



THE COURT REPORTER

December 2002

Newsletter of the
Walnut Creek Racquet Club

President's Message

December: Cold weather, storms coming in, wet leaves cover courts, strings don't quite play the same as they did in the summer, legs are cramping. Makes you want to hang up the racquet for the season, kick back and watch some football. But wait! this is California and in three days it'll be sunny again.

Do you ever think about what we take for granted in California? My buddy in Vermont is playing tennis right now in an inflated balloon they construct over the outdoor courts to keep the snow off and the heat in. And for the privilege, he pays \$350.00 for 2 hours of doubles tennis one night a week, for the winter season. Makes our club dues seem like lunch money in comparison. Come to think of it, it's not that far off. Yeah, I know, you have to add the cost of a court use card, but still, it's got to be the best tennis deal in the country. So why haven't you sent in your 2003 dues

yet? I can say without even checking, based on our club's history, that most of you haven't sent in your dues yet. Consider yourself tagged, and send in the dues! I'm tired of looking up players in our directory and not finding them listed because they hadn't paid their dues in time. Have I put enough guilt on you yet?

All right, enough with the ranting, let's get on with tennis. So what happened to our annual Turkey Tournament? I apologize for our club not putting on a Thanksgiving Tournament this year. Somehow, it just didn't happen. At our last board meeting, I could see we had dropped the proverbial tennis ball on this one, and there wasn't enough time to pick it up. Later, af-

ter getting several calls from members wondering about the tournament, it became clear to me that the club can't do a scheduled social tournament without the membership caring. WCRC needs its social tournaments just as much as the competitive ones.

WCRC runs on volunteers, and when there aren't any, nothing happens. I have heard from members more than a few times, "It seems like the club is run by the same people all the

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**Debbie Hellman
and
Jay Hoyer**

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Walnut Creek Racquet Club

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FROM THE PRO

Less Bang for the Buck

Years ago, before a match, I was warming up with an opponent who could literally crush groundstrokes. After sending one of my warm up serves down the line for what would have been a clear winner, this individual barked across the net, "What do you think of that shot, meat!" To which I calmly replied, "That was awesome, but can you do it again?" He spent the entire match trying to prove to me he could, and therein lies the rub.

We have all witnessed what seems to be the invincible "big hitter" warming up before a match. The manner in which they move along the baseline conveys not only self-assurance, but formidability as well. Exhibiting flawless and enviable footwork, they cap each superlative demonstration with a shot that thunders off the racquet and dips deep into a corner of their opponent's court.

The opponent, on the other hand, has all they can handle just getting the ball back over the net. Where, in a somewhat feeble effort, strokes a ball of considerably less promise. Yet, to our amazement, when the smoke clears we find the "crown prince" has gone down to defeat. How could this happen? One surely

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CALENDAR

JANUARY 6 - MARCH 30, 2003

Winter Doubles League

JANUARY 18, 2003

Little Siebel Tournament (MXD 6.0, 7.0, 8.0)

JANUARY 25, 2003

Annual Awards Banquet & Silent Auction

FEBRUARY 14, 2003

Siebel Open Bus Trip (quarterfinals)

FEBRUARY 15, 2003

Valentine's Day Tournament

APRIL 11-13, 2003

Winter Doubles League Tournament

The WCRC's purpose is to promote the game of tennis in Walnut Creek and Contra Costa County by providing a wide variety of activities (tournaments, league play, clinics and social events) for enthusiasts of all ages and skill levels. The club is sponsored by the City of Walnut Creek.

YOUNG ACCEPTS CTA AWARD



WCRC President Robert Young (far right) receives the USTA NorCal's 2002 Community Tennis Association (CTA) of the Year award from USTA NorCal President Mark Manning (center) and Director of Community Tennis Craig Stephens. The plaque was given at NorCal's Annual meeting on November 9 in Pleasanton.

President's Message

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time, ...nobody has ever asked me to help". On the membership application form there is a place to indicate how you would like to help the club next year. Take some time and think about what you could do to help. You'll be surprised how rewarding it is to complete a project for WCRC. This club is growing by leaps and bounds, and we need members to volunteer more than ever. See you on the courts.

-Robert

From the Pro

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asks.

Golfers have an expression, "Drive for show and putt for dough." Its counterpart in tennis could well be, "Bang for show and return for dough." Regardless of how much bang you have, if you can't consistently put it there it does you little good.

A common denominator that I've noticed of nearly all top club players (over many years) is a willingness to seek out tough opponents that will test and stretch their ability. In other words, playing against people whose styles are difficult for you. In this pursuit, you will be tested and stretched if you wish to register a win.

Many years ago, an up and coming junior player was heralded as the next great prodigy. His strokes were flawless and his serve devastating. But, no matter how hard his coaches tried (and many did), they could never get him to stop over-hitting. Because of his stubbornness, he continued to fall short of his tremendous potential, and in time he faded into obscurity. Many fans and admirers never forgot him, in fact, they named a town after him -- **MARBLEHEAD.**



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ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET & SILENT AUCTION

Saturday, January 25, 2002

Heather Farm Community Center

6:00 pm - 11:00 pm

Join your tennis friends and colleagues "off the court" as the WCRC celebrates its individual and team achievements over the past year. Tickets are \$30 per person and include cocktails & hors d'oeuvres, dinner, dancing and the opportunity to participate in the club's Silent Auction (to benefit the Ygnacio Valley High School boys and girls varsity tennis teams).

Tickets are \$30 per person. Guests are welcome. Please make checks payable to WCRC and send to: Tammy Chan, P.O. Box 221, Alamo, CA 94507. Registration deadline is January 20, 2003. If you have any questions or you want to reserve a table for your USTA team, please contact Tammy at 837-0227 or via email at tammychan@teleocity.com.

schedule of events

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Cocktails and Hors d'oeuvres
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Silent Auction
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Dinner
8:00 pm - 8:30 pm	Award Presentations
8:30 pm - 11:00 pm	Dancing

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Home Phone _____

E-mail address _____

No. of reservations _____ Amt. enclosed _____

registration form



Judy Stillman and Alan Mould enjoy last year's festivities.

LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER FOR 2003 WINTER DOUBLES LEAGUE

Deadline is December 16

Don't miss your chance to register for the WCRC's 2003 Winter Doubles League! Deadline for entry is Monday, December 16. The leagues feature up to 10 matches, flexible scheduling, on-line score entry and real-time standings, league apparel, player contact lists and a season-ending tournament.

The regular season will run January 6 - March 30, 2003 with the tournament scheduled for April 11 -13 at the Walnut Creek Tennis Center. To qualify, you must have completed and reported at least 4 league matches by Saturday, March 30. Draws in each of the eight divisions (Men's 3.5 - 5.0/5.5 and Women's 3.0 - 4.5/5.0) will be determined by league standings during the regular season. The tournament is single elimination and prizes will be awarded to winners and finalists. Cost is \$30 per team (both players WCRC members); \$40 per team (one WCRC member, one non-member) or \$50 per team (both players non-members). You can download a registration form by visiting the club's website at www.wcrc.net and clicking on "2003 Winter Doubles League." If you have any questions, please contact Judy Stillman at 933-9351 or via email at jstillma@pacbell.net.



The WCRC will be holding their 3rd Annual set of Siebel Open events in early 2003 -- the Little Siebel Mixed Doubles Tournament to be held Saturday, January 18 and the Siebel Open Bus Trip, scheduled for Friday, February 14. The Little Siebel has quickly become a social tournament favorite, with its round-robin format and prizes

for finalists in all divisions: tickets to the Siebel Open at the HP Pavillion in San Jose. Cost is \$25 per team -- see registration form below. Deadline to enter is January 14, 2003. The bus trip will feature quarterfinal action and players scheduled to appear at the 2003 tournament include: Sampras, Agassi, Roddick and Blake. Buses will leave the Walnut Creek Tennis Center at 5:30 pm and return after the completion of two quarterfinal matches that begin at 7:00 pm. Cost is \$60 per person which includes round-trip transportation, ticket (lower sideline) and food and beverage on the bus going down to San Jose. There are only 70 spots still available -- make your reservation as soon as possible by filling out the registration form at bottom.

Little Siebel Tournament Registration Form

Saturday, January 18, 2003 ¥ 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

PLAYER 1

PLAYER 2

Name	_____	_____
Mailing Address	_____	_____
City	_____	_____
ZIP Code	_____	_____
Home Phone	_____	_____
E-mail address	_____	_____
NTRP level	_____	_____

We would like to enter the following division: Mixed 6.0 Mixed 7.0 Mixed 8.0

Finalists in each division will win tickets to the Siebel Open, February 10-16, 2003. Format will be round robin with starting times posted on the WCRC website on January 16. Cancellations after January 14 are not eligible for refunds. Please make a check for \$25 payable to WCRC and send to : Robert Young ¥47 Chaucer Drive ¥ Pleasant Hill, CA 94523. Registration deadline is January 14, 2003. Questions? Call (925) 906-0614 or email robert@canterburytrails.com.

Siebel Open Bus Trip Registration Form

Friday, February 14, 2003 ¥ 5:30 pm - 11:00 pm

Name	_____
Home Phone	_____
E-mail address	_____
No. of tickets	_____

Tickets will be sold on a first-come, first served basis. Cancellations after February 10 are not eligible for refunds unless tickets can be resold to those on a waiting list. Please make a check for \$60 per ticket payable to WCRC and send to: Kent Lindeman, 1889 Appia Court, Walnut Creek, CA 94598. Registration deadline is February 10, 2003. Questions? Call (925) 943-5745 or email jklindeman@earthlink.net.



NATIONAL CHAMPIONS!



From L to R - Bottom Row: Craig Kirk, Kevin Hennessy, Bob Deinhammer, Steve King, Eric Belusa, Steve Schecter, Brad Belton. Top Row: Carla Tinonga, Carla Kirk, Pam Maloney, Patti May, Shari Huber, Darcy Lopes, Susie Dunlap, Heidi Belton.

Mixed 6.0 Team Overcomes Weather and Five Opponents to Win Title

WCRC's Mixed 6.0 Team fought through inclement weather and five matches in a single day to win the club's first USTA National Championship at the Pacific Palms Tennis Center in City of Industry (Southern CA) on November 8-10.

The tournament's first two days were completely washed out by rain, forcing organizers to devise a way to get all matches completed in one day. With play beginning at 6:30 am on Sunday, the chosen format was a 4 game set with a 12-point tiebreaker at 4 all. WCRC opened with a 2-1 win against the Midwest (West Virginia), followed by morning wins against InterMountain (Idaho) and a difficult Hawaii team. A 2-1 victory over the Southwest representative (Tucson) put the team into the finals against Southern juggernaut Texas.

Despite playing in their home state, the WCRC squad felt like visitors as four out of the five Texas teams at Nationals were from the same Tyler, Texas club. Carla and Craig Kirk dropped a close 4-2 match at the #3 position, which was quickly countered by a 4-2 win by Eric Belusa and Darcy Lopes. Patti May and Kevin Hennessy gained the deciding point by breaking their Texas opponents at 2-2 and Hennessy serving out the match. According to captain Shari Huber, the win was a total team effort highlighted by the team's anchor tandems of Belusa/Lopes and Hennessy/May not losing a single match on Championship Sunday. The team finished the season with an astounding 28-0 record.



**New Member
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NTRP TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE • 2003

January 25 & 26 - February 1 & 2

CHABOT CANYON 5.0 NTRP
MW (5.0) sd; MX (5.0)
Chabot Canyon Racquet Club
Entry deadline: January 13
TOUCH TONE/TENNISLINK #500001103

January 25 & 26 - February 1 & 2

CLUBSPORT FREMONT 3.0 & 4.0
DOUBLES & MIXED DOUBLES
MW (3.0, 4.0) d; MX (3.0,4.0) d
ClubSport Fremont
Entry deadline: January 9
TOUCH TONE/TENNISLINK #50001203

January 25 & 26 - February 1 & 2

LAKE MERCED 3.5 & 4.5 NTRP
MW (3.5, 4.5) sd; MX (3.5, 4.5) d
San Francisco State University
Entry deadline: January 13
TOUCH TONE/TENNISLINK #50001303

February 8 & 9 - 15 & 16

13TH ANNUAL SOLANO NTRP CHAMPS
MW (3.0-5.5) sd; MX (3.0-5.5)
Solano Athletic Club
Entry deadline: January 24
TOUCH TONE/TENNISLINK #50001703

March 8 & 9 - 15 & 16

CLUBSPORT PLEASANTON MARCH NTRP
MW (3.0-5.0) sd; MX (3.0-5.0)
ClubSport Pleasanton
Entry deadline: February 23
TOUCH TONE/TENNISLINK #50002703

March 22 & 23 - 29 & 30

WALNUT CREEK NTRP SPRING FLING
MW (3.5, 4.5, 5.5) sd; MX (3.5, 4.5, 5.5)
Walnut Creek Tennis Center
Entry deadline: March 10
TOUCH TONE/TENNISLINK #500003803