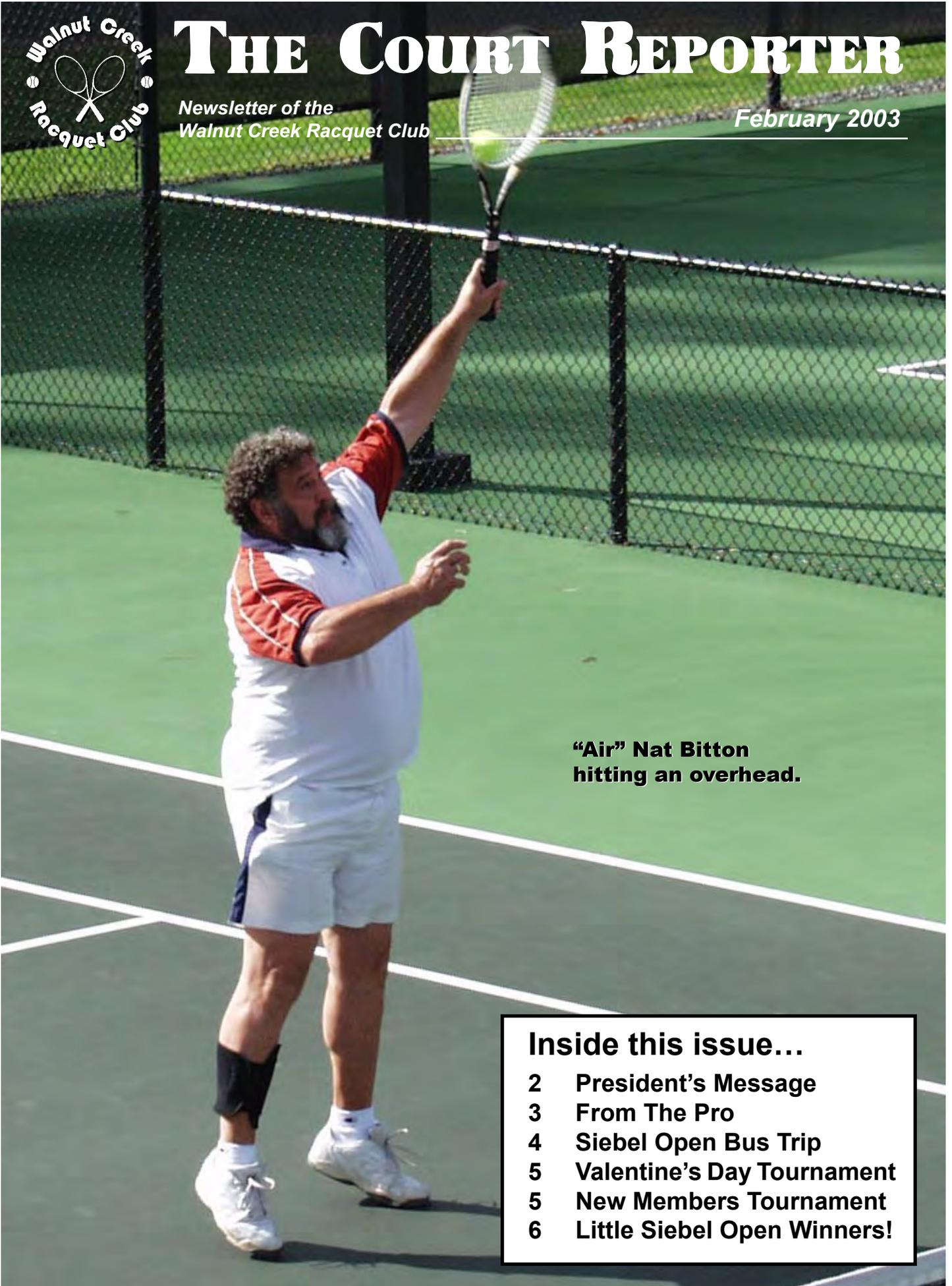




THE COURT REPORTER

Newsletter of the
Walnut Creek Racquet Club

February 2003



**“Air” Nat Bitton
hitting an overhead.**

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Walnut Creek Racquet Club

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(925) 945-0105 • www.wcrc.net

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THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Jennifer thanks the 2002 Board...



Jennifer Scriabine
2003 WCRC President

I'm really excited to have the opportunity to serve as the WCRC president for 2003. Our club had a fantastic 2002: Shari Huber's 6.0 mixed team won nationals, Don Loeffler's 3.5 Team made a trip to Carmel to play in sectionals, in the spring Adult leagues we had 3 teams make it to the district playoffs, we had Super Seniors and Fifty mixed teams make it to and win at sectionals, there were a record number of players in both the Summer Singles and Winter Doubles Leagues and the club was named the 2002 Community Tennis Association of the Year by USTA. Wow, we sure have a lot to live up to in 2003!

As the incoming President for 2003 I'd like to extend a special thanks to the outgoing board members for their contributions: Nat Bitton for always running great tournaments with great food, John Bondon for all his tennis enthusiasm, especially in continuing to grow the Winter Doubles league and to Julie O'Keefe for keeping our books and keeping us honest about which events actually break even! We also have a number of new faces this year: Karen Hoyer - Secretary, Gabe Goldstein - Treasurer, Tammie Snyder - Newsletter and Greg Lane - Tournaments. As you all know, we are a volunteer organization and the board members, along with all the very committed members are what make WCRC such a smashing success year after year.

By now the 2003 tennis season is in full swing. We've held our first mixed tournament, the Little Siebel, since the Club Championship in June. Heather Farms is as busy as usual with USTA Seniors, Mixed, Combo and our Winter Doubles Leagues. And for those of you who haven't planned your Valentine's Day activities you might still be able to get in on the bus trip down to the Siebel Open in San Jose which includes a romantic dinner (sandwiches) and drinks. Just think, you can celebrate on Saturday night when the restaurants aren't packed and charging double their normal prices!

As usual we have quite a lot of things planned for the coming year. All the standard activities: Valentine's Day tournament, Calcutta, Club Championships for Mixed, Men's and Women's, Friday night team tennis, Summer Singles League and the return of the Turkey Tournament. We're also considering a number of activities off the court, everything from bringing our membership database on-line to hopefully, maybe, finally installing bleachers for courts 1-3. If you have ideas, suggestions or just want to help out be sure and let one of the board members know. We're always ready to listen and can certainly use any help that is offered.

See ya on the courts,

Jennifer Scriabine



FROM THE PRO...

Change only one thing...

While it's true that having a big serve wins games, your ability to return basic serves and groundstrokes, will help you to avoid losing matches that you should win. There's nothing like needless missed returns or netted

groundstrokes to take the wind out of your sails and rejuvenate an opponent who thought he or she might not be able to beat you.

Regardless of what level of tennis you play, when you're in a serious match, reputation counts for a lot. I have won a lot of matches that I probably deserved to lose in local tournaments simply because my rival fell apart after taking a lead. I could almost see him thinking, "Wow, I'm actually beating this guy."

Part of that aura was a perception on his part that I would come through in the clutch. I've found that if my opponent thinks that I won't beat myself, he is more likely to panic and come unraveled when I take the lead.

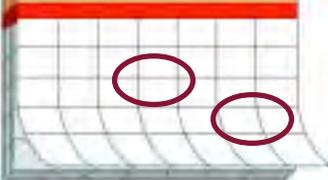
On the other hand, if you should develop a reputation as someone who misses easy shots you will allow your opponents to maintain confidence even when they're behind. One of the biggest differences between better players and the rest of the pack is that they don't donate games by

failing to return basic serves and groundstrokes. Their movements are simple and end up directed at the target at which they're aiming. The secret of returning these basic shots are a combination of accuracy (especially in doubles), knowing basic strategies, understanding percentages, and being a fundamentally sound—it's no accident that advanced players seem to have smooth strokes. A prerequisite for that mentioned above is understanding the pace and shape of an oncoming tennis ball.

There only four things we can do when its our turn to hit the tennis ball; change the speed, the spin, the height, and the direction. This is where the "pusher" makes a living, he or she "pushes" a slow moving, flat ball, down the middle deep into your court. The "pusher" hopes you have been watching the Australian Open and will try to hit the ball real hard, with Agassi-like top-spin, an inch above the net and cross-court to the singles line "T." Don't do it! Instead, change only one thing. If you're going to try and hit the ball back faster, play it back in the direction in which it came. If you want to send back a shot with more spin, don't try and play it low over the net. If the ball bounced high (and it undoubtedly did) don't try to flatten it out so much that you're denied by the net tape. If the ball's direction is what you want to change, then change it, just don't try hitting a flat out, cross-court inside-out backhand in the process.

I typically see players trying to do to much with a ball that you can't do much with. Keep the pace and shape of the ball foremost in your mind and your success rate of returning basic serves and groundstrokes will keep you in the point long enough to get a ball you can be more aggressive with. If you take my advice to heart and develop an understanding of pace and shape, you should have little difficulty when faced with most serves and groundstrokes from opponents of equal ability. 🎾

Calendar of Events



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

- 14** Siebel Open Bus Trip (quarterfinals)
- 16** Valentine's Day Tournament

MARCH

- 7-9** USTA Senior Local League Playoffs - Round 1
- 14-16** USTA Mixed Local League Playoffs - Round 1
- 21-23** USTA Senior Local League Playoffs - Round 2
- 28-30** USTA Mixed Local League Playoffs - Round 2
- 22-23** Walnut Creek NTRP Spring Fling
- 24** USTA Adult Season Begins
- 30** WCRC Winter Doubles Leagues Ends

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



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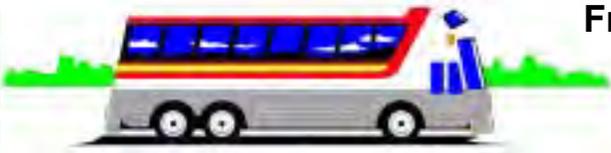
LOCATION
Less than 1 mile from 680/4 interchange in Martinez



The 3rd Annual WCRC Siebel Open Bus Trip, scheduled for **Friday, February 14**, will feature quarterfinal action and players scheduled to appear at the 2003 tournament include: Sampras, Agassi, Roddick and Blake. Buses will leave the Walnut Creek Tennis Center at 5:30 pm and return after the completion of two quarterfinal matches

that begin at 7:00 pm. Cost is \$60 per person which includes round-trip transportation, ticket (lower sideline) and food and beverage on the bus going down to San Jose. There are only 60 spots still available -- make your reservation as soon as possible by filling out the registration form at bottom.

Siebel Open Bus Trip Registration Form



Friday, February 14, 2003 • 5:30 pm - 11:00 pm

Name _____

Home Phone _____

E-mail address _____

No. of tickets _____

*Tickets will be sold on a first-come, first served basis. Cancellations after February 10 are not eligible for refunds unless tickets can be resold to those on a waiting list. Please make a check for \$60 per ticket payable to WCRC and send to: Kent Lindeman, 1889 Appia Court, Walnut Creek, CA 94598. **Registration deadline is February 10, 2003.** Questions? Call (925) 943-5745 or email jkindeman@astound.net.*

Thanks to WCRC Auction Donors _____ by Kent Lindeman

A special thanks to the members and companies who donated items to the WCRC's Silent Auction, held Saturday, January 25 at the club's Annual Winter Party. Proceeds from the auction will be given to the boys and girls varsity tennis teams at Ygnacio Valley High School.

- | | |
|--|---|
| Ed Baxter & David Rich | Robert Goldstein |
| Chris Bown | Steve King |
| The Bridges Golf Club - San Ramon | Kent Lindeman |
| Robert Brockman | Calvin "Coach Mac" McCullough |
| Tammy Chan | The Oakland Raiders |
| Marilyn & Frank Concepcion | Irv & Chris Pearlstein |
| Annette D'Antonio | Birgit Pearson |
| Sue & Martin Dunlap | Nick Scriabine, Pan Pacific San Francisco |
| Jim Farber, Walnut Creek Tennis Center | Robert & Meredith Young |
| Gabriel A. Goldstein, EA | Robert Young, Walnut Creek Printing Company |

Valentine's Day Tournament Registration Form

When: Sunday, February 16, 2003
Where: Walnut Creek Tennis Center
Start: Times posted at WCTC on Thurs. Feb. 13th after 4pm

♥ PLAYER 1 ♥

♥ PLAYER 2 ♥

Name _____
 Mailing Address _____
 City _____
 ZIP Code _____
 Home Phone _____
 E-mail address _____
 NTRP level _____

"Secret Lovers" format (to be explained at event). Play will include three 8-game pro sets.
 Prizes to be awarded to First, Second and Dead Ass Last places.
 Results will be announced at the end of the event. Food and drinks will be provided.

Registration deadline is Monday, February 10, 2003

Please make a check for \$20 payable to WCRC and send to:
Josh Svendsen • 3606 Bickerstaff St., Apt. C • Lafayette, CA 94549.
Questions? Call Josh at (925) 962-1782 or email joshsvendsen@attbi.com.

New Members Night

March 7th • 6:00 pm

Our new member night last year was well-received, so we're doing it again this year on March 7th at 6:00 pm.

If you are new to the Club in the last year, please join us for a fun evening of social, doubles tennis and a bite to eat.

We will be limited to five (5) courts so we'll be rotating folks which will give you time to get to know each other when you aren't playing.

Reservations are **REQUIRED** and there is a \$5 fee to cover food and drinks.

Name _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

Level _____ male female



Please make a check for \$5 payable to WCRC and send with completed reservation form to:
 Pam Maloney
 76 Chancellor Court • Alamo, CA 94507
 or email your reservation to her at
 pam4tennis@hotmail.com and she'll collect the fee the evening of the event.
 Questions? Call Pam at (925) 939-1403.

USTA Adult Season

We want to remind all USTA Captains that everyone on your roster **MUST** be a WCRC member in order to play on your team.

The Captains meeting will be scheduled as quickly as USTA puts up the flights each team will be playing so stay tuned.

And finally, if you want to play but don't have a team contact **Bill Clayton** at 925-932-2325 or email him at billclayton@canterburytrails.com or **Pam Maloney** at 925-939-1403 or email her at pam4tennis@hotmail.com and they'll try and help.



Little Siebel a success...third year in a row

Held on January 16th at the Heather Farms Tennis Center, the 3rd consecutive WCRC Little Siebel was a party for all. In the 8.0 Mixed Division husband and wife team **Heidi & Brad Belton** took on last year's finalists **Jane and Eric Ladrech** in the final round. The Belton's narrowly squeaked out the victory in an 11-9 finale.

For the 2nd consecutive year, **Stephanie Law** came out in the top spot in the 7.0 division, this year partnering with **Steve King**. King and Law edged out the husband and wife duo of **Vicky and Joe Grillo** for the top honors. Coming in third place in the 7.0 division were **Darcy Lopes** and **Walt Thomas** and in fourth place were **Karen Hirtzel** and **Ted Karwoski**.

A huge thanks to all of our Little Siebel Coordinators - **Karen Hirtzel, Robert Young, Bill Clayton, Al Johns, Liz Riddle** and **Kent Lindeman**.



The ladies (l-r): Pam Maloney, Shirley Nagle, Karen Hirtzel and Meredith Young.



8.0 (l-r) First place Brad and Heidi Belton, Second place: Jane and Eric Ladrech.



Shari Huber serving while partner Jesse Gonzalez waits for the return.



Partners Kurt Nesheim and Daphne McCarley.

7.0 (l-r) First place Steve King, Stephanie Law, Second place: Joe and Vicky Grillo.



Master at the grill...Bill Clayton.



The Little Siebel Open has always proven to be a great social event for the club. (l-r): Genny DeCoste, Walt Thomas, Gabe Goldstein, Carol Kennedy, Stephanie Law, Steve King.



**New Member
Information
Removed for
Privacy**



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NTRP TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE • 2003

February 8 & 9 - 15 & 16

13TH ANNUAL SOLANO NTRP CHAMPS
MW (3.0-5.5) sd; MX (3.0-5.5)
Solano Athletic Club
Entry deadline: January 24
TOUCH TONE/TENNISLINK #50001703

February 22 & 23 - March 1 & 2

SLUG TENNIS NTRP CHAMPIONSHIPS
MW (3.5, 4.5, 5.5) sd; MX (3.5, 4.5, 5.5) d
Opers East Field House, UC Santa Cruz
Entry deadline: February 12
TOUCH TONE/TENNISLINK #50002203

March 8 & 9 - 15 & 16

CLUBSPORT PLEASANTON MARCH NTRP
MW (3.0-5.0) sd; MX (3.0-5.0)
ClubSport Pleasanton
Entry deadline: February 23
TOUCH TONE/TENNISLINK #50002703

March 8 & 9 - 15 & 16

MONTEREY PENINSULA NTRP 3.0-5.5
MW (3.0-5.5) sd
Monterey Tennis Center
Entry deadline: February 20
TOUCH TONE/TENNISLINK #50002803

March 22 & 23 - 29 & 30

WALNUT CREEK NTRP SPRING FLING
MW (3.5, 4.5, 5.5) sd; MX (3.5, 4.5, 5.5)
Walnut Creek Tennis Center
Entry deadline: March 10
TOUCH TONE/TENNISLINK #500003603

March 22 & 23 - 29 & 30

CLUBSPORT VALLEY VISTA HEAD/PENN NTRP
M (3.0-5.0) sd; W (3.0-4.5) sd; MX (3.5-4.5) d
ClubSport Valley Vista
Entry deadline: March 6
TOUCH TONE/TENNISLINK #500004003