

THE COURT REPORTER

Newsletter of the Walnut Creek Racquet Club

February 2026



Walnut Creek Racquet Club

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(925) 945-0105 • www.wcrc.net



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THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Happy February!

You asked for it. Due to popular demand, I have more pet peeves this month. You probably have one of these on your list, and probably another one that's not on your list. So here goes.



Garvin Tom
2025 WCRC President

1) **Bags on the bench.** Look, it's nice that you care about your pretty little bag enough that you place it on the bench instead of the ground, but where am I going to sit? How about giving your partner, who's been busting his butt off covering 75% of the court, a place to sit and rest on changeovers? I'm not young anymore, so I can use the rest. I could ask, but should I need to?

2) **Rolling the ball to me.** This is probably one that's not on your list. But hey, do you mind just tossing it to me? I feel like when you roll the ball, it just picks up more dirt from the court than it needs to, and the felt just wears out faster while rolling on the court. The difference is probably minuscule, but with courts being the way they are, every little bit counts. I know in pro tournaments, the ball kids roll balls to each other all the time, but those courts are cleaned and maintained daily, and balls get regularly replaced throughout the match. In our matches, the balls are literally a different color by the time we're done. And I don't want to sound lazy, but I also don't want to bend over to pick it up. LOL!

3) **Last minute cancellations.** This is probably the one we all have. Yeah, it sucks. You and three others plan to practice or play a week or two ahead of time, and then one person cancels a couple hours beforehand, so you scramble to find a replacement in that short window of time. It's even worse if it's a WCRC Leagues match, because you could've scheduled it against a different team that wouldn't have cancelled on you.

On a similar note, if something's been bothering you health-wise and you're not sure if you'll be able to play an upcoming USTA match, let your captain know as early as you can. Don't wait until the day of to bring it up! That way your captain can secure a backup plan if needed. The longer you wait, the fewer options your captain will have to replace you. And don't forget that your captain might not get your message right away, so the sooner the better.

I get it. Stuff happens, and I think everyone should get a pass occasionally if something comes up. But if you cancel two or three times in a year, then don't be surprised if you find yourself with the reputation of being a flake or undependable and people stop asking you if you can join them to play.

See you on the courts!

Garvin Tom

M EMBERSHIP

Welcome to Our 49 New Members
Current Membership: 1,165

Albert Malveyh	Alamo	3.0	Kenneth Kim	Orinda	2.5
Ali Rago	Danville	3.5	Konstantin Timokhin	Walnut Creek	3.5
ATEF Shaikh	Orinda	3.0	Loren Skeen	Alamo	2.5
Avery Kim	Orinda	2.5	Marci Dublin	Alamo	3.5
Brian Lewis	Oakland	3.0	Maria Angel ordonez	Alamo	2.5
Brian Rong	Antioch	3.0	Marissa 'Missy' Purkiss	Alamo	3.5
Carrie Iturreria	Alamo	N.A.	Michael Acosta	American Canyon	3.0
Chao Yang	Walnut Creek	3.0	Molly Neal	San Rafael	4.5
Chrissie Costamagna	San Rafael	4.5	Monaza Fry	Walnut Creek	2.5
Dana Greason	Orinda	4.5	Nancy Smith (Shannon)	Benicia	4.0
David Johnson	Berkeley	2.5	Priscilla Huaman	Alamo	2.5
Debbie Alster	Alamo	4.0	Pritesh Dasgupta	Danville	3.5
Derryl Acosta	Lathrop	3.0	Puja Mukherjee	San Ramon	4.5
Dimitri Bazulin	Concord	4.0	Sam Winer	Walnut Creek	3.0
Dmytro Bazulin	Concord	3.5	Sarah Westphal	Pleasant Hill	4.0
Elena Bentchev	Walnut Creek	2.5	Sathish Sridharan	San Ramon	4.0
Farrell Scott	Pleasanton	3.5	Sheila Delargy	Walnut Creek	2.5
Gary Soto	Berkeley	3.5	Simon Tryzna	Martinez	3.5
Helen Bae	El Cerrito	4.0	Stacey Perry	Alamo	4.5
Hollister Strain	Pleasanton	4.5	Sunny Hong	Dublin	4.0
Jeff Wong	Walnut Creek	4.5	Suzanne Petersen	Alamo	3.5
Jennifer deBoisblanc	Walnut Creek	4.5	Tanya House	Alamo	3.0
Jennifer Desler	Hillsborough	4.5	Tracey Hull	Danville	4.0
Jonathan Brand	Walnut Creek	3.0	William Yeh	Walnut Creek	4.0
Katy Wrinkle	Alamo	3.0			



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:

David Pintado



The “Swiss Army Knife” in the Office: James Bryant-Smith

Interview and article by Ian McLaughlin

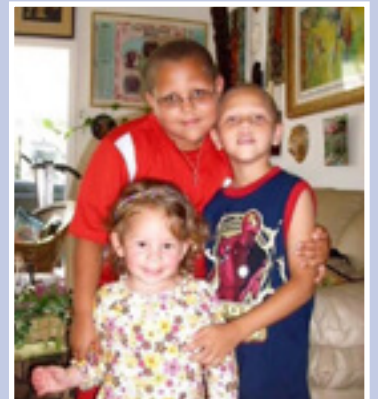
The Lifetime Activities staff who run the office at Heather Farm do all the unglamorous and necessary work to keep Walnut Creek Racquet Club running as smoothly as it does despite such high demand competing for scarce resources like limited court space. We're incredibly fortunate at the club to have a team in the office whose members are all cut from the same cloth. All old souls housed in young bodies, the office staff are also all hard workers who are willing to do whatever it takes to get the job done and assume a high level responsibility in their roles. They are truly the unsung heroes of the club who keep the players on the court. This includes assistant manager James Bryant-Smith, the self-described “Swiss Army Knife” in the office because he is versatile and willing to do everything from stringing racquets to scheduling USTA matches/updating the widget to handling customer concerns and complaints. James is able to wear so many hats because even though he is still young, like all members of the office team he has already developed a varied



and eclectic work resume that demonstrates his willingness to step up wherever he's needed.

James was born in the South San Francisco/Daly City area, but moved to East Palo Alto when he was young because his mother worked at Stanford University. So James attended Menlo Atherton High School, where he played football, linebacker and lineman, through his sophomore year. A true Renaissance man, James was also involved in drama in high school and played the infamous role of “Bottom” in the school's production of

Shakespeare's “A Midsummer Night's Dream.” After sophomore year James and his mom moved to Antioch, but since he was already so well settled at school and his mom still worked at Stanford he decided to stay at Menlo Atherton High through graduation. That meant very long commutes with his mom, long days that often started at 3 a.m. so he could get to school and his mom to work on time, then an equally gruesome commute to get back home late in the day. Then, James says with a chuckle, they had to get up before dawn the next day and “rinse and repeat”. It's clear that James' work ethic has been heavily influenced by his hard working mother. She now works for a nonprofit organization Hyde Street Community Services in San Francisco and still





office, and Ciara's cousin Yazmyn Rahimi.

James worked part time throughout his college tenure, and after earning his degree, he started working full time almost immediately with various companies, such as Lowe's (where he worked through the Covid pandemic), Mendocino Farms, and in private security. Eventually, through Yazmyn, he learned of an opportunity at Lifetime Activities, where he's



been working for the last four years. He recently got promoted to assistant Manager in December, 2025! James describes the close-knit team in the office as more like a family than a group of colleagues, and the family-like relationship amongst the office staff members is evident to everyone who interacts with them. It's clear that their work is more than just a job to all members of the office team, which is why they're so effective at "herding the cats" at Heather Farm and fulfilling everyone's diverse and often competing needs.

James lives in Pittsburg now with a friend from college and is currently in the market for a "low maintenance" pet. He's a huge football fan so for him this is the best time of year to watch during the NFL postseason, although his favorite team, the Green Packers, lost in the opening round of the playoffs this year. James became a Packers fan because his grandad "papa" was a huge Cal Bears fan (go Bears!) and former Cal star quarterback Aaron Rodgers went on to lead the Packers to a Super Bowl title. Despite rooting for the Packers, however, James admits that he doesn't own a cheesehead hat, which might make some dairyland residents question his commitment to the team. And although he doesn't play tennis himself, James has taken up pickleball, which he admits with a bit of chagrin because he knows how many tennis players feel about the burgeoning sport. Tennis has

lives in Antioch and recently married James' stepfather, so she still bears a lengthy commute for work.

After graduating from high school James enrolled in Los Medanos College in Pittsburg, his first time ever attending school outside of Atherton. It was at Los Medanos that James met the people who would eventually bring him to Heather Farm, including Ciara Mendoza, who's James' colleague in the



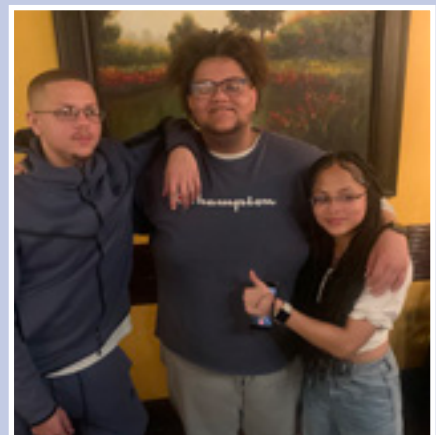
James Bryant-Smith continued...



entered his bloodstream, however, and James does watch the sport increasingly more now, although he doesn't think fans should have to sit so quietly and still during matches. Like in other sports, James believes that fans should be allowed to yell during the matches to test the athlete's nerves. That is not surprising from someone who grew up playing football and has spent his life honing his work ethic and mental toughness. Hardworking and mentally tough, that's a good way to describe Lifetime Activities's assistant manager James Bryant-Smith, the self-described "Swiss Army Knife" in the office at Heather Farm. And if you ever need a corkscrew, can opener, or pair of



tweezers in an emergency, now you know where to go. ▲





Tennis News



WC-B 7.5 Day – Sectionals Finalists, Captained by Stacey Blackman & Allene Rognon

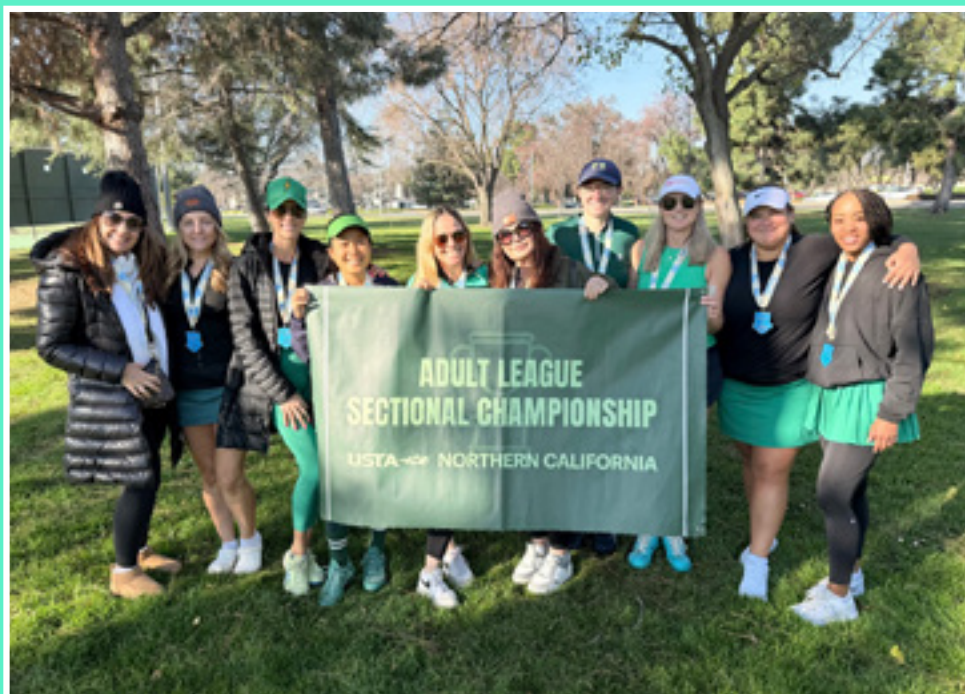
Our WC 7.5 Day Team had an incredible season! At Sectionals in Fremont, we went undefeated in bracket play (winning all 9 lines) on our way to the Finals. We knew we'd face tough competition against Sunnyvale, and the final did not disappoint. After a hard-fought battle, Sunnyvale edged us out 2-1.

Still, finishing 2nd out of 45 teams in the NorCal region is a huge accomplishment! This marks the second year in a row we've earned the NorCal Finalists title... and we're already thinking third time's the charm!

An outstanding season all around with the best teammates—thank you to everyone who showed up, supported one another, and made this run so special.



Pictured Above:
Captains Stacey
Blackman & Allene
Rognon



Pictured at left:
Heidi Kapust, Ana
Larner, Martha Matrisian,
Cora Bellamy, Stacey
Blackman, Allene
Rognon, Amber Golini,
Margaret Harrison,
Maddie Thomas &
Jasmine Morgan
Others Not Pictured
- Yana Bazulina,
Melanie Campbell,
Yolla Elahmadie, Arwa
Kaddoura, Cassie Kim,
Viviana Meyer, Sunita
Mistry, Farrell Pappas,
Megan Patterson, Laurie
Radanovich, Wendy
Schofield & Heidi Temkin



Tennis News



6.5 Combo Women Team – Captained by Cara Mia Barnacascel & Audra Lutter

Our team had an amazing opportunity to represent Walnut Creek at Sectionals for the 6.5 season, and what a weekend it was! We knew going in that the competition would be tough, but even with some last-minute lineup changes, we felt confident in our depth and ready to compete. Every match was hard-fought, and our team showed incredible grit from start to finish!

Our first match against Laguna Creek was a nail-biter and could not have been closer. It came down to a super tiebreaker, and while it didn't fall our way, the level, effort, and fight on court were something to be proud of. Our second match was against the team that ultimately won our flight. Even though Bay Club Ross Valley did not advance beyond the semifinals, it was another great test for us and a reminder of how competitive Sectionals truly is!

What made the weekend so special, though, was everything off the court. The team dinners, nonstop cheering, and incredible camaraderie made it an unforgettable experience. Win or lose, the energy, support, and bond within this group were outstanding. It was a fantastic weekend, and I could not be happier or prouder of this team!!!





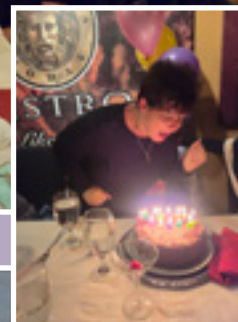
Tennis News



7.5 Combo Women Team – Captained by Tammie Snyder & Pru Pruden

Always fun to combine two teams together. Cara Mia's 6.5 team and our 7.5 team had 6 players playing on both teams. Unfortunately we had the exact same times at two different locations. We figured out a way to get everyone court time. Although we didn't get to the semis, we lost to the team that won sectionals. We had a great time together team building and enjoying each other's friendships as well as celebrating Pru's birthday.

Team: Erin Ackdoo, Lani Aurelius, Kayla Baier, Heidi Belton, Garbo Berger, Stefanie Cohen, Samantha Dullea, Amber Golini, Shari Gonzalez, Jennifer Grant, Sandra Harris, Olga Ivanova, Rebecca Kay, Cassie Kim, Sally Krapf, Tami Lightle, Athena Lofquist, Audra Lutter, Janell Mollenhauer, Pru Pruden, Tammie Snyder and Karen Treppa.



Tennis News



70+ 7.0 Men's Team – Captained by Darryl Diamond & Mike Rolley

Due to lack of availability we were 4 and 6 in the regular season. Then we upset the first place team in our playoff and went on to tie for the best record in Sectionals. We came in second due to the tiebreaker system but we were very proud how we peaked at the right time.

OPERATING HOURS AT WCTC**February 2026****Monday – Friday: 8am-10:00pm • Saturday & Sunday: 8am-8pm****FEBRUARY PASSHOLDER SPECIAL**

This month, share your love of the game! This month's passholder special is ONE COMPLIMENTARY GUEST PASS per passholder. Passholders may bring a guest at no cost for one regular reservation this month. All guests must sign a waiver to play/participate. Special applies only for one tennis or pickleball recreational play reservation time slot. Please note that guest passes do not apply to Advanced Reservation (League Match) fees.

NEW COURT USAGE FEES EFFECTIVE MARCH 1ST

Please be informed that new Court Usage Fees will be in effect beginning March 1st. We thank the community for their ongoing support and cooperation. Adjusting fees on a cyclical basis is key to ensure that Lifetime is positioned to retain capable and experienced team members, maintain service levels, and continue to provide positive tennis and pickleball experiences for all. Current passholders will have the option to pre-purchase a single-cycle extension of their current pass prior to 3/1. **Purchasing a different type pass will only be permitted for non-passholders or passholders whose passes have expired. Please see new fee chart on back page.**

WINTER COURT REMINDERS

During inclement weather, court conditions can change rapidly. Lifetime Activities staff will determine court playability onsite during inclement weather.

Recreational Play Reservations: Onsite staff will determine playability of the court and if cancelled, the reservation holder will be notified via email by CourtReserve. If you wish to cancel ahead of time, please do so no less than four hours prior to the reservation time.

USTA and League Matches:

- ☐ Court conditions / match status will only be communicated to the Home Team Captain, Co-Captain, or designee
- ☐ Matches may not be canceled more than 3 hours prior to match start time. Daytime matches starting earlier than 11am may call the office at 8 am.

SWING INTO SPRING - JOIN US FOR A TENNIS OR PICKLEBALL PROGRAM!

Spring 1: Mar 9- Apr 19 | Spring 2: Apr 20- May 31

Registration for youth and adult tennis and pickleball programs opens this month:

- ☐ Youth Classes & Spring Break Camps - Tuesday, February 17th at 10am
- ☐ Adult Classes - Wednesday, February 18th at 10am

SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION OPENS ON FEBRUARY 25th at 10am

Looking for fun summer activities for your kids? Lifetime

Activities offers a variety of camp options starting on June 1st and running weekly through August 16th:

- ☐ Little Tennis and Rallyer Camps (ages 4-6) – NEW extended option available
- ☐ Youth Improvement Tennis Camps (ages 7-15)
- ☐ PM Paddle Sports, Activity & Swim Summer Camp (ages 8-15)
- ☐ All Day Tennis, Paddle Sports & Swim (ages 8-15)



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

2026

Feb

Mar

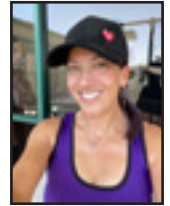
Apr

Feb 2	USTA 65+ Season Opens
Feb 17	USTA 55+ Team Registration Closes
Feb 17	USTA 18+ Team Registration Closes
Feb 17	USTA 18+ DT Team Registration Closes
Mar 13	USTA 40+ DT Season Closes
Mar 14-16	USTA 55+ Mixed Nationals
Mar 15	USTA 40+ Season Closes
Mar 15	USTA 18+ Mixed Season Closes
Mar 16	USTA 55+ Season Opens
Mar 23-27	USTA 40+ DT Playoffs Round 1
Mar 26-29	USTA 18+ Mixed Playoffs Round 1
Mar 30-Apr 3	USTA 40+ DT Playoffs Round 2
Apr 2-5	USTA 40+ Playoffs Round 1
Apr 2-5	USTA 18+ Mixed Playoffs Round 2
Apr 6	USTA 18+ Season Opens
Apr 6	USTA 18+ DT Season Opens
Apr 6-10	USTA 40+ DT Playoffs Round 3
Apr 14	WCRC - Summer Singles League Opens
Apr 9-12	USTA 40+ Playoffs Round 2
Apr 9-12	USTA 18+ Mixed Playoffs Round 3
Apr 10	USTA 65+ Season Closes
Apr 14	WCRC Summer Singles League Opens
Apr 16-10	USTA 40+ Playoffs Round 3
Apr 19	WCRC - WING Singles League Closes
Apr 20	USTA 40+ Team Registration Opens
Apr 20-24	USTA 65+ Playoffs Round 1
Apr 27-May 1	USTA 65+ Playoffs Round 2

TREASURER'S REPORT

Cara Mia Barnacascel

January - December, 2025



Income

Total for League Dues	\$5,586.65
Membership Dues	27,931.50
Miscellaneous Income	62.38
Total for Tournament Dues	\$5,311.77
Total for Income	\$38,892.30
Gross Profit	\$38,892.30

Expenses

Board Meeting	1,268.12
Board appreciation dinner	\$962.34
Captains Meetings	1,256.61
Contract Labor	641.12
Contributions	500.00
Equipment	221.76
Gifts	486.10

League Expenses

Board Appreciation Dinner	962.34
Board Meeting	1,268.12
Captains Meetings	1,774.53
Contract Labor	641.12
Contributions	500.00
Equipment	221.76
Gifts	486.10
Total for Fall Mixed League Expenses	\$4,409.93
Total for Summer Singles Expenses	\$974.75
Total for Winter Doubles Expenses	\$2,082.06
Total for League Expenses	\$7,466.74
Nationals Fee	1,424.00
Office Supplies	262.38
Post Office Box	234.00
Newsletter Printing	99.99
Building Repairs	3,655.16
Sectionals Fees	3,960.00
Software	917.91
Supplies	1,331.20
Taxes	25.00
Tax Preparation	335.00

Tournament Expenses

Calcutta Expenses	\$12,655.62
Mid Summer Tourny Expenses	\$1,102.10
Total for Tournament Expenses	\$13,757.72
Website	1,617.50
Total for Expenses	40,940.57
Net Operating Income	-\$2,048.27

Balance December 31, 2025	\$67,867.92
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Calcutta Party/Auction	May 1, 2026	Summer Doubles League	Apr 14 - Sep 7, 2026
Calcutta Tournament	May 2, 2026	Summer Singles League	May 1 - Sep 7, 2026
Longest Day Tournament	June 20, 2026	Fall Mixed Doubles	Sep 1 - Feb 18, 2027
Mid-Summer Tournament	Aug 1, 2026		

Lifetime Activities What's Happening at the Courts?

NEW COURT USAGE FEES EFFECTIVE MARCH 1ST

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New Court Usage Fees (effective 3/1/26)	
Senior Annual Standard Pass (Age 60 & Over)	\$275
Senior Annual Plus Pass (Age 60 & Over)	\$375
Annual Standard Pass (Ages 16-59)	\$345
Annual Plus Pass (Ages 16-59)	\$425
4 Month Standard Pass	\$140
Youth Pass (15 and under)	\$170
90 Min Court Usage Fee	\$8
Advanced Reservation Fee for Standard Pass Holder	\$7
Advanced Reservation Fee	\$16.50