



THE COURT REPORTER

*Newsletter of the Walnut Creek Racquet Club
March 2006*

Rosemary Brown gets ready to drill a forehand winner at the Mardi Gras Tournament.



Walnut Creek Racquet Club

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THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Well, it may not have been Fat Tuesday, but the Mardi Gras tournament recently organized by **Nat Bitton** was a smashing success. From the Creole-style music to an abundance of beads to the red beans and rice and finally the hurricanes it was definitely a great event; oh and I should probably mention all of the fun tennis that was played in the WTT style format. All in all, a great job by Nat & **Bernadette Bitton** and all of the other individuals that helped to put on such a fun event, including **Tammy Chan**, **Al Johns** (our local BBQ'er extraordinaire), **Liz Riddle** and **Rosemary Brown**.



Shari Gonzalez
2006 WCRC President

In other more mundane news, I wanted to inform you of the recent efforts of **Gabe Goldstein**, **Jim Farber** & **Nat Bitton** to alleviate our annoying pigeon dropping problem at the tennis center. If you've played at the tennis center recently, you've probably noticed that certain courts have accumulated dirt & droppings from the pigeons that roost on the lights. I'm happy to announce that the pigeon abatement effort has been approved by the city. The work will be performed through a contact of Nat Bitton sometime in the near future, no scheduled date as of yet. After that the surface of the courts will be cleaned and the areas where the most significant damage has occurred will be repaired. I'd like to thank Gabe for following this through, even though his presidency term is over and Nat for helping us to coordinate finding a vendor to do the updates and repairs. Finally, I'd like to thank **Jeff Tarpley** of the City of Walnut Creek and all of the other individuals involved for helping us facilitate fixing this problem.

Finally, I'd like to fill you in on an educational initiative that the board is currently undertaking in an effort raise awareness with the Walnut Creek City Council about WCRC; including who we are, what our goals as a club are, and what we as a club contribute to the community of Walnut Creek. My hope is that we can stay involved enough so that when the time comes to make any major decisions about recreational tennis in Walnut Creek our opinion as a club will be taken into consideration. I know that there have already been some discussions about what to do with the tennis courts at Civic Park so we'll continue to stay involved in that process as well as trying to promote the building of new courts at the Heather Farm tennis center. Several of us will be speaking at the City Council meeting on March 7th at 7pm at the Council Chamber at City Hall (1666 North Main St.) so if you get this newsletter in time and would like to lend support, please feel free to join us. Also, if you'd like to volunteer to help with this initiative please talk to any board member and we'll get you in the loop. I'll keep you all informed of our progress throughout the year. – See you on the courts



From the Pro . . .

Who's Going to Win?

I might as well be blunt. Club players lurch headlong toward a dead end when they attempt to win matches by over powering their opponents, instead of assessing them. While a few guys like **John Soto, Ron, Lloyd, Baby Huey, A.J., Thor** and that whole bunch of heavy hitters, will make anyone think twice about being at the net, that ain't most of us...and even those guys shriek when a counter-puncher like

Pablo shows up for a round.

Winning matches is entirely a process of evaluating the competitiveness of your opponent(s) and noting their pre-match appearance and disposition. The likeliest winner of any match is the person whose record seems best suited to the situation (hey, now that was good, and I thought it up all by myself).

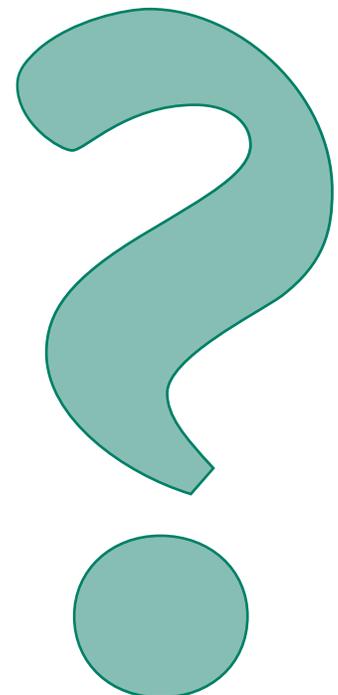
Competitiveness. Last month I wanted you to think about playing at the proper level, why? Because if you can't make it there then you probably can't make it at a level higher than there, in fact, long term I know you can't. I always tell people, you're 4.0 for a reason! The kids having a saying that goes "it is what it is". I have a saying "you are what you are". Don't worry a 4.0 is "what I am what I am." O.K. enough already!

Pre-match appearances. Can the person hold a rally during the warm-up, are they wearing a bandage anywhere, do they have an obvious stroke deficiency--if so, do I have good enough strokes to exploit it. Occasionally I'll see an obvious weakness in my opponent, but I'm not good enough to do anything about it. **Paul Morrow** and I played a match last year that we thought we should have won. One of our opponents was a "one shot wonder", big serve, partner poaches, point over. We tried everything and a few new things, (Paul offered the guy an egg roll), but that's all it took for that team to win.

Pre-match disposition. Have you ever lost your car keys before a match? Have you ever broken the strings on your favorite racquet during pre-match warm-ups? Have you ever had somewhere to be right after the match and you weren't sure if you'd be on-time? Have you ever had to play an opponent that never learned that the "lines are in"? How about warming up against someone who decides stop to answer their cell phone, then says, "my daughters are at the mall and I want them to be able to reach me"--wanna tell that guy/girl to turn it off? Almost anything can upset a person's disposition, and you want to be aware of that. Are they focused or just messing around?

In summary, the only club matches in which the power play is even slightly useful are those involving beginners or new tournament/USTA league players. These players are forever trying to over power-- your power, it's miserable to watch.

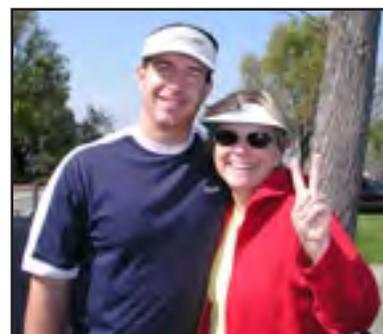
Coach Mac



Mardi Gras Tournament Highlights



Tournament Director
Nat Bitton



Mardi Gras Tournament Highlights



Winners: Team Black

Women:

Veronica Roussel
Rosemary Brown
Cory Carr
Carol Kennedy/Marie Murphy

Men:

Tom Wilcock
Pete Hellmann/Francis Crusit
Gerry Brown
Russ Eddy





Tennis News



6-Tennis...what the heck is that?

It's the new "Junior Team Tennis League in town".

6 Teammates, 6 Games, 60 minutes...in a nutshell!

6-TENNIS is the all-new local level tennis program supported by the USTA NorCal. These parent and volunteer run leagues are popping up all over the section offering an exciting new brand of local team tennis for beginners and novices. And, there's one brewing near you: The Diablo North Junior Team Tennis League was formed several months ago to administer the league serving Concord, Pleasant Hill, Walnut Creek and San Ramon this coming spring season. Headed by Dale Miller, Regional Tennis Director for ClubSport and a stellar cast of volunteers that makes up the board; Ken Shuler, Elaine Hennesy, Linda Graham and Calvin McCullough.

The league will start with two divisions; Flight III catered to novice player's ages 8 to 10 years old. Flight II, targets beginner - intermediate players ages 11-14. Implementing innovational format, game-based approach. New equipment such as spinner and low compression balls, allow children to rally back and forth much quicker. Hence, learning to play tennis just became easier and fun. Team matches are held Sunday afternoons at Las Lomas High School in Walnut Creek and practices are during the week

Diablo North Junior Team Tennis League's mission is to promote the growth of youth tennis in the Diablo North area of Contra Costa County. This group strives to expand and will partner with local businesses, clubs and community tennis associations to continue and solidify the league.

If you want to volunteer in any capacity to any of 6-Tennis programs at NorCal please contact, Cheryl Silva silva@norcal.usta.com or better yet, if interested in forming a league call me, (510) 245-8782!

To find out more details on 6-Tennis, visit www.ustanorcalteamtennis.com

TEAM COURT USE

Summer is just around the corner so we know USTA Adult League play is about to start, which create a heavy demand on the courts.

The Walnut Creek Tennis Center Staff is looking forward to assisting each team with a fun and successful season. We are here to support your team while doing our best to ensure that all players have an equitable opportunity to use the courts. Therefore we ask for your cooperation with the following reminders for captains and all team members:

1. Courts will be assigned by the WCTC Staff.

2. All captains must present the Tennis Center with a line-up sheet **PRIOR** to the match.

3. Any team member without a current annual use card must pay the daily court use fee **PRIOR** to playing any match or practice session. Captains, please make sure the line-up card matches the players actually playing that match or occupying courts for practice.

WCTC will schedule the following team slots for use of the Heather Farm Courts:

Saturdays and Sundays - 1 match for a 12:15 slot and 1 match for a 2:30 slot.

Thursday Evenings - 1 match for a 6:30 slot (All five slots will be offered five (5) courts)

Captains, please assist in getting your matches started on time so matches will be completed in the allocated time slots. 2 ½ hours should be plenty of time to complete all matches.

When having team practices, every player **MUST check in the pro-shop prior to migrating to a court. TEAM PRACTICES WILL BE HANDLED JUST LIKE REGULAR COURT ASSIGNMENTS.** The practice of rotating players around on a court will not increase the amount of time allocated, and that court will be recycled at the end of the initial time allocation if players are waiting to play. .

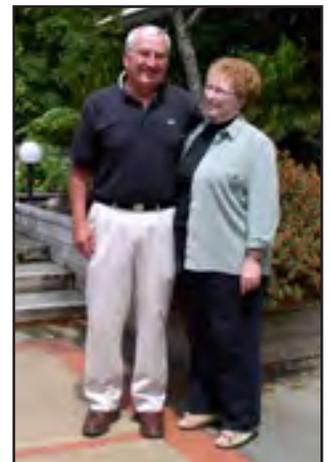
We encourage captains to have all team members join the WCTC and support the cost of city court maintenance. Thanks in advance for your cooperation and assistance to ensure that everyone is paying and playing their fair share.

The (WCRC) Far Side of the World

by Rita Utz

Andi and Julie Matisoo moved to Auckland, New Zealand a couple of years ago. When we mentioned that we would be there in December and maybe we could have lunch...well, we had no idea what a treat was in store for us. They gave us such a warm welcome, as well as an education in driving, flora and fauna, food, wine and even bread. Oh, not to mention that they insisted on meeting our 5 AM plane. (This no doubt saved us from having an auto accident as we tried to navigate on the wrong side of the road with jetlag hangovers). Immediately they realized we needed a nap (or two) and offered their guest room in their gorgeous, elegant home in the Auckland hills. Their anthropologist daughter filled us in on the migrations and indigenous people of NZ as well as her research project on the subject which you can find by googling her name, Lisa Matisoo Smith. After a tour of Auckland and lovely meals we set off for the rest of NZ. Amazing how WCRC tennis keeps enriching our lives far beyond our wildest dreams.

(Andi played on many, many teams in WCRC while Julie held forth at the Lindsay Wildlife Museum).



Andi and Julie in the back yard of their Auckland home.

RECREATIONAL **COACH** WORKSHOPS

IMPROVE YOUR TENNIS PROGRAM!

USA Tennis Recreational Coach Workshops give new and existing teachers a competitive edge in their community by offering tips and tactics on how to run effective team practices, lesson-based approach to teaching, proper form of teaching, solo, large group teaching for youth and adults and a variety of games and activities.

"Our success progresses directly as good as the preparedness of our coaches...and training has been the key to our success."

—Skip Hornum, President, NCTE

WHEN:

Saturday, March 18, 2006
8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.;
Registration open at 7:30 a.m.

WHERE:

ClubSport Valley Vista
3737 Valley Vista Rd, Walnut Creek, CA 94508

TRAINER:

Steve Leube
USTA Northern California

COST:

\$50, includes Lunch & Materials
Checks payable to Diablo North J.T.T.L.
\$60 after March 13

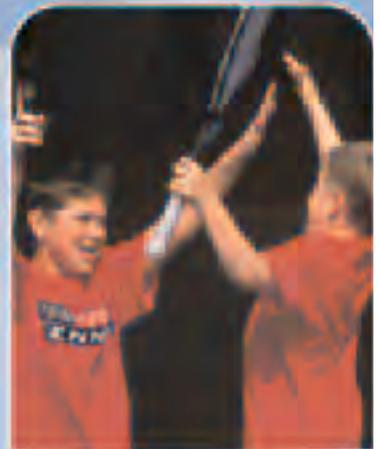
FOR RSVP:

Space is limited so RSVP early
Register Online www.norcal.usta.com, or contact
Cherryl Silva, (510) 245-8782, silva@norcal.usta.com

SPACE IS LIMITED SO RSVP TODAY!

ALL ATTENDEES RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS:

- *Learn to Rally and Play: a Coach's Guide*
- Pro Penn Star Ball
- Dunlop Speedball
- Information and discount on the "Coaching Youth Tennis" online course
- USA Tennis Guide to Dynamic and Static Stretching Brochure
- Other program brochures



Calcutta Party & Tournament: May 12-13th



Here's your chance to enter the most popular tournament that the WCRC offers each year - the 2006 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 **May 12th** and Saturday tournament **May 13th** 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.

Sign up on line at www.wcrc.net

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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TREASURER'S REPORT

Gabe Goldstein

Income Statement:
as of December 31, 2005



Income

Awards Banquet	4,760.00
Club Championships	980.00
Winter Doubles League '05	4,700.00
Winter Doubles League '06	6,322.00
Interest	25.73
Turkey Tournament	216.00
Advertising Income	805.00
Membership Dues	14,983.00
Board Dinner	25.00
Summer Singles League	8,330.00
Calcutta Tournament	3,170.00
Valentines Tournament	140.00

Total Income

\$ 44,456.73

Expenses

Paypal Fees	378.43
Club Championships '05	1,683.55
Award Banquet '06	500.00
Court Rental - CCTA	120.00
Nationals - 6.0 Seniors	500.00
Winter Doubles League	4,003.70
Awards Banquet '05	4,625.69
Club Championships '04	294.19
Turkey Tournament	506.33
Winter Doubles '04	104.50
Donations	662.43
Bank Service Charge	5.00
Dues & Subscriptions	25.00
Light Fund Payment	3,000.00
Membership Brochures	345.72
Member Directory	1,547.43
Newsletter	5,611.70
Non-Profit Fees	9.97
Postage	1,465.44
Post Office Box Rental	716.00
Supplies	1,691.81
Website	964.95
Summer Singles	3,698.33
Commission	198.82
Calcutta Tournament	3,538.21
Valentines Tournament	158.03

Total Expenses

\$ 36,355.23

Profit (Loss)

\$ 8,101.50

Balance November 30, 2005

\$16,739.62



**New Member
Information
Removed for
Privacy**