategy involved.

Bill attended Whittier College and graduated in 1985. He lived in Long Beach after graduation and moved to Atlanta where he lived from 1995-2006. After selling his home, he then traveled around the world for eight years, visiting 110 different countries in total. Bill developed a physical condition where he is unable to sweat and that steered him towards looking for a home in a temperate climate, so he chose San Diego in November of 2014. Now he lives a mile from the Club, loves the location and the opportunity to play regularly on the Challenge Court. “It’s tailored towards people who just drop in to play and has been a very positive experience,” said Bill.

So when his “Tennis Pro Mom” comes to visit, Bill and Adrienne hit at Balboa and occasionally play the Challenge Court. Tennis has been a part of their lives forever and now a new and unique chapter has been begun in San Diego. As Adrienne said, “I’ve been lucky to get so much out of tennis my entire life.” Watch out for this dynamic “Mother/Son Duo” on the Challenge Court at BTC and don’t take 65- year-old looking Adrienne for granted either.

Spotlight on a Teaching Pro – Hiromi Sasano



Jim Winters (left), Hiromi Sasano (right)

As a teenager in Japan, Hiromi practiced six hours a day, which included on and off court training. After high school graduation, she spent four years playing on the Pro Tour. She reached a career high of 570 in the world in 1996 and said one of her treasured career wins was winning the All Japan Mixed Doubles Championships with her brother in 1994. The grind of the Pro Tour eventually wore Hiromi down so she took a break from playing. “I never thought when I was a full time player that I would become a tennis teacher,” she said.

During her 14 years away from tennis, Hiromi married and had two boys who are now six and seven years old. A few years ago, she started hitting with a friend at BTC – Jeff Chui – and the desire for tennis started to come back. A friend in Japan suggested Hiromi join the USPTR – a teaching organization which offers specific workshops, insurance and certification for teaching professionals. At first she was just hitting with people for fun. Within the last few years, Hiromi decided to make a career out of teaching.

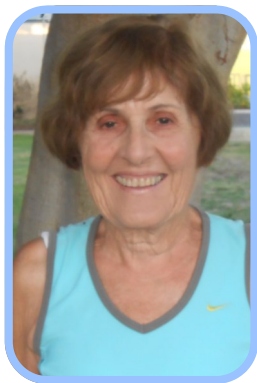
“All people who take lessons want to improve,” says Hiromi, “I believe that by hitting with my students, not just feeding balls to them, is the best way for them to get better.” Hiromi teaches all levels of players, yet really enjoys the opportunity to share her experience with higher level players. “I try to adapt my teaching style to the goals of the player,” she says.

Hiromi still plays local tournaments and enjoys playing once again after the long break. When asked what events she enjoys most these days as a player, Hiromi replied, “I really like playing mixed doubles and singles. I plan to play most of the summer tournaments and my goal is to win the 40 nationals this year.”

Here is a strategy tip for match play from Hiromi. “First, you need to know your own style of game and how to win the points. What are your strengths and weaknesses? Once you understand your own style of play, observe your opponent's style of play during your warm up and come up with a game plan. When you observe your opponent's weakness, “attack” this weakness. If your opponent has a slow/weak second serve, “attack” it! If you find your opponent is uncomfortable at the net then make him come into net. If your opponent is short, hit high topspin. You will have more success in your matches if you are aware of your opponent’s strengths and weaknesses. Lastly, keep a small note book in your tennis bag to write down tips and read them before your match!”

State of the Club Report

by BTC Treasurer, Julia Gregory



As a Board member and almost daily player at this warm, friendly club, I am truly proud of our Club and its presence within the tennis world. I witnessed people of every age group, enjoying our new cafe, testing their skills in the great clinics, and checking out our renovated club house and beautiful plantings. We are indeed fortunate to call Balboa Tennis our home, complete with competent staff, able professionals who guide our clinics and tournaments and countless volunteers who help in innumerable ways. I am now in my first official term on the Balboa Tennis Board as Treasurer, having stepped in to fill a vacancy due to a resignation in July of 2013.

Unfortunately I have disquieting news about our financial situation. At our March Board meeting, our CPA Jere Batten who has been bringing our financial reporting to current practices, presented our budget for this fiscal year showing that we had a potential deficit of over \$45,000.00! The reason for this projection is two-fold. In the past months, our monthly bill for electricity has quadrupled. This amount amortized over the year increases our costs over \$20,000.00. Despite prudent management, the general cost for maintaining the facilities has increased in nearly every aspect of the Club operation. We were fortunate over the past year to cover operating deficits through generous bequests. Obviously, as much as we love getting bequests, our organization cannot rely on them. We are installing a new electric meter related solely to court lighting, and hopefully will be eligible for a reduced electric rate. In fact, we hope at some point in the future to have solar panels installed. In the meantime though, we must increase revenues. In a recent notice to the membership we asked for ideas, and we have received many positive ones. A budget committee has been formed and will make recommendations to the Board at our May meeting. At this point, we anticipate that there will be modest increases in our membership fees and day permits. Copies of our budget are available at the Reservation Desk so that you can see line items and projected income and expenses. We have a great club and look forward to working together to make its finances ship shape. Please give your ideas and thoughts to our Club Director via email at director@balboatennis.com.

St. Augustine High School Tennis Program



St. Augustine High School began fielding tennis teams almost from its founding in the 1920s with courts at the school and later at the University Heights Recreation Center. By the 1950s, Saints began to have strong teams with players ranked in San Diego, Southern California, and nationally. By this time the team established the Morley Field Tennis Center, now known as the Balboa Tennis Club, as its home site. Franklin Johnson, a 1953 Saints graduate won the national junior boys doubles championships while he was a Saintsman. Many other Saintsman, including Walter Redondo and Carlos Carriedo won Southern California and national championships during their high school days. Redondo, Class of 1978, played at Wimbledon and became a teaching professional. Saints tennis teams have won league championships over the ensuing decades. This tradition of championship tennis at St. Augustine High School continues today.

Currently, the school probably has the largest tennis team among San Diego County high schools, numbering 48 individuals during the 2014-15 school year. The current 18-member Varsity squad has five seniors, seven juniors, five sophomores, and one freshman. The Junior Varsity fields two teams, Gold and Purple with twenty-seven members, including five juniors, eleven sophomores, and eleven freshmen.

The size and strength of the tennis program at St. Augustine High School is due to an experienced and committed coaching staff, including Ruben Carriedo (Saints '61), Bro. Barnaby Johns, Walter Redondo (Saints '78), Jim Bacon (Saints '60), Yves Nepomuceno, Carlos Carriedo (Saints '65), and Marcos Carriedo (Saints '60). Bro. Barnaby has taken the helm for the Junior Varsity squads with assistance from coaches Bacon, Nepomuceno and Marcos and Carlos Carriedo. Coach Redondo is responsible for the technical coaching, utilizing his considerable experience as a world class player and teaching professional. He emphasizes conditioning, on court strategy, mental strength, and consistent execution of ground strokes, volleys, overheads, and serves. Head coach, Ruben Carriedo, attributes the large turnout of nearly 50 players as a testament to Coach Redondo's skill, enthusiasm, and love of the game. The familiar refrain heard around the Saints patio for nearly 100 years: *"Once a Saintsman, always a Saintsman,"* is vividly demonstrated in the seven member Saints tennis coaching staff with five alumni, a Saints parent, and an Augustinian brother. Go Saints!



Coaching Staff, left to right: Marcos Carriedo, Carlos Carriedo, Brother Barnaby Johns, Head Coach Ruben Carriedo, Walter Redondo, Jim Bacon, Yves Nepomuceno

The Greater San Diego City Tennis Council

by Ben Press



Bill Kellogg, Geoff Griffin, Ben Press, David Gill, Bruce Hunt

On March 2nd, 2015 at the Southern California Tennis Association's (SCTA) Annual Awards Banquet at the UCLA Tennis Center, our Tennis Council received the 2014 SCTA Member Organization of the Year Award.

I can't tell you how proud I am of our Tennis Council and what we accomplished in 2014. Our five volunteer board members comprised of David Gill, Roz King, Geoff Griffin, Tom O'Brien and myself were tireless in our combined efforts to make many more freshly renovated tennis facilities available throughout San Diego.

Last year the Tennis Council saved or repaired almost 50 courts primarily at the public schools. One of our criteria for awarding funding grants to deservicing facilities is that the facilities remain open to the public after school hours and on weekends.

It is our continued mission to renovate as many public tennis facilities as we can annually. We would appreciate members of the tennis community reaching out to us to let us know of any courts in need of assistance. With any suggestions, please call Ben Press at (619) 980-2142 or David Gill at (619) 807-9688.

MAY 2015

Calendar of Events

May

3	Tennis Fest	12 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.
11-14	CIF H S Boys Tournament	
18-24	4th Annual Wounded Warrior Camp	
19	BTC Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.

June

1-7	USTA National Open Hard Court Championships	
16	BTC Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.

July

3-5	SDTF Championships	
10-12	K&W Junior Tournament	
17-19	Hendrickson Wheelchair Tournament	
21	BTC Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.
24-26, 31-Aug. 2	Balboa Open Tournament	
27-31	Balboa Junior Tournament	

August

18	BTC Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.
28-30, Sept. 5-7	San Diego District Tournament	



Tad Yamaguchi RSVP Award Recipient

Congratulations to BTC Member Tad Yamaguchi for receiving the 2014-2015 Southeastern Division RSVP of the Year Award. "For the numerous hours of selfless dedication and commitment to those you volunteered to willingly serve. Your efforts show the true spirit of community, leadership and team work."