



THE COURT REPORTER

March 2002

Newsletter of the
Walnut Creek Racquet Club



Robert Young

President's Message Heather Farm...What's the big deal?

Do people ever ask you what is so special about playing tennis at Heather Farm? Well, to start with, it's in Walnut Creek, one of the best communities in the Bay Area. Second, where else can you play tennis year round for such a meager amount of money? The answer -- not too many places. I recently made a few phone calls to research this very question and you might be amazed at what other people are forking out in club dues in the local area. Initiation expenses aside, Lafayette Tennis Club costs \$79 per month, Club Sport Valley Vista runs \$92, Big C is at \$99 (they did send me a one week free pass for asking...), and Round Hill tops the chart with \$122 for a single person, and if you decide to get married, they raise the rate to \$187, whether or not your spouse plays.

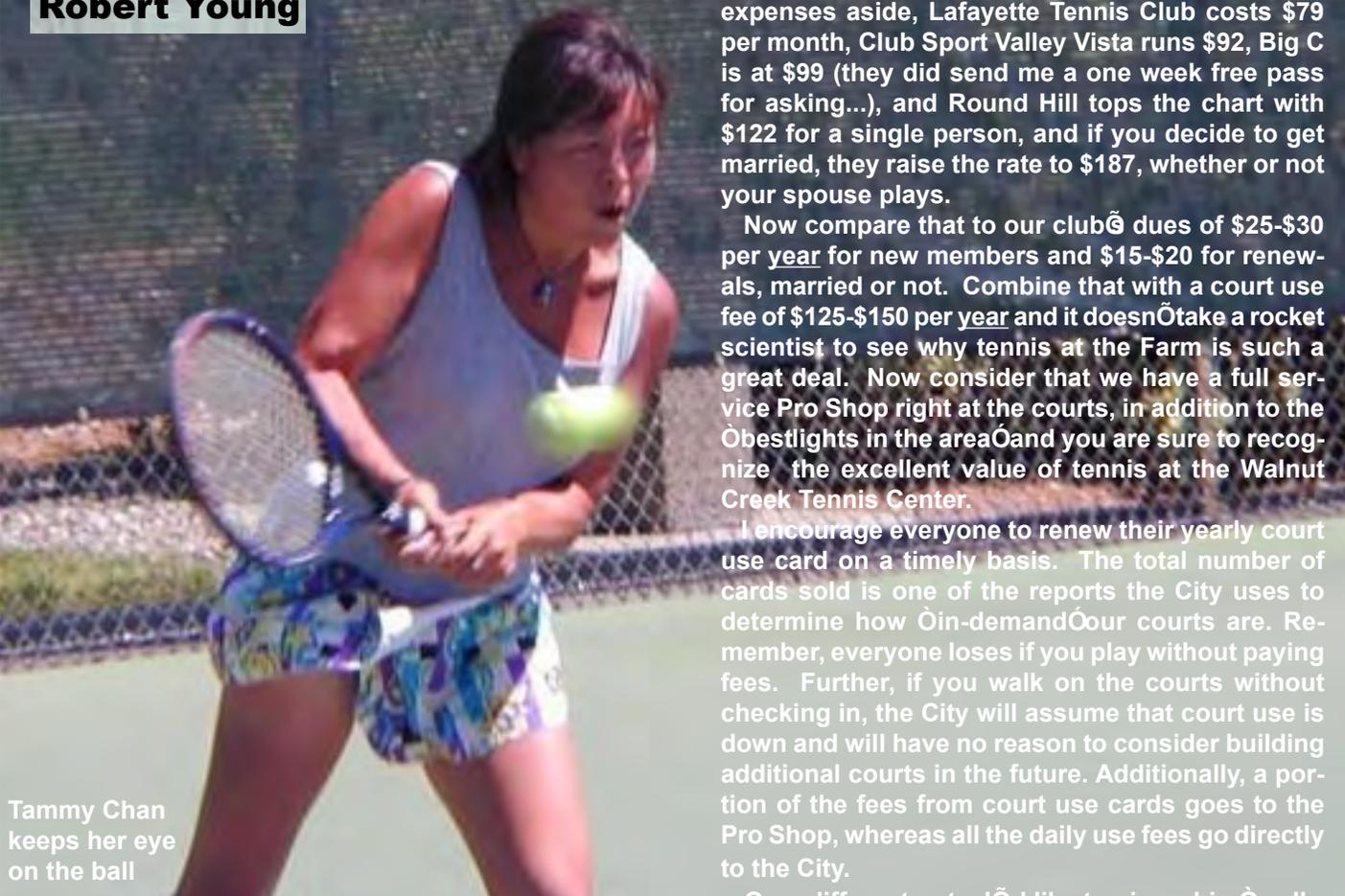
Now compare that to our club's dues of \$25-\$30 per year for new members and \$15-\$20 for renewals, married or not. Combine that with a court use fee of \$125-\$150 per year and it doesn't take a rocket scientist to see why tennis at the Farm is such a great deal. Now consider that we have a full service Pro Shop right at the courts, in addition to the best lights in the area and you are sure to recognize the excellent value of tennis at the Walnut Creek Tennis Center.

I encourage everyone to renew their yearly court use card on a timely basis. The total number of cards sold is one of the reports the City uses to determine how in-demand our courts are. Remember, everyone loses if you play without paying fees. Further, if you walk on the courts without checking in, the City will assume that court use is down and will have no reason to consider building additional courts in the future. Additionally, a portion of the fees from court use cards goes to the Pro Shop, whereas all the daily use fees go directly to the City.

On a different note, I'd like to give a big well done to Josh Svendsen for not only stepping up and directing a successful Valentine's Tournament, but also managing to complete the event before the rain closed in, something that hasn't happened in several years.

See you on the courts.

-Robert



Tammy Chan
keeps her eye
on the ball

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CALCUTTA IS COMING !

Walnut Creek Racquet Club

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(925) 945-0105 ¥ www.wcrc.net

OFFICERS

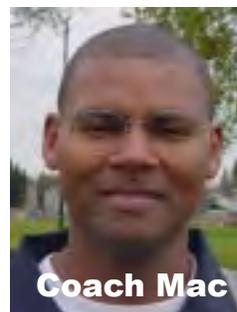
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McCullough New Pro

Calvin O'CoachMac McCullough is the new teaching pro at the Walnut Creek Tennis Center, replacing Jan Hejna who left at the beginning of the year. O'CoachMac, Oas he is known to his students, has experience in both the public and private teaching arenas -- he has run a recreational program for the city of Vacaville and is a former pro at the San Francisco Tennis Club.



Born in Connecticut, Coach Mac picked up his first racket at the age of eight but played the majority of his tennis in the Air Force while stationed in Alexandria, Louisiana. After winning a number of service tournaments, a low back injury limited his competitive play and he turned to teaching as a result. Coach Mac was certified by the United States National Tennis Academy (USNTA) in 1992.

His approach to teaching stresses consistency first, then depth, placement and power in that order. Currently, Coach Mac has availability for private lessons early in the week and during daytime hours. In addition, he will lead group lessons at the Beginner (3.0 and below), Advanced Beginner (3.5) and Intermediate (4.0+) levels starting the first week of March. Interested members should contact Coach Mac at 945-0105.

CALENDAR

MARCH 1

Siebel Open Bus Trip

APRIL 5-7

WCRC Winter Doubles League
Tournament

MAY 10-11

Calcutta

JUNE 3 - SEPTEMBER 15

WCRC Summer Singles League

JUNE 7-9

Club Championships

Mixed Doubles

AUGUST 10-11 & 17-18

Club Championships

Singles & Doubles

SEPTEMBER 27-30

WCRC Summer Singles

League Tournament

NOVEMBER 16

Turkey Tournament

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.

WCRC Past Champions

WCRC Champ, Survivor Contestant

Were you one of the 30 million people who faithfully watched CBS's popular reality game show "Survivor" in Summer 2000? If you were, you remember the antics and alliances that developed amongst 16 castaways during their 39 days on an island in the South China Sea. You also probably recall the \$1 million winner, Richard Hatch, as well as the other colorful finalists, Kelly Wigglesworth, Rudy Boesch and Susan Hawk. Did you know that the WCRC's most decorated club champion was one of the contestants on that first season?

That's right - Sonja Christopher, who was the first person voted off the initial season of Survivor, is a former member of the WCRC and a 16-time champion in Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles combined. As Sonja Shumaker, she claimed the first seven WCRC Women's Singles titles (1970-1976) and added two more several years later (1981-1982). Shumaker won three Women's Doubles crowns with Shirley Axelson and four Mixed Doubles championships, including her first with Larry Cowan in 1974 and last with Walt Thomas in 1986. In fact, she may have won more titles than that - records of many club champions in the late 70s and 80s were destroyed in the 1996 clubhouse fire.



The 65-year old Christopher still lives in Walnut Creek, where she currently works part-time as a music therapist, playing the banjo and leading sing-alongs at Alzheimer's centers. Before retiring, Sonja worked as an investment counselor, tennis instructor and elementary school teacher. In December 1997, Sonja was diagnosed with invasive breast cancer, but underwent pre-surgical chemotherapy, followed by lumpectomy and radiation and has resumed an active life.

Due to health reasons, Sonja hasn't set foot on a tennis court for some time, trading the physical pounding of the sport for gentler conditioning through swimming. She does miss it, however, saying that "it would still be my favorite sport if I could play." Regardless, she's had quite a journey from Court 4 to Borneo.

USTA Tournaments

Ley Takes All-WCRC Final at Solano NTRP Championships

Despite losing a tightly contested first set, top-seeded Maria Ley rebounded to beat #2 Shari Huber in the Women's 3.5 Singles final of the 12th Annual Solano NTRP Championship, 5-7, 6-2, 6-1.

The Fairfield-based tournament, held February 9-10 & 16-17, also featured a win by the Mixed 5.0 Doubles tandem of Mary Green and Rick O'Brien over Darryl and Stacy Hein of Campbell in the final. After being tied 3-3 in the opening set, Green and O'Brien found their rhythm and ran off 9 straight games for a convincing 6-3, 6-0 victory. In other action, Traci Hapke captured the Women's 3.0 Singles title with two round-robin wins while #3 seed Dimitar Zaprianov lost to Marc Hansen of Morgan Hill in the Men's 4.0 Singles final, 7-6, 2-6, 7-5.

Zaprianov and fiancée Eileen Ko won several rounds at the Clubsport Fremont NTRP several weeks earlier before dropping a 6-2, 6-3 decision to Carrie Bell and Philip Stromer of Santa Clara in the Mixed 4.0 Final. Across the Bay at the Lake Merced NTRP held at San Francisco State University, top-seeded Anton Guliaev streamrolled his way through the first three rounds of Men's 4.5 singles draw (including a win against new USTA NorCal Executive Director Bruce Hunt in the semifinals) but couldn't quite get by #3 Steve DeCaro of Milpitas in the finals, losing 6-1, 6-1.



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PLAYOFF SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 2 - WCTC at Heather Farm

1:00 pm

Women's S3.5A VS. Women's S3.5B
 11-2 record; #2 seed VS. 11-2 record; #3 seed
 (Dee Karowski) VS. (Rita Utz)

2:30 pm

Men's S4.0A VS. Clubsport Valley Vista
 10-0 record; #1 seed VS. 6-4 record; #4 seed
 (Jim Farber)

Sunday, March 3 at Valley Vista

12:00 noon VS. Clubsport Valley Vista
 Men's S3.5B VS. 13-0 record; #1 seed
 9-4 record; #4 seed
 (Don Loeffler)

Saturday, March 9 - WCTC at Heather Farm

12:30 pm
 Mixed 7.0A VS. Pleasant Hill
 14-1 record; #1 seed VS. 10-5 record; #4 seed
 (Bret Jones)

2:30 pm

Mixed 6.0B VS. Los Medanos
 15-0 record; #1 seed VS. 12-3 record; #4 seed
 (Shari Huber)

Sunday, March 10 - Berkeley Tennis Club

10:30 am
 Men's 4.5A VS. Berkeley Tennis Club
 5-6 record; #4 seed VS. 12-0 record; #1 seed
 (Frank Jones)

Weekend of March 9-10

Mixed 8.0B VS. Opponent/location
 8-4 record; #3 seed VS. time not available
 (Mary Kay Wilcock) at press time

**COME OUT AND SUPPORT
 YOUR WCRC TEAMS!**

Mention WCRC and receive an additional discount

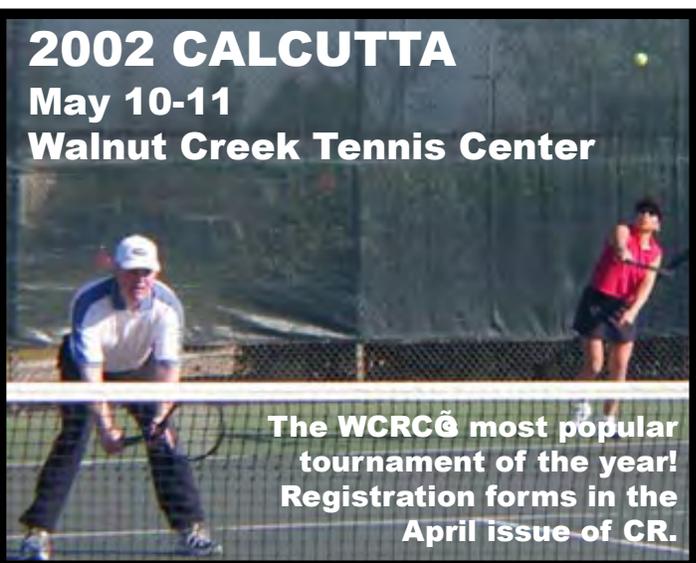


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SUPER SENIOR MEN NEEDED!

WCRC Men's SuperSenior Team (65 and over) is looking for 3.5 players. Season runs from April - July 2002. Team starts practice in mid-March. Matches predominantly mid-week during season. Contact Harry Hutton at 820-7900 or via email at huttoni@juno.com.



2002 CALCUTTA
May 10-11
Walnut Creek Tennis Center

The WCRC's most popular
 tournament of the year!
 Registration forms in the
 April issue of CR.

FUTURE PLAYOFF ROUNDS

Mixed League

- Round 2 - March 22-24
- Districts - May 17-19 ¥ Pleasanton Community Park & Harbor Bay Tennis Club (Alameda)
- Sectionals - May 31 - June 2 ¥ Pleasanton Community Park

Senior League

- Round 2 - March 16-17
- Districts - April 12-14 ¥ Broadstone Racquet Club (Sacramento)
- Sectionals - May 2-5 ¥ Sierra Sport & Racquet (Fresno)

Kennedy and Rose Valentine's Day Winners

Despite playing with different partners the entire day, Carol Kennedy and Ron Rose won the WCRC's Annual Valentine's Day tournament, held on February 16. Carol and Gabe Goldstein won 16 games during the round robin play, while Ron and Julie O'Keefe won 17. At the end of the tournament, the ladies were asked to choose the name of their "secret lover" from a bowl - winners were determined by the number of total games won by this new pair. Kennedy and Rose, who each won a \$25 gift certificate in the Walnut Creek Tennis Center, edged out Stephanie Law and Goldstein, who combined for 32 total games.

Thanks to all 24 teams who entered and to nice weather, which ensured the completion of the first Valentine's Day tournament since 1999 not cancelled by rain. Congratulations to Josh Svendsen who oversaw a smooth operation in his rookie effort as tournament coordinator. Thanks also to Liz Riddle, Al Johns, Bill Clayton and Nat Bitton for their assistance.



Umeko Nishimura chooses her "secret lover" as Liz Riddle and Josh Svendsen look on.



Champs: Carol Kennedy and Ron Rose



Runners-up: Stephanie Law and Gabe Goldstein

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RACQUET TUNE UP SPECIAL

During the month of March, everyone restringing their racquet will have the opportunity to purchase a new replacement grip at 1/2 the regular price. Additionally, all WCRC members will be given 10% off all clothing and shoes.

SHOWING COURT USE CARDS

Please remember to go to the Pro Shop prior to occupying a court and show your court use cards to the desk person assigning courts. While the WCTC staff wants to be as accommodating as possible, it is impossible to provide courts fairly and equitably without every player's cooperation. If this system does not work, the WCTC will have to implement a more demanding system of court assignment.

ALL CAPTAINS

To assist all captains of mixed and senior USTA teams, all ladies BALL and spring league teams and all adult summer USTA teams, the following information is provided for your guidance. All captains are reminded to provide the WCTC Staff with the court use card numbers or daily use fees for all home players **PRIOR TO PLAY!** If any player on the home team does not have an annual use card, they must pay a daily use fee **PRIOR TO PLAY!** Thanks.

LIGHT FEES

Please assist the WCTC Staff with the payment of light fees when you are playing at night -- \$2.00 per hour per court. If you are playing on a court when the lights are turned on, please have the courtesy to take a moment and go the shop and pay this fee.

NEWS AND NOTES

Summer Team Tennis

June 17 - August 5

Looking forward to some tennis this summer? How about checking out Summer Team Tennis at Heather Farms? Held one night a week for eight consecutive weeks, you can play tennis against worthy adversaries, cheer for your team, jeer and boo your opponents, and break bread with friends and enemies. Each team will field singles, doubles, for each gender and mixed doubles.

The Summer Team Tennis FUN RACKET starts June 17 and ends on August 5 with the grand finale of champions. For more information, please contact Gwen Yee at 283-6116 or bfylaw@pacbell.net. Registration instructions will be provided in a future issue.

WCRC Summer Singles League

June 3 - September 15

Participate in one of Northern California's most successful tennis programs -- competitive play in 8 divisions (Men's 3.5 - 5.0/5.5 and Women's 3.0 - 4.5/5.0). Over 300 players in 2001 -- expecting even more in 2002! Registration will be \$20 for WCRC members and \$30 for non-members. Please contact Kent Lindeman at 943-5745 or jkindeman@earthlink.net if you have any questions.

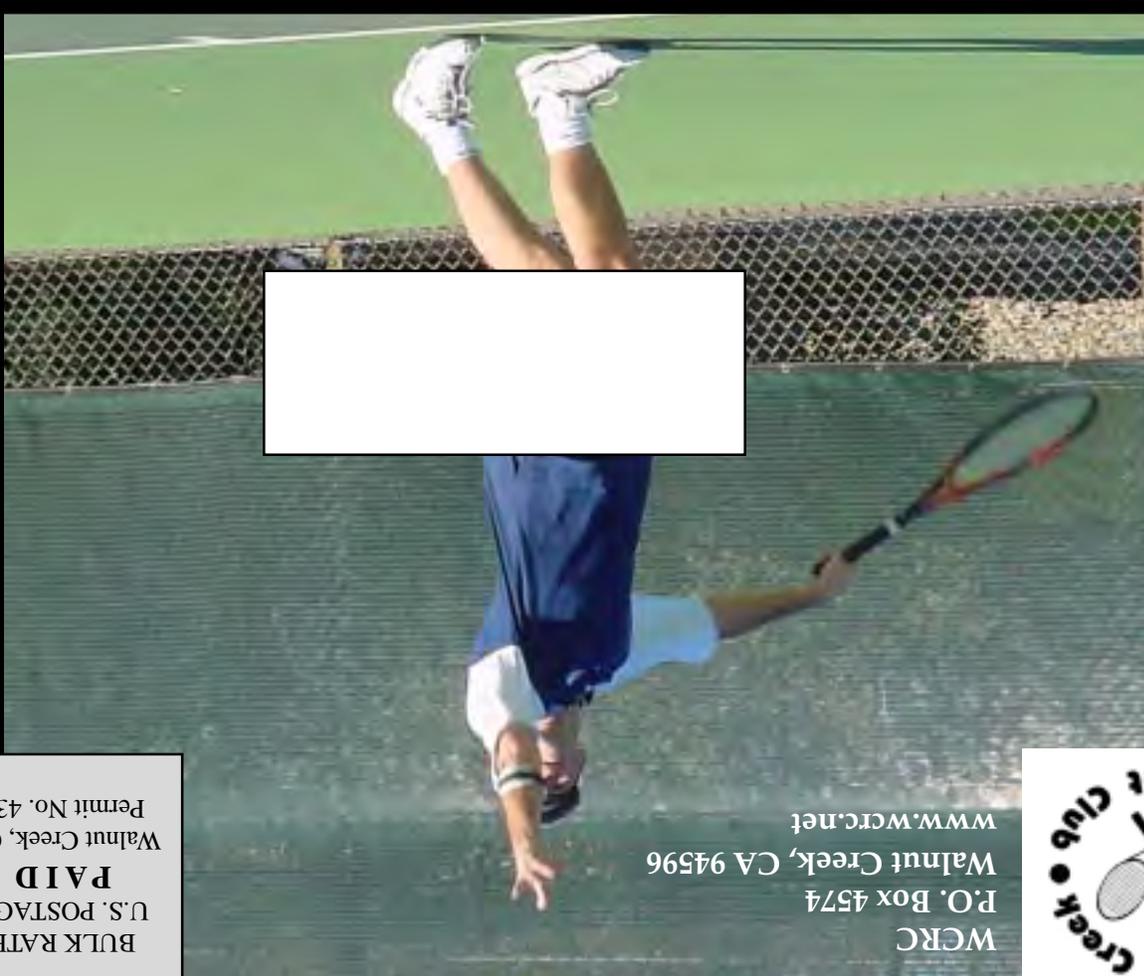
Why the ads anyway?

You probably have noticed that we have been running advertisements in The Court Reporter over the past few months. Why, you ask? One of our goals for 2002 was to improve the quality of the publication by introducing a full-page, color magazine cover while not increasing the net expense of production and circulation to our 650 members. The Board decided to target a few tennis-specific businesses in the local area to place paid ads to defray costs. We thank these businesses for their initial support and hope you continue to enjoy and utilize the information provided in The Court Reporter.

FROM THE EDITOR



**New Member
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NTRP TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE • 2002



Anton Guliaev coils to hit a big forehand

****5.5 TOURNAMENT OF THE YEAR****
March 24-25, 31-April 1
 WALNUT CREEK NTRP SPRING FLING
 5.5ÑMS, MD, WS, WD, MXD
 4.5ÑMS, MD, WS, WD, MXD
 3.5ÑMS, MD, WS, WD, MXD
 Entry fee: Singles-\$25.00, Doubles-\$32.00/team
 ENTRIES OPEN: Feb. 19 - CLOSE: March 12
 TOUCH TONE/TENNISLINK #50112

April 21-22, 28-29
 CLUBSPORT VALLEY VISTA NTRP
 5.0ÑMS, MD
 4.5ÑMS, MD, WS, WD, MXD
 4.0ÑMS, MD, WS, WD, MXD
 3.5ÑMS, MD, WS, WD, MXD
 3.0ÑMS, WS
 Entry fee: Singles-\$30.00, Doubles-\$40.00/team
 ENTRIES OPEN: March 19 - CLOSE: April 9
 TOUCH TONE/TENNIS LINK #50116