



THE COURT REPORTER

Newsletter of the
Walnut Creek Racquet Club

April 2004



Craig Kirk's Mixed 7.0 team celebrates after sweeping Lafayette Tennis Club 3-0 in the second round of playoffs to move on to Districts.

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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

It's That Time of Year...

Spring is in the air and the courts at Heather are in tremendous demand.

We've got a couple of tournaments coming up that you'll want to consider playing in: **Winter Doubles is April 23-25** and the very popular **Calcutta is May 7-8**. **USTA Adult and Super Senior Leagues** are starting. Plus, the announcement from CCTA about our jointly-sponsored **Singles League** just came out so it's time to register for that too. Be sure to check www.wcrc.net if you are concerned about court availability.

Enclosed with this month's Court Reporter is your 2004 Directory. While we extended the deadline for renewing your membership to mid-March, we decided not to go beyond that so that we could get this to those of you who responded and paid dues within our time frame. As has been the Club's history, that means that a pretty large percentage of folks who probably consider themselves members are not going to receive this newsletter or the Directory. We'll have extra copies of the Directory printed to cover what we think will be the "late group." So, if you are looking for someone you are sure is a member and they aren't in the Directory, tell that person to pay up and we'll at least get them a copy.

Between **Tammie Snyder, Marty Tedlock** and myself, I would guess that it has taken us about 30 hours to pull together the 2004 Directory. The good news for us is that next year, it is very likely that the Directory will not be published except on the web site. If you aren't computer savvy, now's the time to hone your skills so next year you aren't in the dark when contacting other club members.

In closing, I need to issue a plea for HELP. As I mentioned, we've got a number of tournaments coming up and it takes volunteers to run them. Please contact me or **Jennifer Scriabine** if you can help.

See you on the courts...

Pam Maloney

Pam Maloney



Pam Maloney
2004 WCRC President



USTA Norcal News

by Don Loeffler

TENNIS PLAYER INDEX (TPI)

A dynamic web-based rating program, originally intended to include the 50 Mixed and Combo leagues, is being piloted only for the 2004 Combo league. This effort is an attempt by USTA NorCal at standardizing the player rating system by capturing the scores of all matches played, including all practice matches and non-USTA tournament matches. This means that the scores for each and every match played must be entered into the TPI system while USTA sanctioned events will be entered automatically.

This rating system requires the mandatory participation of all team members of a Combo league team. Combo league players must be entered into the TPI system and have played and reported the scores of at least 10 matches prior to joining a Combo team. A club "TPI" administrator will need to be established to create the initial database of player info, subsequent updating of match scores could be done by the players themselves.

The pilot program has been promoted by USTA NorCal via numerous "town meetings" which have been met with varying degrees of acceptance by the attendees. A growing and vocal group of Norcal members have likened the promotion of this system to the onerous implementation of the "3rd Set Tie Breaker" which was established by Norcal edict.

If NorCal is successful in implementing this new level of bureaucracy with the 2004 Combo league the projected next step was requiring it for all league play. However the USTA National office has denied the requested waiver, sought by NorCal, for the use of "TPI" for all 2005 leagues. This leaves only the 2004 Combo league as the guinea pig for this controversial program.

The boards of the Sunnyvale Tennis Center, the largest CTA (Community Tennis Association) and all Clubspots have voted to not field Combo league

teams for the 2004 season. The intention is to show NorCal, by reduced Combo league participation and revenues that this program, associated expenses, and the added administration burdens are not wanted by the dues paying membership.

The WCRC Board is considering the issue and would like to hear opinions from the club members. Please make your opinions known!

The WCRC Board is considering not fielding Combo teams for the 2004 season to send NorCal a message that we don't agree with this rating system. Please let us hear from you if feel strongly about this subject.

See ya on the courts.

Don Loeffler

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Tennis News



Winter Doubles is Winding Down

Nearly 500 matches have been played in the Winter Doubles League which started in January and will be ending on April 11th. Women's teams have ranged from 2.5 to 4.5/5.0 levels and men's were from 3.0 to 5.0. Participants were assigned 10 opponents by the computer and had to arrange the date and place of their matches. Some teams have completed all their matches, while others have barely gotten started. Those who did not schedule matches in January have been scrambling to get matches completed because of the many days of rain.

The end-of-season tournament will be April 23-25 with some first round matches being played the week before. In order to qualify for the tournament teams must have played 4 matches. Teams will be playing at Heather Farm Park and Northgate High School with the finals on Sunday afternoon at Heather Farm Tennis Center.

Everyone, players and spectators, are welcome to the barbeque on Saturday noon. Even if you are not playing you can come and enjoy some great tennis. Participants can pick up their t-shirt or tank top any time during the three days of the tournament.

A special thanks to Shari Gonzalez for her long hours making online scoring a great way to keep track of match results. Go to www.wcrc.net if you would like to see who is leading each division. And thanks, too, to Jennifer Scriabine for heading up the tournament. If you would like to help with either the barbeque or the tournament, please call her at 939-4328.

The Making of Champions

It is funny how tennis teams come together. Someone decides or is "talked into" forming a team with the old - "oh I will help you routine". So you bite, and you contact a few folks to join. The word spreads, people call, friends recruit friends, and suddenly you have a roster of 24. Then another call, "Well yes, you can be on the team but I can not guarantee you that you will play very much." Your roster now has hit 26.

As captain you swallow hard, realizing that it will be difficult to get everyone enough playing time and still be competitive. The age-old dilemma between "let's just have fun" and "just win baby win" creeps into the picture. You finally figure out that it might just be possible to do both. So you think you are all set. Then another strong player comes out of the wood-

work; but you have to say no !!! Darn would have loved to have had them but the roster is already overflowing. Got to be fair to those who have already committed. Well at least you are now truly set and the planning begins. Things are looking brighter.

"What do you mean you are pregnant", then you catch yourself, "oh that is fantastic, I am so happy for you." You just lost your # 1 ace ringer. Or maybe it comes in another flavor: I just got transferred and we are moving, or I have decided not to play this year, or I broke my (fill in the blank), or the one that hurts the most - I have decided to play for -again fill in the blank



Y o u say to yourself - now why is it that I am doing t h i s ? Gosh, I wish we c o u l d have two t e a m s , but no one wants to captain a second

team and the USTA deadline is rapidly approaching.

I know there are a lot of captains and former captains out there chuckling. As they say to themselves, yea but you forgot the one about -"I never want to play with him or her again"

But they also know that as captains they will do it again; if not this year then may be next year. There is something exhilarating about people, some of whom are total strangers, coming together, working hard and playing hard to achieve that elusive goal of making the "Districts".

Well, thanks to some great team chemistry and some very dedicated and unselfish team members, the Walnut Creek 6.0 and 7.0 Mixed teams, the Walnut Creek Women's 3.5 team and the Walnut Creek 3.0 Senior Men's teams have achieved that elusive goal. They will represent the Walnut Creek Racquet Club at the District Championships.

The 6.0 Mixed Team did it the easy way, winning the regular season with a 10-2 record and then winning both of their playoff matches. The teams of **Dave**



Tennis News



Sperry and **Carmen Duarte**, **Francis Crusit** and **Kathleen Pruden**, and **Debasis Panda** and **Lori Fries** fueled by the great play of the women lead the charge through the playoffs - which culminated in a 3-0 win over Moraga.

The 6.0 Mixed Team's first match at Districts is at 8:00 on Saturday May 22nd in Pleasanton, and then again at 2:00 against Napa Solano. Their efforts to advance to the Sectionals at Harbor Bay in June will then hinge on a victory against North County at 11:00 on Sunday May 23rd.



Earning the right to go to the Districts and represent WCRC and Diablo North are:

Marie Murphy, Myrl Kan, Pam Maloney, Marti Kohen, Ron Huxley, Anna Huxley, Anna George, Irv Pearlstein, Jay Evans, Barbara Craigg, Dale Crabtree, Kerry Benthall, Kelly Annoni, Judy Collins, Scott Winburne, Gerry Brown, Dave Sperry, Carmen Durate, Francis Chan, Debasis Panda, Kathleen Pruden and Lori Fries.

Tennis can be a TEAM sport

Just look at all the supporters watching a playoff match between **Debbie Hellmann's** "Mixed Nuts" and **Craig Kirk's** 7.0 mixed team during the first round of playoffs.

With the removal of a key windscreen at Rudgear, spectators can now enjoy the tennis even more. It's



always a party when two WCRC teams meet up in the playoffs, and this was no exception, despite not playing at our home courts at Heather. The March weather was great, the beer and wine flowed, and the tennis on the courts wasn't bad either.

Tournament Highlights & Results

The 3.0 Senior Men's team finished third in the regular season, but upset the number two seed Crow Canyon to advance to the league finals against Valley Vista. Thanks to some inspired play by **Francis Chan** and **Everett Thomas**, and steady play by **Joel Schaffer, Dave Sperry, Jay Evans** and **Gerry Brown**, the 3.0 team went on to defeat Valley Vista 3-0 for the right to advance as Diablo North League





Tennis News



Champions. They will play in Elk Grove with first match scheduled for 10:30 on Friday, April 19th.

The Senior Men's roster consists of some very familiar names and represents 100's of years of play for WCRC teams including multiple trips to districts, sectionals and even a National Championship. I guess that is why they call it a Senior team.

Dick Gall, Dave Sperry, Gerry Brown, Carl Fernandez, Irv Pearlstein, Dave Iverson, Dan DeSousa, Francis Chan, Jay Evans, Dale Crabtree, Ron Huxley, Everett Thomas, Tom Sepe, Joel Schaffer, and Kerry Benthall.

So come out to Pleasanton, Harbor Bay or Elk Grove and cheer on your club's representatives as they attempt to build on the winning tradition of the Walnut Creek Racquet Club. A full list of times and dates will be available in the next newsletter.

And when you are asked to captain step-up, realizing that while it is not for everyone, it has tremendous rewards in terms of friendships and fond memories that will last a lifetime.

This piece is dedicated to all the WCRC captains past, present and future. And, it is especially dedicated to **Phyllis Craig** long time captain who passed away a few years ago while at the Sectionals doing what she loved—captaining her ladies teams.

Senior PlayOff Updates:

Mary Waltz's #1 placed 3.0 Senior Women went down to the #4-seeded Pleasant Hill team in the first round of play-offs. It was a close one with **Pam Maloney** and **Susie Dunlap** pulling out a close three setter on court 1. Unfortunately, those Pleasant Hill



girls came to win and took home a 2-1 victory. We had two Walnut Creek teams matched up for the 3.5

playoffs, so we knew the club would advance to the second round. **Rita Utz's** team prevailed over **Elizabeth Baxter's** team and went on to defeat Clubsport Pleasanton in the final round. So, congratulations to all the 3.5 women in the playoffs and a special send-off to Ritz's team as they take their place at districts.

On the men's side, WCRC experienced a first weekend of upsets in close matches. **Jim Farber's**



undefeated 4.0 team was stunned by #4 Roundhill CC. Also a victim of first match blues was **Dave Sperry's** 3.5 Men's team. On a happier note, **Gerry Brown's** 3.0 team is headed for the "big games". After defeating Crow Canyon 2-1 on the first weekend, these guys made it look easy in a 3-0 sweep against Club Sport Valley Vista to clinch a spot at districts.

Mixed Results:

We, indeed, did experience "mixed results" in our playoff efforts. Both 8.0 teams failed to make it through the playoffs. **Bret Jones's** team went down 0-3 in the first round. **Shari Huber's** team was upset in the first round as well in a very close 2-1 match up at Clubsport Valley Vista.

However, headed for district play is **Craig Kirk's** 7.0 team after a win over another WCRC 7.0 team headed by **Debbie Hellman**. Kirk's team then moved on to defeat Lafayette Tennis Club winning 3-0 in straight sets.

Gerry Brown's 6.0 mixed team hardly broke a sweat on their way to district play. After defeating Sleepy Hollow 3-0 in straight sets, they repeated these results in the second and final round against Lafayette Tennis Club. Gerry is "the man" as he has both a mixed and a senior team going to districts.....how does he do it?



Tennis News



So....in conclusion.....we say congratulations to all those who played during the season and those players who qualified for play-off competition. A special send-off congratulations to our advancing teams: **Rita Utz's** Senior 3.5 Women, Gerry Brown's Senior 3.0 Men, Gerry Brown's 6.0 Mixed Team and Craig Kirk's 7.0 Mixed Team.

Friday Night Drop-In Tennis

We'd like to support a Friday night drop-in tennis for new and old club members who are interested in meeting some new folks to play with. The format for these events will be mixed doubles and we'll do something like "King of the Court" which allows for lots of rotating. Cost will be \$2 per person to cover light fees and balls. Bring your own food, if you want or bring something to share.

We'd like to start these in May but need volunteers to run them; without volunteers from those of you reading this there won't be any events. So, contact **Pam Maloney** at pam4tennis@hotmail.com if you are willing to sign-up for a Friday night. It's easy, fun and a great way to meet other tennis players!

Got Something to Sell or Rent?

Since our membership is over 750, a few of us thought starting a "Classified" section in the newsletter might be a great addition to the benefits of being a WCRC member. So we're going to try it for a couple of months.

Here's how we envision it working. Send a description of your item, in 25 words or less, to **Tammie Snyder** at tammie@gte.net. Be sure to include your

contact info because sales will be between the parties involved. WCRC is only providing the medium for advertising. Items don't have to be tennis related, you can include things like a vacation home you rent out, or tickets to an event you can't use. We'll run the ad for just 1 month unless you ask to have it run again. Give it a try!

Ladies Spring League

Maria Craven and Rita Utz are co-captains of WCRC Spring League A-3 team. Spring league runs from January through May and WCRC has two other teams, an A-2 team, Kathy Leahy captain, and B-2, Bev McHale captain. Women's leagues are played



weekday mornings and include BALL, Senior BALL, Super Senior BALL, and Fall League. There is something for everyone, including lots of fun! Next signup time for any leagues would be August 2004. Contact Carolyn Spady, 938-0893, Interclub Chair for additional information.

Early Court Use

There have been some problems with court assignments for players coming to play before the Pro Shop opens in the mornings. Every morning, a sign up sheet will be attached to the outside of the pro-shop door for early arrivals to sign up for courts and to also designate any court reservations for that morning such as league play and youth camps.

The sign up sheet should be self-explanatory, but please call the pro-shop if any questions arise. 925-945-0105. Thanks for your cooperation, the Pro Shop staff.



The Contra Costa Tennis Association (CCTA) has partnered with the Walnut Creek Racquet Club (WCRC) to offer the **2004 Men's and Women's Summer Singles Leagues** program. Now in its seventh year, the leagues have been one of the true success stories in NorCal tennis, starting with 48 players in 1998 and growing to 475 participants in 2003. We have appreciated your past involvement, helpful suggestions and personal recruitment of new players into the league - all of which has made the leagues better each year.

NEW FOR 2004!

- On-line registration
- Participants can indicate their "playing preferences" (i.e. week-day evenings, weekend mornings) which will appear on the schedule provided to your opponents.
- Participants must play at least four (4) matches (barring injury) to be eligible to play in the 2005 Singles Leagues

On-line scoring and real-time standings will continue to be provided at www.wcrc.net for all ten (10) divisions. Don't forget that the league registration fees also include 12 singles matches, a T-shirt and an end of the season tournament — all for just \$25 for CCTA or WCRC members and \$35 for non-members.

We hope you will take the opportunity to register for the 2004 leagues. They truly do integrate the competitive elements of both league and tournament play while also serving to expand your tennis network.

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| DATES | June 1, 2004 - September 15, 2004 |
| ENTRY FEE | \$25 CCTA or WCRC members \$35 Non-members |
| FORMAT | Men's Singles/Women's Singles 15-week league season (players grouped by NTRP level) |
| DIVISIONS | Men's: 3.0 - 5.5; Women 2.5 - 5.0 (10 divisions) <small>*Players can register for one (1) division only. We ask players to register at their current NTRP level unless they have played up a half level in 2003 and posted a record above 500 in that division</small> |
| SCHEDULING | 12 scheduled matches to be completed over 15 week season. Players responsible for scheduling own matches. Players will be provided with a contact list of all participants in their division. |
| MATCH FORMAT | Best two-out-of-three set format, 12-point tiebreaker. Both players responsible for bringing new balls to match; winner gets unopened can |
| SCORING | The winner is responsible for reporting the match score by logging onto www.wcrc.net and entering scores on-line. Players will be provided a log-in and password prior to the start of the season |
| STANDINGS | Division standings will be updated on a real time basis as scores are posted electronically. |
| TOURNAMENT | End-of-season tournament with draw determined by league standings (to be held September 29-October 3 and October 8-10). To qualify for the tournament, players must have completed and reported at least six (6) matches during the season. |
| MATCH SITE | Matches may be played at <u>any</u> site mutually agreed upon by opponents. |
| MATCH MINIMUM | Participants must play at least four matches (barring injury) to be eligible for the 2005 season |
| T-SHIRT | All participants will receive a league T-shirt. |
| ENTRY DEADLINE | May 15, 2004 |
| CHECK TO | Contra Costa Tennis Association or CCTA |
| SEND TO | Contra Costa Tennis Association 2950 Buskirk Avenue, Suite 170 Walnut Creek, CA 94597 |

READ ABOUT SEASONS 1-6!
Go to www.ccta.cc/ccta/pastchampions.html



**New Member
Information
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Privacy**



Calcutta Tournament

May 7 - 8

Here's your chance to enter the most popular tournament that the WCRC offers each year - the 2004 Calcutta. Enter early, since the event is limited to the first 64 women and 64 men who register. The format is Mixed Doubles, but you enter individually. You will be paired with a partner by blind draw prior to the tournament and the

resultant team given a handicap according to their combined playing abilities. At the Friday night party, you meet your partner and teams are auctioned off to the highest bidder - either individuals or syndicate. Start times will also be announced on Friday night.

Cost is \$20 per person (covers the Friday night party and Saturday tournament in which you are guaranteed a minimum of two matches). Guest may attend the Friday night party at no charge. Entry deadline is April 30th. This is a money tournament, so it is important that you list your current NTRP rating on the registration form below. If you don't have a rating, call us and we can help. If you have any questions or can assist the Tournament Committee with various aspects of this event, please contact **Jennifer Scriabine** at 939-4328 or at scriabine@astound.net. All tournament participants must be current WCRC members.

In the WCRC's long Calcutta history, there have been very few instances where the team with the most collective talent ends up winning the tournament. The 2003 edition was one of those exceptions as the team of Chris Ramsower-Pearlstein and Brad Belton overcame their highest in the tournament -15 handicap to win six consecutive matches, including a victory over the scrappy tandem of Shari Huber and Leonard Young in the final.

2003 Winners (and their team handicaps)

CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND

1st: Chris Ramsower-Pearlstein & Brad Belton (-15)

Owner: Irv Pearlstein

Finalist: Shari Huber & Leonard Young (-6)

Owner: Leonard Young & Friends

CONSOLATION ROUND

1st: Vicki Majhor & Pat Beauchemin (-3)

Owner: Cynthia Lonergan

Finalist: Jason Ogden and Anne George (1)

Owner: Irv Pearlstein

Calcutta Tournament Entry Form

Name: _____

USTA Rating: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Number in your party (including guests) _____

Please make checks payable to WCRC
(\$20 per player) and send with entry form to:

Gabe Goldstein
3075 Citrus Circle, Suite 205
Walnut Creek CA 94598

Questions?
Contact Jennifer Scriabine at (925) 939-4328
or at scriabine@astound.net

\$20 Per Player • Entry Deadline: April 30th



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NTRP TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE • 2004

April 9-10, 17-18

SANTA CRUZ TENNIS ACADEMY NTRP TOURNY
MW(3.0-5.5)sd; MX(3.0-5.5)d
Cabrillo College, Santa Cruz
Entry deadline: April 1
TOUCH TONE/TENNISLINK #508304104

April 10, 17-18

CLUBSPORT VALLEY VISTA NTRP
M(3.0-5.0)sd; W(3.0-4.5)sd; MX(3.5-4.5)d
Club Sport Valley Vista, Walnut Creek
Entry deadline: March 29
TOUCH TONE/TENNISLINK #500003904

April 21-26

PACIFIC COAST SENIOR TOURNAMENT
M(45-60)sd; W(40-50)sd; MX(40)d
Berkeley Tennis Club, Berkeley
Entry deadline: April 7
TOUCH TONE/TENNISLINK #500006404

April 22-25

\$2,500 LOS GATOS MEN'S OPEN
(Men's Open Singles)d
Los Gatos Swim and Racquet Club, Los Gatos
Entry deadline: April 15
TOUCH TONE/TENNISLINK #500006104

April 24-25, May 1-2

MILLS COLLEGE SPRING NTRP
M(3.5-5.0)sd; W(3.0-4.5)sd; MX(3.0-4.5)d
Mills College, Oakland
Entry deadline: April 12
TOUCH TONE/TENNISLINK #508303304

April 24-25, May 1-2

SALINAS VALLEY NTRP CLASSIC
MW(2.5-5.5)sd; MX(2.5-5.5)d
Sherwood Tennis Center, Salinas
Entry deadline: April 6
TOUCH TONE/TENNISLINK #500006004