



THE COURT REPORTER

Newsletter of the
Walnut Creek Racquet Club

October 2003



Young and Hoyer hold Austin and Wade to 10 points!

Walnut Creek Racquet Club

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THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

WCRC Website



Jennifer Scriabine
2003 WCRC President

Do you have a computer and access to the Internet? If so, then you really should take some time to familiarize yourself with the Walnut Creek Racquet Club's web site: www.wcrc.net. **Shari Huber** has spent the last several years updating the web site to make it easier to use, while at the same time adding many new features and tools.

On the home page, you will usually see a news story related to whatever the most recent club event has been, along with pictures. Also, if there are any upcoming tournament or league registration, there's usually a link right on the <Home> page with the contact information. Another tool, which we talked about in the newsletter last month, is the new online court calendar. This allows you to see how many courts will be in use at each of the public court facilities in Walnut Creek. This is especially helpful for teams wanting to schedule practices when they know they will need more than one court or if you are looking for a place to schedule a match and don't want to have to wait for a court.

If you want to get in touch with one of the board members or league coordinators, the place to look is the <About Us...> section where you'll find all of our phone numbers and email addresses. There is also links to membership information, a newsletter archive and board meeting minutes.

From the <WCRC Leagues> section you can view past years results for both the Summer Singles and Winter Doubles leagues. If you are a current registered player, you can also login to enter scores, print your match schedule, retrieve contact information for your opponents and register for the end of the season tournament.

If you are looking to get involved in USTA, you can find out who is captaining a team by clicking on the <USTA Leagues> link. If you click on the team name you can go directly to the USTA Norcal website to see their schedule and player roster. If you are a team captain, this is where you can find the current guidelines for captaining a WCRC team utilizing the courts that are managed by the Walnut Creek Tennis Center: Heather Farm, Rudgear, Larkey Park and Northgate.

There are also links to the 2003 calendar of events, past news articles, photos and information on the Tennis Center at Heather Farm.

This year we're experimenting with online tournament entry using TennisLink and PayPal. Next year, we hope to put membership renewals online and to also publish an online directory. If you have any other suggestions on how to make the web site more useful or have pictures or an article you'd like to have posted send an email to webmaster@wcrc.net.

Jennifer Scriabine



Coach Mac

FROM THE PRO...

Starting Point

My students - both young and old - are constantly asking "where" they can meet people to play and practice tennis. Often the answer is found in their own back yards, they're just not

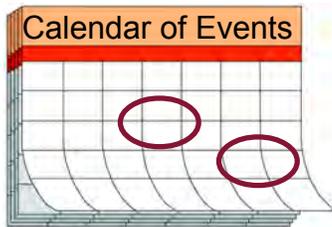
aware of the opportunities.

I recall not long ago that I was asking these same questions. I had no idea that there was a organization organized by my own club and that offered 10 "tournament" events per year. Sadly, it is sometimes said that these events are some of the "best kept secrets" in tennis.

Although the number of local and regional tournaments has steadily grown in scope and popularity through the USTA, it is the club organizations that provide the back-bone for these other events. It is their members that have experienced the thrill of tournament competition and want to take their skills to these bigger

events. Without the many volunteers and players that participate in these monthly club events, the bigger events would likely quickly fade from prominence.

Many counties have tournament organizations that conduct regular monthly events hosted by dedicated volunteers, and the events seem to be growing. Most are events with separate divisions for men and women, boys and girls, and age groups. Remarkably, players typically rank and place themselves at the level in which they think they can compete, this coupled with the low cost accounts for an amazingly accurate level of predictable play. Many, perhaps most, of the beginners and advanced beginners can learn and develop their skills in these monthly competitions. These organizations are highly respected, well run and provide the training grounds for your future. Find one near you by taking a trip into your own back yard.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

OCTOBER

2-5 WCRC Summer Singles Tournament - *Later Rounds*

NOVEMBER

14-16 USTA Combo League Playoffs - Round 1

21-23 USTA Combo League Playoffs - Round 2

22 WCRC Turkey Tournament

DECEMBER

5-6 USTA Combo Sectional Championships

7 USTA Combo State Championships vs So Cal

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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Tennis News



Young and Hoyer Hold Austin and Wade to 10 Points!

by Robert Young

The 13th Annual Alta Bates Summit Tennis Celebrity Classic ended on a high note for **Tracy Austin** and **Virginia Wade**, defeating **Robert Young** and **Jay Hoyer** in a tightly contested match. The only thing that kept them scoring more points was the 10-point super tiebreaker limit. The final result was: Young/Hoyer 4, Austin/Wade 10. It was great fun and for a good cause—the Alta Bates Cancer Center.



Robert Young, Tracy Austin, Virginia Wade and Jay Hoyer

The day started off well enough when Meredith, Karyn, Jay and I shared our lunch table in the “player only” room with **Steve Bono**, (think 49er), WCRC’s own **Ed Baxter** (KGO Radio) with numerous other celebrities wandering in and out.

Upon arrival at center court, two of the top female tennis players from Cal were teamed up with Virginia Wade and Tracy Austin. Next came a couple of old guys like us, who happen to be the National 50 and over champs. It was hard not to notice the difference in the games from the ladies. Instead of playing aggressive serve and volley, suddenly they were letting the guys hit most of the balls. During one point, Virginia even went off to the sidelines and watched as the guys pounded the ball back and forth.

Finally it was our turn to take center court. Be-

cause everyone else had played with the two of them, we were receiving a lot of pressure from all the WCRC member in the audience to challenge them. Virginia didn’t think it was a great idea, but Tracy said it was just fine with her. Jay’s comment “I think we can take them” sealed the deal and the stage was set. It’s a pretty cool feeling warming up with Tracy Austin; every single ball came back to me, waist high. I’ll save the blow-by-blow account to tell while sitting around a campfire sometime, but suffice it to say, they were gracious opponents who tried their best to let us win a few points. It’s just not that easy to hit the ball, on center court, at Berkeley, with Tracy and Virginia on the other side of the net.

Big thanks to all the support from the many WCRC members who made the trip to see the exhibition. Special thanks to Peter Hellmann and Nat Bitton for keeping the crowd, as well as Tracy and Virginia entertained with their on-court commentary.

Winter Doubles is Coming!

The 2004 Winter Doubles League for men and women will start in January for a 12-week season and be concluded in April with an end of the season tournament. Because of the more than 225 teams who participated last year, levels of play have been expanded this year. Men will play 3.0-5.0+ and women will play 2.5-5.0. Registration forms will be in the November Court Reporter and are due Monday, December 15th.

If anyone is interested in helping organize the league, please contact **Judy Stillman**, 933-9351

Road to Nationals

2003 marks the second consecutive year that the WCRC will send a team to National Playoffs. **Jane Ladrech’s** Women’s 3.5 team overcame the competition in Carmel this August to advance to the final round of USTA team playoffs.

The Women’s 3.5 team earned the well-deserved nickname of ‘Scrappers & Squeakers’ by winning each day’s match by a narrow margin of 3-2 ending the season with an astounding 19-0 record. On day one, with the WCRC team down 1-2 in the match to a strong team from Sun Oaks Tennis & Fitness (Redding), it was left to the WCRC’s last 2 doubles teams. Mother



Tennis News



and daughter team of **Corby Mullins** and **Ann Little** edged out the competition in a 15-13 super tiebreak and the undefeated team of **Jane Ladrech** and **Gill Foong** eased over the opposition with a 6-2, 7-5 win to give WCRC a match score of 3-2.

On Day 2, the doubles dominated the competition, Rinconada Park of Palo Alto with WCRC winning all 3 doubles lines and losing both singles lines, again edging out the opposing team 3-2.

On Day 3, the excitement of the occasion was apparent as WCRC faced ClubSport Pleasanton. With the score of the match at 2-2 all eyes and attention were on singles players **Caroline Balazs** of Walnut Creek and **Cassandra Richmond-Buccola** of Pleasanton who would be the deciding match squaring off in a super tiebreaker. WCRC breathed a sigh of relief as Balazs went up 9-6 only to hold their breaths again as Richmond took the lead at 11-10. But with a well-placed lob, a monster serve and an opponent's unforced backhand,

Balazs was able to pull it out for a 13-11 win, sending the team to Nationals. Next up for the team, USTA Adult Nationals in Tucson, AZ - October 2-5th. First matches are scheduled against Texas, Hawaii and Pacific Northwest.

A Women's 5.0 team, captained by Lafayette's **Jenny Ng**, also advanced to Nationals held in late September in Palm Springs.



Club Sponsors Trip to Nationals

In 2002, the WCRC established a policy of club sponsorship for all National bound USTA teams. This month, **Jane Ladrech** and **Valerie Fung-A-Ling**'s women's 3.5 team was the second team in as many years to benefit from this policy. In the photo above, WCRC treasurer **Gabe Goldstein** presents the 2 co-captains with a \$500 check.

50 Mixed League

Gerry Brown and Pam Maloney are pictured below in action during a playoff match in the 6.0 50 mixed league. They won their match, but the other two teams lost, so they are out of the play-offs.

On a side note: Gerry went into surgery recently to do a biopsy on one of his ribs. He'll be out of commission for a while. We send him our best wishes during this time.



The WCRC Needs You!

by Kent Lindeman

The WCRC is currently looking for Board Directors for the 2004 year. Positions are available for any active member looking to serve in a leadership capacity for Northern California's "Community Tennis Association" of the Year!

The Board meets once a month to plan all of the WCRC's events, tournaments and leagues, as well as conduct club business. It's a great way to meet new members, work with others and help shape the club's direction. On personal note, I've served the past four years on the Board and have found it to be a very rewarding and worthwhile experience - I'm sure you will too.

If you are interested, have questions or want to get more information, please feel free to contact me at (925) 943-5745 or via email at jkindeman@astound.net.

Kent Lindeman
Nominations Chair

2003 Turkey Tournament

The Gobbler Invitational

World Team Tennis Format



When: Saturday, November 22, 2003

Where: Walnut Creek Tennis Center

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Players: Tournament for 64 Players

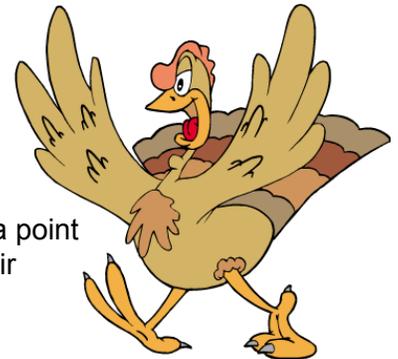
Lunch: 1:00 p.m. Turkey (of course)

Cost: \$12.00/per person

Hurry and sign up for this year's Turkey Tournament, the "Gobbler Invitational." If you've never played in a World Team Tennis format or seen World Team Tennis, you're going to love its excitement and rowdy atmosphere.

Here are some of the format highlights:

- Teams are made up of two men and two women
- Match consists of men's doubles, women's doubles and mixed doubles
- Lets are played and either partner may return the let serve
- Team captain may substitute one player, per event, at the conclusion of a point
- Players sit courtside, to cheer on their team - be sure and bring your chair
- Everyone starts at 9:00 a.m.



Tournament Directors: Karen Hirtzel and Cheryl Silva

Sign-up Form (please sign up as an individual player)

Player #1

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Rating: _____

I am interested in being a team captain yes no

Player #2

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Rating: _____

I am interested in being a team captain yes no

Make check payable to WCRC and mail to: Karen Hirtzel, 22 Tweed Lane, Danville, 94526
Questions? Please call Karen Hirtzel at: 925-362-1585 or email her at hirtzel@NORCAL.usta.com



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NTRP TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE • 2004

2004 Season Begins October 1, 2003

October 4-5, 11-12

LAKE MERCED 5.0 & 5.5 NTRP
MW(5.0-5.5)sd, MX(5.0-5.5)d
San Francisco State University, San Francisco
Entry deadline: September 22
TOUCH TONE/TENNISLINK #500017603

October 4-5, 11-12

MONTEREY TENNIS CENTER FALL NTRP
MW(3.0, 5.5)sd
Monterey Tennis Center, Monterey
Entry deadline: September 18
TOUCH TONE/TENNISLINK #500017703

October 10-12

ARDEN HILLS NTRP CLASSIC
MW(3.5-5.0)sd, MX(3.5-5.0)d
Arden Hills Country Club, Sacramento
Entry deadline: October 1
TOUCH TONE/TENNISLINK #500020403

October 17, 19, 24, 26

MILLS COLLEGE NTRP CHAMPIONSHIPS
M (3.5-4.5, 5.5)sd; W(3.0-4.0, 5.0)sd; MX(3.5-4.5)
Mills College, Oakland
Entry deadline: October 1
TOUCH TONE/TENNISLINK #500018003

November 1-2, 8-9

CHABOT CANYON 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 NTRP SINGLES
MW(3.5-4.5)s
Chabot Canyon Racquet Club, Oakland
Entry deadline: October 20
TOUCH TONE/TENNISLINK #500018403

November 1-2, 8-9

SHERWOOD FALL FIESTA NTRP
MW(3.0-4.0)sd, MX(3.0-4.0)d
Sherwood Tennis Center, Salinas, CA
Entry deadline: October 20
TOUCH TONE/TENNISLINK #500018603