



# THE COURT REPORTER

Newsletter of the Walnut Creek Racquet Club  
April 2006

Tifanie Steele powers through her forehand. She went on to win her first 4.0 match of the adult season which opened March 20th.



Photo by Robert Young

## Walnut Creek Racquet Club

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(925) 945-0105 • www.wcrc.net

### OFFICERS

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<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Marie Murphy</b> 934-9388 mtmurphy@pacbell.net
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Gabriel Goldstein</b> 798-2036 gagea@naea.org

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## THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Well, have you all been doing your no-rain dance lately? I know that I'm doing mine now as my USTA team has their first match this coming Sunday and I'm sure that you're all in the same boat. The good news is the hills will be green for months and hopefully weather will be dry for the upcoming Winter Doubles tournament in a few weekends – I mean really, how long can it keep raining?!?



**Shari Gonzalez**  
2006 WCRC President

Even with the rain, many WCRC mixed doubles teams were able to get in their first round of playoff matches. The 8.0 division had 2 teams in the first round of playoffs including **Craig Kirk's** 8.0 team who got off to a great start against Pinole Park before getting rained out mid-match. They were able to finish up the match at a later date, with Pinole taking the win by a slight margin. **Corrine Christensen's** 8.0 team also struggled with match rainouts but were finally able to complete their match and had a tightly contested match against Round Hill who eventually won the match.

In 7.0 news we had 3 teams in the final 4 playoff spots with Tammie Snyder's team coming up just short in the 5<sup>th</sup> spot. **Debbie Hellmann's** team (#1 seed) outlasted Craig Kirk's team (#4 seed) to move on to the final match-up against **Bret Jones's** team (#3 seed) who won out over Valley Vista's top contender. They were scheduled to play the deciding match tonight, but considering that it's currently pouring outside I'm sure that they have probably rescheduled at this point! Good luck to whoever moves on to Districts!

In senior playoff results, **Janet Couchot & Shirley Nagle's** Women's 3.5 teams both made it to the playoff level and both lost out to Orindawoods who are now heading to the Districts playoffs at Stanford University. In the Men's 3.0 division **Ron Huxley's** team was able to edge out the competition to take a Districts spot. They'll be joined by **Jim Farber's** Men's 4.0 team who ousted Pinole Park in their playoff match and possibly by **Mary Waltz's** Women's 3.0 team whose result is still pending (I'm sure after many rainouts!). In other Senior playoff results **Don Loeffler's** Men's 3.5 team was edged out in the first round by St. Mary's who went on to take the spot at Districts.

Great job to all of our Senior and Mixed teams for another outstanding season. Once again, we'll be aptly represented at District playoffs!

*continued on page 3...*

# President's Report

*continued from page 2*

In recreational tournament news, we have some great events coming up. The **Calcutta tournament** is scheduled for May 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> (which the tournament is now sold out.) Let me tell you, this is by far the best tournament of the year – at least it's the only one where you can make some cash. If you can't make the tournament try to make the Friday night party. Our favorite barker will be hawking teams – of course I'm talking about **Nat Bitton**, who by the way has agreed to re-join the WCRC board and team up with **Tammy Chan** and **Jennifer Scriabine** to help run our tournament desk. Nat brings practical experience, wonderful enthusiasm and some good perspective on keeping the WCRC club fun including a knack for running some great tournaments so try get involved in the Calcutta if you can as it promises to be a good one.

The **Winter Doubles tournament** is still on schedule to take place April 7-9<sup>th</sup> and we have a great event planned as usual. If you happen to see **Pam Maloney** out on the tournament grounds please make an effort to tell her what a great job she has done to put this event together. She's been instrumental in running this tournament and league throughout the season.

Finally, several of us converged on the City Council meeting earlier this month including myself, **Don Loeffler**, **Gabe Goldstein** and **Pam Maloney**. It went very well and I feel like they've got a great understanding now about our club so hopefully that will be key in helping to further court development at Heather Farm Park. Our next step is to work with **Jim Farber** to put together a comprehensive proposal for building 2 new courts at Heather. We'll be meeting soon to determine what level of economic commitment the club can make towards building these courts. So rest assured that your court usage fees and WCRC membership dues are going to good use – and speaking of which I'd like to thank **Don Loeffler**, **Judy Stillman** and all of the WCRC captains for helping us ensure that team members are in full compliance with WCRC membership and court usage policies – they do quite a bit of work behind the scenes to make sure that you have a smooth USTA season so kudos to them.

Thanks and see you on the courts...



## From the Pro . . .

### Big Shots



After watching the Australian, going to the SAP, and taking in the Pacific Life Open, you've decided you're going to try and hit more winners. In this article I'll try to give you a way to hit big shots, at a higher percentage, that will produce above average success. It is often a compromise between playing the high percentage shot that goes in often, but yields few winners; and going after the big shots, which are usually a total loss if just hit randomly, but would have a reasonable chance of coming through if chosen more intelligently.

The basic plan is to go along with any short ball and try to hit a winner by going back in the same direction from which the ball came. Since this goes against the average player's idea of what a winner is, it usually means that there are less shots on which to take the risk, therefore the percentages stay high. In cases where the ball direction is changed, it may be interpreted as advantageous, but only because the player him/her-self is endorsing the low-percentage shot, and this is when you're bound to miss. In such cases, approach and drop-shots to the open court are more in-line.

This approach to hitting "big shots" can be used in doubles or singles whenever the ball is considered short. Speaking of what's considered short, it depends on your ability. If a level 5.5 player can get both feet inside the baseline while moving forward, to that player the ball was left short. A 3.0 may feel that a ball landing in front of the service line is short. Ask the 5.5 player if they consider a ball that lands in front of the service line short and they'll want more information; how high was the ball over the net? How much top-spin was put on the ball? At that level it is not uncommon to have players hitting with enough top-spin to make the ball bound up and force their opponent to hit the ball a foot or two behind the baseline. So, the answer to what is considered a short ball, depends on you. What balls can you comfortably come forward on and be aggressive? That's what's short for you.

In summary, when trying to hit a big shot (if you've just gotta do it) the more often you attempt one on a short ball the better, hitting it back in the same direction is better yet. The less often deep balls, wide balls, and well struck spin serves are attempted to be hit for winners is also better. From my personal experience, there is not a wind screen at Heather Farms that I haven't hit while attempting the big shot on an other than short ball. Almost to the ball, (meaning 99 out of 100), these shots should have been played conservatively, but boy, sure is nice when they go in! When they go in!

Coach Mac



## 2006 Men's and Women's Summer Singles Leagues Registration Form



Full Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

T-shirt Size     M     L     XL     XXL  
 T-shirt Type     Regular     V-neck\*     Tank top\*  
 \*V-neck and tank top in women's style only

Current Rating:     2.5                       4.5  
                                   3.0                       5.0  
                                   3.5                       5.5  
                                   4.0

I would like to enter the following division:

Women's 2.5             Men's 3.0  
 Women's 3.0             Men's 3.5  
 Women's 3.5             Men's 4.0  
 Women's 4.0             Men's 4.5  
 Women's 4.5-5.0     Men's 5.0-5.5

I am a:     WCRC Member (\$26)  
                Non-Member (\$36)

If you register on line:  
 WCRC Member (\$25)  
 Non-Member (\$35)

I am available to play matches:

Weekday days             Weekend mornings  
 Weekday evenings     Weekend afternoons

Dates:                      June 5th - September 24th

Entry Fee:                \$26 for WCRC Members  
                                   \$36 for non-members

Format:                    Men's Singles/Women's Singles

Divisions:                Men's 3.0 - 5.5  
                                   Women's 2.5 - 5.0

Scheduling:             12 scheduled matches to be  
                                   completed over 15 week season.  
                                   Players are responsible for sched-  
                                   uling their own matches. Players  
                                   will be provided with a contact  
                                   list of 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.

Match Site:              Any site mutually agreed upon

Scoring:                  The winner is responsible for  
                                   reporting the match score by logging  
                                   on to [www.wcrc.net](http://www.wcrc.net).

Standings:                Division standing will be updated on  
                                   a real time basis as scores are posted

Tournament:            End-of-season tournament with draw  
                                   determined by league standings.  
                                   Oct. 6-8 & Oct. 13-15

Match Min.:              6 matches

Deadline:                May 14, 2006

Checks to:                WCRC  
                                   PO Box 4574  
                                   Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Or Online:                [www.wcrc.net](http://www.wcrc.net)

**Registration Deadline: May 14**  
**Register on line at [www.wcrc.net](http://www.wcrc.net) and save \$1.00**



**New Member  
Information  
Removed for  
Privacy**

# Calcutta Party & Tournament: May 12-13th



The Calcutta Tournament is **SOLD OUT!** If you are interested in getting on the waiting list send an email to [wrcr@astound.net](mailto:wrcr@astound.net).

Also come out to the Friday night party **May 12th** and get your bids in on the best teams to own.

This is always an exciting and fun party with lots of partnerships formed with the notion to win some money! If you have any questions or can assist the Tournament Committee with various aspects of this event, please contact **Jennifer Scriabine** at 457-5794 or at [scriabine@astound.net](mailto:scriabine@astound.net). All tournament participants must be current WCRC members.



Here are some photo highlights from last year's party and tournament.



## Got Strings?

**\$10 OFF Racquet Stringing\***

**Fastest turnaround time in the East Bay  
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Lee Draisin  
[LDraisin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:LDraisin@sbcglobal.net)

**925-229-3380**

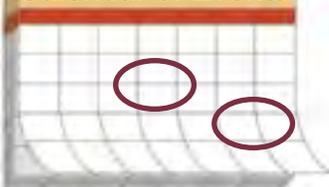
Located at the 680 - 4 interchange



\*One racquet only. Limited to first-time customers. May not be combined with other offers.



Calendar of Events



MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR



- 3** 50 USTA Mixed Team Registration Opens
- 8-10** WCRC Winter Doubles Tournament, Heather Farm
- 10** Super Senior 65 Season Opens
- 28-30** 2005 USTA Senior Districts in Palo Alto at Stanford



**Sign up for WCRC's Summer Singles League**

- 1** USTA Super Senior 60 Team Registration Opens
- 5-7** 2005 USTA Mixed Doubles Districts
- 7** USTA 50 Mixed Team Registration Closed
- 12-13** Calcutta Party and Tournament
- 19-21** 2005 USTA Senior Sectionals, Carmel
- 22** USTA 50 Mixed Season Opens



**WCRC's Summer Singles League Opens**

- 4** USTA Super Seniors 60 Team Registration Closed
- 5** WCRC's Summer Singles League Opens
- 3-4** 2005 USTA Mixed Doubles Sectionals
- 12** USTA Combo Doubles Team Registration Open



- 3** USTA Super Seniors 60 Season Opens
- 9** USTA Combo Doubles Team Registration Closed



- 4-6** USTA Adult Season Districts
- 7** USTA Combo Doubles Season Opens
- 11-13** USTA Adult Season Districts
- 25-27** USTA Adult Season Sectionals

**TREASURER'S  
REPORT**

**Gabe Goldstein**

Income Statement:  
as of February 28, 2006



**Income**

Awards Banquet	1,485.00
Winter Doubles League '06	1,696.00
Interest	3.55
Advertising Income	50.00
Membership Dues	7,705.00

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**Total Income** **\$ 10,939.55**

**Expenses**

Mardi Gras Tournament	250.31
Winter Doubles	1,883.25
Award Banquet	5,721.68
Commission	109.03
Newsletter - Court Reporter	1,119.36
Supplies	578.31
Website	240.00

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**Total Expenses** **\$ 9,901.94**

**Profit (Loss)** **\$ 1,037.61**

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**Balance February 28, 2006** **\$17,777.23**

**WANTED**

The WCRC is looking for a  
Membership Chairperson.

If you would like to support  
WCRC and could help out  
please contact Shari Gonzalez  
at 691-9196 or by email at  
[webmaster@wrc.net](mailto:webmaster@wrc.net).



WCRC  
P.O. Box 4574  
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PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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Permit No. 432

## Districts Bound...

***Ron Huxley's Senior 3.0 Men's Team***  
back row (l-r): John Carr, Charlie Scudiere,  
Frank Concepcion, Dave Sperry,  
Captain Ron Huxley and Darrel Fiske,  
front row (l-r) Dave Iversen, Ron Frazier,  
Tom Amann and David Tong.



***Jim Farber's Senior 4.0 Men's Team***  
back row (l-r): Doak Jones, Ken Quitariano,  
Mike Saputo, Bob Walgren, Bill Samuels,  
Captain Jim Farber, and Rich Zavala,  
front row (l-r) Kurt Wait, Randy Jang,  
and Leonard Young.