

THE COURT REPORTER

Newsletter of the Walnut Creek Racquet Club

May, 2025



**Sandra Harris
hits a forehand
during the Fall
Mixed Doubles
Tournament.**

***On a side note
Sandra and
her husband
Thinh Vo are this
month's member
spotlights!***

Photo by Bob Satcher

Walnut Creek Racquet Club

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



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THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Happy May!

Man, it feels like for the past few weeks the weather has had some giant mood swings. There would be a few days where it's warm and sunny, and then it would switch to cold and windy, and even rain this past weekend. And it seems like Mother Nature would wait for the weekend to bring us the cold and windy weather, too!



Garvin Tom
2025 WCRC President

Well, hopefully Mother Nature will hold off this weekend for **Calcutta**. It looks like it will be a little cooler and breezy, but at least the forecast is improving from a couple of days ago. Calcutta should be another fun event this year. If you're not playing and have some time to spare, come and hang out at Heather this Saturday.

We also have a couple other WCRC leagues going on. **Winter Doubles** is winding down this month with the end-of-the-season tournament coming up at the end of the month. Also, **Summer Singles** has just started for all the singles players out there or even those who would like to throw in a singles match occasionally.

On the USTA side, the 18+ Adult and 55+ Adult seasons are underway. Between the two leagues, I believe there are a total of 36 different teams out of Walnut Creek this season (not counting daytime leagues). No wonder it seems like there always a USTA match going on at Heather. Personally, though, that's how I like it. It's nice to know that there's always something going on over there!

See you on the courts!

Garvin Tom



M EMBERSHIP

Welcome to Our 48 New Members
Current Membership: 1,240

Balachandra Ambiga	San Ramon	3.5	Joseph Kullman	Walnut Creek	4.0
Margaret Barry	Walnut Creek	4.5	Dan Kwan	San Ramon	3.5
Albert Blake	Walnut Creek	3.5	Kara Levy	Lafayette	3.5
Matthew Carter	Alamo	3.0	Maverick Maghirang	Santa Clara	4.5
Stephanie Chamberlin	Danville	3.5	David Mark	Pleasanton	4.0
Angus Chin	San Ramon	3.5	Malou Matthew	Concord	3.5
Cortny Christensen	Walnut Creek	4.0	Steven Mehlman	Walnut Creek	3.5
Dean Christman	San Ramon	3.5	Kamal Mistry	Walnut Creek	4.0
James Cochrane	Hayward	3.5	Paul Morrow	Antioch	4.0
RJ Dequina	Antioch	3.0	Ahmed Nisar	Walnut Creek	3.0
Jay Desai	San Ramon	3.0	John Puckett	Fairfield	3.5
Yash Divekar	Pleasant Hill	3.0	Steven Pugsley	San Ramon	4.0
Tara Driscoll	El Sobrante	3.0	Nicole Radlow	Orinda	4.0
Akiva Elias	Orinda	4.5	Fernando Ramos	Richmond	4.0
Jessica Ford	Danville	3.0	Traci Rebiejo	Danville	3.0
Barry Greenwald	Danville	3.0	John Rhee	Orinda	3.5
Johnny Gwynn	San Francisco	4.0	Jennifer Rogers	Santa Rosa	5.0
Susan Gwynn	Concord	4.0	Kimmel Sadat	Concord	4.0
Judy Halper	Pleasanton	4.0	Len Sanches	Livermore	4.0
Chad Harrison	Danville	3.5	Sara Schipani	Oakland	4.5
Kay Johnson	Vallejo	3.5	Emily Steinkamp	Pinole	2.5
Alex Khodaverdian	Walnut Creek	3.0	Jeff Turner	Danville	2.5
Tuan Khong	Fremont	4.0	Michael van Doorn	Manteca	4.0
Ryan Kincaid	Walnut Creek	4.0	Lindsay Wilson	Pleasant Hill	3.5



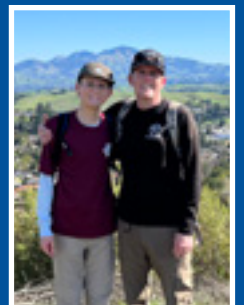
Membership questions contact:
Pam Maloney at 925-787-3970 or
email at: pam4tenis@gmail.com

NEW MEMBERSHIP RAFFLE

Each month a random draw
will pick a WCRC member's
name to receive free WCRC
membership for a year!

This month's winner is:

Jon Lien



Interview and article by Glenn McBee

Editor's note: Last month's Spotlight featuring Ace "The WunderDog was masterfully written by Ian McLaughlin not Glenn McBee as reported.

Sandra Harris and Thinh Vo might have started their journey on different continents, but they are right at home on the court together at Heather - a perfect match.

Sandra was born in Oakland and grew up in Orinda. Half the world away, Thinh was born in Saigon and lived there until he was 10 years old. Sandra grew up running cross country and dabbled with tennis for 1 year in high school at Miramonte. Thinh started life in California as a refugee at Camp Pendleton and attended Corona High School in Riverside County where he played tennis for 4 years. (Isn't Corona the beer Thinh likes, too? No sorry, it's just COLD beer!)

They both went to college at UC Davis and that is where their "perfect match" began. The couple met in Malcolm Hall as freshmen. Long story short, Thinh and Sandra married, had kids, traveled and worked abroad, even landing back in Vietnam for a 6-month gig in Danang where they worked for a NGO doing water projects, micro loans and other humanitarian projects.

Ultimately the couple settled in Lafayette with their two kids. Nikolo, 24, lives in Washington State and works as a mechanical engineer for Boeing, and Mabel, 21, is studying urban planning and architecture at Columbia University's Barnard College in New York. Their loving doggie Hobow recently turned 15!

Sandra was an environmental entrepreneur and founded ECOLunchbox to help people say goodbye to plastic (stop by her team table after a match to see some of the coolest metal and silicone food containers to hold your after-match grub!). Thinh worked as a mechanical engineer at EBMUD for 30 years. Sandra and Thinh both have recently retired. Thinh now busies himself in the kitchen and has become quite the chef (again, check out the tennis team table, yummy!).



Thinh was the first to jump back on the tennis court about 7 years ago and joined his first USTA team with Tammie in 2021. He has been a staple at the Creek ever since. Thinh is an old school player as he only plays with his vintage racquet, a 2015 Yonex DR98. Even after trying to catch up with the latest racquet technology, Thinh returned to this racquet, scouring ebay and other internet sources to stay in supply with his fav, which he strings himself on a 1990s Ektelon.



Sandra plays with 2018 Pure Drive Babolat

rackets that Thinh sources for her and strings 41 full poly on the main and 48 multi on the crosses (same as his racquet). Sandra tributes Thinh's relentless encouragement and Cara Mia's heartfelt welcome to join her many teams as the reason she was able to miraculously make her way back to tennis a couple years ago.

And boy-oh-boy, have they made a splash on the courts. Perhaps you saw them both in last month's newsletter as they were members of the 2024 55+ 7.0 NATIONAL winners, captained by Steve and Tammie. And this spring Sandra with her partner Eugene Beyder won first place in the WCRC 7.0 mixed league.

When they are not winning matches on the tennis court, you can find them at their cabin at Pinecrest Lake, skiing (Thinh telemarks; Sandra downhill) at Dodge Ridge Ski Resort, paddling on Tomales Bay or rafting on the Merced River. The couple loves being active outdoors with friends (plus good food and drink!) in the wide open lap of nature, soaking it all in.

When it comes to advice they wanted to share about their love affair with tennis, Sandra



suggests reading "The Inner Game of Tennis". She said finding her tennis zen has been very helpful to her success and likely to inspire any tennis player who reads it. They both agreed that players who go about the game with kindness and laughter undoubtedly enjoy the game the most.

When it comes to laughter, a match Sandra played with Mel Bach last year brings back good memories. During a tri-level semis match the ladies were playing at Blackhawk, Sandra had her No. 1 worst (and funniest!) day on the courts. Repeatedly double faulting and slamming the



Sandra & Thinh continued...



ball in the net, Sandra was feeling so discouraged that she could barely get the ball across the net despite her best efforts.

Mel was a complete doll and kept encouraging Sandra to "just breathe," saying "you're doing fine," and suggesting that Sandra "watch the ball all the way to your racket." Adding extra stress, their semis match was happening on the show court! But Mel didn't get annoyed. Instead she kept sweetly encouraging Sandra to "just relax," explaining "it's probably just nerves" and somehow the ladies squeaked out a win in a 10 point tiebreaker over Round Hill. Whew!

It was after the match later that evening that Thinh discovered that Sandra's racquet frame was badly cracked! Sandra then recalled how the racquet had slipped out of her hand while warming up. Sandra had played the whole match with a broken racket! She'd just figured she was having a bad day on the courts. She credits Mel for being an A+ super sweet partner! (Hey, Dana Andrews, do you remember the WCRC match against Sandra when you played with a hole in your broken strings?? That's another LOL moment.)

Sandra and Thinh, who call themselves the SaVos since they use different last names in real life, both cited the wonderful players and staff at Heather as the reason they are so happy to call HF their

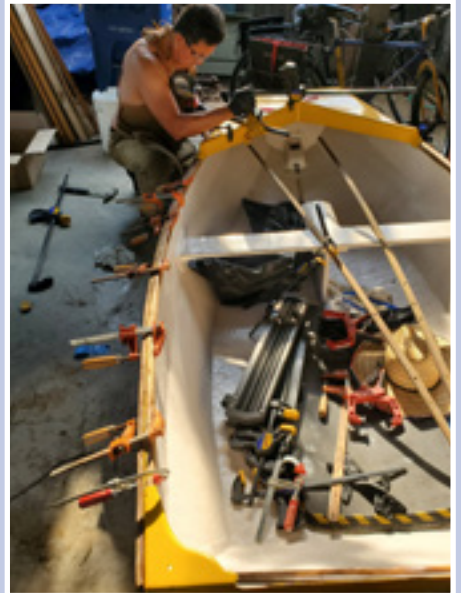
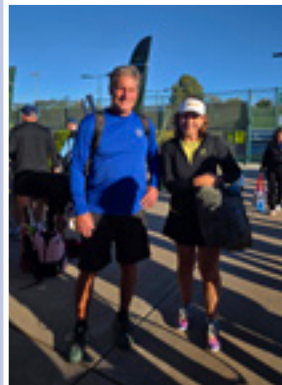
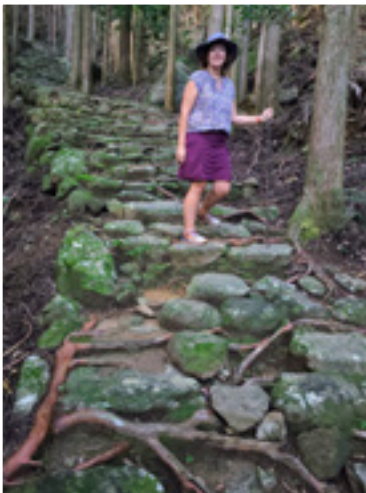


tennis home.

They are quick to thank their tireless Captains for doing the hard job of keeping teams together and players happy.

After being with them on and off the court, it is easy to see these two are the Perfect Match!







40+ Day Playoffs



WC-A 40+ Day USTA will be heading to sectionals the weekend of 5/16-5/18

by Stacey Blackman

We had an incredible season only losing 1 line the entire season in an injury retirement. We continued our success through playoffs, taking down Claremont Resort & Spa and then Sleepy Hollow.



*Pictured - Our winning Round 2 line up -
Singles - Bridget Bradford,
D1 - Martha Matrisian &
Ana Larner (D2 default) &
Captain Stacey Blackman
(Team Members not
pictured include Lara
Flowers, Kristen Foster,
Babe Franey, Margaret
Harrison, Christine
Hohenstein, Cassie Kim,
Esther Parti, Megan
Patterson, Anne Poirier,
Laurie Radonovich, Nicole
Shay & Melissa Smith).*

Heading to Sectionals

2025 WCRC Men's & Women's Summer Singles League Registration Form



Full Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Email _____

NTRP Rating: _____

Great prize selection for winner and runner-up
in each division!

Keepsake items for all participants!

I would like to enter the following divisions:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Women's 3.0 | ☐ Men's 3.0 |
| ☐ Women's 3.5 | ☐ Men's 3.5 |
| ☐ Women's 4.0 | ☐ Men's 4.0 |
| ☐ Women's 4.5/5.0 | ☐ Men's 4.5/5.0 |

I am a: ☐ WCRC Member (\$25)
☐ Non-Member (\$35)

Checks to: Walnut Creek Racquet Club
c/o Steve Lehmer
P.O. Box 30173
Walnut Creek, CA 94598
Or Online: wcrc.net/login

Dates: April 14 - Sept 7th

Entry Fee \$25 WCRC Members
per bracket: \$35 non-WCRC Members

Note: 4.5/5.0 combined in regular
season, but will have separate
playoffs/championship.

Scheduling: This is an open schedule. Players
are responsible for scheduling
their own matches. Players will be
provided with a contact list of
participants in their division.

Format: Best two out of three sets. When
opponents agree, a super tie
breaker (10 point) can be used in
lieu of the third set. Winner gets
unopened can.

Match Site: Any site mutually agreed upon

Scoring: The winner is responsible for
reporting the match score by
logging on to www.wcrc.net

Standings: Division standings will be
updated on a real time basis as
scores are posted

Tournament: End-of-season tournament with
draw determined by league
standings.
Tournament will begin in Sept,
with 1 round per week,
scheduled by player arrangement.
Hosted tournament at Heather
Farm scheduled mid to late
October for Semis and Finals.
A minimum of 4 players are
required to generate a draw.

Questions? Call Steve Lehmer at (925) 285-0028 or via e-mail Lehmer@pacbell.net

WCRC Men's & Women's 2025 Winter Doubles League



Available Divisions

ATTENTION: There are NEW divisions!!! Players with different ratings can now pair up just like in mixed (e.g. a 3.0 and a 4.0 can pair up to play in the 7.0 division). Note: any pairings where the difference between players' ratings is more than 1.5 ratings points is not eligible for the tournament (a pairing with a 3.0 and a 5.0 cannot play the 8.0 tournament)

6.0	☐ Men's	☐ Women's
7.0	☐ Men's	☐ Women's
8.0	☐ Men's	☐ Women's
9.0	☐ Men's	☐ Women's

(you are eligible to play your level as well as one level above your current USTA rating)

League Cost

\$40 per team (both Walnut Creek Racquet Club Members)

\$50 per team (one WCRC Member, one non-member)

\$60 per team (both non-WCRC members)

League Information

Players may enter the WCRC Winter Doubles League in more than one division (i.e. 6.0 and 7.0), as long as he/she is playing at or above his/her level.

If a player is entering in more than one division, he/she may enter with the same partner or a different partner but may not enter with different partners at the same level.

The league runs from January 1, 2025 - May 18, 2025.

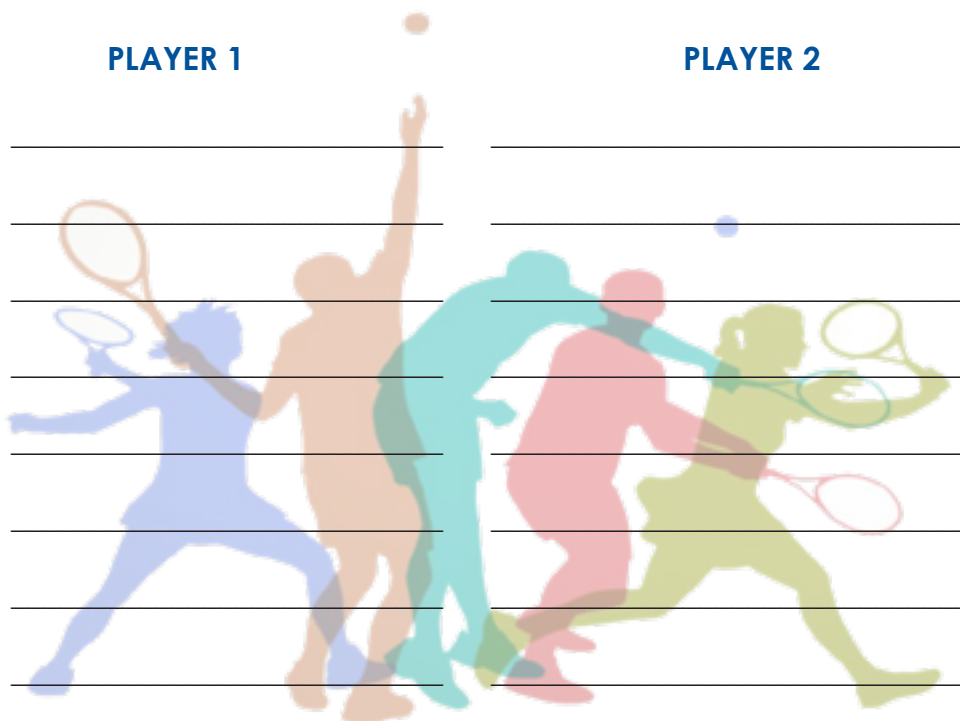
The tournament is scheduled for May 30 - June 1, 2025.

Questions? Call Garvin Tom at (209) 969-5445
or via e-mail gtom12@hotmail.com

WCRC Men's & Women's 2025 Winter Doubles League

(Also on-line at www.wcrc.net)

	PLAYER 1	PLAYER 2
Name		
Mailing Address		
City		
ZIP Code		
Home Phone		
Work or Cell Phone		
E-mail address		
NTRP level		



Are you a WCRC Member? ☐ YES ☐ NO Partner WCRC Member? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Division for which you are registering (please check each division):

6.0 ☐ Men's	6.0 ☐ Women's
7.0 ☐ Men's	7.0 ☐ Women's
8.0 ☐ Men's	8.0 ☐ Women's
9.0 ☐ Men's	9.0 ☐ Women's

Registration Fees (note - if you are interested in joining the Racquet Club, please register for membership here <http://www.wcrc.net/membership>).

- * \$50 per team (both WCRC Members) • [\\$40 per team for on-line registration](#)
- * \$60 per team (one WCRC Member, one non-member) • [\\$50 per team for on-line registration](#)
- * \$70 per team (both non WCRC members) • [\\$60 per team for on-line registration](#)

If you would like to register by mail, return this form with a check for registration fees (payable to Walnut Creek Racquet Club NOT WCRC) mail to:
Walnut Creek Racquet Club, P.O. Box 4574, Walnut Creek, CA 94596.

League Information: Players may enter the WCRC Winter Doubles League in more than one division (i.e, 6.0 and 7.0), as long as he/she is playing at or above his/her level. If a player is entering in more than one division, he/she may enter with the same partner or a different partner but may not enter with different partners at the same level.

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Questions? Call Garvin Tom at (209) 969-5445 or via e-mail gtom12@hotmail.com

OPERATING HOURS AT WCTC

Monday – Friday: 8am-10:00pm • Saturday & Sunday: 8am-8pm



SPRING IS WARMING UP

Make sure to stay hydrated on the courts! Water, assorted drinks, and sunscreen are all available for purchase in the Pro Shop.

SUMMER PROGRAMS ARE ALL OPEN FOR REGISTRATION

Summer Camps and Classes are open for registration. Our Summer programs include Adult and Youth classes along with week-long Summer Camp options for kids listed on the right. Check out our offerings and register at: <https://www.lifetimeactivities.com/walnut-creek/>

MAY PASSHOLDER SPECIAL

Savings extend into May for our Passholders! We ran several promotions in April and are continuing the savings for passholders with 30% off all court shoes and pickleball paddles in our Pro Shop and 10% off Pro Penn can purchases with a 3-can limit per visit (limited to supplies/sizes on hand).

WINNER OF THE APRIL PASSHOLDER SPECIAL: FREE 1HR CLINIC

Congratulations to Doug Fish and Brigitte Shaw for winning last month's drawing for a complimentary one-hour clinic for themselves and up to three guests with Coach Jeff or Coach Kevin in either tennis or pickleball.

LEAGUE MATCH SCHEDULE WIDGET

View upcoming USTA League and Day League matches [here](#).

Have you Set Up Your CourtReserve Account Yet?

Use Lifetime Activities CourtReserve App to access your account, make reservations, register for programs and use credit cards for pro shop purchases. Opt in to push notifications to get real-time information on court reservation confirmations, cancellations due to inclement weather, and court waitlist updates. League Captains can also share these QR codes with their players to make sure everyone can easily check in for their matches.



App Store



Google Play Store

Visit us online at www.lifetimeactivities.com or stop by the the office at 1751 Heather Drive. Please call with any questions at 925-945-0105 or 925-945-1102.

CALENDER OF EVENTS

2025

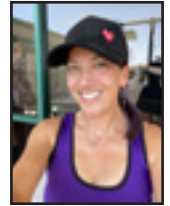
May Jun

Apr 28-May 2	USTA 65+ DT Playoffs Round 2
May 2	Calcutta Party & Auction
May 3	Calcutta Tournament
May 9-11	USTA 40+ Sectionals Opt 1
May 9-11	USTA 40+ DT Sectionals Opt 1
May 16-18	USTA 40+ Sectionals Opt 2
May 16-18	USTA 40+ DT Sectionals Opt 2
May 19	USTA 40+ Mixed Team Registration Closes
May 20-22	USTA 65+ DT Sectionals
May 25	USTA 55+ Season Closes
May 30-Jun 1	WCRC Winter Doubles Tournament
Jun 13	USTA 18+ DT Season Closes
Jun 15	USTA 18+ Season Closes
Jun 5-8	USTA 55+ Playoffs Round 1
Jun 9	USTA 40+ Mixed Season Opens
Jun 12-15	USTA 55+ Playoffs Round 2
Jun 13	USTA 18+ DT Season Closes
Jun 15	USTA 18+ Season Closes
Jun 19-22	USTA 55+ Playoffs Round 3
Jun 21	WCRC Longest Day Tennis Rally
Jun 23	USTA 70+ DT Team Registration Opens
Jun 23	USTA 55+ Mixed Team Registration Opens
Jun 23	USTA Combo Doubles Team Reg Opens
Jun 23	USTA Combo Doubles DT Team Reg Opens
Jun 26-29	USTA 18+ Playoffs Round 1

TREASURER'S REPORT

Cara Mia Barnacascel

April 2025



Income

League Dues	0.00
Total for League Dues	\$1,842.93
Membership Dues	13,919.55
Total for Tournament Dues	\$2,249.06
Total for Income	\$18,011.54
Gross Profit	\$18,011.54

Expenses

Board Meeting	594.38
Captains Meetings	687.47
Total for Fall Mixed League Expenses	\$1,880.60
Total for Summer Singles Expenses	\$974.75
Total for League Expenses	\$2,855.35
Nationals Fee	1,424.00
Office Supplies	194.58
Newsletter Printing	59.99
Sectionals Fees	1,210.00
Software	59.99
Taxes	25.00
Tax Preparation	335.00
Tournament Expenses	\$2,307.64
Website	320.00
Total for Expenses	\$10,073.40
Net Operating Income	\$7,938.14
Other Income	
Other Expenses	
Net Other Income	0.00
Net Income	\$7,938.14

Balance through April, 2025	\$66,863.40
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WCRC LEAGUES/EVENTS

Calcutta Dinner & Auction - May 2

Calcutta Tournament - May 3

WING Singles Playoffs - Apr 13 - May 31

Winter Doubles Tournament - May 30 - Jun 1

Mid-Summer Tournament - August 2



WING Singles League - Standings



Men's

3.0	W	L
Kaveh Moraghebi	1	0
3.5		
Jim Wray	2	0
Denis Golovin	2	0
4.0		
Adam Chacksfield	10	1
4.5+		
Adam Chacksfield	3	0
50+		
Michael Rogers	1	0

Women's

3.0	W	L
Veronika Mora-Mieszkowski	1	0
Miho Kanauchi	1	0
3.5		
Jing Wu	2	0
4.0		
No matches played yet		
4.5+		
No matches played yet		
50+		
No matches played yet		

Mt. Diablo High School hiring a Girls Tennis Coach



If you are interested in developing new tennis players and are looking to coach high school tennis, please contact David Pintado at davidpintado727@gmail.com

\$ 2 K approximately 8 matches probably with schools like Concord HS, Alhambra HS, Ygnacio Valley HS.