



THE COURT REPORTER

June 2002

Newsletter of the
Walnut Creek Racquet Club



Robert Young

President's Message

Oh, Calcutta...Tennis for all ages!

The Calcutta tournament that took place on May 11th has once again shown the age diversity within our club. There are many new younger WCRC members, despite Nat's tongue-in-cheek "deceased" reply when asked, "What is the average age of a WCRC member?" I couldn't help but notice the span of ages participating in the tournament. The range appeared to be from about 22 to...well, let's just say older than 22! It just goes to show, tennis is a game that can be played for a lifetime. The great equalizer of the Calcutta is the handicapping; the winner isn't predetermined by age or rating. This format allows a 3.0 player to stay on the court with a 5.0 player and even expect to win! Many thanks tournament director Karen Hirtzel and all volunteers for putting on the largest Calcutta to date—58 teams, playing at two locations in the morning, then re-grouping at Heather in the afternoon for the final rounds (see page 4 for results). The club has already received many compliments from new members playing in the Calcutta for the first time. If you haven't ever played it, you've missed something unique. I recommend everyone reserve some time in your busy schedules for next year's event.

See ya on the courts
Robert

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Will Chris Ramsower-Pearlstein (above) make it three Women's Singles Titles in a row?

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WCRC Interclub News

Jackie Cowgill received the championship trophy on behalf of her Senior B.A.L.L. B-1 team at the B.A.L.L. luncheon at Orinda Country Club on May 8. The two WCRC teams had won their respective B-1 divisions and then Jackie's team edged out Diana Fernandes' team 8-4 in the playoff match. Both teams were far out in front of the second place teams. Marty Riffell's B.A.L.L. B-1 team missed the first place slot by five points in that division behind Concord TC. Also making a good showing was Jo McCulley's B.A.L.L. team in fourth place at the A-3 level. Congratulations to all!

We're lucky enough to have some great people volunteering to be captains for the 2002-03 season. They are:

B.A.L.L. (Bay Area Ladies' League)

A-3 - Jo McCulley
B-1 - Susie Dunlap
Senior B.A.L.L. A-2 - Diana Fernandes
Senior B.A.L.L. A-2 - Hazel Faries
Senior B.A.L.L. B-1 - Janet Neilsen
Senior B.A.L.L. C-1 - Mary Locke

FALL LEAGUE (Sept./Oct.)

A-2 - Hilda Bernardi
B-1 - Rita Utz
B-2 - Charleen Elste

All matches for these leagues are played weekday mornings, September through April (except Fall League). For information about these leagues, please call Rita Utz, Interclub Chair, at 935-3365. And, again, thanks to all the above people for volunteering to be captain!

CALENDAR

JUNE 3 - SEPTEMBER 15

Summer Singles League

JUNE 7-9

Club Championships
Mixed Doubles

JUNE 21- AUGUST 9

Summer Team Tennis

AUGUST 10-11 & 17-18

Club Championships
Singles & Doubles

SEPTEMBER 27-30

Summer Singles
League Tournament

NOVEMBER 16

Turkey Tournament

JANUARY 25, 2003

Annual Awards Banquet & Silent Auction

The club's purpose is to promote the game of tennis in Walnut Creek by providing a wide variety of activities (tournaments, league play, clinics and social events) for enthusiasts of all ages and skill levels.

FROM THE PRO

Overcoming a Problem Area in Your Game

The route to winning the U.S. Open is no different from winning a local tournament - **practice, practice, practice.**

Whether you're someone who just wishes to have a more consistent backhand or a pro honing your skills for a major tournament, you won't realize your goals without paying your dues.

For some reason, the majority of tennis players haven't developed the same good practice habits as their counterparts in other sports. It's hard to find anyone who is even half-serious about golf who hasn't taken lessons from a pro and spent hours working on their swing. Have you ever met a golfer who has never visited the practice tee?

A lot of folks mistakenly assume that tennis doesn't require the same level of commitment. As for the minority who do allocate regular practice time into their weekly schedules, most simply play sets, rather than concentrating on a specific problem area.

Perhaps it's because tennis does appear to be relatively simple. However, there's a big difference between something that is simple and something that is easy. If practice wasn't both fruitful and necessary you can bet that I'd have spent a lot more of my afternoons fishing for bass and a lot less time hitting ball after ball in 90 degree heat.

The key ingredients to a successful training session are your determination to improve, your recognition of which flaws in your stroke must be remedied, and your ability to design practice activities that are targeted toward achieving one specific goal.



Coach Mac

-Coach Mac

WCRC Purchases Heaters

Two outdoor space heaters will soon be available to allow the social aspect of evening tennis to continue in comfort -- especially during Team Tennis this summer. The heaters run on propane and will sit on the two picnic tables providing exterior comfort to go along with interior warmth generated by your favorite libation. Hope you enjoy this new addition.

USTA Adult League Standings

as of May 19, 2002

Team	Record	Place
M4.5A (Tamura)	6-0	1
W5.0B (Guyton)	2-0	1
M4.0B (Farber)	6-0	T1
M3.5B (Loeffler)	4-0	T1
M5.0A (Chan)	4-2	2
W3.0A (Maloney)	5-1	2
W4.0B (Brown)	4-1	2
W5.0A (Ng)	2-2	2
W2.5A (Coach Mac)	1-2	3
W3.5C (May)	4-1	T3
W3.5A (Scriabine)	3-1	T3
W4.0 (Riddle)	4-2	4
M4.0A (Scriabine)	3-2	T4
M3.5C (Conk)	2-4	T7
W3.5B (Karwoski)	1-4	8
M3.5A (Gall)	1-3	9
W3.5D (Spady)	1-4	10



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Racquet Stringing

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LOCATION

Less than 1 mile from 680/4 interchange in Martinez

Club Tournaments

Calcutta a Presidential Victory



ABOVE

Dan Hoenecke and Diane Simpson work their way through the Consolation Bracket.

AT RIGHT

Umeko Nishimura winds up for a big serve.



It was Mixed Doubles as far as the eye could see as a record 58 teams participated in the annual Calcutta tournament (and draw party) on May 10-11. The regular field of 32 teams was expanded for the first time to accommodate increased interest from WCRC members. The popular Friday night Draw Party, held at the Heather Farm Homeowners Association clubhouse, brought the teams, chosen by blind draw and then handicapped according to ability, together for the first time. Audio/visual and betting sheets were produced by Veronica Roussel and Julie O'Keefe assisted by Audrey Morse. For the first time, teams were auctioned off both live (courtesy of Nat Bitton) and silent. Thanks to Bret Jones and Neal Dawson for helping to set up the silent auction area, Judy Stillman for securing the venue for the event and to Pege Amann, who organized the food.

The Saturday morning matches were split between the Walnut Creek Tennis Center and Northgate High School (thanks to Greg Lane for running a smooth tournament desk at Northgate) with the remaining afternoon play at Heather Farm. Thanks to Liz Riddle, Al Johns, Nat Bitton and Pam Maloney for setting up at the WCTC. Also, thanks to Al and Nat for their work on the grill for Saturday lunch. Drinks were procured by Steve King and Kurt Nesheim. The tournament desk ran very smoothly thanks to Judy Stillman, Carol Papke, Elizabeth Lee and Gwen Yee.

-Karen Hirtzel

Winners (and their team handicaps):

Championship Round

1st Ñ Michelle Gold and Robert Young (+9)
- Gunther Boccus, owner

Finalist Ñ Bea Schmutzler and Bill Bruce (+8)
- Gabe Goldstein, owner

Consolation Round

1st Ñ Pashi Vakiva and Phil Hammons (-6)
- Heidi Belton, owner

Finalist Ñ Edith Lee and Carl Fernandez (+17)
-Liz Riddle, owner



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Mixed 6.0 and 7.0 Teams Roll into Sectionals

The WCRC's two Mixed Doubles playoff representatives continued their winning ways at Districts, held May 18-19 at Pleasanton Community Park and Harbor Bay in Alameda. Shari Huber's 6.0 team opened their three-match round-robin with a 3-0 win over Monterey Bay. They followed with a tough 2-1 win over Solano Athletic Club, a squad, according to Huber, was probably the 6.0 team's toughest competition of the entire season. There is a good possibility that a rematch looms in the near future -- Solano will probably gain a wildcard into Districts that will be held June 1-2 in Pleasanton. The final match against Auburn Racquet Club was suspended by rain with all three teams leading their opponents from the north.



The 6.0 Mixed Team takes a break between matches.

The 7.0 team, led by captain Bret Jones, began by pounding the Reno/Tahoe team that represented NorCal at Nationals in 2001 by a 3-0 score. They duplicated their initial effort with a 3-0 victory over the Marin team. Sunday rains postponed their match against Lake Wildwood (Sacramento) and will be made up on Friday, May 31. They are a virtual lock to advance to Districts the next day -- since winless Lake Wildwood would have to defeat Jones' team 3-0 and one of the other two teams would also have to post a 3-0 victory. The 7.0 team also opens Sectional play on Saturday, June 1 at Pleasanton Community Park.

PLAYERS NEEDED FOR SENIOR MIXED 7.0 TEAM

Susan Smith-Fenchel and Barb Forester are captaining a USTA Senior Mixed 7.0 team this summer and are looking for players. The league season runs from July 8 - September 8 with Sectional Championships to be held September 20-22 at Caughlin Tennis Club in Reno, NV. For more information, contact Susan at (925) 634-0374 or via email at suezyque2@aol.com.



THE REAL SYNDICATE ?

**2002
CLUB
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Mixed Doubles

**WALNUT
CREEK
RACQUET
CLUB**

JUNE 7-9, 2002

WHEN: June 7-9, 2002

WHERE: Walnut Creek Tennis Center

DIVISIONS: Mixed 6.0 ****NEW for 2002!****
Mixed 7.0
Mixed 8.0
Mixed 9.0+

ENTRY FEES: \$20 per team

***Entry fees include tennis balls, BBQ, individual trophies for winners. Note: You must be an active member of the WCRC to play in the Club Championships.*

ENTRY DEADLINE: Saturday, June 1

DEFENDING CHAMPIONS:

- 7.0 Darcy Lopes & Bret Jones
- 8.0 Veronica Roussel & Mike Druding
- 9.0 Marianne Dundon & Tom Jur

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ Phone _____ Rating _____

Name _____ Phone _____ Rating _____

**Please check the appropriate
division you
would like to play:**

6.0

7.0

8.0

9.0+

Make checks payable to WCRC and send
no later than June 1, 2002 to:

Tammy Chan • P.O. Box 221 • Alamo, CA 94507
Questions? Call (925) 837-0227 or email tammychan@telocity.com





**New Member
Information
Removed for
Privacy**

**WCRC 2002 Singles & Doubles
Club Championships**
August 10-11 & 17-18, 2002
Registration in July CR or
at www.wcrc.net
Pictured above:
Defending B Singles
Champ Eric Ladrech



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NTRP TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE • 2002

June 15-17

SONOMA STATE SUMMER NTRP CLASSIC
MW (3.0-5.5) sdmx
Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park
Entry deadline: June 4
TOUCH TONE/TENNISLINK #500029602

July 4-6

25TH ANNUAL BERINGER CLASSIC
MW (3.5-5.0) sdmx
Vintage High School Tennis Park, Napa
Entry deadline: June 23
TOUCH TONE/TENNISLINK #500020502

July 5-8

4.5 TOURNAMENT OF THE YEAR
LAKERIDGE NTRP TOURNAMENT
MW (3.5-5.0) sdmx
Lakeridge Tennis Club, Reno, NV
Entry deadline: June 24
TOUCH TONE/TENNISLINK #500020602

July 14-15

WALNUT CREEK CRACKER 5.0, 5.5 NTRP
MW (5.0-5.5) sdmx
Walnut Creek Tennis Center
Entry deadline: July 1
TOUCH TONE/TENNISLINK #500021202



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SUMMER CAMPS 2002

Walnut Country Swim & Tennis, Concord
Camp 1: June 24-28 • Camp 2: July 8-12 •
Camp 3: July 22-26 • Camp 4: August 5-9
Camp 5: August 19-23

For more information, call (925) 943-4765
or e-mail thors10s@astound.net