



THE COURT REPORTER

July 2002

Newsletter of the
Walnut Creek Racquet Club

President's Message

You Want Tennis? We've Got Tennis!

Ever wonder just how much tennis is being played in Walnut Creek? As most of you already know, it's a rare thing to find an empty court during prime time around here. Our own directory shows 41 public/high school courts in Walnut Creek and that doesn't account for the courts some of our members have access to at their own residences. So why is it that most of us prefer to play at Heather Farm? Mayor Susan McNulty Rainey asked me that question at the last City Council meeting. My unprepared response was, "Because of the amenities" but I think the better answer would have been, "Because the tennis is better at the Farm." Good players attract good players. It's also great that there is a place to hang out before and after your match to watch others play. The Pro Shop is a big bonus, with balls, drinks, stringing service and current fashions available.

The last few Friday nights the club has put on a "Team Tennis" event, filling seven courts with mixed doubles. It was great to see so many people enjoying the friendly competition.



Robert Young

Everyone seemed to have a good time, and the courts at Heather got some extra use. This event filled up without any difficulty, so I know there is a demand for more tennis events like this at the Farm. Like it says in our club directory, "The club's purpose is to promote the game of tennis in

Walnut Creek by providing a wide variety of tennis activities including league play, tournaments, clinics and special events."

Interest in tennis in Walnut Creek is growing by leaps and bounds. The WCRC is doing its best to respond to what the community is asking for... more tennis. In light of the City's decision not to build additional courts at the Farm, we need to use our imagination to come up with events that better use the courts we do have. We saw that type of thinking at the last Calcutta tournament. By using the courts at Northgate for some

continued on page 3



Melisa Knapp drives a forehand approach during a USTA Women's 3.5 match vs. Big C

Inside the Reporter

- 3 The Appeal of Power
- 4 Mixed Doubles Champs
- 5 6.0 Team to Nationals
- 6 Club Champs Reg Form
- 7 USTA Team Standings

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 (Non USTA)	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

NTRP Tournaments

A BELTON TRIPLE AT SONOMA STATE TOURNEY

Walnut Creek's Heidi and Brad Belton continue to rack up individual and team tournament wins in 2002. Their most recent success came at the Sonoma State Summer NTRP, held June 14-16 at Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park, where each won singles titles and then combined to capture a mixed doubles crown. The top seed in Men's 3.5 Singles, Brad won three straight-set matches and downed Matthew Skahill of San Leandro in the final, 6-2, 6-1. Women's 4.0 #1 seed Heidi prevailed in a tough three-set final against Debra Harrigan of Pilot Hill 3-6, 6-3, 6-2. The pair then teamed to notch their third title of the weekend with a 6-0, 6-7 (4), 6-2 win against Shelley and Michael Smith of Napa in the Mixed 4.0 final.

Current 2002 NTRP Singles Rankings

M3.0	Kevin Hennessy (4), Shawn Barker (10)
M3.5	Brad Belton (14), Ron Helgesson (32)
M4.0	Dimitar Zaprianov (12)
M4.5	Anton Guliaev (4), Michael Quintana (22) Jackson Riker (30)
M5.0	Martin Dunlap (22), Shane Jones (24)
M5.5	Kent Lindeman (33), Ken Reinaas (42)
W3.0	Traci Hapke (9)
W3.5	Maria Ley (8), Valerie Fung-a-Ling (11), Debbie Teryison (29), Shari Huber (32) Melisa Knapp (42)
W4.0	Eileen Ko (9), Heidi Belton (14) Garbo Berger (19)
W4,5	Arlene Acosta (13)
W5.0	Kirsten Riker (12)

CALENDAR

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.

FROM THE PRO

The appeal of POWER

Remember when you were in grade school and some advanced pal filled you in on their version of the facts of life? Chances are that you were fed a lot more misinformation than information. So it is with people who learn to play tennis by observing and listening to others who aren't particularly good. If knowledge is the key, then ignorance is the lock; or as a friend of mine calls it, 'Ignorance on Fire!' Incorrect concepts abound in tennis, probably because so few players ever take the time to get lessons from qualified instructors. This article is dedicated to shooting down the misconception some players have about stroking tennis balls for power.

To become a good tennis player you must be able to hit the fuzz off the ball. Wrong! Wrong! Wrong! Win a lot of matches and you're good. Style points count in figure skating, they don't figure in the scoring. Most people who start playing tennis fall in love with the power shot. That's what you see many players doing on TV. There is a certain sex appeal attached to the shot that rockets off the racquet into your opponent's court for a winner. It's got the same charisma as a slam dunk in basketball or a home run in baseball, but you will never see a great player who tries to hit every ball for a winner. There are certain situations that call for trying to hit consistently, with depth or with placement. The truly exceptional player can hit winners, but they keep it under control and are equally proficient at playing percentage tennis.

Too much power can be counterproductive. The harder you hit the ball, the less consistent and accurate you'll be. While spraying is good for killing insects, it's not nearly as useful for winning tennis matches. While just getting the ball back into play isn't the answer, neither is excessive power an asset.

Top players have consistent strokes virtually all the time - many knock-the-cover-off-it types have never worked on consistency. After all, why practice something you almost never use because you're trying to end the point with one swing? It typically takes about 2 or 3 first round tournament losses for reality to sink in. The player is sent home and either works on their



Coach Mac

President's Message *continued from page 1*

of the matches, we were able to accommodate the overwhelming turnout without having to turn away players. The Friday night Team Tennis is an example of creative use of available court time at the Farm. I'm sure there are other ways we can work with the City on the high demand for the courts at Heather and I welcome any ideas from the membership. Drop me a line anytime.

See ya on the courts...

Court Use Card Fees to Increase in Mid-2003

On June 4, the Walnut Creek City Council approved an increase in the annual Court Use card fees at the Tennis Center. Effective July 1, 2003, Walnut Creek residents will pay \$150 per year (up from \$125) and non-residents \$175. The council is also considering a proposal to eliminate the non-resident surcharge and raise the fee for all court use cards to \$175 by July 2004.



USRSA
Certified Stringer

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

game or decides to just play with friends. You must successfully marry power with consistency, depth, and placement to become a legitimate contender for tournament or league victories.

Dunlap and Pizzoli Capture Top Mixed Title

Former TCU star Melanie Pizzoli teamed with Martinez firefighter Martin Dunlap to win the 9.0+ division in the WCRC Mixed Doubles Club Championships on June 8-9. Pizzoli/Dunlap wore down the game tandem of Tammy Chan and Mark Murphy in the final, prevailing by a 7-6, 6-3 score. Chan/Murphy advanced to the finals by virtue of a 6-3, 6-2 win over Linda Hurd and Gary Kaiser, while the champs defeated Karin Deas and Joe Thomas by a 6-4, 6-3 count in the semis.

The match of the tournament was contested in the finals of the 8.0 division with Barbara and Allen Uzell pulling out a win in a three-hour marathon against Sandy Harrington and Keith Babcock, 7-6, 5-7, 7-6 (10-8). Down 4-5 in the third, the Uzells broke Keith Babcock's serve to even up it up at 5-5. Down 5-6 in the third, Harrington/Babcock broke back to force a tiebreaker. The tiebreaker went back and forth with the Uzells outlasting Harrington/Babcock 10-8 to secure a well-deserved and thrilling victory.

Jay Hoyer and Rosemary Brown outdueled Patti May and Francis Crusit in the 7.0 final by a 7-5, 6-3 score. Hoyer/Brown won a tough three-set decision in the semi-finals against Peter and Debbie Hellmann 6-2, 3-6, 6-4, while May/Crusit got to the final match with an up-and-down 6-0, 7-5 victory over Julie O'Keefe and Ron Rose.

Moraga's Jim and Pat Brown put themselves into the recordbooks at the first WCRC 6.0 Mixed Doubles champions with a deserving 6-2, 2-6,



**6.0 Champs
Pat & Jim Brown**



**Melanie Pizzoli serves
while Martin Dunlap
awaits a volley in the
9.0+ final.**



7.0 Runners-Up Crusit/May

7.0 Champs Brown/Hoyer

6-3 win over Dale Crabtree and Rachel Rose.

All division champions will be formally recognized and presented with trophies during the WCRC's Annual Awards Banquet and Silent Auction, to be held Saturday, January 25, 2003 at the Heather Farm Community Center in Walnut Creek. Thanks to Tammy Chan and Josh Svendsen for organizing another successful club tournament. Next up in the 2002 Club Championship series is the Singles and Doubles, which will be held August 10-11 & 17-18. Please use the registration form on page 6 to enter or visit www.wcrc.net.



ON TO NATIONALS!



ABOVE: The victorious squad shows off their new credentials as USTA Northern California Sectional Champions.

BELOW: The official ticket to Nationals.

WCRC's Mixed 6.0 Team, captained by Shari Huber, advanced to the USTA National Tournament by sweeping three opponents at the Sectional Playoffs held June 1-2 at Pleasanton Community Park. The Mixed 6.0 Nationals will be held November 8-10 at the Pacific Palms Tennis Center in City of Industry (Southern CA).

The team's first match of Sectionals pitted them against a strong squad from Almaden Athletic Club. Eric Belusa and Shari Huber lost a 6-3, 7-6 (6) decision at #1 doubles while Clara and Craig Kirk evened the score at 1-1 with a victory at #2. Kevin Hennessy and Carla Tinonga clinched the overall team victory with a tight 11-9 win in the 3rd set super tiebreaker.

That afternoon produced a second 2-1 win over Silver Creek of San Jose, with Huber and Eric Belusa reversing their fortunes from several hours before with a dominant 6-1, 6-0 win. Debbie Griffith and Kevin Hennessy dropped the second match and the Kirks rallied from 0-3 in the second set to win 6-3, 6-4.

The last team match versus Terra Nova of Pacifica produced the weekend's highest drama. The Kirks easily swept their team off the courts with a 6-1, 6-0 win while Kevin Hennessy and Carla Tinonga dropped a tight match in a 3rd set superbreaker - leaving the team's fate in the hands of Bob Deinhammer and Huber. After splitting the first two sets, they fought off 3 match points and had two of their own before converting on the last one and prevailing 15-13.

CHAMPIONSHIP SCOREBOARD 6.0		USA LEAGUE TENNIS		PRESENTED BY LINCOLN		FINISHING RECORD	
TEAMS	WALNUT CREEK	ALMADEN	SILVER CREEK	TERRA NOVA			
WALNUT CREEK		1 2 4	1 2 2	1 2 3	①	3	6 9
ALMADEN V.A.C.	0 1 4		1 2 4	1 2 3		2	2 5 11
SILVER CREEK	0 1 4	0 1 2		1 2 2		3	1 4 8
TERRA NOVA	0 1 5	0 1 5	0 1 4			4	0 3 14

PLAYERS NEEDED FOR SENIOR MIXED 6.0 TEAM

Jim & Pat Brown are captaining a USTA Senior Mixed 6.0 team this summer and are looking for players. The league season runs from July 8 - September 8. For more information, contact Jim at (925) 376-4526 or via email at j.pbrown@earthlink.net.

**2002
CLUB
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**Men's Singles
Women's Singles
Men's Doubles
Women's Doubles**



**August 10-11 &
17-18, 2002**

WHEN: August 10-11 & 17-18, 2002

WHERE: Walnut Creek Tennis Center

DIVISIONS: Men's A (4.5+) Women's A (4.0+)
Men's B (4.0) Women's B (3.5)
Men's C (3.0-3.5) Women's C (3.0)

FEES: \$10/person - Singles; \$16/team - Doubles

***Entry fees include tennis balls, BBQ, individual trophies for winners. Participants are guaranteed at least two matches -- consolation rounds will be held (some may be held at satellite sites). Note: You must be an active member of the WCRC to play in the Club Championships.*

ENTRY DEADLINE: Must be received by
Saturday, August 3
at 5:00 pm (yes, really!)

DEFENDING CHAMPIONS:

Women's A Singles	Chris Ramsower-Pearlstein
Women's B Singles	Jane Ladrech
Women's A Doubles	Tiffany Fong & Lynne Weinshelbaum
Women's B Doubles	Jane Ladrech & Valerie Fung-a-Ling
Men's A Singles	Kent Lindeman
Men's B Singles	Eric Ladrech
Men's A Doubles	Chris Bown & Mark Litzau
Men's B Doubles	Rich Miller & Marty Tedlock

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ Phone _____ Rating _____

Email _____

Name _____ Phone _____ Rating _____

Email _____

Please check the appropriate event(s)/division you would like to play:

<input type="radio"/> Male	<input type="radio"/> Singles	<input type="radio"/> Men's A	<input type="radio"/> Women's A
<input type="radio"/> Female	<input type="radio"/> Doubles	<input type="radio"/> Men's B	<input type="radio"/> Women's B
		<input type="radio"/> Men's C	<input type="radio"/> Women's C

Make checks payable to WCRC and send to:

Kent Lindeman • 1889 Appia Court • Walnut Creek, CA 94598

Questions? Call (925) 943-5745 or email jkindeman@earthlink.net



**New Member
Information
Removed for
Privacy**

WCRC 2002 Club Championships
 Singles & Doubles
 August 10-11 & 17-18, 2002
 Registration on page 6 or at www.wcrc.net
 Pictured above: Defending B Doubles Champs
 Marty Tedlock & Rich Miller



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

PRESORTED
 STANDARD
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 Walnut Creek, CA
 Permit No. 432

NTRP TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE • 2002

July 14-15

WALNUT CREEK CRACKER 5.0, 5.5 NTRP
 MW (5.0-5.5) sdmx
 Walnut Creek Tennis Center
 Entry deadline: July 1
 TOUCH TONE/TENNISLINK #500021202

July 26-28

SONOMA TACO SUMMER NTRP CLASSIC
 MW (3.0-5.5) sd, MX (3.0-5.5) d
 Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park
 Entry deadline: July 15
 TOUCH TONE/TENNISLINK #500022402

August 9-11 & 17-18

CLUBSPORT PLEASANTON AUGUST NTRP
 M(3.5-5.0) sd, W(3.5-4.5) sd, MX (3.5-4.5) d
 ClubSport Pleasanton
 Entry deadline: July 29
 TOUCH TONE/TENNISLINK #500023402

August 24-25, August 31-September 2

100TH SF NTRP CITY CHAMPIONSHIPS
 MW (4.5-5.5) sd, MX (4.5-5.5) d
 Golden Gate Tennis Club
 Entry deadline: August 12
 TOUCH TONE/TENNISLINK #500024502



THOR'S THUNDER TENNIS

Featuring "THE JUNIOR ACADEMY"
 Programs for all ages -Novice to Ranked Player
 Adult Lessons - Private/Groups/Clinics

SUMMER CAMPS 2002

Walnut Country Swim & Tennis, Concord
 Camp 2: July 8-12 • Camp 3: July 22-26 •
 Camp 4: August 5-9
 Camp 5: August 19-23

For more information, call (925) 943-4765
 or e-mail thors10s@astound.net