

San Diego Tennis Reporter

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President's Report

By Anne Podney



Anne Podney

As summer winds down to a close, it's time for us at the San Diego District Tennis Association (SDDTA) to review where we are and what we hope to accomplish in the coming months. The four big tournaments of the summer: La Jolla Championships, Balboa, District Championships and Metropolitan saw numbers of participants that were steady or growing. I was pleased to see many former juniors enter the tournaments, as well as a growing contingent from Orange County. Well run tournaments with

responsive tournament directors and considerate scheduling help give San Diego tournaments a good name.

Once again, Tennis Fest was a high point in summer activities. Approximately 700 enthusiasts came out to demo racquets, participate in drills and clinics and just have a great time. Special thanks for a successful day go to Jeff Anderson, Amanda Fink, Mary Grace Braun, Jim Winters and Jesse Steinberg—the latter two were responsible for the abundance of eager high school volunteers. Lesley Waite was presented with the Ben Press Award for Community Service. She was recognized for her many years of service in all aspects of San Diego tennis.

Our community tennis programming continues. Teaching pro Rod Rodriguez headed a Family Tennis Day at El Toyon Park in National City on October 12 with the assistance of Karen Ronney, SCTA Tennis Service Representative for San Diego County. Juan Villeneuve continues to teach Drop In Tennis classes in South Bay. He is starting a new program at Salt Creek Recreation Center in Chula Vista and has had much success with the District program of free clinics for beginning adult players. The District wants to sponsor more such programs in East and North County.

On Sunday, October 20, at Balboa Tennis Club, a special celebration and tribute to great friends Ben Press and Maureen Connolly Brinker was held at the new Press Family Pavilion (tournament desk area) & Maureen Connolly Brinker (life-size paver). As Colleen Farrell, Club Director, wrote, "Their unique memorials will live on adjacent to each other at Balboa Tennis Club, in the neighborhood they grew up and played in together. Great memories for their families and generations to come of aspiring tennis players." In honoring these two San Diego greats, the area is a wonderful addition to the club. The SDDTA is one of the \$1,000 donors whose names will be honored on the plaque.

At the recent 2019 USPTA World Conference in Las Vegas, San Diego pro Amanda Fink was one of the speakers. The National Under 30 Award is given to a young and upcoming pro that has demonstrated passion for the industry, accomplishments at their place of work and their efforts in growing the game.

Congratulations, Amanda!

91st District Championships

By Jeff Anderson



Photo by Jeff Anderson

L to R: W3.5 Sgls. Finalist Juliet Grossman, Tony Perez, Winner Cece Klos

At the 91st Annual San Diego District Championships, the last weekend of August and continuing through Labor Day weekend, the competition lived up to its usual high standards. We appreciate the American Melanoma Foundation, our title sponsor again this year. With more players wanting to get into the draws we extended the entry deadline to accommodate them. As in the past, many college students took advantage of the discounted entry fee we offered. This has been a very successful change and some of the larger tournaments are following the trend to help increase participation.

Players from as far away as Virginia, Arizona, Washington, and Oregon entered to try and win a piece of the \$4000 in prize money offered to the Open and Age divisions. After many hard-fought matches local San Diegan Ryan Seggerman, now playing for Princeton, took the men's Open singles title defeating Alexander Araouzos in the final. The men's 40s-65s were all well attended with rounds of 16. In the women's Open the title went to 16-year-old Midori Castillo who defeated tough opponents along the way. Unfortunately the women's age divisions still suffer from low turnout. Even with many divisions offered no women players entered any of the events in singles or doubles. The Mixed Open and Mixed 40s provided some exciting play.

The ever popular men's and women's NTRP divisions were well supported. A good turnout in all these divisions made for some interesting draws. Glass mug trophies were given to the winners and finalists, (*liquid refreshments not included*). Complimentary t-shirts were given to all the players as well.

As all tournament directors know, without a good team of volunteers to keep the tournament running on time and smoothly, things can get a little chaotic. Thanks to Peggy Jung, Jim Winters, Marty Molden, Robyn Leong and Pat Mason (for her beautiful trophy table), this didn't happen. Their help will always be greatly appreciated. A special shout-out to the San Diego County Tennis Umpires Association for their participation and help in making the tournament run smooth as well.

Hope to see you all in 2020!

San Diego Players Win World Titles in Portugal

By Carolyn Nichols



L to R: Diane Barker, Carolyn Nichols, Susan Wright, Robin Harris

Senior Teams (50/55/60), Portugal: Debbie Nasim (Carlsbad) and Ros Nideffer (San Diego, playing captain) along with Julie Cass (TX) and Andrea Rice (VA) won the 2019 Maria Bueno Cup in (W50) Estoril, Portugal. Nasim and Nideffer won the deciding doubles match in the three-match format (two singles followed by doubles) in the semis and final.

Carolyn Nichols (Rancho Santa Fe, playing captain), Robin Harris (San Diego), and teammates Susan Wright (FL) and Diane Barker (SC) won the Alice Marble Cup (W60) in Oleiros, Portugal. Nichols played No.2 singles. Harris/Nichols won the silver in doubles the following week and Nichols won a bronze in singles.

Super Senior Teams (65/70/75/80/85), Croatia: Liane Bryson (San Diego) won the deciding match for the gold medal winning USA Althea Gibson Cup (W70) team in Umag, Croatia, alongside Judy Dixon (MA) twice during the week-long competition, including against Australia in the semifinals. The following week she reached the doubles semis with Heidi Eisterhohner (GER) and mixed semis.

David Dollins (Escondido) was a member of the winning Bitsy Grant Cup (M65) team along with Jimmy Parker (NM), Donald Long (NY) and Dean Corley (CA).

Cathie Anderson (Del Mar) and Suella Steel (La Jolla, playing captain) along with Carolann Castell (WA) and Charleen Hillebrand (CA) placed second in the Queens Cup (W75) competition in Umag. Anderson/Hillebrand won the deciding point against Great Britain to propel the team to silver. Anderson/Castell won the bronze in 75 doubles the following week while Steel/Corley took bronze in 75 mixed.

Sheila Palmer (La Jolla), playing on a Cup team for the first time, returned home from Umag with three silver medals. As a Doris Hart (W80) team member, along with Carol Wood (MD), Burnett Herrick (NC) and Dorothy Wasser (FL) she played doubles and the team finished second to Argentina. The following week Palmer/Wood finished second in 80+ women's doubles and Palmer/Wilbur Jones (USA) were 80 mixed finalists.

Young Seniors (35/40/45), Florida: Millie Yablonicky will be representing the USA in the Young Cup (W40) in October in Miami Beach, FL. She was a member of the 2018 team which finished fourth in that division in Miami Beach.

USTA League Tennis

By Randie Lettington

2019 USTA Nationals Bound Teams!

San Diego District tennis teams have earned their way to **THIRTEEN** National competitions so far this year! They represent the best of Southern California from San Diego border to Central California. Congratulations to these awesome teams!

65+ M8.0 - Peter Tollen (National Invitational Champions-back to back!)

65+ W6.0 - Jane Fetter (National Invitational Final Four)

Open Men - Surf & Turf TC - Brett Bacharach

Open Women - Team SD - Cami Gill

Mixed Doubles 18+ 9.0 - Carmel Valley TC - Becky Kuba

Mixed Doubles 40+ 9.0 - Carmel Valley TC - Debbie Fitzgerald

Adult 40+ W4.0 - La Jolla TC - Terri Bourne

Adult 18+ W2.5 - Eastlake TC - Yuli Reams

Adult 18+ W3.0 - Mt. View Sports & Racquet Club - Jackie Saenz

Adult 18+ W4.0 - Kit Carson Park/Balboa TC - Yen Hagler

Adult 18+ M4.5 - Fallbrook TC - Keith London

Adult 55+ W7.0 - Rcho Peñasquitos TC - Vicky Benito

Adult 55+ W9.0 - Balboa TC - Sue Sprague

Visit sandiegotennis.com for all USTA league results.

Captain of the Year Nominations

It's time to recognize our top captains for their wonderful efforts creating fun and fair tennis in our USTA community. These individuals have gone above and beyond to lead by example with sportsmanship, leadership, enthusiasm and willingness to support and mentor others in their role as captains. Nominations can come from players, peer captains, league coordinators, and tennis directors. Please email **why** your top captain should be recognized, by **November 15th** to TopCaptainsUSTASD@gmail.com.

Captains' Meeting for Winter/Spring 2020 USTA Leagues

Meetings will be held on November 13 at Balboa Tennis Club at 6:30 PM and on November 14 at San Dieguito Tennis Club at 1 PM and 6 PM. If captain isn't able to attend, please send a club representative who can share information.

Topics: Review of new league format for 40 and Over, rules and regulation changes for 2020, registration timing, league calendar, Championships update, NTRP ratings - snacks and of course, some giveaways!

Winter Season: Adult 40 and Over Leagues for men and women (singles/doubles), Mixed Doubles 18 and Over League.

Spring Season: Adult 18 and Over Leagues for men and women (singles/doubles), Mixed Doubles 55 and Over League, Adult 65 and Over League for men and women (late Spring/Summer).

Winter Registration Deadlines:

- Mid-late November - Team requests/set ups.
- December 1st - Player registration starts after NTRP ratings are published.
- December 10th - Initial Roster Deadline.
- February 1st - Final Roster Deadline.

League play starts the first week of January. Plan your teams now!

NTRP Year-End Ratings

Ratings will be published on or around December 1st and will be based on results of USTA/SCTA matches played in 2019 through late October. These ratings will be in use for the 2020 leagues.

San Diego League Growth!

Thanks to the support of our clubs, captains and current players, new recruits are joining our leagues. Everyone is enjoying more fun on the courts. Let's keep the momentum going!

Wounded, Ill and Injured Tennis Clinics and Camps-Why Do We Do Them?



There's an old line: "If you can read this, thank a teacher. If you're reading it in English, thank the military." Unfortunately, this often comes with a heavy price. Many military service members don't make it back. And many come back injured physically, mentally, or both. For the past 10 years we've been working with Naval Medical Center San Diego (NMCS D) and the San Diego VA Medical Center to do what we can to help make the service members' and veterans' returns and their quality of life as smooth as possible.

According to the Head of NMCS D's Health and Wellness Department, Melissa Palacios, "Research has shown that early intervention with active sports results in successful rehabilitation. Sudden, traumatic changes in physical ability make service members vulnerable to psychological, emotional and physical trauma, which severely impacts them and their families. Many times, someone experiencing a newly acquired physical disability has difficulty re-adjusting into the work setting in a productive manner. Partaking in events has allowed service members to obtain greater levels of self-actualization, improved levels of community re-entry, increased ability to alleviate stress, and better methods for coping. It is through the intervention of recreation participation that enables them to rehabilitate back into life and gives them a bridge to the community."

The VA Medical Center's recreational Therapist, Ellen Berman, added, "I have worked closely with the amazing volunteers at the San Diego District Tennis Association for numerous years. I regularly refer patients to their tennis program, all with positive results. They have helped patients with a variety of injuries ranging from traumatic brain injury and polytrauma, spinal cord injury, mobility and/or psychiatric disabilities, and loss of limb injuries. Intervention using adaptive sport assists our Veterans to battle back from injury. Participation not only strengthens their bodies but assists with overcoming and improving their overall being and self-worth." Pretty heavy stuff.

This also comes with a price, but this time it's a financial cost. At the relatively inexpensive end of the chain, we run free weekly 90 minute tennis clinics for 20-25 vets, followed by a free lunch. The teaching pros volunteer their services, but the food and beverages, also purchased and prepared by volunteers, do cost money. The clinics are held every Tuesday, 11:00am – 1:00pm at Balboa Tennis Club.

At the other end of the financial chain, each May we run a week-long, all-expense-paid tennis camp, where we fly in 50 disabled veterans, caretakers and service animals from across the US; provide tennis rackets, shoes, and other equipment, 16 hours of tennis instruction, accommodations in Mission Valley, transportation to/from tennis and evening events, and all meals.

Based on the overwhelmingly positive feedback from the campers and their healthcare providers, we have been extremely successful in providing a foundation for the development of a positive self-image and outlook on life. This transformation is a key factor in leading an independent, full and productive life. Now you know why we do it.

If you'd like to help, tax deductible donations can be made on our website, www.sdwoundedwarriortennis.org/donate.

Collegiate Committee Awards Scholarships

By Jami Jones



Third from the left: Frances Cornwall and fourth from the right: Jacob Bear

on both their JV and Varsity teams. She won the award for "Most Dedicated Athlete" on her JV Team. She will be attending SDSU this fall and plans on earning her Bachelor's and Master's degree there in Mechanical Engineering.

In addition, Angel Lopez, Director of Tennis at the San Diego Tennis & Racquet Club, awarded two \$250 scholarships to Diego Navarro and Katrinna Jasso. Diego was the MVP on the Sage Creek High School Varsity Team for three years. He came to the US from Mexico at the age of nine and cites tennis as instrumental in shaping his life. He will be playing for the University of Saint Katherine this fall. Katrinna Jasso is a graduate of Serra High School and standout player at Grossmont College, where she played the No.1 singles and doubles positions for the past two years. Her parents taught her to play tennis at the age of three. She loves the game and the tennis community that she and her family have been a part of for most of her life.

Congratulations to these deserving young student-athletes! We wish them the best as they pursue their athletic and academic dreams. If you would like to learn more about our Collegiate Scholarship program, go to www.sandiegotennis.com and click on the Programs button.

The San Diego District Tennis Association awarded three \$500 scholarships this year to Jacob Bear, Frances Cornwall, and Julia Hong. Jacob is a graduate of San Dieguito Academy where he was the No.1 varsity player for all four years. He was an honor roll student at SDA and will be attending George Fox University this fall where he will be playing on their tennis team. Frances Cornwall will be entering her junior year at Vassar College this fall. She has played the No.1 singles and doubles positions for the past two years on their team. She is a graduate of Poway High School. She and her family have been active in the San Diego Tennis Community throughout her junior tennis career. Julia Hong is a graduate of Patrick Henry High School where she played

San Diegans Selected for Intersectional Teams

The 2019 USTA Intersectional Team Championship teams have many players from San Diego who will represent SoCal in Naples, FL this November.

35s - Stepanka Gamboa, Lauren Lancaster, Aurelie Udall, Sara Morse

45s - Debbie Nasim, Roz Nideffer, Christy Panther, Debbie Higa

55s - Judy Newman, Tracey Thompson, Colleen Clery Ferrell, Maria Nunez

65s - Liane Bryson, Sue Sprague, Una Davis, Carol Gay

75s - Cathie Anderson, Suella Steel, Anne Russ, Roz King

80s - Sheila Palmer, Ruby Dale Francis, Phyllis Cornish

SDDTA Honors Annual Award Winners

Each fall the SDDTA Awards Committee meets to select outstanding people and organizations to honor at the January Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet.

Players of the Year Jenny Rens Keller and Karel Placek

Pro of the Year Curt Wheeler

Sportsmanship Jennifer "JJ" Knightly and Mark Bauer

Family of the Year Castaneda Family

Community Service Mary Ann McCauley

Club of the Year The Santaluz Club

Sponsor of the Year Sports Tutor

Tournament of the Year USTA National 40s, Father/Son, Grandfather/Grandson

19th Annual Tennis Fest

Tennis Fest, the free signature event of the San Diego District Tennis Association was, once again, a big success. The June community tennis celebration was held on the 25 courts at Balboa Tennis Club. Volunteer tennis professionals and instructors were on court introducing people of all ages and skills to the sport.

From beginners to intermediates to advanced kids and adults, courts featured favorite games like "Hit for Prizes". Spectators delighted in watching little children hitting their foam ball over the net for the first time. Their joy was palpable. Skilled participants showed their stuff on the "Beat the Pro" court. Other courts offered specific stroke instruction. Sponsors donated items for the raffle that followed the on-court fun.

Lesley Waite was honored with the Ben Press Award for Community Service. She has spent 34 years volunteering locally in the adult and senior tennis community.



Photo by Jeff Anderson

Lesley Waite

The more than 700 people who enjoyed their afternoon at Tennis Fest proved tennis is alive and well in San Diego!

You are cordially invited to attend the
San Diego District Tennis Association's 2020 Annual Meeting & Awards Banquet
Friday, January 17, 2020

La Jolla Beach & Tennis Club, 2000 Spindriff Drive, La Jolla, California 92037

Reception 6pm - 7pm, Dinner and Awards Presentation 7pm - 9pm

Choice of Entrée:

- ◆ **Atlantic King Salmon**
- ◆ **Slow Roasted Angus Prime Rib**
- ◆ **Penne Pasta Pomodoro**

No Host Bar for all beverages including wine before and during dinner.

Dinner will be \$45.00 per person (includes tax and gratuities)

Seating is limited, reservations will be taken on a first come, first served basis.

Visit: www.sandiegotennis.com or email: sddta@yahoo.com for reservation information.



2019 San Diego District Championships

Photos by Jeff Anderson

Sponsored by the American Melanoma Foundation



Jack Zezula



Larry Loeb



Yoke Tanko



Alexander Araouzos



Dale Gutierrez

On The Move



Gemma Garcia



Hayley Isaacs



Marc Roest



Dave Bushnell



Ivan Smith

DATES TO REMEMBER

November 2019

1-3 *Pacific Coast Clay & Hardcourt Championship*
Brian Blumenfield 760-931-7501

December 2019

2-8 *USTA National M/W/MXD 40s, F/S, GF/GS*
Bill Kellogg 858-454-6500

January 2020

18-20 *44th Annual MLK Jr. Memorial Tournament*
Frances Simpson Lang 619-867-7322

24-26 *Morgan Run Women's Open Wild Card Event*
Sue Whiteside 858-759-5446

February 2020

8-9 *Riviera Oaks Resort Winter Tournament*
Greg Failla 760-788-3403

15-16 *Coronado Adult Tournament*
Bryan Conway 760-703-7470

21-23 *La Costa Open*
Brian Blumenfield 760-931-7501

27 –Mar. 1 *130th Annual Pacific Coast Doubles*
Bill Kellogg 858-454-6500

March 2020

21-22, 28-29 *Ace Tennis Classic*
Scott Davis 858-487-9698

April 2020

3-5 *Pacific Beach Adult Open*
Steve Adamson 858-405-1004

May 2020

2-3, 9-10 *31st Annual Peninsula Tennis Club Tournament*
Duncan Depew 619-226-3407

4-10 *USTA Nat'l Women's 50-90, Men's 60-85 Hard Courts, Bill Kellogg 858-464-6500*

18-19 *20th Hendrickson Wheelchair Tournament*
Bryan East 619-991-6250

16-17, 23-25 *44th Arthur Ashe Memorial Tournament*
Frances Simpson-Lang 619-867-7322

30-31, June 6-7 *46th Fallbrook Open, Rex Neilson 760-728-1100*