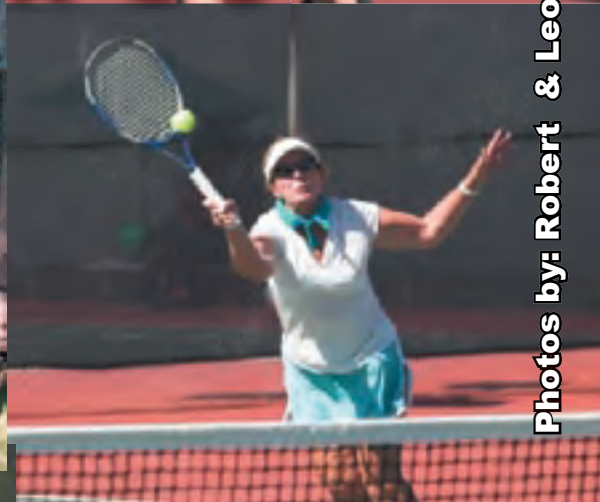


SECTIONALS

Photos by: Robert & Leonard Young



THE COURT REPORTER

Newsletter of the Walnut Creek Racquet Club
June, 2008

Walnut Creek Racquet Club

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THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Congratulations to **Faye O'Hara** and **Myrl Kan's** Senior Women 3.0 team who headed to Sectionals May 16-18 at Club Sport Valley Vista. After record temperatures and some amazing playing their team came up just short from making it to Nationals! Great season ladies!



Tammie Snyder
2008 WCRC President

We had a great turnout for our most popular event, the Calcutta Tournament. We had a great time Friday night with **Nat Bitton** emceeing the event. Thanks to **Tammy Chan** for handling the delicious food from the New Mecca, **Shari, Jesse, Adam, Pam, Justin** and everyone else who helped set up the Friday night party. As I'm sure you know there is a lot of work involved from start to finish for this event and the board always steps up to make it look like it's running smoothly. After lots of bidding action we finished up the auction with a record \$2,400 in bids! Saturday turned out to be perfect weather for a fun tournament. Thanks to **Pam, Shari and Jennifer** for running the tournament desk. Additional thanks to all the volunteer score keepers that without you we could not run this event. Congratulations to **Nancy Chan** and returning WCRC member **Dave Engle** who beat a lot of great teams to finally take out **Linda Stern** and Justin Snyder in the finals. In the consolation round **Valerie Fung-A-Ling** and **Debashis Panda** beat **Carole Papke** and **Bob Bussard**! There was a lot of exciting tennis. Please see the highlights of the tournament on page 4.

The WCRC website is now accepting players for our **Summer Singles League**. Complete information and a registration form can be found on page 4. Be sure to sign up on line and save money!!!

See you on the courts...



by Coach Mac



Yours! Sorrrrreeeee. Oh, that should'a been mine. Man, this team always lobs! O.K. dude, that's your forehand! These are comments we hear all of the time while watching or playing in a typical doubles match. I heard it said once by a spectator at district play-offs "they ought to call that team eggs, look at the way they scramble!" Scrambling is about the best way to explain what some people call playing doubles, I refer to it as individual doubles, that's where both player's are on the same side of the net calling themselves a team, but with little or no resemblance to team play; they don't have a strategy or a game plan.

One of the things I hear about is chemistry, which at the 4.0 and below level means, I like to play with this person, or, they don't get in my way, or, I know I have to get all the lobs, or, he/she has a good serve and I can get some easy put-aways at the net, that's fine. What's interesting to me is that when this "chemical" team loses 3 or 4 matches in a row, they no longer have chemistry. where'd it go? Part of what's happened is teams have figured out a strategy on how to beat you, and you, relying on the feelings of chemistry haven't been employing any strategy.

Another thing I hear about is the importance of being at the net, just because you're both at the net doesn't mean you're playing as a team. Both players have to understand why they're at the net and what they hope to accomplish by being there.

Another misconception is that because one person is serving and volleying and the other is not, the serve and volley player understands doubles more than the person standing at the net or a person who has decided to play from the baseline. Hey! I'm a pretty good volleyer, but if you're chucking in 40 MPH serves and Jesse Gonzalez is hitting his forehand - - I'm going

back to the baseline because I want to get married one day and I want all parts functioning!!! You wanna risk your life serving and volleying with that serve “uh, good luck with that”.

When teams come out for a clinic to improve their doubles play, one of the things I start out with is watching the teams play for about two or three games. Then, I'll go over to one of the teams and tell them about a strategy I think they should try to employ, nine out of ten times this team will take control of the match. When I see the other team is getting behind, and usually a bit frustrated because they think I've given their opponents "insider information", I'll give the losing team a strategy I think they should employ, and nine out of ten times they'll make a comeback. Many times it's because the other team thinks I've told them what they're doing, so they start trying something else. Never-the-less, when both teams are employing strategies, it makes for some exciting points and hard fought games, and after ten games or so I'll bring both teams to the net for a discussion. The player's are usually surprised when they find out what the strategies were that were being employed against them and that my knowing what the other team was doing really had no bearing on what strategy they were using.

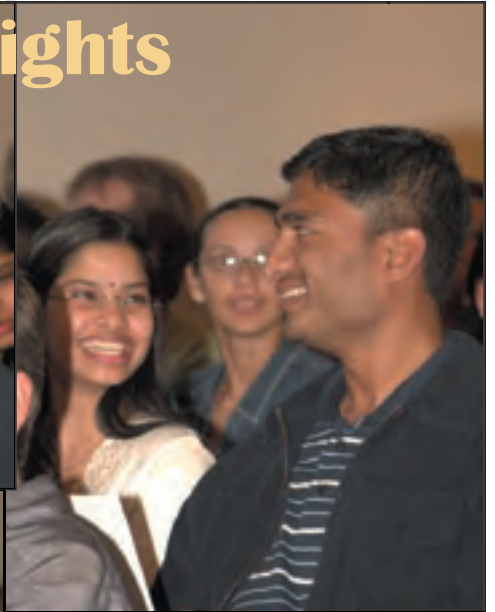
Let's say a 3.5 Ladies team somehow gets matched up against a 3.5 Men's team. I might instruct the Ladies to back-up to the baseline and hit soft balls, try to drive the guy's crazy, let's keep them out here for about 2 hours and call ourselves the moon ballers, and don't get frustrated by the occasional overhead. Try to serve all of your first serves to the backhand side and on the second serve the net person should back-up to the baseline. Let's face it, the Ladies aren't going to be able to hit the men off the court, and if they could, wouldn't that make them 4.0 players?

For the Men, I might instruct them to get 100% of their first serves in by using all second serves, and let's have the net man move towards the middle as soon as he see's the serve's in, this way he can cut-off and put-away any ball that is not well placed. I might also tell them to play one up and one back and simply have the net guy waiting for a short ball, an angled volley will probably win just as many points as an overhead.

Anyway, I hope you get the point of this article, which is; that because you and your partner are serving and volleying and “acting” like the Bryan brother’s doesn’t mean your a good doubles team and it certainly doesn’t mean your going to win. Develop a strategy that you both can employ and work the plan or plan to work. ■



Calcutta Party Highlights



This year's Calcutta party and tournament were on course to be one of the best ever. Beginning with the delicious food provided by the New Mecca. Nat Bitton stayed true to form and kept the crowd amused with player antics and commentary to increase bidding on team partnerships. We collected \$2,400 in team bids with 8 teams bringing in \$100 or more!

The top seeded team with a whopping -18 handicap were Liz Riddle and Jesse Gonzalez. But it was the team of Dave Engle (a WCRC member who flew in from Virginia just for this event) and his partner (defending champion) Nancy Chan (+3 handicap) that left the winners for the day beating main draw finalists Linda Stern and Justin

continued on page 6...



Calcutta Tournament Highlights



Calcutta Tournament Winners

Snyder (-7 handicap). The winning team was bought by Kathleen "Pru" Pruden (and group) for a steal of \$100. For winning the event Dave and Nancy split \$162 and Pru and group split \$594

In the consolation round Valerie Fung-A-Ling and her partner Debashish "Panda" Panda (-12 handicap) met up against the team of Carole Papke and Bob Bussard (+6 handicap). Even with the 19 point difference Panda and Valerie caught and passed their opponents for the win. They split \$108 with their owner Liz Riddle receiving \$270.



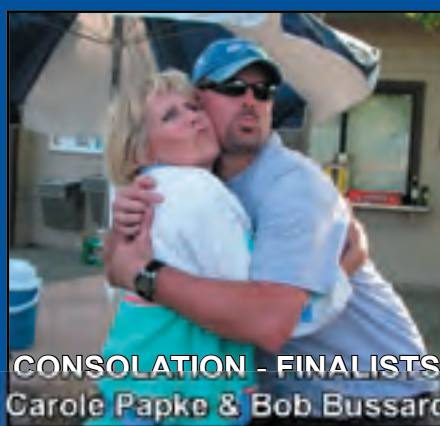
MAIN DRAW - WINNERS
Nancy Chan & Dave Engle



CONSOLATION - WINNERS
Valerie Fung-A-Ling & Debashish Panda



MAIN DRAW - FINALISTS
Justin Snyder & Linda Stern



CONSOLATION - FINALISTS
Carole Papke & Bob Bussard



MAIN DRAW - OWNERS
back row: Verna & Bill Ogden,
Bob Bussard, Justin Snyder, Alan Chan,
front row: Dave Engle, Nancy Chan,
Kathleen Pruden and Tammie Snyder



CONSOLATION - OWNER
Liz Riddle with Debashish and Valerie



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