

President's Report

By Carol Jory



A positive side of the COVID pandemic has brought renewed success to the tennis community. Our tennis clubs have many new members and courts are very busy once again, even waiting lists for memberships. Some clubs have many new members and because of this some clubs are limiting league teams. I am hoping USTA leagues, WTT leagues and various other leagues can once again be hosted by fall 2021. Many players are also looking forward to getting back to tournament play.

SDDTA's new vice president, John Broderick, has replaced Jim Winters since his passing. Jim will always be remembered as Coach, Player, Teacher, Volunteer and all around good guy. We welcome John Chanfreau, Eric Mann, Shatoo Mohamad and Hillary Park to our Board of Directors. Simon Shen has also been appointed to the Executive Committee.

We at SDDTA wish Tony Perez our best in his future endeavors and thank him and his crew of volunteers the last several years for their hard work with the SDDTA District Tournament and many other contributions over the years. A big heartfelt thanks to Tony from all the Board members at SDDTA. I am saddened to have to report the recent passing of Fran Wakefield Hunter. Fran was a longtime SDDTA board member and a terrific volunteer. Her smiling face at the tournament desk at Balboa will be missed!

The Southern California Tennis Association has had a few changes recently. Marla Messing, CEO, left her position and Trevor Krone-mann has taken over the role in the interim. Changes to tournament formats and a new tournament computer program have been implemented.

The SDDTA has postponed the decision of whether to hold a January Awards Dinner and whether we will publish a yearbook for 2021. We hope to make a final decision at our next meeting in August. Hope to see you all on the courts.

National Open Tournament Winners in San Diego

Congratulations to all San Diego players at recent National Championships held throughout San Diego. Hudson Rivera, Derek Wong, and Sabi Leon Chao brought home balls from the National Open Hard Courts at Balboa Tennis Club, May 31-June 6th. Hiromi Sasano brought home a Bronze Ball in the Mixed Doubles at the event as well. Colleen Clery Ferrell picked up a Bronze Ball at the USTA National W50/90 Hard Courts held at the La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club May 10-16.



Hudson Rivera
Men's Open Finalist
Silver Ball



Derek Wong
Mixed Doubles Winner
Gold Ball



Sabi Leon Chao
Women's Doubles Winner
Gold Ball



Conan Lorenzo (left) and
Colleen Clery Ferrell (right)
Women's 60 Singles
Bronze Ball



Senior Father-Daughter Doubles 60+
Brett and Tatum Buffington
Gold Ball

At the Father-Daughter, Mother-Son Hard Court Championships held at Barnes Tennis Center June 11-13, Brett and Tatum Buffington scored a Gold Ball in the Father-Daughter Doubles 60+ and Kyra Scott took home a Bronze Ball. In the Senior Mother-Son Doubles 60+ Peter McDonald won a Silver Ball. In the Super Senior Father-Daughter Doubles 70+, Bill and Tiffany Kellogg won a Bronze Ball for their efforts.

USTA League Tennis

By Randie Lettington

Congratulations to our first completed season in the COVID era! Clubs, captains and players navigated the protocols to play safe tennis. USTA will be hosting the first large scale Sectionals event in Orange County in July for the Adult 18 and Over league. The Mixed Doubles and 55 and Over Doubles events will take place in September. Sectionals brings the top finishing teams from each of the 13 areas in Southern California together to compete for the opportunity to advance to USTA Nationals representing the best of So Cal. Good luck to all of our great teams and thanks to our hardworking league captains!

- Fall USTA Leagues will be registering in early August. So Cal Doubles: Men's and Women's teams 3 lines of Doubles play at NTRP levels (3.0W, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5 and Open levels)
- Mixed Doubles 55 and Over: 3 lines of Mixed at combined NTRP levels (7.0, 8.0 and 9.0)
- Tri-Level Mixed Doubles 18 and Over: 3 lines of Mixed with a different level on each line.
- One Singles Flex League: arrange competitive matches when it's convenient to play.

Please visit www.sandiegotennis.com for more details.

USTA Adult 18 and over League (Spring)

San Diego Local League Winners

Men's 3.5 Coronado Tennis Center - Mike Kamas
 Men's 4.0 Mountain View - Anthony Reyes
 Men's 5.0 Fearhand - Ronald Kao
 Women's 2.5 Coronado Tennis Center - Kelly Mineo (Nat'l Team)
 Women's 3.0 Barnes/ Balboa - Hillary Halttunen
 Women's 3.5 WD Mtn View Ace Breakers - Liz Louis
 Women's 3.5 WE Mtn View Ball Busters - Angie Crawford
 Women's 4.0 Coronado TC - Elsie Hammond
 Women's 4.5 Barnes TC - Kellie Jaquez
 Women's 5.0 Team SD - Cami Gill
 One Singles Winners: Michael Kamas (3.5), Tommy West (4.0), Angie Crawford (3.5), Zoe Latham (4.0)

North County San Diego Local League Winners

Men's 3.5 Kit Carson Park - Mark Warren
 Men's 4.0 Fairbanks Ranch CC - Andrew Dewey
 Men's 4.5 Lomas Santa Fe CC - Kie Wilcox
 Men's 5.0 Da Boys - Mike Burzinski
 Women's 3.0 CTA@RA - Karyl Oldenburg
 Women's 3.5 WD La Costa Resort - Dee Dee Zielinski
 Women's 3.5WE RB Swim & Tennis - Joy Madden (Local League)
 Women's 4.0 WD Carmel Valley TC - Kellie Doyle
 Women's 4.0 WE RB Community TC - Rene Carmichael
 Women's 4.5 Carmel Valley TC - Shelley Goodson
 Women's 5.0 Overserved - Tina Giubilato
 One Singles Winners: Alexis Toda (3.5), Erwan Martin (4.0), Heather Lemon (3.0), Julie Gomez (3.5), Tisha Carney (4.0)

USTA 55 and over Adult Doubles League (Summer)

San Diego Local League Winners

Women's 7.0 Peninsula TC - Ruth Hoffman
 Women's 8.0 Barnes (Balboa) TC - Suzanne Lindemann
 Women's 9.0 Barnes (Balboa) TC - Sue Sprague

North County San Diego Local League Winners

Men's 9.0 Lomas Santa Fe CC - Kevin Pegels
 Women's 6.0 Morgan Run Resort - Sandra Sweat
 Women's 7.0 CTA @ Rancho Arbolitos - Vicky Benito
 Women's 8.0 Morgan Run Resort - Kristin Adams
 Women's 9.0 Carmel Valley Tennis - Kellie Jaquez

USTA Mixed Doubles 40 and over League (Spring)

San Diego Local League Winners

7.0 Mountain View Mixed Nuts - Frances Simpson-Lang
 8.0 El Toyon- Sherr Aquino - Ong
 9.0 Pacific Beach Tennis Club - Hillary Park

North County San Diego Local League Winners

7.0 Kit Carson Park - Joanne Reyes - Brisbin
 8.0 Morgan Run Resort - Laurie Dunn
 9.0 UCRC-S&T - Janet Podney

San Diego Tournaments

This year has seen many changes to the tournament scene. Winter and spring saw a dearth of tournaments for our local players because of COVID-19. Finally, at the beginning of the summer season we are seeing more offerings.

The new Serve Tennis USTA program that replaced TennisLink has been a learning curve for both players and tournament directors. It is difficult to navigate around and it is clear that constant "fixes" are necessary. Several tournaments have chosen not to renew their sanction this year. Moreover, some tournaments have new tournament directors. This has led to some problems with scheduling and seeding. The San Diego District has sent letters to all tournament directors offering help and has sent tournament evaluators to all tournaments that have new directors.

The Tournament Evaluation Committee's purpose is to observe tournaments and their websites to give both positive and critical feedback to tournament directors, officials, and the District regarding the running of the tournaments according to USTA rules, standards set forth by the District's Sanctions and Scheduling Committee, and players' expectations. By providing this feedback, we hope to promote high standards for San Diego tournaments and increase participation by tennis players.

As players ourselves, we value our players' tournament experience. On our website there is a short form for players to complete so we can improve tournaments in San Diego. Please give us your feedback—thank you!

www.sandiegotennis.com/tournament-evaluation

2021 College Scholarships Available!

Just a reminder that the San Diego District Tennis Association in conjunction with Angel Lopez has scholarship money (up to \$500 each) to give to college players who are permanent residents of San Diego. The Lopez scholarships are restricted (Latino players only) but otherwise the money is just waiting for someone to apply for it.

Please note the due date of August 15. Last year we gave out five scholarships, (Anukriti Bhadada-UCSD, Amanda Letzring and Thelma Sepulveda-Pt. Loma Nazarene, Lindy Cornwall-Carnegie Mellon and Camila Nevarez-Biola U).

Please encourage those eligible (anyone except those on a Division 1 team who are already receiving scholarships) to apply.

For a copy of the form, go to
www.sandiegotennis.com/programs.

San Diego Tennis Hall of Fame

Please mark your calendars as your presence is requested to attend the San Diego Tennis Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. The event will take place on Saturday, August 28th at 4:00 p.m. at the Balboa Tennis Club (Morley Field) located at 2221 Morley Field Dr., San Diego, CA 92104. A complimentary reception will be provided on site immediately after the ceremony.

Inductees are:



Cathie Anderson
Senior Success



Arnold & Esther Belinsky
Philanthropy



Larry Belinsky
Senior Success,
Community Service



Geoff Griffin
Community Service,
Teaching Pro



Roz King
Senior Success

The selection committee consisted of John Broderick/Chair, David Jaehnig, Simon Shen, Jennifer Dawson, David Whitehead and Jim Kellogg. Special thanks to David who put together the bios for each inductee and conducted interviews with all five members of the 2021 class as part of his efforts. Thanks also to Jim Lackritz who efficiently facilitated each of the secret ballots throughout the process and will MC the event.

Since 2006, the San Diego District Tennis Association has recognized individuals who left an indelible mark in San Diego's rich and abundant tennis history. Not only are they honored at the Induction Ceremony but a permanent display is located at the BTC Clubhouse that showcases memorabilia of the current year of inductees for the San Diego tennis community to enjoy and appreciate.

Survey of Factors Impacting Tournament Players

by Jim Lackritz

The USTA is going to a nine-tiered tournament classification system and encouraging local tournaments to move from single elimination events to some alternative scoring formats to give players more play and bring more players to tournament tennis. As Chair of our Sanctions and Scheduling Committee (SSC), I wanted to gauge the interest of our local tennis community on some of these formats and other factors which impact tournament participation, and share this information with tournament directors (TDs) as they plan their tournaments.

With the help of a colleague who specializes in Marketing Research, we designed a short survey to address these and other issues on tournament play which could be completed online in a few minutes. We ran the survey past the SSC members for their comments and make some final tweaks to it before posting it in February. If you have not seen the survey, it is available at https://sdsu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eFqxEMoWnVtbECq. We sent emails with the link to tournament players, league players, and club managers to get a broad representation of the San Diego tennis community on these issues.

We had more than 550 responses. There was an even split of players from public/private courts and clubs and people who played singles, doubles, or both. 80% of the respondents played at least one league per year, while just over half played at least one sanctioned tournament. About 60% were NTRP players.

Cost of the entry fee, larger draws with stronger players, nice facilities and well-run tournaments were preferred factors in tournament play. With regard to alternative scoring formats, super tiebreaker instead of playing out the third set got mixed reactions, and no-ad scoring was not well-liked. Players want a feed-in back draw for those who lost their first match and there was support for tournaments completed in one week. There was also support for round-robin formats. Players were open to other player amenities rather than the traditional tee-shirt given at most tournaments. When asked to choose the single most important factor to play more tournaments, the top four selected were well-run tournament with player-friendly TD and staff, lower entry fees, feed-in back draw for firsts match losses, and nice club/courts/amenities.

As we move into post-COVID planning for tournament for the remainder of the year and look forward to 2022, we will work with TDs to look at new ways they can enhance the player experience and have successful tournaments. While this is just a summary of a far more complex survey, feel free to contact me at jimlackritz@hotmail.com for further questions. Wishing you wonderful summer and fall tennis as we ramp up our tournament and league seasons.

July

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- 10-11, 16-18** *MVSRA "All White" Summer Tournament,
Mt. View Sports & Racquet Club, Frances Simpson-Lang 619-867-7322*
- 23-25, 30-Aug.1** *90th Balboa Open Maureen Connolly Memorial
Balboa Tennis Club, Geoff Griffin 619-838-1533*

August

- 4-15** *USTA Billie Jean King Girls' 16 & 18 Nat'l
Championships, Barnes Tennis Center*
- 14-15, 21-22** *RPTC Arnold Belinsky Memorial Open, Rancho Penasquitos TC,
Aurelie Udall 413-313-6351*
- 28-29, Sept. 4-6** *92nd San Diego District Championships,
Balboa Tennis Club, Hiromi Sasano 619-318-6002*

September

- 25-26, Oct. 2-3** *San Diego Metropolitan Tournament,
Balboa Tennis Club, Hiromi Sasano 619-318-6002*

November

- 29-Dec. 5** *USTA Nat'l 40, Father/Son, Grandfather/Grandson
Hard Courts, La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club,
Bill Kellogg 858-454-6500*

** Other tournaments on the schedule are pending. Please check our website [Tournament Info](#) or [USTA.com](#) for further updates.*

*The San Diego District Tennis Reporter is a publication of the San Diego District Tennis Association
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