

THE COURT REPORTER

Newsletter of the Walnut Creek Racquet Club

October 2025



*Kayla Baier looks like a
tennis pro going for one of
her wicked forehands!*

Dan Kaplan

PHOTOGRAPHY

Walnut Creek Racquet Club

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



OFFICERS

President	Garvin Tom - 209-969-5445 gtom12@hotmail.com
Vice President	Tammie Snyder - 925-202-7000 tammie4tennis@gmail.com
Secretary	Heidi Belton - 925-322-7193 hbeltoncsr@gmail.com
Treasurer	Cara Mia Barnacascel - 925-413-2871 sakuraiiko@gmail.com

ACTIVITY CHAIRPERSONS

Club	Bob Satcher - 925-672-2110 bsatcher@astound.net
Photographer	
Newsletter	Tammie Snyder - 925-202-7000 tammie4tennis@gmail.com
Website	Lynne Weinshelbaum - 925-285-9503 lweinshelbaum@yahoo.com
Newsletter Reporter	Ian McLaughlin - 510-759-9633 iemclaughlin@yahoo.com
Tournaments	Sally Krapf - 415-290-6466 sallykrapf@gmail.com
Membership Compliance	Glenn McBee - 925-984-6710 glennmcbec@gmail.com
USTA Leagues	Tammie Snyder - 925-202-7000 tammie4tennis@gmail.com
Membership	Pam Maloney - 925-787-3970 pam4tenis@gmail.com
City of Walnut Creek Liaison	Glenn McBee - 925-984-6710 glennmcbec@gmail.com
Mixed Doubles League	Lynne Weinshelbaum - 925-285-9503 lweinshelbaum@yahoo.com Dave Wong - 925-272-8222 davewwong@protonmail.com
Doubles League	Garvin Tom - 209-969-5445 gtom12@hotmail.com
Summer Singles	Steve Lehmer - 925-285-0028 lehmer@pacbell.net
WING Singles	Cameron Coltharp - 510-717-2107 ccoltharp@telecarecorp.com
WCRC Leagues Gift Coordinator	Sally Krapf - 415-290-6466 sallykrapf@gmail.com
Social Media Coordinator	Garvin Tom - 209-969-5445 gtom12@hotmail.com

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Happy October!

Hi everyone!

Except for a few patches of hot days here and there, it seemed like the weather just stayed cool and breezy throughout the summer. And now that fall is here, we probably won't have many more hot days for the rest of the year. But it looks like



Garvin Tom
2025 WCRC President

the weather will be perfect for our WCRC Fall Mixed Tournament this weekend. I'll be sure to come check it out, and I hope you will, too. This is our first year where we're foregoing the league season and just holding a tournament. We're thinking about also doing the same for Winter Doubles depending on how Fall Mixed Tournament goes. If you have any feedback, feel free to send me an email.

The courts at both Arbolado and Rudgear parks have been resurfaced, and they look beautiful! (check out the photos on page 7). I look forward to hopefully test out the ones at Rudgear soon, and hopefully we can hold USTA matches once again next year.

Also, if you haven't noticed while you're at Heather, we have a new storage shed dedicated to WCRC supplies and equipment. You can see it when you go behind the office where the restrooms are. We will soon have a system in place where USTA captains can have access to the shed as well as supplies in there for hosting matches or tennis socials. We also have a couple new coolers and a new grill as well as plates, utensils, cups, etc. for members to use. This will be an improvement as we won't need to share storage space with Lifetime anymore.

See you on the courts!

Garvin Tom



M EMBERSHIP

Welcome to Our 36 New Members
Current Membership: 1,170

Edward Anonical	Walnut Creek	N.A.	Pia Moore	Danville	3.5
Elinor Axup	Walnut Creek	4.0	Laura Morrison	Danville	N.A.
Bret Baker	Pleasant Hill	N.A.	Anthony Nguyen	Pleasanton	4.0
Allyson Berry	Danville	4.5	Emily Parento	Ross	4.5
William Calbeck	Walnut Creek	3.5	Kal Peters	Danville	4.5
Adam Chacksfield	Pinole	4.0	Sameer Phatarpekar	San Ramon	4.0
Richard Chapman	Hercules	4.5	Carey Ray	Walnut Creek	3.0
Cheri Cook	Lafayette	2.5	Laura Revelli	Lafayette	2.5
Donna Daraki	Danville	2.5	Dave Roach	Orinda	3.5
Ed Daraki	Danville	3.5	Joseph Rodriguez	Walnut Creek	3.5
Sid Durai	Walnut Creek	3.0	Rose Seabrook	Walnut Creek	N.A.
Ann Easley	Concord	2.5	Punyanjan Sen	Dublin	4.0
Allyson Garcia	Danville	4.0	Seena Shanker	Napa	4.5
Trevor Hargreaves	Walnut Creek	3.5	Peter Snowden	Concord	3.5
Yeh-Won Hunt	Orinda	3.5	Mark Sung	Walnut Creek	3.5
Jenna James	Alamo	4.0	Sterling Tai	Oakland	4.0
Ramya Jayaraman	Danville	3.5			
Kelley Krock	Danville	4.0			
Joseph LaCommare	Walnut creek	4.0			
Val LaCommare	Danville	4.5			



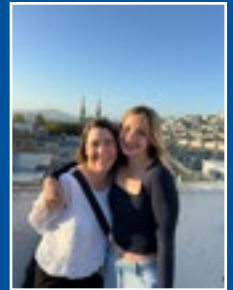
Membership questions contact:
Pam Maloney at 925-787-3970 or
email at: pam4tenis@gmail.com

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:

Dana Baioni



at

**LAVER
CUP.**
SAN FRANCISCO 2025

If you attended this year's
Laver Cup in San Francisco,
please submit your favorite
photo or two for the
November Issue of the Court
Reporter.

Email photo(s) to:
tammie.snyder@gmail.com
If you'd like your name
mentioned, please send a
caption with your photo.

Married into a Tennis Family: Don Loeffler

Interview and article by Ian McLaughlin

While many WCRC members refer to the tennis community as their “family”, club member Don Loeffler self deprecatingly jokes that he’s probably best known at Heather Farm as “Arlene’s brother in law” and that he literally married into a tennis family because his wife Irene is Arlene Acosta’s sister and Arlene is such a beloved and prolific presence at the club through captaining and competing on numerous USTA teams, as well as coaching at nearby Mt. Diablo High School. Although Arlene is indeed a ubiquitous club presence, Don himself has a long history of success on the courts at Heather Farm, dating back to the late 1980s, when he moved to Walnut Creek and began playing regularly there. Don also says that because he married into a tennis family, Irene was always very understanding when he would spend



much of his free time on the courts in the days when he played much more often.

Don originally hails from Utica, Michigan, a small town outside of Detroit, and began playing tennis around age 15 with a pre-strung racquet he picked up at K-Mart, hitting at the local courts informally with buddies and whoever was available, but he didn’t play at all for several decades after high school. Instead, as a sign of the times with the Vietnam War as our national backdrop and the threat of conscription hanging over the head of every young adult male who was not enrolled in college, Don decided to get out ahead of that threat and enrolled in the military voluntarily so he could choose his field rather than potentially being conscripted into the General Infantry. He selected the field of military intelligence

and spent two years in Vietnam during the war serving in that capacity. After his stint in Vietnam was over, Don spent another year at Fort Bragg in North Carolina before being discharged from the army and returning to his native Michigan. Back home he worked in the auto factories for a year ("everyone in Detroit works in an auto factory at some point of their life, it's just part of the culture there," says Don.) He then enrolled in technical school, a decision that eventually brought him to California. In technical school Don learned the field of software design and analysis, and after working in data processing in Michigan for a few years, he moved to Redwood City in 1977 because that's where most of the work was in the field of software design and analysis, even though computers were still in their nascence at that point. Once in California, Don picked up a tennis racquet again for the first time in decades, explored the Bay Area, and decided to move east to Concord, where he became very active in the Concord tennis Club that played out of Willow Pass Park. It was then that Don determined that competing in USTA tournaments (the precursor to now - commonplace USTA leagues) was how he enjoyed playing the game the most. Don was very active in the Concord tennis club and its management for many years.



In the late 1980's Don moved to Walnut Creek and began playing regularly at Heather Farm, but at that point USTA leagues were not yet as common as they are today. Instead, there were weekend USTA tournaments, which Don competed in regularly with much success and wistfully describes as a total blast, where the competitors would play all day and then hang out together afterward until the food and beer were all gone. Don's description of those tournaments sounds very similar to what many players enjoy so much about playing in USTA leagues now, the competition followed by the camaraderie of the after party. In fact, Don competed in so many tournaments with such success that he was once the 16th ranked player in 4.0 singles in Northern California through his tournament play. But his most important tournament trophy came when he met Irene at a USTA tournament in Yosemite. Don and Irene have now been married for 35 years.



At this point Don is long retired after several

Don Loeffler continued...

decades working in the software industry and an additional ten years in real estate, and he describes himself as living the “typical” retiree’s lifestyle. He still plays tennis several days a week, mainly in the Senior Men’s Interclub League, or “SMIL”, where the minimum age requirement is sixty and where the players are competitive but more focused on the sportsmanship and joy of the game rather than competing to earn a higher USTA ranking. At this point of his playing career, Don describes SMIL as the perfect balance of competition and enjoyment of the game

Don and Irene’s daughter Heather, granddaughters Felicia and Terra, and great granddaughter Ella are bright lights in his life, although they live in Virginia and he is unable to see them in person as much as he would like, great granddaughter

Ella is already looking at potential colleges, however, and she could move closer to the Bay Area for school, which would allow Don and Irene to see her more often. Their family also includes Mijo, which is their third labradoodle after their first two canine family members lived out their life spans, as is the painful reality of having pets in your family.

Because he hails from the Detroit area and it’s part of his DNA, Don is also still a self-described “car guy” who enjoys a cool set of wheels.

When asked what he likes most about the game of tennis and Heather Farm, Don highlights the camaraderie of the tennis community, as so many players do. But Don does so from a perspective borne of the old USTA tournaments of the 1980’s, which sound like they were epic weekend-long affairs full of competition and camaraderie, with bacchanalian after parties. Similar to modern day USTA matches now, only amplified, like almost everything was in the free-spirited 1970’s and 1980’s. Another example that as things change, they also remain much the same, because even though we no longer play with wooden racquets, players’ love of the game and the camaraderie associated with the game of tennis have remained consistent through the decades. Just ask WCRC member Don Loeffler, because he’s experienced all of it, both before and after “marrying into a tennis family.” ▲





Tennis News



Rudgear and Arbolado Courts are Resurfaced!

The City of Walnut Creek has recently resurfaced and repainted both Rudgear and Arbolado courts. The new surface looks amazing and will bring these courts back to playable levels! Always nice to have some fresh tennis courts to play on!



Rudgear Before



Rudgear During



Rudgear After



Arbolado After



Tennis News

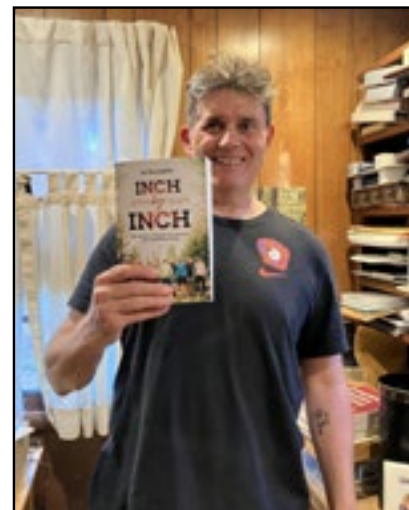


A New Author Among Us!

Long time Walnut Creek Racquet Club Member (and Spotlight article interviewer and writer) Ian McLaughlin recently wrote a book!

If you're curious what it's like to unexpectedly lose nearly all your physical ability and vision virtually overnight, and what his inch-by-inch recovery journey has entailed after suffering multiple devastating strokes at age 47, or if you would just like to read a book that was typed solely using his right index finger on his only remaining functional hand, then here's your opportunity!

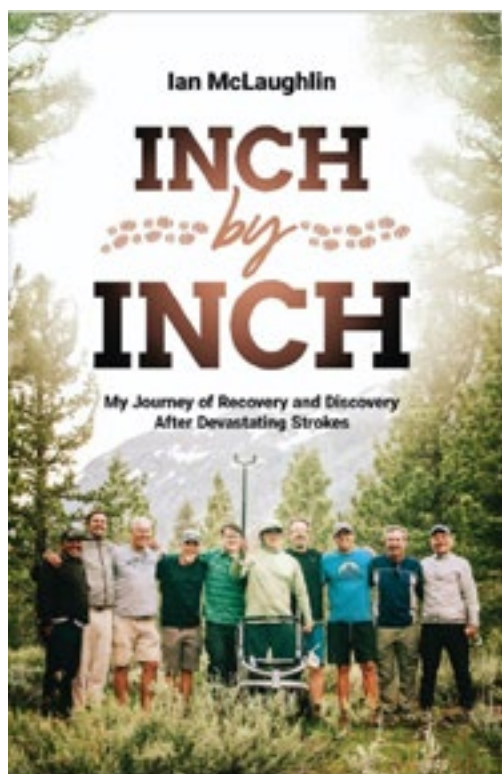
Ian's memoir, "Inch by Inch: My Journey of Recovery and Discovery After Devastating Strokes" is available now in both paperback and as a Kindle e-book here: <https://a.co/d/hf5eB1V>



WE
★★★★★ **A Worthy Read!**
Reviewed in the United States on September 26, 2025
Format: Kindle
I thoroughly enjoyed this book. Ian's story of resilience and grit, and taking life's challenges inch by inch towards meeting your goals is important, insightful, and inspiring.

Helga
★★★★★ **Inspirational account of overcoming obstacles. Inch by Inch.**
Reviewed in the United States on September 14, 2025
Format: Paperback | **Verified Purchase**
A book you won't want to put down! Terrific read. Very insightful account of overcoming obstacles on a long journey of dedicated perseverance.

Christine
★★★★★ **A must read book**
Reviewed in the United States on September 15, 2025
Format: Paperback
This was a gripping story about a stroke survivor that I just couldn't put down. Extremely well written account of a healthy young man in his forties who randomly suffers an unbelievable series of strokes and related medical setbacks, but still gets up every morning to move his life forward. Completely motivating but terrifying as well. One day life is everything you want of it and the next day you are struggling to survive. I was particularly moved by the support of his medical teams and his family and the positivity that flowed from them. I am sure these were major contributors in the successful journey. Looking forward to a Part Two as the author's recovery continues.



Jannaye
★★★★★ **Love and determination**
Reviewed in the United States on September 22, 2025
Format: Kindle | **Verified Purchase**
Thank you Ian for sharing your story in such detail. Your determination, bravery, struggles and achievements are incredibly amazing. The love of family and friends proves itself, both given and received, many times over.

Margerite O
★★★★★ **Inspiring regardless of your health challenges**
Reviewed in the United States on September 17, 2025
Format: Paperback | **Verified Purchase**
I read this book in one day. I couldn't put it down! Although I don't know the author personally, I had heard about his stroke and the dramatic outcome and challenges he faced at the age of 47 and couldn't believe he was able to heal his body and mind given the extent of the damages. Even if you or a loved one are not dealing with a medical issue, you will be inspired by the author and will care. His voice and humanity will draw you in. A very good read.

MH
★★★★★ **So Inspirational!**
Reviewed in the United States on September 18, 2025
Format: Paperback | **Verified Purchase**
This memoir is raw, funny, and profoundly inspiring. Ian's inch-by-inch journey back to independence is a testament to grit and humor in the face of adversity. A must-read for anyone seeking hope and motivation when life turns upside down.



OPERATING HOURS AT WCTC**Monday – Friday: 8am-10:00pm • Saturday & Sunday: 8am-8pm****October 2025****HALLOWEEN HOURS:**

We will be open normal operating hours on Halloween, Friday, October 31st, from 8am to 10pm. Game, set, BOO!

UPDATING YOUR STRINGING EXPERIENCE WITH RACQUETPASS

We're excited to announce a new partnership with RacquetPass to make your stringing experience smoother and more convenient! Soon, you'll enjoy:

- ☐ Convenient SMS or email updates from drop off to pick up
- ☐ Simple tracking of your racquet maintenance history, string jobs, specs, and preferences
- ☐ Streamlined service so you spend less time waiting and more time on court

Sign up not required —this will be automatically available to all players.

Valid phone number and/or email required.

We're thrilled to bring you an upgraded stringing experience and look forward to helping you keep your racquets (and game) in top shape!

OCTOBER PASSHOLDER SPECIAL

On Friday, October 31st, we will be hosting Halloween Socials:

- ☐ Tennis 4:30-6:00pm
- ☐ Pickleball 6:00-7:30pm

Feel free to dress up — just be sure your costume allows safe movement on the court and includes court-appropriate footwear. The Halloween Socials are free for passholders, and TAP/FTP students may use one of their complimentary clinic punches to join. Regular pricing is \$20 per social. Serve up a spook-tacular day of rallies and fun! **REGISTRATION WILL OPEN ON OCTOBER 20th.**

FALL SESSION 2 STARTS 10/20

Our second session of Fall Tennis & Pickleball programming starts the week of October 20th. There are still spaces available and registration is open now.

If you are looking for a more tailored learning experience, we also have 2-on-1 and 1-on-1 lessons on [CourtReserve](#). Search "SRL" to see all available days, times and coaches available.

TENNIS ACCELERATION PROGRAM REGISTRATION CLOSING OCT. 19th

There is still room in our Adult Advanced Beginning to Intermediate (NTRP 2.5) Tennis Acceleration Program! If you are interested in continuous coaching from now until Spring, please reach out to Managing Director Jeff at jefff@lifetimeactivities.com or you can [Register online now!](#)

VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE STAFF-DECORATED PUMPKIN

Our amazing front desk staff will once again decorate pumpkins to celebrate the Halloween season. Once they are on display, check them out and vote for your favorite. Pumpkins will be displayed after the 16th and voting is open through Halloween night!

LEAGUE MATCH SCHEDULE WIDGET

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



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

Oct

Nov

Oct 3-5	WCRC Mixed Doubles Tournament
Oct 18-19	WCRC Summer Singles Tournament
Oct 18-20	USTA 18+ Nationals (2.5, 3.0, 4.0, 5.0)
Oct 25-27	USTA 18+ Nationals (3.5)
Oct 31	USTA 70+ DT Season Closes
Oct 31	USTA Combo Doubles DT Season Closes
Nov 1-3	USTA 55+ Nationals 7.0/9.0
Nov 1-3	USTA 18+ Mixed Nationals
Nov 2	USTA 55+ Mixed Season Closes
Nov 2	USTA Combo Doubles Season Closes
Nov 3	USTA 40+ Team Registration Opens
Nov 3	USTA 40+ DT Team Registration Opens
Nov 3	USTA 18+ Mixed Team Registration Opens
Nov 6-9	USTA 55+ Mixed Playoffs Round 1
Nov 8-10	USTA 55+ Nationals 6.0/8.0
Nov 8-10	USTA 18+ Nationals (4.5)
Nov 8-10	USTA 40+ Mixed Nationals
Nov 10-14	USTA 70+ DT Playoffs Round 1
Nov 10-14	USTA Combo Doubles DT Round 1
Nov 13-16	USTA Combo Doubles Round 1
Nov 13-16	USTA 55+ Mixed Playoffs Round 2
Nov 17-21	USTA 70+ DT Playoffs Round 2
Nov 17-21	USTA Combo Doubles DT Round 2
Nov 20-23	USTA Combo Doubles Round 2
Nov 20-23	USTA 55+ Mixed Playoffs Round 3

TREASURER'S REPORT

Cara Mia Barnacascel

August 31, 2025



Income

Total League Dues	\$3,313.12
Membership Dues	16,672.95
Miscellaneous Income	62.38
Total Tournament Dues	\$5,311.77
Total Income	\$25,360.22
Gross Profit	\$25,360.22

Expenses

Board Meeting	892.83
Captains Meetings	1,256.61
Contract Labor	200.00
Contributions	500.00
Equipment	221.76
Total League Expenses	\$3,038.81
Nationals Fee	1,424.00
Office Supplies	262.38
Total Printing and Reproduction	\$99.99
Rental Fees	-500.00
Total Repairs	\$3,655.16
Sectionals Fees	2,805.00
Software	677.95
Supplies	534.10
Tax Preparation	335.00
Taxes	25.00
Total Tournament Expenses	\$13,757.72
Website	937.50
Total Expenses	\$30,123.81
Net Operating Income	-\$4,763.59
Net Income	-\$4,763.59

Balance August 31, 2025

\$66,032.60

WCRC LEAGUES/EVENTS

Mixed Doubles Tournament - Oct 3-5

Summer Singles Tournament - Oct 18 -19



Summer Singles League - Standings

Men's

	W	L
3.0 Flavius Gucianu	2	0
3.5 Steven Bliss	4	3
4.0 Sam Chaccour	13	0
4.5+ Ryan Meyer	4	0
Sam Chaccour	4	0

Women's

	W	L
3.0 Erin Brindley	2	0
3.5 Stella So	3	0
Kathy Maratukulam	3	0
4.0 Samantha Dullea	2	0
4.5+ Mariia Gryukova	2	0



M E M B E R s e r v i c e s



MIKE ROGERS:

On-court insights and off-court humor for 40+ players

I'm the founder and creator of Senior Tennis Unpacked, where I share stories and insights drawn from my own journey competing in leagues and national tournaments, and from working with elite coaches along the way. These posts blend personal experience with strategic takeaways — offering 40+ year old tennis players real-world lessons they can use to improve their game, stay motivated, and enjoy the ride. Check it out at www.mike-tennis.com. Subscribe for FREE!!!

I also host Insider's Playbook, a new podcast where I talk with top coaches, senior champions, and performance pros to unpack what really works — and what doesn't — on the court.

Networking Opportunities: This new feature will showcase a WCRC member and/or a service they provide or would like to share with other members. Or, if you're looking for a job or looking for an employee this is a great place to network. If you'd like to be including, please contact Tammie Snyder at tammie.snyder@gmail.com