

*BTC's new Board of Directors...  
Drop shots and drop volleys!  
And lots of tournament results...*

# Center Court

## Planning begins for 2001 Annual Dinner

Anticipation is already beginning to mount now that the location of the 2001 Annual Dinner has been announced.

On Saturday, January 27 the Balboa Tennis Club will hold its popular Annual Dinner at the Bali Hai on Shelter Island.

With its gorgeous, romantic view of the water and great dance floor, the Bali Hai promises to be a hit with BTC members.

Last January nearly 200 tennis players attended the dinner, and the upcoming dinner promises to follow in the Balboa tradition of music, dancing, awards and

lots of great food! This year's dinner is being planned by Patty Sweeting, a brand new addition to BTC's Board of Directors. BTC will benefit from Patty's experience planning numerous corporate events.

The evening will begin with drinks at 6PM followed by dinner at 7PM. This year's buffet will be huge, with three entrées to choose from.

After eating, a DJ will spin discs and partygoers will have the choice of dancing or socializing with hundreds of tennis-playing friends.



## BTC adopts Challenge Court's evil twin

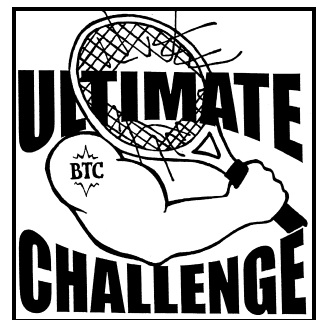
### New challenge goes out to San Diego's best players

Winners have to sit down after two consecutive wins under BTC's Challenge Court rules.

Not so on the new Ultimate Challenge Court. The slogan is, "*where you own the court until death or defeat!*"

It all begins November 11 on court 8. Every Saturday from 9AM until 4PM the Ultimate Challenge court will play host to doubles teams of men or women who want to play San Diego's toughest opponents in tennis' answer to King of the Mountain.

The challenge court format is essentially the same, with one very important distinction – no one can make you leave until you lose!



## inside...

President's message from Robin Rodger	page 3
Tennis Tips from the pros	page 4
Spotlight by Roz King	page 5
Tournament Results	page 7
Calendar of events	page 8

# Future BTC members enjoy day of fun and learning

By Roz King

The Balboa Tennis Club's first Kids Day (great job Geoff!!) was a great success and thanks to all who helped in that endeavor.

I am sure you have noticed the large presence of juniors on Tuesdays from 4-5PM. Geoff also works with the more advanced students on Wednesday and Thursday.

Neil Johnson has volunteered his services in using the *Discover Tennis Program* and the *Serve, Stroke and Volley* skill evaluation and the Leadership Development Steps as a foundation for the program.

Stop by and see the future! It is most inspiring to watch our Pros, Carlos, Mike, Kevin, Geoff and volunteer Fred Ayree (Mid City), inspire and create in these young boys and girls a real thirst and joy in the game of tennis.

There are some kids with great potential and others who will be like us ... enjoy the game as a sport of a lifetime... our future members.

Our kids courts (Courts 5 and 6) are in force 3-6PM weekdays. When not in use, the court reservationist can assign them for your use.

# BTC's new Board takes shape

## Five new board members to start in 2001

The Board of Directors has approved two new board members, Jim Gallagher and Patty Sweeting.

Jim is taking the seat vacated when Ray Gottell resigned in August. Ray was the Vice President of the Board of Directors, and he served on several committees. We want to thank Ray for his many contributions.

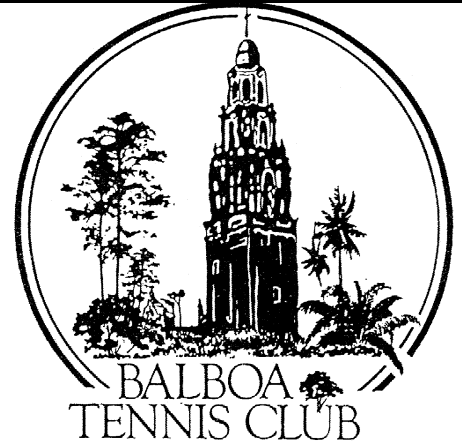
Patty takes over for Dominique Gambale who recently resigned following the birth of her daughter. Dominique really shined as the leader of our Social Committee. She organized a number of very successful events, most notably last year's Annual Dinner. Both congratu-

lations and thanks are in order. Ray and Dominique's terms on the board expire in December, but both Jim and Patty have submitted petitions to begin new terms of their own in January.

Overall, five people have turned in petitions to join the board.

Since there are five openings this year, we will not need to hold an election. These new board members will serve two-year terms, beginning in January.

Please help us welcome the following new board members: Bev La Rue, Brad Hasper, Jim Gallagher, Pam Fullerton and Patty Sweeting.



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

Robin Rodger  
President

Richard Barndt  
Vice President

Ron Celeste  
Treasurer

Pam Fullerton  
Secretary

Darice Carnaje

Jim Gallagher

Brad Hasper

Roz King

Yolanda Owens

Patty Sweeting

Will Tappen

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

# New committees look to bright future

By Robin Rodger, Balboa Tennis Club President

After a few months as President I realized that in order to move ahead as a premier public facility, three new areas needed special attention.

I created the following new standing committees: the Tournament Committee, the Web Site Committee, and the Youth Committee.

The Tournament Committee, chaired by Darice Carnaje, has moved forward on evaluating current tournaments for Balboa.

They have updated our use of computers in keeping track of entries and entry fees. They have made suggestions to act more efficiently in court allocation during tournaments.

We are considering eliminating two tournaments and have moved the National 25's (now called the National Open) to the spring. This will free up some weekends in the fall.

We have added one tournament – the Paul Buskey National Senior Heart Tournament.

This tournament will not impact play at the Balboa Tennis Club since the tournament play will be Monday through Friday and will not begin until 11AM. Our large senior population makes this tournament a nice fit for us.

The Web Site Committee, also headed by Darice Carnaje, has truly brought us into the twenty-first century. Check out for yourself at [www.balboatennis.com](http://www.balboatennis.com). You can see upcoming board agendas, view past newsletters, or find out whom to call to sign up



for various league play.

The Youth Committee, chaired by Roz King, is dealing with the future of our club. By investing in our community we are investing in the sport we all love.

We are proud to offer kids a chance to participate and move forward in a program that allows them to track their progress.

Geoff Griffin has always placed an emphasis on young people, and he has been developing our youth program for years. Now, with the help of assistant pros, volunteers, and our new Youth Committee, he is moving this program to new heights.

As we move forward in these new areas, we are also strengthening our financial position. Our Treasurer, Ron Celeste, has been focusing on our youth funds – the Sumner Gill Memorial Fund, and the Junior Development Fund.

Both of these funds are financed by donations only, and the money is used to pay our pros (at half their normal rate) to teach free youth clinics on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

We are also setting aside funds each month to build a reserve for future court resurfacing, windscreens and capital improvements.

We are currently in the planning stages of redesigning the patio areas in front of the snack shop and the pro shop. An architect will help us provide increased shade and more comfortable areas for socializing.

## Teaching courts belong out front

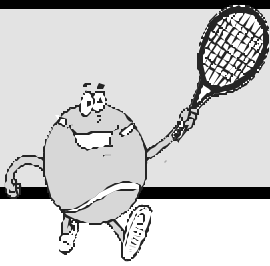
Ever wondered why pros use courts 1-4? Here's a hint — it's not because they're newer — the teaching courts were 1-4 even before the construction. There are actually several reasons.

The visibility of the front courts is important to the reservation desk. They need to see when these courts aren't in use so that they can assign them to members.

When children have lessons it is important that their

parents can sit in the car and watch their child, without worrying about them on a court they can't see. It also generates excitement for people to take lessons and clinics when they can see what is taking place.

On Saturday morning it generates lots of enthusiasm to see 24 people taking a clinic, with more standing around waiting for the next one because there was no more room in the 9:00 clinic.



## Tennis Tips...

...from the pros

### Drop shots — Drop volleys. Are they for you?

#### By Geoff Griffin

First of all, you have to ask yourself, “Do I have soft hands?” And I don’t mean Palmolive soft. I mean the ability to finesse shots.

You can give yourself a little test. Either against the wall or by a friend, have a 30 – 50 mile per hour ball come at you and see if you can hit a forehand volley into the air and catch it in your non-racquet hand. The lower the ball goes up into the air the better your finesse is.

If you currently don’t have soft hands, you are really limiting yourself as a player. I see this all the time with weight lifters. They struggle with simple shots because they don’t have a good feel for the ball on their racquet.

This is why great tennis players do not have muscular upper bodies. Get against the wall or a ball machine and hit hundreds and hundreds of *relaxed* groundstrokes and volleys. If you want to improve put your power game on the shelf for a while.

**Drop Volleys:** Using your continental grip, wait for a volley that is between waist and chest height. Balls higher or lower than that are very difficult to drop volley and shouldn’t be attempted.

When you have the right shot soften up your grip, open the racquet face and try to catch the ball on your

racquet. You should have no forward movement. Sometimes your racquet almost seems to go backward at contact. Your goal is to clear the net about 2 feet and land 2 feet from the sideline and about 5 feet inside the service line. Also try to aim to your opponent’s backhand side to limit possible offensive returns.

**Drop Shots:** As with the drop volley, never try a drop shot off a high or low ball. This shot should also be between waist and chest height.

A typical drop shot is made while near the baseline. The mistake people make with this shot is that they attempt it from too far back in the court.

While in a baseline rally, look for a medium to slow moving ball and then move towards it, often even taking it on the rise.

I would highly recommend not trying drop shots unless you can quickly move to within 5-6 feet behind the service line. Attempting drop shots from further back are not only riskier, but allow your opponent more time to reach them.

Remember also that disguise is what makes a drop volley or drop shot most successful. And if your groundstrokes and volleys are consistently deep you will have many more opportunities to try these rewarding specialty shots.

## Down the line is divine

#### Kevin Johnston, USPTA & USPTR

In singles, how many times have you gotten a short ball at the service line, hit what you thought was a good approach shot, only to have your opponent hit a passing shot to win the point? Probably more than you care to remember.

You may be hitting what you think is the correct approach shot, when in reality you are actually setting yourself up to lose the point. The tendency is to hit the approach shot crosscourt because you face the net more than a ground stroke from the baseline. When you hit crosscourt, you give your opponent more of a

down the line target to hit to. This is an easier shot to hit than the crosscourt passing shot.

After you hit your approach shot, you should follow the ball. This means you should move to the net in the direction of your shot. If you hit crosscourt, chances are that you won’t have time to get in proper position before your opponent hits a passing shot.

The majority of your approach shots should be hit down the line. By doing this, you end up in a much better position at the net to cover any attempted passing shot. Remember that “approaching down the line is divine.”

# Spotlight

## Courtside Chat

By Roz King

"It's all in the **stroke**." "Different **strokes** for different folks." Let me for a moment talk about some ladies who have different strokes... Not all on the tennis courts!!...

**Marion Harlan** not only has a gorgeous forehand but has an artistic stroke with painting and tile mosaics — her home is a work of art.

**Judy Janc** won a silver ball in the Senior Mixed Doubles Nationals in Seattle, and she is also an emerging painter (water colors, inks) and she picks and strokes the guitar as well.

Judy has been traveling a lot this year and she has been a finalist in women's doubles at major tournaments. (I am in the same division and we have met twice in the doubles finals.) Yes, Judy this was a very good year!!!

This next lady has one of the best slices in the game, she is also a very accomplished organist and piano player (teaches music), **Cathy Sobke**.

Speaking more about strokes...

**Ruth Marshall**, so tiny with so much power, spin and slice... well this talented lady is also an accomplished pianist (baby grand in her hair salon). She is also a creative designer of accessories.

I simply must tell you about many of the strokes of **Lois Simmons**; she came to San Diego from West Virginia to her first teaching job at Point Loma

High, where she raised many a brow with her new innovations and creative spirit.

She married and lived for a while in the Pacific Northwest where she was ranked #2 in women's 35 and 45 singles.

By the way, Lois has one of the best second serves if she needs it and a deadly backhand volley.

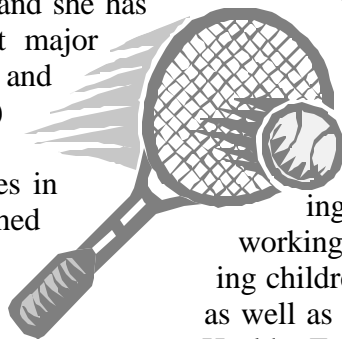
Upon returning to SD she became a tennis coach at Valhalla High where she coached the girls to CIF quarters or finals for four years. (Some of her doubles partners claim she hasn't stopped coaching yet.) She was able to feed her creative appetite with a vengeance after her sons left the nest.

She opened her first studio gallery in 1979 in the Gas Lamp Quarters, she now maintains a working studio in Old Town.

She is in a retirement mode stretching and feeding her creative juices by working for a newspaper and dress shop, writing children's stories and illustrating them herself as well as a complete health book called "Just the Healthy Facts, Ma'am" for which she has spent ten years researching.

Lois stays on top of her game and strokes with long standing weekly doubles groups. She recently represented Southern California on the Inter-sectional team in Houston in the 65s.

**Yes, these ladies "Got Game!!!"**



## Why host national tournaments?

By Roz King

There are many long range benefits to be gained by hosting national tournaments.

The tennis business is a very competitive business and a less popular sport compared to football and baseball. We look for a broader appeal which national championships bring. Participants and their

families add to the revenue of the City of San Diego and serve as a further advertisement for us and the city. This gives us leverage as a business when requesting funds for improvements. Balboa Tennis Club is the recognized center in San Diego for tennis, we have a long and rich history in tennis to continue and uphold.

# Your tournament blues

By Geoff Griffin

As Tournament Director of the majority of our tournaments here at Balboa, I have really felt the heat the last few months from members who are unhappy about lack of court time available to them during tournaments. Many of you wrongly feel that I am somehow the winner when there are tournaments here. I must tell you though, that financially I am much better off teaching than running tournaments. And as far as our pro shop, we rarely benefit other than from blowing out sale merchandise.

So why am I and so many of our club Board of Directors and other club members on the side of tournaments? It's really very simple. We are one of the very best public facilities in the country because we serve our membership, the public and we open our doors to all visitors to San Diego.

Our long history of being the "Home of San Diego Tennis" is why we were able to convince the City of San Diego to rebuild eight courts, a project that cost the City approximately \$500,000. Our current management and Board of Directors is today approaching the city again regarding a number of possible improvements.

But let's get back to tournaments. Certainly there must be a line drawn as to how many tournaments our weekend members can tolerate. And I am speaking only about weekend players because weekday players and evening players are not unfairly affected by tournaments.

I think that a lot of our impatience towards tournaments today is a result of what we went through when we rebuilt those eight courts. The court construction project that lasted eight months and finished in July of 1999 caused a great deal of frustration to *all* of us. I think a lot of members still haven't fully recovered from that difficult time.

With court construction in the back of your minds

and a very busy late summer and fall this year, it is understandable that many weekend members are not getting courts when they want to. This is why we are now working hard to communicate better to you regarding court availability. Here are some upcoming changes:

Next year we will probably not be having our Fall Championships. We are seriously thinking about canceling it because we have two major national tournaments scheduled and both must be in the fall. These tournaments are, by the way, very big money-makers for the club.

We have scheduled a senior tournament in January in which no weekends will be affected and play will not start until 11:00.

We have developed quality outside sites close by for our membership to use during all tournaments.

We are working on making reservation staff and tournament desk people a much better team, so that correct information is always available to the membership about court availability.

We have a wonderful facility here at Balboa. We cannot expect for the price of a membership here, that we will always have a court exactly when we want one. For a high initiation and over \$100.00 per month you aren't even guaranteed that at the San Diego Tennis & Racquet Club. We are one of the largest public facilities anywhere, and with that comes a great deal of activity.

In the 12 years that I have been here I have always made it a priority to welcome all new players to our club. Whether it be through tournaments, new members, or just day pass guests. The sign that I put up on court 8 last year explains how many of us feel about our great tennis club. "We represent the City of San Diego for the benefit of citizens of San Diego and our guests from around the world." I think we should be very proud of what we have built here.



# 2000 Metropolitan Championships

## Father Son Doubles

Evans—Evans d. Belinsky—Belinsky

## Men's Open Singles

Mereles d. Bucon

## Men's Open Doubles

Klabunde—Zaino d. Vo—Anderson

## Men's 35 Singles

Ortiz d. Foster

## Men's 35 Doubles

Belinsky—Ortiz d. Mora—Turner

## Men's 40 Singles

Turner d. Johnson

## Men's 40 Doubles

Griffin—Turner d. Hulburt—Simpson

## Men's 45 Singles

Housman d. Chapin

## Men's 45 Doubles

Lackritz—Schmersal d. Naumann—Ofner

## Men's 50 Singles

Cernousek d. Aalam

## Men's 50 Doubles

Rathburn—Shuey d. Hasper—Loehr

## Men's 55 Singles

Bethard d. Rabbit

## Men's 55 Doubles

Neuman—Snyder d. Celeste—Payne

## Men's 60 Singles

Vesell d. Cisneros

## Men's 65 Singles

Snyder d. Talley

## Men's 70 Singles

Chapman d. Markley

## Men's 75 Singles

Watters d. Norwood

## Men's 80 Singles

Asher d. Cheyney

## Men's 3.0 Singles

Sayour d. Shepard

## Men's 3.0 Doubles

Greenwald—Koermer d. Archibald—

Williams

## Men's 4.0 Singles

Cisneros d. Wutke

## Men's 4.0 Doubles

Villar—Warde d. Collins—Shepard

## Men's 5.0 Singles

Zerboni d. Winters

## Men's 5.0 Doubles

Collins—Nelson d. Dahl—Nelson

## Mixed Open Doubles

Nunez—Zaino d. Carnaje—Maher

## Mixed 3.0 Doubles

Richins—Richins d. Howell—Stevens

## Mixed 4.0 Doubles

Stewart—Warner d. Milburn—Navarro

## Mixed 5.0 Doubles

Hoppe—Nelson d. Damasco—Podney

## Women's Open Singles

Romero d. Tinsley

## Women's Open Doubles

Ogburn—Petty d. Ainslie-Murray—

Carnaje

## Women's 35 Singles

Ainslie-Murray d. Reasons

## Women's 50 Singles

Konoski d. Furman

## Women's 65 Doubles

Aguilera—Simmons d. Quackenbush—

Wakefield

## Women's 70 Singles

Hahaney d. Bradfield

## Women's 3.0 Singles

Solloa d. Nguyen

## Women's 3.0 Doubles

Howell—Pinney d. Dominigo—Jones

## Women's 4.0 Singles

Villar d. Hsin

## Women's 4.0 Doubles

Eynden—White d. Overton—Russ

## Women's 5.0 Singles

Barnes d. Ide

## Women's 5.0 Doubles

Barnes—Cattalonoatto d. Hoppe—

Carnavale

# Balboa Tennis Club Fall Championships

## Men's Open Singles

Riveroll d. Flowers

## Men's Open Doubles

Griffin—Hutchison d. Bethard--Flowers

## Men's 45 Singles

Hasper d. Robidoux

## Men's 55 Singles

Bartroff d. McCabe

## Men's 3.5 Doubles

Balsley—Riley d. Gomez—Meza

## Men's 4.5 Singles

De Schepper d. Villar

## Men's 4.5 Doubles

Villar—Warde d. Tappen—Thompson

## Men's 5.5 Singles

Preciado d. Winters

## Mixed 3.5 Doubles

Crotta—Holst d. Gaar—Lewis

## Mixed 4.5 Doubles

Preciado—Solloa d. Franklin—Vega

## Mixed 5.5 Doubles

Ainslie-Murray—Hasper d. Carnaje—

Loehr

## Women's 3.5 Singles

Gaar d. Coogan

## Women's 3.5 Doubles

Baker—Solloa d. Brady—Coogan

## Women's 4.5 Singles

Baumgarth d. Bethard

## Women's 4.5 Doubles

Fitzgerald—Vega d. Lacsa—Villegas

## Women's 5.5 Singles

Pittarelli d. Furman

## Women's 5.5 Doubles

Chamberlain—Linder d. Knock—Ramirez

The Tournament Committee would like to thank Jason Pongsrikul for donating his \$200 prize money check from the Balboa Open to our Junior Fund. Jason is now a freshman at USD.

Also, a big thanks to Dale Brainard, a club member and owner of PBM Precision Bellows Manufacturing for donating \$1000.00 towards T-shirts for our Metropolitan Championships!

# Calendar of events

## November

4-9 NATIONAL 25 HARDCOURTS  
11 ULTIMATE CHALLENGE COURT DEBUTS  
14 BTC BOARD MEETING

## December

5 BTC BOARD MEETING  
13 EMPLOYEE/VOLUNTEER CHRISTMAS PARTY

## January

8-12 PAUL BUSKEY NATIONAL SENIOR HEART TOURNAMENT  
9 BTC BOARD MEETING  
27 ANNUAL DINNER

## February

20 BTC BOARD MEETING

# Center Court

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

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

Dated material

## inside...

President's message from Robin Rodger  
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Tournament results

page 3  
page 4  
page 5  
page 7