



The COURT REPORTER

Newsletter of the Walnut Creek Racquet Club

May 2009



**Myrl Kan
keeps her eye
on the ball as
she prepares
her forehand
shot down
the line.**

Photo by: Robert Young

Walnut Creek Racquet Club

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(925) 945-0105 • www.wcrc.net

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Marketing	Lynne Weinschelbaum 285-9503 lweinschelbaum@yahoo.com

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Tammie Snyder
2009 WCRC President

The **Winter Doubles Tournament** was a huge success the weekend of **April 24-26th**. Thanks go out to all those who helped out. **Shari** and **Jesse Gonzalez, Janet Nielsen, Nat Bittner, Bob Walgren, Judy Stillman** and **Tammy Chan**. Check out tournament results and some photos on page 6.

If you haven't been out to Heather Farm lately you are missing out our new awnings that were installed on courts 1, 2 & 3. Thanks to **Myrl Kan** who spent countless hours working with the board and various vendors to get us awnings at a good price. Additional thanks go out to all those who spent Monday afternoon and evening in the 90 degree heat installing them. **Myrl Kan, Leonard Young, Gerry Brown, Sterling Fairholm, John Carr, Mark Zimmank, Jesse** and **Shari Gonzalez, Garvin Tom** and **Tammie** and **Justin Snyder**.

Congratulations to **Mary Waltz's** 3.0 Senior Women teams, who are heading off to Sectionals at Club Sport Valley Vista **May 15-17**.

Congratulations to **Alan Chan's** 8.0 mixed team heading to districts **May 1-3** at Diamond Hills in Oakley.

The Adult and Super Senior leagues have begun their season. Combo and Fifty Mixed leagues open their team registration on May 11th with the season beginning in July. We have lots of players at WCRC and captains are always needed to lead more teams.

Don't forget our **Calcutta Party and Tournament** is scheduled for **May 15-16th** at time of printing there were no men positions open and only 3 women positions left to be filled. If you are looking to play please contact myself or Shari Gonzalez.

See you all on the courts...



2009 Men's and Women's Summer Singles Leagues Registration Form

Register
on-line
save \$5

Full Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

Email _____

T-shirt Size ☐ M ☐ L ☐ XL ☐ XXL

T-shirt Type ☐ Regular ☐ V-neck* ☐ Tank top*

*V-neck and tank top in women's style only

Current Rating: ☐ 2.5 ☐ 4.5
 ☐ 3.0 ☐ 5.0
 ☐ 3.5 ☐ 5.5
 ☐ 4.0

I would like to enter the following division:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Women's 2.5 | <input type="radio"/> Men's 3.0 |
| <input type="radio"/> Women's 3.0 | <input type="radio"/> Men's 3.5 |
| <input type="radio"/> Women's 3.5 | <input type="radio"/> Men's 4.0 |
| <input type="radio"/> Women's 4.0 | <input type="radio"/> Men's 4.5 |
| <input type="radio"/> Women's 4.5-5.0 | <input type="radio"/> Men's 5.0-5.5 |

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

If you register on line:

- ☐ WCRC Member (\$20)
☐ Non-Member (\$30)

Dates: June 1st - September 20th

Entry Fee: \$25 for WCRC Members
 \$35 for non-members

Format: Men's Singles/Women's Singles

Divisions: Men's 3.0 - 5.5
 Women's 2.5 - 5.0

Scheduling: 12 scheduled matches to be
 completed over 16 week season.
 Players are responsible for sched-
 uling their own matches. Players
 will be provided with a contact
 list of participants in their division.

Match Format: Best two-out-of-three set format.
 12 point tiebreaker. Both players
 responsible for bringing new balls to
 match. 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 standing will be updated on
 a real time basis as scores are posted

Tournament: End-of-season tournament with draw
 determined by league standings.
 Oct. 2-4 & Oct. 10-11

Match Min.: 6 matches

Deadline: May 22, 2009

Checks to: WCRC
 105 St. Malo Court
 Martinez, CA 94553

Or Online: www.wcrc.net/events/singlessignup.asp

Deadline: May 31, 2009 (online deadline)

Register
on-line
save \$5

Mail Registration Deadline: May 22

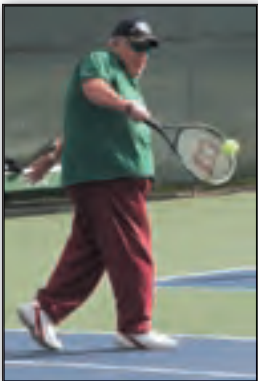
Register on line at www.wcrc.net/events/singlessignup.asp and save \$5.00



Tennis News



George Higgins Memorial



George Pierce Higgins, Jr. April 29, 1948~April 15, 2009 Resident of Walnut Creek George Pierce Higgins, Jr. passed away on Wednesday April 15, 2009 in Walnut Creek at the young age of 60.

He was a resident of Walnut Creek for 15 years and a native of the Bay Area. George was a graduate of Acalanes High School Class of '66. He was a U.S. Navy Reservist. George was a construction equipment operator and member of Operating Engineers Union Local #3. He enjoyed tennis and target shooting. Survivors include his beloved son Bryan Higgins, loving daughter-in-law Natalie Higgins, and dear grandson Joshua Higgins.

George made everyone feel just a bit better with his friendly manner, charming smile and constant good cheer. He will be missed.

Having a BALL at Super Seniors

The "Class of 2009" Super Seniors had a great season and won their BALL Super Senior division.

Members are: **Paula Austin, Fran Bagnasco** (captain), **Elizabeth Baxter** (co-captain), **Hilda Bernardi, Heidi Christen, Jan Couchot, Hazel Faries, Claire Fong, Pauline Hanley, Barb Hollinger, Mimi Howard, J.J. Jappay, Janet Neilsen, Yvette Pezzaglia, Carol Papke, Liv Weiss, and Jan Williams.**

They will be attending the end-of-season luncheon at Blackhawk to receive our trophy, prizes, etc. Happy to represent Walnut Creek and our club.

Chessa Mehlman's Dedication to Special Olympics

by Pam Maloney

Chessa Mehlman's dad, **Steve**, couldn't be more proud of the effort she put into organizing and running a fund-raising event on April 18 at Sports Basement. As a long-standing member of WCRC, Steve contacted the Board to ask if we would consider making a donation on behalf of the Club. Since the funds were going to support Special Olympics tennis athletes, we happily agreed. Here's a great photo of Steve, Chessa and two of the athletes from last year.

Steve and Chessa are continuing to coach these Special Olympics this year and have some 15 athletes who they are working with. They break their practices into two groups, and Chessa has been working with the stronger players who will be entering the match competition on May 9, 2009 in San Jose. Over half of their 15 athletes intend to compete at the Regional Games. To quote Steve....."the smiles on the faces of the kids we are working with when they stroke a ball over the net, or "high five" a volley for a winner, is really what this is all about."

On behalf of WCRC, thanks Chessa and Steve for all you do!





Tennis News



New Look at Heather

by Myrl Kan

WCRC is very excited to have had the initial court awnings installed last week for courts 1, 2 and 3 - just in time for the Winter Doubles Tournament! It's our plan to install an additional three or four more awnings.

Much thanks to our crew of volunteers who labored in the 90 degree heat. Without your generous help, the units could very well still be sitting in their boxes in the Tennis Center!

3:00 shift - **Sterling Fairholm, Gerry Brown, John Carr, Marc Zimmank, Leonard Young**

5:00 shift - **Jesse Gonzalez, Justin Snyder, Michael De Leon, Shari Gonzalez, Tammie Snyder, Leonard Young, Garvin Tom.**

The project was completed at 8:00 pm.

We hope some of you will answer the call for help when the other awnings are purchased.

Besides providing needed shade in the summer months, the awnings create a more professional image for the Walnut Creek Tennis Center.



Great bang for your buck!!!

For as little as \$40/month you can reach over 800 readers!



If you are looking to advertise, submit an article or photograph for an upcoming newsletter, please contact Tammie Snyder at 925-957-0604 or email her at tammie@gte.net.

Deadline for the June issue is Friday, May 22nd.

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Homes available in Pleasant Hill, Concord and East County.
Call Don for more information!

WINTER DOUBLES TOURNAMENT



I'd like to thank all of our hard working volunteers for making this year's tournament such a success. Specifically a huge thank you to Nat Bitton, Janet Neilson and Tammy Chan for helping to coordinate the food and drinks. Another big thank you to Jesse Gonzalez, Tammie Snyder and Bob Walgren for helping to run a very hectic tournament desk.

As you can imagine, with a record-breaking 128 teams playing in this year's tournament, running a tournament of this magnitude over the course of 3 days is not easy and the individuals listed above worked really hard to make this event the success it was.

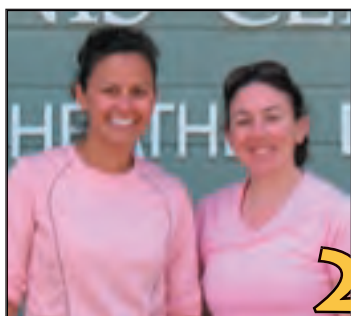
Thanks and hope to see you next season.

Shari Gonzalez
WCRC League Coordinator



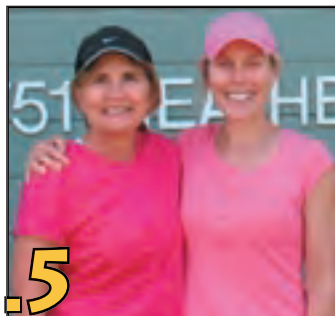
WINTER DOUBLES TOURNAMENT

WOMEN'S



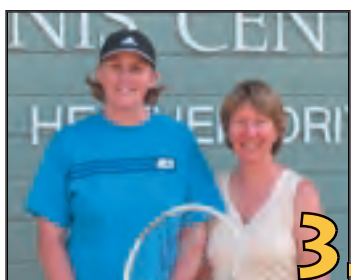
2.5

Erin Smith and Kristin Lunghi def.
Becky Dixon and Nancy Calkin 6-4, 6-2.



3.0

Pip Wright and Chris Rascle def.
Kelly Williams and Sonja Snively 7-5, 6-2.



3.5

Carol Robinson and Stacey Friedman def.
Bal Louis and Genny Decoste 6-0, 6-4.



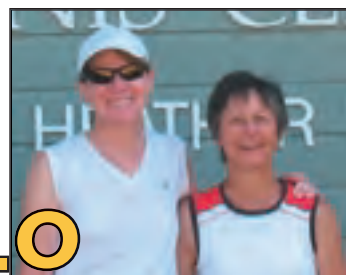
4.0

Arlene Acosta and Carollyn Vogler def.
Jeanne Costello and Sheila Klenow 6-1, 6-2.



4.5

Riki Sorenson and Lilana Spindler def.
Alison Vidal and Jennifer Chien 6-2, 6-3.



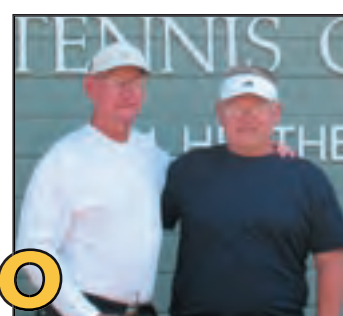
4.5

Bryan Golledge and Jackson Riker def.
Carlos Manuel and Steve Andrews 6-2, 6-1.



3.0

Jaime Guzzaldo and Chris Dundon def.
Russ Eddy and Patric Thomas 6-0, 6-3.



3.5

Joseph Bernsten and Mike Gabrielson def.
Bill Conk and Tom Whittington 7-5, 7-6 (6)



4.0

Steve Andrews and Eric Ladrech def.
Debashis Panda and Naohiko Kosaka 7-6 (4), 4-6, 6-4.



PHOTOS NOT AVAILABLE

ACE IT!

On Saturday, June 27th, Orindawoods Tennis Club will host the seventh annual **Ace It!**, a full day of tennis-related activities to raise money in support of the Carol Ann Read Breast Health Center at Alta Bates Summit Medical Center in Oakland. Over the past seven years, the local tennis community has raised almost one hundred thousand dollars for breast cancer at this annual event, which features tennis clinics by local pros in the morning, a gourmet lunch and raffle, and a tournament in the afternoon. Attendees can choose to come for the entire day, morning or afternoon (lunch included) or just lunch.

Seven years ago the Carol Ann Read Breast Health Center did not exist. A group of women tennis players in Contra Costa County became aware that many of their friends and acquaintances had experienced tremendous anxiety and inconvenience when faced with a possible diagnosis or course of treatment for breast cancer, not just because of the diagnosis but also because there was no local, centralized place in the East Bay for these services. Diagnosis could take weeks and treatment often required travel to San Francisco or the peninsula and could even mean quitting a job to accommodate appointment schedules.

Originally, **Ace It!** was intended to raise money for charities benefiting breast cancer patients. However, as soon as the **Ace It!** organizing group became aware of the Carol Ann Read Center plans, fund-raising focused on the local facility, which opened two years ago and was named one of the top ten such facilities in the nation in 2008. Last November **Ace It!** was the honoree sponsored by Alta Bates Summit Foundation at the National Philanthropy Day award luncheon. Other

sponsors at this prestigious event were Children's Hospital, AAA, Charles Schwab, United Way, Glide Foundation, KQED, and the YMCA.



To register for **Ace It!** on June 27th and continue the wonderful spirit of giving begun by our tennis community, log on to www.orindawoodstennis.com and click on **Ace It!** in the left hand column. Print, complete and mail the registration form with your check. Or look for **Ace It!** registration forms at your tennis club, community tennis facility or ask your USTA team captain for forms.





Charles Montague McLaughlin

Ian and Starr McLaughlin are proud to announce the arrival of their son Charlie. He was born at 11:37 pm on Sunday, April 5, 2009. He weighed 7 lbs, 7 oz and was 20.5 inches long. Big brother Sam is very excited.



If you are expecting or want to share baby news, please send your due date or birth announcement information to Tammie Snyder at tammie@gte.net **Next month deadline: May 22nd**

From the Pro...

Questions and Answers

QUESTION: I have improved many parts of my game over the years and currently play at a 4.0 level. The hardest thing still for me, and what is holding me back from a 4.5, is the pressure during a point. What is the best way to deal with pressure during play? I feel like I hit like Federer during warm-up (hahaha), but when play is on with a rival, I tend to tighten up, choke and play more apprehensive. I hate that! What's the best way to avoid this? Would love to know what the pros do.



ANSWER: Often a player will feel like a Roger Federer or a Justine Henin during warm-up. Remember that your opponents are intentionally hitting balls to you. They'll even feed you lobs and overheads if you asked them. Match play is much more competitive. Opponents will make you run, throw various spins and play the least predictable game as possible. A standard procedure for my teams is to play a minimum of four games (one serve each for doubles) prior to match time. This is more of a complete warm-up. If you have no one to play prior to your opponent, try this simple drill... Run around your backhands to hit forehands and vice versa. I do this on volleys, too. This will get your legs and body warm in no time. It's not bad for focusing on the ball, too.



Leonard Young is a long time WCRC member and a private teaching pro. He is currently the tennis specialist at Sports Chalet in Concord. If you have a question you would like to submit, please send them directly to Leonard Young at virtualpro@webtv.net.



**New Member
Information
Removed for
Privacy**

CALENDER OF EVENTS

May

May 1-3	USTA Mixed Doubles Districts
May 11	USTA Fifty Mixed Team Registration Opens
May 11	USTA Combo Team Registration Opens
May 15-16	Calcutta Party and Tournament
May 15-17	USTA Senior Sectionals
May 17	USTA Super Senior 60 Team Reg. Closes
May 30-31	USTA Mixed Doubles Sectionals

Jun

June 7	USTA Combo Team Registration Closes
June 9	USTA Super Senior 60 Season Opens
June 14	USTA Fifty Mixed Team Registration Closes
June 29	USTA Super Senior 60 Season Opens

Jul

July 6	USTA Combo Team Season Opens
July 12	USTA Adult League Season Closes
July 12	USTA Super Senior 65 Season Closes
July 13	USTA Fifty Mixed Season Opens
July 17-19	USTA Adult League Playoffs Round 1
July 20-22	USTA Super Senior 65 Playoffs Round 1
July 24-26	USTA Adult League Playoffs Round 2
July 27-29	USTA Super Senior 65 Playoffs Round 2

TREASURER'S REPORT

Hilde Chan

as of February 28, 2009



Walnut Creek Racquet Club Profit & Loss January through February 2009

	Jan - Feb 09
Income	
Winter Doubles 09	8,285.00
Interest Income	0.40
Advertising Income	400.00
Membership Dues	6,545.00
Board Dinner	182.00
Total Income	15,412.40
Expense	
Awards Dinner 2009	1,709.00
Mixed Doubles League '08/'09	2,399.91
Board Meeting Expense	227.70
Paypal Fees	393.48
Newsletters-Court Reporter	167.14
Postage	30.24
Supplies	173.16
Website	118.85
Board Dinner Expenses	906.92
Total Expense	6,126.40
Net Income	9,286.00

Balance February 28, 2009 **\$24,857.33**

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Deadline for the May issue is
Friday, May 22nd.



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WCSW3.0A team at Districts – Natomas Racquet Club, Sacramento



From l-r: Sherry Niu, Mary Waltz, Jan Perez, Sam Vanecek, Jane Balg, and Leslie Finertie.