



# THE COURT REPORTER

Newsletter of the Walnut Creek Racquet Club

February, 2010

**Robert Young  
shows off his new  
right handed game  
at the National  
Championships for  
his senior men's 3.0  
team in Tucson!**



Photo by Meredith Young

## Walnut Creek Racquet Club

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## THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT



**Tammie Snyder**  
**2010 WCRC President**

Welcome to March! The rains have let up here and there and some tennis is being played on the courts. This month brings lots of change to Heather Farm. Lifetime Tennis begins management operation for the Tennis Center beginning March 1st. They have a lot of new ideas they are bringing to the table and I am looking forward to seeing some positive changes at Heather Farm.

I know everyone is gearing up for Indian Wells and PNB Paribas Open. I read that Sampras and Federer are going to take on Agassi and Nadal for a "Hit for Haiti" exhibition on Friday, March 12th. They hope to raise \$1 Million for Haiti relief efforts.

Good luck to **Brian Costello's 6.5 Combo Men's Team** as they head into Sectionals. We wish you the best and expect a great write up for the next newsletter. After a rain postponement they are finally going to play the weekend of March 12-14.

The **Fall Mixed 8.0 Finals** as of press time still had not been played. Hopefully the final four will get their match in before the next newsletter so we can report the outcome!

The **Winter Doubles League** alive and well. This year we have 90 men's doubles teams and 113 women's teams competing. That's over 400 players enjoying winter doubles!

The much anticipated **Calcutta Tournament** is coming April 30th, with the party on May 1st. Check out all the details on page 5!

The USTA Adult League is getting ready to begin. I know mixed is not even halfway over. Anyway, USTA has given us a four week overlap for mixed and adult league this season. The schedules are out with some teams getting 9 matches while others getting 15! Good luck to all playing and thanks to the captains who dedicate their time and energy to lead a team. It's a lot of work.

On a side note, there has been a complaint regarding profanity on the courts when children are within earshot. I know we've all dropped a four letter word here or there but if you could be aware when there are young ears in hearing range I would appreciate it.

See you on the courts!





**New Member  
Information  
Removed for  
Privacy**

# From the Pro...

## Questions and Answers



**QUESTION:** I was playing a mixed doubles match and encountered the following issue. My female opponent was quite a bit older than me. I'm 30 and don't have a very good second serve, but my first is pretty good. If I take something off my first, it tends to be short and inconsistent, so I didn't -- I served as I normally would against a male my own age. My serve is easily my best weapon, so I hate to pull it back, as it makes my game significantly weaker. Is that poor etiquette?

**ANSWER:** Remember that being polite to an opponent can be rude to your partner. Gentle serves can often result to harsh shots to your teammate at the net. It is best to communicate with your partner on the team's strategy prior to the match.

Players must realize that age isn't a handicap. Martina Navratilova proved that winning major doubles titles being well over the age of 30. I recall quite awhile ago when John Newcombe and Fred Stolle came out of retirement and advanced to the US Open men's doubles semifinals. Being 57 myself, I love using the "respect your elders" angle. My younger opponents learn fast that with age comes experience.

Observe the female's returns. If she's not driving winners off your soft second, then have at it. If she is, bring on the heat. A lot weighs if you're playing a social or league match. If it's league, then you're letting down more than your partner by serving the marshmallows. If it's social, no big deal, but baseline your partner.

Here's a drill that I like to develop a competitive second serve. Play a set with one serve a point. If you go for too much, you can lose the point (a missed serve is a double fault). Going too easy may put your back to the wall.

Take my word, don't fret about age or gender if they can return to sender.

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**QUESTION:** I have a very good forehand and I can hit it extremely flat or with topspin but sometimes on slow returns I dump them into the net and don't know why. I have a good motion and don't usually get tight but sometimes it gets dumped into the net but rarely long or wide. I play semi-western and open stance but wonder if I should change to a full western grip.

**ANSWER:** I often have players ask me why are easy shots are so hard. I reply that you can't tell how easy a task is until it's done. With a slower ball, you have more time. Time is often spent on taking big backswings or considering options on where to hit it. Here is the perfect example of the early bird getting the worm. Close in and catch the ball on the rise rather than sitting back. If you're playing someone who consistently hits slow or short, stand in. Having to take 3 steps to hit every ball is starting rallies by throwing the ball in front so you have to chase it. Making contact below the net only raises the chances of hitting into the net. Closing the racquet face doesn't improve the situation. Remember that your swing pattern for high & low balls differ too. You drive through on high balls and go low to high on shots below the net.

Leonard Young is a long time WCRC member and a private teaching pro.  
He is currently the tennis specialist at Sports Chalet in Concord.

*If you have a question you would like to submit, please send to Leonard Young at [virtualpro@webtv.net](mailto:virtualpro@webtv.net).*

# Calcutta Party & Tournament: April 30-May 1

Here's your chance to enter the most popular tournament that the WCRC offers each year - the 2010 Calcutta. Enter early, since the event is limited to the first 32 women and 32 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 resulting 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 **April 30th** and Saturday tournament **May 1st** in which you are guaranteed a minimum of two matches). Guests may attend the Friday night party at no charge. This year we are adding a **Kid Korner** so bring your children for fun and games. This is a free event for ALL WCRC members!



**Entry deadline is April 19th.** 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 **Tammie Snyder** at 957-0604 or at [tammie@gte.net](mailto:tammie@gte.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 and bring home the money!!!!**

**Sign up on line at [www.wcrc.net](http://www.wcrc.net)**

## Calcutta Tournament Entry Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

USTA Rating: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Number in your party (including guests) \_\_\_\_\_

I can help score keep ☐

Please make checks payable to WCRC  
(\$20 per player) and send with entry form to:

Tammie Snyder  
209 Blum View Drive  
Martinez, CA 94553

Questions?

Contact Tammie Snyder at (925) 957-0604  
or at [tammie@gte.net](mailto:tammie@gte.net)

**\$20 Per Player • Entry Deadline: April 19th**



# Tennis News



## NorCal 45s Intersectional Team Places Fourth at National Team Event

by Carolyn Nichols

The USTA/NorCal women's 45 intersectional team placed fourth out of 13 teams at the USTA National Women's Intersectional Team Event (NWITE) in Naples, Florida on November 22nd. The team members were **Carolyn Nichols**, Lodi (co-captain), **Phyllis Blackwell**, Reno, **Chris Ramsower-Pearlstein** (co-captain), Walnut Creek and **Debbie Croft**, San Mateo. The seeded sections were Southern, Texas, Florida and NorCal in that order and that was the order in which the teams finished, a fine job by the seeding committee.



The format for each team was three singles, followed by two doubles matches. Since we were a team of only four players (up to seven are allowed), all of us were

planning on playing singles and doubles except for Debbie who was planning on playing only doubles... that was the plan anyway!

It was a terrific event, about 330 women senior players from age 35 to 85+ from all parts of the continental US. All sections except Southwest, Hawaii and Caribbean were represented. The NorCal players really appreciate the support of USTA NorCal and were glad to represent their section in this prestigious event.

## That's gotta hurt!

On January 22nd, **Robert Young** underwent a total left shoulder replacement surgery at Kaiser Antioch. The surgery went without a hitch and Robert was sent home to heal the next day. Under instructions from the surgeon, Robert will be sidelined from playing competitive tennis for six months. Knowing Robert we are sure we'll see him on the courts long before that. Robert's shoulder started failing him more than twenty years ago. At the time he was rated 4.5, but over the years both the shoulder and his rating deteriorated. In an unprecedented ruling from the USTA,



if he promised only to play right handed, Robert was allowed to play as a 3.0 for the 2008 season, down from his then rating of 3.5. After suffering a slow learning curve in 2008, his right handed game picked up enough in 2009 to carry him and his 3.0 Men's Senior team from the Pleasant Hill Racquet Club to the Nationals. Robert is currently rated 3.5 again, only as a right

handed player now. When asked if he plans to play as a lefty when his shoulder heals he dodged the question saying, with a slight smile, he is really looking forward to getting back to at least the 4.0 level. As a past winner and finalist in our annual Calcutta tournament, Robert is working hard at physical therapy in order to be ready for our next Calcutta on May 1st.

## Lifetime Meet and Greet

by Pam Maloney

About 60 people gathered at Heather Farms's Lakeside Room on Sunday, February 28 to meet and hear from the new contractor of the City courts. The meeting was kicked off by **Kevin Safine** from the City of Walnut Creek and quickly turned over to **Dana Gill**, of Lifetime Tennis. Dana introduced the office and teaching staff, along with his head maintenance person. He shared a little about his background, his intentions regarding Heather and his goals. In short, he said he wanted to "earn our trust" while focusing on good customer service and running an efficient tennis center. The bulk of the hour and a half was spent with Dana fielding questions from the audience.

Dana was asked what will be different on March 1. Here's an abbreviated list of what he covered:

- no more light fees
- no more locked gates on courts 3 and 7
- 4 courts will be available for "walk-on or open" play
- 3 courts will be available for reservations, at no cost if you have a court usage card
- extended hours of operation

Dana also said he has no plan to increase court usage fees for 16 months. At that time, any proposal must go to the City and be approved prior to implementation.



That's it and I sincerely hope WCRC members will show the staff of Lifetime Tennis that we want to work with them to improve the tennis experience in Walnut Creek. **Mary Pat Patrick** will head the Heather office, so stop by and say hello!





# April





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## Winter Doubles League - Standings

### Men's

**3.5**

**W L**

Dundon/Guzzaldo 4 0

**4.0**

Panda/Bains 3 0

Scriabine/Tedlock 3 0

**4.5**

Manuel/Macias 3 0

### Women's

**3.0**

**W L**

Nguyen/Hashimoto 4 0

**3.5**

Labella/Parke 4 0

Wilson/Leng 4 0

**4.0**

Belton/Gonzalez 4 0

**4.5/5.0**

Dundon/Rowen 2 0