



THE COURT REPORTER

May 2002

Newsletter of the
Walnut Creek Racquet Club

DOUBLES MADNESS !



*Alex Shafi prepares to poach
as Bret Jones serves in the
Men's 4.0 Doubles League
final*

Inside the Reporter

- 2 From the Pro
- 3 President's Message
- 3 Homecourt Disadvantage
- 4-5 Doubles Tourney Results
- 7 Event Registration Galore



4.0 Champs May Wong and Kathy Lee

Walnut Creek Racquet Club

P.O. Box 4574 ¥ Walnut Creek, CA 94596
(925) 945-0105 ¥ www.wcrc.net

OFFICERS

| | |
|----------------|---|
| President | Robert Young 906-0614 robert@canterburytrails.com |
| Vice President | John Bondon 672-4109 john@bondon.com |
| Secretary | Jennifer Scriabine 939-4328 scriabine@mindspring.com |
| Treasurer | Julie O'Keefe 335-2321 rbiz2@hotmail.com |

ACTIVITY CHAIRPERSONS

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Mailing | Marilyn Concepcion 937-2169 concepcions2@aol.com |
| Membership | Judy Stillman 933-9351 jstillma@pacbell.net |
| Newsletter | Kent Lindeman 943-5745 jklindeman@earthlink.net |
| Leagues | John Bondon 672-4109 john@bondon.com Jennifer Scriabine 939-4328 scriabine@mindspring.com |
| Publicity/ Website | Shari Huber 296-0901 shari_huber@hotmail.com |
| Tournaments | Nat Bitton 798-2064 windmillnb@aol.com Tammy Chan 837-0227 tammychan@telocity.com Josh Svendsen 962-1782 joshsvendsen@attbi.com |
| USTA Women | Pam Maloney 939-1403 pamela.maloney@schwab.com |
| USTA Men | Bill Clayton 932-2325 billclayton@canterburytrails.com |
| USTA Mixed & Seniors | Sue Danner 939-5758 suedanner@aol.com |
| Women's Interclub | Rita Utz 935-3365 ritau@aol.com |

FROM THE PRO

The "want" in tennis



Coach Mac

I often advise players that learning how to properly stroke a tennis ball isn't difficult. The player must be willing to learn how to do it and want to do it. Instructors can't instill the "want" of doing it, nor can they teach a player to accept and enjoy the learning process.

I have found that maintaining the fun in tennis (the reason most of us started playing in the first place) encompasses the love of the game or the "want" of doing it. The amount of motivation, emotional investment and commitment each player has for tennis is significant only to the amount of fun they're having. Having fun can be competitive, recreational or social and is a requirement for the practice needed for improvement. Most players want and try to play their best and when they're having fun, they're more relaxed. Relaxed players are more capable of playing their best.

-Call Coach Mac for lessons - (925) 945-0105.

CALENDAR

MAY 10-11

Calcutta

MAY 15

Summer Singles League Entry Deadline

JUNE 3 - SEPTEMBER 15

Summer Singles League

JUNE 7-9

Club Championships

Mixed Doubles

JUNE 21- AUGUST 9

Summer Team Tennis

AUGUST 10-11 & 17-18

Club Championships

Singles & Doubles

SEPTEMBER 27-30

Summer Singles

League Tournament

NOVEMBER 16

Turkey Tournament

JANUARY 25, 2003

Annual Awards Banquet & Silent Auction

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.

President's Message

While on a recent vacation in Santa Barbara, Meredith and I played at a public facility just north of town, similar to Heather Farm in layout - 6 lighted courts, pro shop, and restrooms. We noticed a striking difference: there were no announcements posted about club activities or upcoming tournaments.



Robert Young

You should have seen the look on the faces of the local players when I told them about WCRC with its 700 members and the events we put on, including tournaments and league play. They told us there was nothing like that in Santa Barbara, which was confirmed when we went over to the Municipal Tennis Courts (12 courts, pro-shop with restrooms, one grandstand court) and saw nothing but empty courts. Talking with the pro, we learned there is little interest in club functions, as most players prefer to meet and play at their own courts. The only organized tennis we could find was drop-in mixed doubles on Monday/Friday nights at the city college, put on by the Park and Recreation Department. They were a nice group of players and we enjoyed 3 hours of good tennis with an interesting format.

Judging from what we saw in Santa Barbara and other cities we have visited, there is something very special happening at Heather Farm. What keeps this club alive and healthy is the involvement of its members. When there is a request for help with an event or for volunteers to serve on a committee or the board, there is never a hesitation, just "What can I do to help." It makes me proud to say to anyone, anywhere, "I am a member of Walnut Creek Racquet Club."

See ya on the courts
-Robert

DOUBLE CALCUTTA!

Over 100 players have signed up for the club's annual Calcutta on Saturday, May 11 -- proving once again that it is the WCRC's most popular tournament. Both the WCTC and Northgate will be used in early rounds with afternoon play all at Heather Farm. Don't forget to attend the draw party and team auction on Friday, May 10 at the Heather Farm Homeowners Association clubhouse from 7:00 - 9:00 pm (1501 Marchbanks Drive).



Homecourt Not a Plus at Spring Fling



Fung-A-Ling

The Walnut Creek leg of the NorCal NTRP tournament circuit made its annual two stops at the Walnut Creek Spring Fling at the end of March, then the ClubSport Valley Vista/AIM Computer Training event in early April. After boasting multiple WCRC-member champions at the Spring Fling in each of the last two

years, Heather Farm did not hold any special homecourt magic for the many club members who competed in 2002. The one notable exception was the ageless Ron Helgesson, who continues to outthink, outplay and outlast his opponents. Unseeded but always danger-

continued on page 7




East Bay's most experienced and first certified stringer

Fastest turn-around time -- I'll string while you wait!

Highest quality work

When the others can't get it done, I'll get you back on the court within an hour.

LEE DRAISIN
(925) 229-3380
kayleemtz@webtv.net

\$10 OFF
Racquet Stringing

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

LOCATION
Less than 1 mile from 680/4 interchange in Martinez

Winter Doubles League Tournament • April 5-7

Jones and Zavala grab Men's 4.5 title

At least one unseeded team saved their best tennis for last during the season-ending Winter Doubles League tournament, held April 5-7. In the tournament's biggest surprise, Frank Jones and Rich Zavala, who ended the regular season with a dismal 1-3 record in Men's 4.5, played inspired tennis throughout the weekend and defeated #4 seeded Rich Miller and Marty Tedlock in the final 6-2, 6-3. The win was doubly gratifying for Jones and Zavala as they avenged a straight set loss to Miller and Tedlock from earlier in the season.

Steve King and Kurt Nesheim, seeded #15, failed to drop a set in five matches to win the Men's 3.5 division. Along the way, they upset #1 Jon van Oosbree and Ray Thomas before beating Mike Wilhelm/John Greenblatt in the final, 7-6, 7-5.

Conversely, four other titles were won by teams with the best regular season record in their respective divisions. In Women 3.0, top seeded Cheryl Fredericks and Helaine Yagor steamrolled #6 Nancy LeSage and Michelle Gold in the final 6-1, 6-0, capping an undefeated season. The same was true in Women's 3.5 where Patti May and Kathleen Chaffee posted eight wins in the regular season, then added four more wins to capture the championship. May/Chaffee bested Sheila Klenow and Shirley Watkins, 7-5, 6-1 in



TOP: Mary Green and Tammy Chan in top form during their semifinal win; **INSET:** Men's 3.5 Winners Steve King and Kurt Nesheim.

2002 WCRC Doubles League Champions

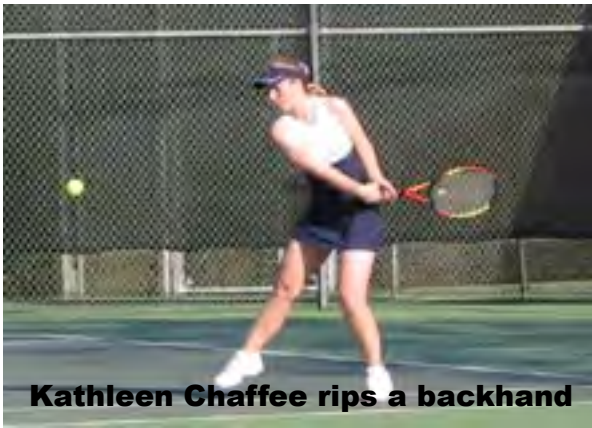
| | |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| Men's 3.5 | Steve King & Kurt Nesheim |
| Men's 4.0 | Bret Jones & Alex Shafi |
| Men's 4.5 | Frank Jones & Rich Zavala |
| Men's 5.0-5.5 | Peter Lindstrom & Eric Peterson |
| Women's 3.0 | Cheryl Fredericks & Helaine Yagor |
| Women's 3.5 | Kathleen Chaffee & Patti May |
| Women's 4.0 | Kathy Lee & May Wong |
| Women's 4.5 | Kim Lackey & |
| 5.0 | Chris Ramsower-Pearlstein |

WCRC MIXED DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

June 7-9, 2002
Walnut Creek Tennis Center
Four divisions (6.0, 7.0, 8.0 and 9.0+)
To register, use the enclosed insert

the finals. In the Men's 4.0 final, #1 seeded Alex Shafi and Bret Jones played mistake-free tennis while overwhelming the #3-seeded tandem of Gary Grice and Artem Melnik 6-1, 6-0. Peter Lindstrom and Eric Peterson overcame a slow start and rallied to beat Chris Bown and Tony Lum in the Men's 5.0-5.5 final 3-6, 6-0, 6-2.

With his 5.0-5.5 Summer Singles League title last September, Lindstrom is one of only two people to have won a championship in both singles and doubles. The other is May Wong, who teamed with Kathy Lee to win the Women's 4.0 crown with a hard-fought 6-7, 6-3, 6-2 victory over Liz Riddle and Toby Marron. Wong won the Women's 4.0 Summer Singles title in 2000. Chris Ramsower and Kim Lackey captured the Women's 4.5-5.0 championship.



Kathleen Chaffee rips a backhand



**Women's 3.5 Champs:
Chaffee and Patti May**



**Women's 3.0 Champs:
Helaine Yagor and Cheryl Fredericks**



**Men's 4.0 Champs: Alex Shafi and
Bret Jones**

Thanks to everyone for making this another fun and successful Doubles League season! This year, we had over 350 players participating in the league — an increase from 212 in 2001!

Each of the Division Champions and Runners-up received a special plaque with a space for a 5x7 photo from the event. (If you have not received your team photo, please contact John Bondon @ 672-4109.) If you forgot or were unable to pickup your Doubles League T-Shirt on Tournament Weekend, contact John as well.

A special thanks goes out to everyone who provided assistance to me in one or more ways over the past 6 months, helping to make this year's league possible. Those individuals include Maria Yum, Dina DeCoste, Dave Smith, Bill Clayton, Al Johns, Nat Bitton, Sean Zhang, Shari Huber, Mike Jetland, Kent Lindeman, Neil Dawson, Audrey Morse, Stephanie Law and Mike Joe.

Also, a special thank you to both Sean Zhang and Shari Huber for their work on the WCRC Leagues website. Last year, Sean singlehandedly created the web-based score entry system that was used by the Doubles League this year, vastly improving the efficiency of the whole score reporting process. Last season, it took me on average about a week to update the website with the "latest" match score results. This year, new scores and standings were available for review the moment they were entered!

Shari added an additional level of automation to the website, creating a program that automatically sent an email to each league participant asking them to RSVP whether they intended to play in the end-of season tournament. Her program also kept track of the web-based responses as well, further simplifying a very detail-intensive administrative process.

Next year, I will not be returning as Coordinator for the 2003 Winter Doubles League. I am available to help anyone interested in serving as League Coordinator, but I personally need some time off from this role. If you are interested in helping out, or learning more about what's involved, please contact me!



John Bondon

WCRC SUMMER TEAM TENNIS

This is the WCRC's first Summer Team Tennis program. Registration is limited to the first 36 men and 36 women to sign up. There will be six teams of 12 players (6 male, 6 female) with each team playing six times during a nine (9) week season. Team Tennis will be held every Friday night from 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm with four rounds of play -- each player will play at least two rounds. Only four (4) teams will play each week with the other two teams having a bye. Each player will be assigned randomly to a team with a pre-selected captain. Dinner will be served. Team Tennis includes a cook-off -- not only will you compete on the court, but off it as well! The season runs from June 14 - August 9, 2002.

REGISTRATION FORM -- PLEASE SIGN ME UP!

Full Name _____ Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____ Email _____

Current USTA Rating _____

Will **NOT** play: ___ Singles ___ Doubles ___ Triples ___ Mixed ___ Chef

Registration Fee: \$60 per person WCRC member \$80 per person Non-member

Please make checks payable to WCRC and send to Gwen Yee at 3929 Happy Valley Road, Lafayette, CA 94549. Registration DROP DEAD DATE is POSTMARKED BY May 22, 2002. Questions? Call Gwen at (925) 283-6116 or email her at tennislover4030@yahoo.com

LAST CHANCE

ENTRY DEADLINE FOR 2002 SUMMER SINGLES LEAGUE IS MAY 15, 2002. REGISTRATION FORMS CAN BE OBTAINED EITHER BY:

1 Visiting www.wcrc.net and clicking on Summer Singles League

Stopping by the Tennis Center Pro Shop

2

3 Contacting Kent Lindeman at 943-5745 or via email at jkindeman@earthlink.net

women's doubles summer circuit • june 1- september 15

RELAX, have fun, meet new people and practice your skills and strategies with other players/teams of the same level. Once you get the list of players/teams, you set up your own matches at a mutually agreed location and time. Send the registration form to Christy Scrimshaw before the May 15 deadline. Questions? Call Christy Scrimshaw at (925) 254-4677 or e-mail christyluvs10s@hotmail.com Thanks!

Name _____ Level: 3.0 3.5 4.0 4.5

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Partner: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

You may email the above information or send it by mail to: Christy Scrimshaw ¥ 15 Keith Drive ¥ Orinda, CA94563




**New Member
Information
Removed for
Privacy**

WCRC 2002 Mixed Doubles Championships
June 7 - 9
6.0, 7.0, 8.0 and 9.0+
 Registration inside or at www.wcrc.net
 Pictured above: Defending 9.0 champs
 Marianne Dundon & Tom Jur



BULK RATE
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 Walnut Creek, CA
 Permit No. 432

WCRC
 P.O. Box 4574
 Walnut Creek, CA 94596
www.wcrc.net



NTRP TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE • 2002

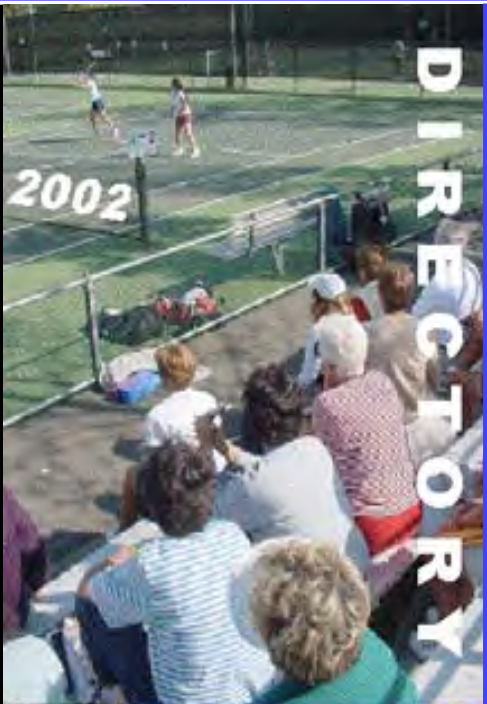
May 25-27
 5TH ANNUAL HARD SUMMER NTRP TOURNAMENT
 Bay Trees Tennis Park, Castro Valley
 MW(3.0-5.5) s
 Entry deadline: May 14
 TOUCH TONE/TENNIS LINK #500017502

June 1-2 & 8-9
 HIDDEN HILLS RACQUET CLUB NTRP
 Hidden Hills RC, Hayward
 MW (3.5-4.5) sd
 Entry deadline: May 18
 TOUCH TONE/TENNIS LINK #500018102


July 5-8
 LAKERIDGE NTRP
 Lakeridge Tennis Club, Reno, NV
 MW (3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0) sdmx
 Entry deadline: June 25
 Entries open: June 4

2002

DIRECTORY



Walnut Creek Racquet Club
 P.O. Box 4574
 Walnut Creek, CA 94596
www.wcrc.net



Your 2002 Membership Directory is included with this issue of The Court Reporter!