



# THE COURT REPORTER

November 2002

Newsletter of the  
Walnut Creek Racquet Club

## WCRC NAMED NORCAL CTA OF THE YEAR

-see page 5



### **WINTER DOUBLES IS FINALLY HERE !**

find details on page 4-5

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## Walnut Creek Racquet Club

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## FROM THE PRO

### Compensation

One of the most common subjects I mention when giving a lesson is about compensation. Compensation means to consciously or unconsciously make a change while in motion, in order to nullify an earlier mistake in one's form.

Compensations are not the same as allowances, the difference being that allowances are pre-planned, while compensations are made spontaneously -- they are made instinctively and always while the player is in motion.

An example of an allowance is standing further to the left to return a left-handed player's serve. This allowance is pre-planned and put into practice before the server begins their motion. An example of compensation is directing the swing more to the left, when one senses that the server's doubles partner has moved to poach the return, after the server has already delivered the serve.

By using compensation, a negative action in a player's stroke can be nullified with another negative action, providing it is in opposition to the first negative action and to an equal degree. In other words, the mistake of hitting the ball consistently long and over the baseline can be mitigated by adjusting the contact point higher on the ball and if the degree of correction is proper, it will nullify the mistake. I often tell players to hit the ball in the middle, if their ball goes consistently long over the baseline. I then tell them that their hand-to-racquet-to-eye coordination of where the middle of the ball is is too low on the ball and suggest compensating by aiming higher on the ball. Without fail, the player's ball comes up shorter in the court

*continued on page 3*



**Coach Mac**

## CALENDAR

### JANUARY 6 - MARCH 30, 2003

Winter Doubles League

### JANUARY 25, 2003

Annual Awards Banquet & Silent Auction

### FEBRUARY 14, 2003

Siebel Open Bus Trip (quarterfinals)

### APRIL 11-13, 2003

Winter Doubles League 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.*

# President's Message

Tales from the crypt, and other Halloween news.....physically drained, emotionally spent, lost 5 pounds :), sleepless nights, and all this because I had a brilliant idea. Let me back up a little and you'll see how I ended up in this state.

When the USTA NorCal announced they were going to require league players to play a super tie-breaker instead of the third set for all league matches, I was a little more than shocked. Anyone who has played me on the courts knows I never give up and hope the match ends in two sets, with me being the winner. But if it doesn't, I'm more than happy to play a third set.

I was sure there were many other league captains out there with the same feelings, so I set off on a quest to find them. Strangely enough, the USTA NorCal's own website helped me contact most area captains. All I had to do was figure a way to download their email addresses. After 3 nights of computer time, I had 1,773 email addresses of captains. Next, I set up a website with a survey, asking the main question, "If you had been given the opportunity by NorCal to vote on changing a match format, how would you have voted?" I sent out the invitation email to all the captains I had gathered, and instantly over 300 emails bounced back to me as bad addresses, then another 150 came back as "Out of town, will be back yada yada yada ....". My computer was internally hemorrhaging.... Things settled down, and the results started to take shape. Two weeks later, 1,050+ captains had filled out the survey, 87% said they would have voted to keep the third set. Not only had that many captains completed the survey, but over 200 took the time to send me a personal message of support and their ideas on how to deal with the change. Now that I had some statistics, I decided that a petition might not be a bad idea. I set up a website that allowed captains to sign a petition asking for the reinstatement of the third set in league play. Now my troubles really began. The site I used had some major flaws, and a FEW hundred captains couldn't sign. I know this because each of them emailed me and complained... Even though I only had 300+ captains signing the petition, I thought I still had a case. Now what do I do with all this information? Like the fool that I am, I talked with USTA NorCal Executive Director Bruce and managed to get myself on the agenda for their

*continued on page 6*

## From the Pro

*continued from page 2*

due to the compensation, remembering that this is not an allowance because the player is in motion.

However, not all compensations are made to reduce mistakes. Some are made due to strategy. As previously mentioned; a player returning serve in a doubles match senses the net person is going to poach and the player attempts to compensate by angling the ball further cross court, attempting to avoid the net person. Therefore the angle is increased relative to the move of the net person, resulting in a return beyond the poacher's reach.

Although compensation is useful and utilized by every player (often subconsciously) for strategic purposes, an attempt should be made to reduce its need for stroke flaws as much as possible. With compensation you can correct negative performance, but your unforced errors will be much lower if you have no need of it.



**Robert Young**

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# 2003 Winter Doubles Leagues

<b>League Season</b>	January 6 - March 30, 2003
<b>Entry Fee</b>	<b>\$30/team</b> (both players WCRC members) <b>\$40/team</b> (one WCRC member; one non-member) <b>\$50/team</b> (both players non-members)
<b>Format</b>	Men's Doubles/Women's Doubles 12-week regular season (players grouped by NTRP level)
<b>NTRP Levels</b>	Men's 3.5 - 5.0/5.5; Women 3.0 - 4.5/5.0
<b>Scheduling</b>	Ten (10) matches are provided for each team to complete during the 12-week season. Schedules will be posted on the Walnut Creek Racquet Club website during the last week of December and contact lists will be mailed to players. Players are responsible for scheduling their own matches at any site that is mutually agreeable between opponents.
<b>Match Format</b>	Best two-out-of-three set format, 12-point tiebreaker (regular scoring). No SUPERTIEBREAKERS! Both teams responsible for bringing balls to match; winning team gets unopened can. Matches should be played according to the Rules of Tennis.
<b>Reporting Scores</b>	The winning team is responsible for reporting the match score by logging onto <a href="http://www.wcrc.net">www.wcrc.net</a> and entering scores on-line.
<b>Standings</b>	Division standings are updated as soon as you log onto the website and enter your scores.

## WINTER DOUBLES LEAGUES

For the third consecutive year, the Walnut Creek Racquet Club (WCRC) is organizing competitive Men's and Women's Doubles leagues for tennis enthusiasts. The leagues integrate the competitive elements of both tournament and league play while also serving to expand your tennis network. Last year, 175 teams participated and we expect more in 2003 as materials will be circulated to over 5,000 players in the East Bay.

### End-of-Season Tournament

Scheduled to take place Friday, April 11 - Sunday, April 13, 2003, at the Walnut Creek Tennis Center at Heather Farm Community Park. To qualify, you must have completed and reported at least 4 league matches by Saturday, March 30, 2003. Draws in each of the eight (8) divisions will be determined by league standings during the regular season. Tournament is single elimination. Prizes will be awarded to winners and finalists.

### League apparel

League hats/visors will be available to all participants and can be picked up at the End-of-Season Tournament at the Walnut Creek Tennis Center, starting the evening of Friday, April 11, 2003.

<b>Check payable to</b>	Walnut Creek Racquet Club or WCRC
<b>Registration form</b>	Complete form on page 5.
<b>Entry deadline</b>	<u>Monday, December 16, 2002</u>
<b>Entry form to</b>	WCRC P.O. Box 4574 Walnut Creek, CA 94596
<b>Questions</b>	Judy Stillman at <a href="mailto:jstillma@pacbell.net">jstillma@pacbell.net</a> or via phone at (925) 933-9351

# WCRC ¥ 2003 Winter Doubles Registration Form

## PLAYER 1

## PLAYER 2

Name	_____	_____
Mailing Address	_____	_____
City	_____	_____
ZIP Code	_____	_____
Home Phone	_____	_____
Work/Cell Phone	_____	_____
E-mail address	_____	_____
NTRP level	_____ DOB _____	_____ DOB _____
Yrs in League	<input type="radio"/> 1st year <input type="radio"/> 2nd year <input type="radio"/> 3rd year	<input type="radio"/> 1st year <input type="radio"/> 2nd year <input type="radio"/> 3rd year
Hat Type	<input type="radio"/> Cap <input type="radio"/> Visor	<input type="radio"/> Cap <input type="radio"/> Visor
WCRC Member	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No

We would like to enter the following division:  
(one division only)

- |                                   |                                     |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Men 3.5     | <input type="radio"/> Women 3.0     |
| <input type="radio"/> Men 4.0     | <input type="radio"/> Women 3.5     |
| <input type="radio"/> Men 4.5     | <input type="radio"/> Women 4.0     |
| <input type="radio"/> Men 5.0-5.5 | <input type="radio"/> Women 4.5-5.0 |

Registration Fees:      \* \$30 per team (both Walnut Creek Racquet Club members)  
                                  \* \$40 per team (one WCRC Member, one non-member)  
                                  \* \$50 per team (both non WCRC members)

Please make checks payable to WCRC and send to :  
 WCRC ¥ PO. Box 4574 ¥ Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Registration deadline is December 16, 2002. Questions? Call (925) 933-9351 or email [jstillma@pacbell.net](mailto:jstillma@pacbell.net).

## WCRC Selected as USTA NorCal Community Tennis Association of the Year



The Walnut Creek Racquet Club was recently selected at the USTA NorCal 2002 Community Tennis Association (CTA) of the Year. Selected by the Community Tennis Committee, our 30-year old, 700-member club was recognized for being the driving force of tennis in greater Contra Costa County. The WCRC was lauded for its popular Singles and Doubles Leagues programs, which included over 800 member and non-member participants over the past year and employs an easy to use on-line scoring system. In addition, the committee identified the regular member services and communications, tournaments, social events, top-notch volunteers and fundraising to help local high school tennis programs as reasons why the WCRC stood out above all other NorCal CTAs this year. Congratulations to the WCRC Board of Directors and membership at large for winning this prestigious award for the first time in the club's history!



**USTA Senior Mixed Playoffs**

## Senior Mixed 7.0 Team Leaves Mark in Diablo North & Reno

The WCRC Senior Mixed 7.0B team, captained by Susan Smith and Barbara Forrester, capped a successful inaugural season with a 5-2 record in Local League play and a trip to Sectionals in late September. Reno's Caughlin Tennis Club hosted this playoff round during which the team won one match against Wikiup Racquet Club (Sonoma/Mendocino) and lost two others to Lake Wildwood (Sacramento) and eventual champion Sunnyvale Tennis Club.

Congratulations to team members: Alice Adachi, Dave Corliss, Judy Corliss, Michelle Gold, John Hallisey, Fred Harden, Karen Hirtzel, Randy Jang, Carol Papke, John Quandt and Joe Silk.

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### President's Message

*continued from page 3*

October 16 Board meeting, to present the results of the survey. Standing before 40+ people and making a speech is not my idea of a great evening, but I had gone this far, and I wasn't about to give up yet. The presentation went well... then the discussion started amongst the board/staff members. Yikes!!! Turns out, quite a few of the staff members didn't want to change the format in the first place, but were overruled by the Board. Even the Adult Leagues Committee had apparently come back with a report that the third set should stay in, but I got the feeling the board had overruled them as well. Someone even tried to make a motion to call for a new vote, but the president said it was improper at that time as they were only taking comments.

Bottom line is, the Board is now very aware that the league players in general don't like the super tiebreaker (and have the statistics to prove it!), and are not happy campers. Looks like a new committee may be created to re-visit the issue. I've asked to be a member of that committee, so I may be in for more sleepless nights. See ya on the courts.

-Robert

## Fung-a-Ling, Belton<sup>2</sup> Win 2002 Grand Prix Titles



The top USTA NorCal tournament players converged upon the Mission Hills Tennis Club in Fremont on October 19-20 & 26-27 for the Head/Penn Class Grand Prix. The WCRC was well-represented in the invitation-only event with Brad Belton, Heidi Belton and Valerie Fung-a-Ling all winning titles.

In Men's 3.5 Singles, #2 seeded Brad Belton posted a tough quarterfinal win over fellow WCRC member Ron Helgesson 7-5, 7-5, then beat Kirk Iverson of San Jose in the semis and top-seeded Alex Whang of Richmond in the finals 4-6, 6-3, 6-3. Belton ended the season with an impressive 24-5 match record. Unseeded in Women's 4.0 Singles, Heidi Belton (above right) opened with a 2-6, 6-2, 7-5 victory over Amanda Kao of Mountain View, then a straight-set drubbing of Julie Willardson (Loomis) 6-3, 6-2. She then defeated Lori Cruz-Spray (Mountain View) 7-6 (5), 3-6, 6-1, who had upset top-seeded Garbo Berger in the other semi, in the finals. Belton posted a 18-4 tournament record in 2002.

Valerie Fung-a-Ling (above left) wrapped up her domination of the Women's 3.5 Singles division at the Grand Prix with three more wins -- a double bagel against Jamie Daniels of San Francisco, a 6-0, 7-5 victory over Sandra Laskey (Pleasanton) and a 6-1, 6-3 win against Laurie Tiffin of Roseville in the final. Fung-a-Ling wrapped up her 2002 NTRP campaign with 16 wins against 3 losses.

**2002 GRAND PRIX TOURNEY**



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## NTRP TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE • 2002

### November 16-17 & 23-24

LAKE MERCED 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 NTRP  
MW (3.5-4.5) s; 2003 season  
San Francisco State University  
Entry deadline: November 4  
TOUCH TONE/TENNISLINK #500029202

### November 30-December 1 & 7-8

CLUBSPORT FREMONT 3.5, 5.5  
M (3.5, 5.5) sd; W (3.5) sd, MX (3.5) d  
ClubSport Fremont  
Entry deadline: November 14  
TOUCH TONE/TENNISLINK #500029302

### November 30-December 1 & 7-8

GREEN VALLEY HOLIDAY NTRP TOURNEY  
MW (3.0-5.0) sd; MX (3.0-5.5) d  
Green Valley Country Club, Suisin  
Entry deadline: November 14  
TOUCH TONE/TENNISLINK #500029402

## Ramsower-Pearlstein Wins USTA Gold Ball



**Chris  
Ramsower-  
Pearlstein**

Chris Ramsower-Pearlstein added another piece of hardware to the trophy case of her Walnut Creek home -- a coveted Gold Ball -- at the USTA National Women's 35, 45 & 55 Hard Court Championships held September 30 - October 6 at the Broadstone Racquet Club in Folsom. Paired with Sherri Bronson (Scottsdale, AZ), the #1 seeded Women's 45 doubles

tandem won three tough matches in straight sets, including a 6-4, 6-3 win in the finals against Carolyn Nichols (Lodi) and Karen O'Sullivan (Naperville, IL). Ramsower lost to partner Bronson in Women's 45 Singles draw, but won three straight matches after that to win the consolation bracket.